“The tiger tees were originally constructed at ground level and we are raising them by about a metre to a metre and a half – at the moment the water just can’t get away.”

It is all part of an on-going improvement to the course which is overlooked by Mentmore Towers, home to the British National Law party and is just a few miles from Chequers, the Prime Minister’s country retreat.

As Pip Elson explained there is much work to be done with regard to fairway bunkering while all 120 of the existing bunkers over the two courses were built by the current greenkeeping staff.

“Since March we have come on in leaps and bounds and with the commitment the team has shown, if we can keep going and get some decent grass coverage around the greens we will see even more improvement,” said Mark.

Mentmore is particularly proud of its greens, which stumped at 10 for a pro-am held at the club in October.

“In March we hammered the greens. We double scarified them, double verticut them to a millimetre, then holey cored, over-seeded and dressed it all out. It took ages for them to recover and it wasn’t until Easter that they started to recover but it paid off.

“The greens are fantastic and we are always complimented on them,” said Mark, just as he had to assist one of his staff who had uncovered another minor problem to overcome. Terraspiking the greens it was impossible to know where the root zone finished and the clay began and several of the tines were broken.

“I really do have a good team. I’ve got a file full of ideas which have come from them about improving the course while one of the team leaders, Gavin Sowden, saved us quite a bit of money the other day just through his irrigation knowledge and was able to pump water from our main lake into a reservoir without us having to dig a trench.

Since taking over as Head Greenkeeper Mark has injected some of his own enthusiasm into his team and it is paying dividends.

“The clubhouse is now a five star hotel and the course has the potential to be in the same class. When I left Woburn I didn’t want to do myself down and move to a lesser club and I feel I have achieved that.”

**FACT FILE**

**Original Fairway and Approaches**

- **Seed Mix**
  - 40% Poa Pratensis (Baron)
  - 20% Chewings Festuc (Frida)
  - 30% Creeping Festuc (Boreal)
  - 10% Agrostis Tenuis (Highland)

**Mentmore Greenkeeping Staff**

- Mark Ellis, Head Greenkeeper
- Eamonn Slattery, Deputy Head
- Mick Whittle, Team Leader
- Gavin Sowden, Team Leader
- Sean O’Connell, Bill Lewis, Russell Howson, John Frampton, Lee Rance, Lee Stigles, Gardener, Michael Dunleavy, YTS, Naomi Janes, YTS, Danny James, YTS, Danny Gilbert

**Equipment Inventory**

- **Two John Deere 2243 greens mowers**
- **Two Ransomes GT Classic greens mowers**
- **Two Ransomes Auto Certes Pedestrian greens mowers**
- **One Ransomes 1800**
- **Two John Deere 2653A**
- **One Ransomes 300**
- **Three John Deere bunker rakes**
- **One Honda TRX500 ATV**
- **One Yamaha ATV**
- **Two Honda 6522 compact tractors**
- **One Kubota B7000 compact tractor**
- **One John Deere 1070 tractor**
- **One John Deere 1134 tractor**
- **One Zeta 5245 with front loader**
- **One Jacobsen Turf Truck with attachments**
- **One Hardi Sprayer**
- **One Top Dress Unit**
- **One Tipper Top Box**
- **Two Ransomes leaf blowers**
- **One Stihl knapsack leaf blower**
- **Two Allen Fylmos**
- **Two Fylmos GT**
- **One Victoria Rotory Mower**
- **One Ariens 911 Rotary Mower**
- **One Kubota KH101 strimmer**
- **One Komatsu GTHC strimmer**
- **One Laxellife brushcutter**
- **One IBA vacuum cleaner**
- **One Stihl chain saw**
- **One Echo lawn edger**
- **One compact roller**
- **One Turfco turf cutter**
- **One Stihl 65 Multitool**
- **One Sisis Rotorake**
- **One Weidenman Terraspike**
- **One Sisis snowplough**
- **One Charterhouse Moleplough**
- **One Hardi Slingshot 800 Pullermower**
- **One Wessex leaf sweeper**
- **One Multi Core TM1000**
- **One Charterhouse Top Dresser**
- **One Grader Bar**
- **One landscaper**
- **One Charterhouse Dragmat**
- **One DW Tomlin Rotorake**
- **One Univac back box**
- **One Logic trailers**
- **One Sisis overseeder**
- **One Gandy dropseeder**
- **One Charterhouse Discseeder**
- **Two Scots fertiliser spreaders**
- **One fertiliser hopper**
- **One Ransomes golf leader cylinder grinder**
- **Two copper Pegler knapsack sprayers**
- **One walkover sprayer**
NEW PRODUCTS

