The use of high-tech equipment is vital in the propagation of good turf. Finer grasses, assist drainage and integrate rapidly into the sward.

FEN TURF DRESSINGS LTD.

FENDRESS Golf and Bowling Green top dressing which has been manufactured to the highest standards for over ten years, is now established and recognised as one of the leading national brands of top dressing. The consistent high quality of Fendress is ensured by careful use of only the very best raw materials, which are selected not on cost, but quality. East Anglian Fensoils, rich in humus with minimal clay and silt fractions are blended with lime free Leighton Buzzard washed silica sands and finely screened to produce Fendress, a top dressing of exceptionally high quality.

Fendress is manufactured for the Professional, where the correct pH content, clay and silt fractions and particle sizes are important. This is essential to help reduce compaction and encourage the finer grasses for top quality putting and bowling surfaces.

Supplies are available to all parts of the U.K. from Northern Ireland to East Anglia and Scotland to the South West, principally in 25 and 20 tonne loads, although smaller loads can be supplied. We are offering a special discount for the first time purchasers, also to existing users for a limited period.

Available in bulk loads or pre-packed in 25 kg heat sealed sacks, 10/15/20/25 tonnes. Discounts for multiple loads.

Enjoying the fruits of the greenkeeper's labours.

ATTERTON & Ellis offers a range of machines to sharpen all sizes of cylinders and bottom blades. Continued on page 24.

Mower Accessories Ltd

MANUFACTURERS OF LAWNMOWER BLADES AND CUTTING CYLINDERS

SUPPLIERS OF LAWNMOWER SPARES & ACCESSORIES

Unit A6, Meadowbank Industrial Estate, Harrison Street, Rotherham, S9 1EE

FOR ALL YOUR BLADES AND SPARES PHONE 0709 553220
"Top of the Table"
Turf Dressings

FENDRESS®
THE TRULY NATIONAL TURF TOP DRESSING AS SUPPLIED TO
MANY CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES FOR OVER 10 YEARS

A superior and consistent golf green top dressing prepared for
the professional using the highest quality East Anglian fensoils
(with very low clay and silt fractions) which are blended with
time free silica sand, shredded and screened, ready for imme-
diate application.

Save capital outlay on expensive equipment, which can stand
idle for long periods, also labour costs, but most important of
all, save the difficulty of finding suitable raw materials which are
essential to produce a high quality top dressing.

Bulk deliveries to all parts of the UK, including Northern
Ireland in 10-25 tonne loads. Also pre-packs for easy handling.
Special mixes prepared to your own specification.

Remember, there is only one true FENDRESS®. Beware of
imitations.

Also available, granulated Sedge Peat (Fenpeat), screened
loam, specialist yellow or white bunker sands, grit/dried sand
for vertidraining.

FENDRESS
Please telephone T J Banks for
a competitive quotation
Contact:
FEN TURF DRESSINGS LTD
3 ANGEL COURT
DAIRY YARD
HIGH STREET
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICS LE16 7NL
Tel: (0858) 64346 or 33003

THOMAS ELLIOTT'S
pocket
Touchweeder

THE GREENKEEPER'S FRIEND
The safer way to weed
No spray — no mixing — no drift
Available from your usual fertiliser supplier

Retail Price (24)
£1.50 each
RRP INCL. VAT

The Pocket Touchweeder complies with U.K. Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 MAFF 03964.
The Pocket Touchweeder contains selective weedkillers 2,4-D and 2,3,6-TBA.
Read the label before you buy.
THE CHANGING FACE OF GREENKEEPING IN BRITAIN

He game of golf is currently enjoying an all-time high in terms of the number of people participating in the game. However, spare a thought for the person who has to maintain and prepare the golf course. Increase in play has put new demands on both maintenance and management programmes. It was only a few years ago that the average number of rounds per annum was 5,000, now it is nearer 50,000. This is without question the major cause of concern facing greenkeepers as we move into a new decade.

Much of this traffic occurs during dormant winter conditions, and there is increasing pressure to keep courses open irrespective of weather conditions or the amount of golf played during bad weather. Greenkeepers today, not from choice but from pressure accept golf in weather conditions where previously courses would have been closed. Anyone who tells us that we do no harm with prolonged heavy traffic during frost on courses with a short growing season and year round golf has no experience of looking after a golf course. They should talk to the greenkeepers who are at the sharp end and who have to prepare courses for major events early in the season.