A highly-effective alternative to brushing or switching fine turf to remove moisture prior to mowing has been developed by Ransomes.

The Air Groomer is a patented design available as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super S5 walk-behind greensmower. The device comprises a full width, height-adjustable nozzle mounted on brackets ahead of the grass-box, an air delivery tube and a radial fan belt driven from the cutting cylinder layshaft. The fan produces an airflow in excess of 200 cu ft/min (5.6 cu m/min) and the air delivery tube incorporates a flexible section to allow for nozzle height adjustment.

In action, the high volume curtain of air delivered by the nozzle displaces early morning dew and irrigation water droplets from the blades of grass, blowing them down into the soil to present a dry turf surface to the mower's cutting unit. The result is a clean, precise finish without the time consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing damp turf in order to give an effective cut and prevent the dropping of clumps of wet, cut grass.

By using the Air Groomer in conjunction with the Greens Super S5 mower, greenkeepers and groundstaff are able to save time and effort and avoid any risk of damage to the turf caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Both quiet in operation and simple to use and maintain, the Ransomes Air Groomer is available as a factory or dealer-fitted option on the Ransomes Greens Super S5 greens mower.

Tonick Watering announce the addition of the new WinWater PC based irrigation controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for changing the program as required.

WinWater, running in Windows, is very simple to use and requires little or no computer skills to operate it. A boon to greenkeepers, changing from time-consuming conventional, fiddly controllers to the new “on-screen” set-up is straightforward and quick; familiarisation takes only a short time and setting up an irrigation programme is carried out by simply “pointing and clicking” with the computer mouse. Most older controllers can be upgraded to the new Windows based system usually without the need to change existing decoders or wiring.

Amazone Ground Care, combination seeder specialists in the amenity field, has introduced an entirely new range of grass seeders for golf course and general amenity work. The machines consist of Rotary or Reciprocating Harrow or Stone Burying modules based around the Amazone seeder unit which is carried on a cage type roller; as such, the system suits all applications in amenity grass establishment.

The seeder unit itself uses a force feed seed distribution system that gives a controlled broadcasting effect, with application rates infinitely adjustable from 0 - 600kg/ha. Seed is sown across the entire width of the machine with chute delivery to the seedbed.

A new calibration system enables the operator to precisely adjust the seed rate to the required quantity of seeds per square metre. The calibration device enables seed to be collected for measurement via the outlet chute, after which they can be returned to the seed hopper.

The units are available in five working widths: 1.10, 1.30, 1.50, 2.00 and 2.5 metres with power requirements from 20 to 50hp depending on size and configuration.

With the reciprocating harrow/seeder combination the machine has apto powered harrow element. This works ahead of the seeder to create a well cultivated, level seedbed into which seed is sown and covered by a following tined harrow.

The reciprocating harrow, as with earlier models, arranges the seedbed into layers of small clods which are crushed around the seed, a fine layer of tilled soil in which roots quickly germinate, and an under-layer of coarser material to provide drainage and space for deep root growth. The machine can be used for both direct seeding into ploughed or cultivated land and also for patching up worn areas such as goal mouths and reinstated areas of parks, etc.

The combination with a Rotary Harrow is a “one pass” combination capable of sowing seed into a wide range of soil type without primary cultivation. The pto powered rotary harrow is attached to brackets at the front of the machine with cultivation depth controlled by the cage roller. This ensures constant working depth.

The rotary harrow will work through vegetation and other debris and has the advantage that it does not bring stones to the surface. It also ensures a good levelling effect.

The third configuration for the seeder combines a stone burier with the seeder.

The price of the new Stone Burier is £5,500. Prices for the other equipment will be according to size and type of combination.

For further information: Tel: 01579 351155.

Costing considerably less than other computer based controllers, WinWater is fully compatible with current decoders from TORO, Primetime, Robydome and Wright and train and with all Tonick Watering replacement decoders. Full support is provided by Tonick Watering.

For further information: Tel: 01903 262393.

The Little John Scarifier consists of a hydrostatic drive unit with fully floating scarifier head that also takes interchangeable options including verticut, moss remover, sorrel roller and brush reels. The possibility for extending the unit’s applications is considerable.

In field trials the hydraulic system gave a smooth, constant drive to the floating scarifying highly cost effective and versatile and the new controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for extending the unit’s applications is considerable.

From an operational point of view, the 65cm width of the head provides a fast working speed thus reducing time spent on the turf to a minimum. Considerable attention has been paid to strength, low ground pressure and simplicity of use. The unique design incorporates a lifting system that enables the operator to easily manoeuvre Little John without scarring or damaging the turf.

The unit can be used in either reverse or forward mode, so is ideal for towing dragmats and brushes. Power is provided by an 8hp Honda engine and there is a choice of smooth profile tyres for ultra-fine work, or turf savers for those occasions when extra traction may be needed.

A large polypropylene grass collector is fitted as standard Little John was developed and built here in the United Kingdom and is supported by a team of turf care specialists. It represents a highly cost effective and versatile piece of equipment that covers a wide spectrum of turf, from very coarse to the ultra-fine modern mixes.

Little John joins the RTS range of turf care equipment including, the Big Willy (pedestrian) and Hercules (tractor mounted) aeration systems; plus sorrel rollers; drag mats; brushes and rakes.

For further information: Tel: 01844 274127.

The new Soil Reliever Junior allows Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to carry out heavy duty deep tine aeration on existing decoders or wiring.
greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12” depth and hollow core to 10”, leaving a clean surface finish across the 48” working width.

As with the larger 60” and 80” Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allowing the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior’s frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster “hammer action”, resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior’s 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator’s seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856668.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched “Invigorator”, the latest addition to its “Longlife” range of amenity turf fertilisers. “Invigorator” is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 4.08 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

The Verticutting Reel - Reel comprising close pitched, straight, triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season. Regular use removes thatch as it accumulates.

The Combined Reel - Thatch removal blades are pitched 20mm (3/4in) apart and interspersed with brushes. This reel removes thatch efficiently with the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

A brand new spraying concept from Weed Free (Bracknell) promises to revolutionise customer service.

Flexible operating hours and the ability to perform in adverse weather conditions will enable spraying jobs to be tackled at off-peak playing times.

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Applications and CV to:
Postfach 100 112, D-85592 Baldhman, Germany
RECRUITMENT

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

is looking to appoint a

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(Part-time)

The successful candidate will cover the South West and South Wales Region with responsibilities for Devon & Cornwall, South Coast, South Wales & South West Sections.

Applicants should possess sound administration and communication skills whilst greenkeeping connection and computer literacy would be an advantage. In addition to serving the needs of the Regional Board, a positive contribution to promoting the Association and welfare of greenkeepers will be required.

The post holder will be expected to display initiative and enthusiasm in the promotion and administration of the Region’s trade show “Westurf”, also in the drive to introduce new members. Regular contact with Section Secretaries, greenkeepers and golf clubs will be an essential element of the post.

It is envisaged that the average working week will be 27.5 hours and the post will be home based within the Region.

A job description and further details are available from the Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Telephone 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864

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from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience in all aspects of course maintenance and development.

Extensive experience of all modern machinery and irrigation systems is required together with the ability to organise work programmes, set budgets, direct and motivate staff as well as creating long-term course development plans.

A good knowledge of horticulture would be an advantage as the Club would wish to present the Course in a manner that is both a golfing challenge and is visually attractive.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Secretary Manager and an attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Applicants should forward a detailed Curriculum Vitae in confidence before 16 December 1996 to:

The Secretary Manager
Dun Laoghaire Golf Club, Eglington Park, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

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