Courses are now being used as a source of revenue more than at any time in the history of the game. This applies to the private members club, the corporate set up, the family business, the local authorities and the hotel greens. I do not at this time see this situation changing, again due to the increased popularity of the game.

This has had a detrimental effect on the conditions of greens. Any deterioration in the condition of greens in the UK at the present time is due primarily for two reasons - bad construction and being overplayed.

Most of the older courses in this country have been constructed using local materials sometimes poor impervious clays. It is significant that the more successful ones are on the sands of the links, the Brecklands and the chalk downlands, all in their own way with little or no real drainage requirement. It is also a fact that the sandy structures require less aeration than the heavier materials found inland.

Few if any of the older courses have a drainage system. Where systems have been installed at a later date they were afterthoughts and in the main have been a poor remedial exercise. Many of the old greens were constructed to retain water during periods of drought, a dew pond system being used. This called for a layer of clay to retain much of the surface water. Modern construction allows for both an excellent drainage system and drainage raft.

On the heavy clay inland courses, the problems of managing the great increase in the popularity of the game, resulting in a more intensive playing programme have been enormous. Many years ago in an article in Bernard Darwin’s time the advice was given not to play on the heavy London courses in winter or the burned up links in summer. It would seem contrary to what we hear that today’s professionals are the only ones who are not able to manage the great increase in play. On busy courses a total of two wet years will normally return this grass into a condition of meadow grass and the continuing struggle to win back some fescue. The real cause for conflict between the greenkeeper and his members is that the poorly constructed greens require a level of aeration to keep them alive that offends the member who feels that the management programme is weighted against him. There is no softer, easier way, most of the courses in this country today are dependent to the heavy aeration programmes they are receiving. If someone somewhere knows of another way of keeping badly constructed golf greens alive under heavy traffic I would be pleased let all the greenkeepers in this country know.

Any greenkeeper experiencing difficulty at his club over the level of aeration he is applying should make it clear that as long as his course is expected to take heavy traffic, he will have to continue with the regular aeration programme. He can with no guilt tell his club that it is not a greenkeeping or an aeration problem but a poorly constructed green problem.

We do today have available to us methods of constructing more modern greens, with a rootzone material that will survive with a fraction of the aerations we currently apply. This material is not plucked out of the air in percentage mixes but is put together in a laboratory, to a suitable bulk density, porosity and ability to retain moisture.

It is only fair to warn any interested parties that this is not the cheapest method of construction but in the considered opinion of many experts it is the only way forward. The USGA would go as far as to say it will last under heavy play for 100 years or more. When constructed a USGA Greens Section Specification will be slightly more costly in day to day management. There is no such thing as a modified USGA Greens Section Specification.

I am not at this time advocating that every green in this county should be torn up and replaced with a first class specification, the cost of such an exercise would be immense. I am however saying to golfing members get off your greenkeeper’s back. He is at this time applying policies in your best interest not from choice but from necessity. No greenkeeper takes any pleasure in the intensive aeration, the regular top dressing programmes, the sensible use of water programmes. He is, in fact, applying these same programmes in the best interests of the golf course.

At this time I suggest that every club choose a green and apply the programme the membership would like - no aeration, no top dressing, plenty of water in drought, plant cover scoured off to find pace and bags of fertilizer to maintain the green. By the end of this year we would have one green in every club that would be a disaster area. Hopefully the members might just appreciate what their greenkeepers do for them. I am fed up listening to young greenkeepers who are being given a life of hell for doing a good job.

Jack McMillan

SPRING TURF MAINTENANCE

Jack McMillan

"Any greenkeeper experiencing difficulty at his club over the level of aeration he is applying should make it clear that as long as his course is expected to take heavy traffic, he will have to continue with the regular aeration programme. He can with no guilt tell his club that it is not a greenkeeping or an aeration problem but a poorly constructed green problem."
The "Master" cylinder grinding machine is designed for sharpening large quantities of heavy duty cylinders and is suitable for machines having up to 106cm (42in) cutting width.

Incorporating an automatic feed cycle facility, which can be preset to remove a specific amount of metal from the cylinder, it is claimed to enable unsupervised grinding. A coolant pump with a suds tank is provided for use when applying heavy continuous cuts and to take away the grinding dust, prices are from £7,946.

The "Express Dual" cylinder grinding machine is capable of both "in-situ" or plain cylinder grinding on a wide range of lawnmowers. When used "in-situ", the mower is located centrally on the machine, and locked into place. The grinding wheel can be adjusted to approach the cylinder at the most convenient angle. Adjustment of cut is by two handwheels of either side of the machine and the cylinder is driven by a geared motor through a flexible coupling and driveshaft. The "Public Authority Express Dual" has a heavy duty mains electric motor. Bottom blades have to be removed for sharpening.

Prices are from £4,245 for the "in-situ" only grinder, £4,074 for the plain cylinder only grinder and £4,790 for the dual action machine. The "Public Authority" version is from £4,852.

The "Express Dual" is available with a "Professional" kit to enable "in-situ" sharpening of a wider range of cutting units and costs from £4,852.

The company says that the "Pilot" plain cylinder grinding machine is intended to meet the needs of the smaller workshop - say 5 to 10 medium sized mowers - and incorporates the essential features of the other machines, but without the high capital outlay.

Arranged for bench fixing, with the "Easitrue" system of cylinder drive and mounting - a system claimed to give accuracy combined with simple setting up, the price of the "Pilot" is £1,956.

The range of bottom blade grinding machines offered by Atterton & Ellis include the "FH1 Fastcut", capable of grinding blades up to 24 inch long, and the "FH2 Supacut", for blades up to 36 inch long. Prices for the FH1 start at £735, and for the FH2 at £995.

The "Angemaster" can take blades of up to 106cm (42in) long, and is equipped with an adjustable eccentric bar can then be rotated for grinding the front or top lip to any desired angle. Prices start at £2,154.

Further details are available from: David Smith, Atterton & Ellis Limited, Iron Works, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QH.

The company's "Express Dual" cylinder grinding machine is capable of both "in-situ" or plain cylinder grinding on a wide range of lawnmowers. The "Angemaster" can take blades of up to 106cm (42in) long, and is equipped with an adjustable eccentric bar can then be rotated for grinding the front or top lip to any desired angle. Prices start at £2,154.

Further details are available from: David Smith, Atterton & Ellis Limited, Iron Works, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QH.

As well as exploring new markets, care is taken in assuring prompt delivery both to home customers and those abroad.

MOWER
ACCESSORIES LTD.

MOWER Accessories Limited are an established company manufacturing high quality bottom blades, cutting cylinders and rollers. In addition the company carries a comprehensive range of spares for most types of machines, as well as supplying the home market, the company exports to Europe, Canada and Australia.

Great emphasis is placed on producing a high quality range of products and of maintaining good customer relations which it has built up over a number of years.

STATUS QUO FOR U.K. BROUWER DISTRIBUTION ANSOMES, who recently acquired the Canadian-based Brouwer Company as part of the Cushman Ryan deal, has announced that there will be no change to Brouwer distribution in the U.K.

Outside of North America, Ransomes commercial division, based at Ipswich, now have the responsibility for marketing Brouwer worldwide and intends letting Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd of Dutton in Cheshire continue selling and servicing the complete Brouwer range in the U.K.

WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT...

...THE EXPRESS DUAL
A CUT ABOVE THE REST

With over 100 years experience we combine all the traditional skills of cylinder grinding with the advanced technology of the Express Dual.

A precise and beautifully made grinder that particularly complements the TORO range to provide the practical solution for keeping those cylinders sharp and the greens as you want them — innovation, a commitment to excellence and at an economic cost — the Express Dual — a real cut above the rest.

As well as our market leader, we also manufacture a complete range of bottom blade grinders including The Angemaster which is ideally suited to work alongside The Express Dual — send for our brochure for all the facts.

ATTERTON & ELLIS LTD
Iron Works, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QH
Tel: 0440 702312 Fax: 0440 712138

MANUFACTURERS OF FINE CYLINDER GRINDERS FOR OVER 100 YEARS
Book your space NOW for

THE BIGGA TURF
MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME TO
BE HELD DURING 23RD – 25TH JANUARY 1991
AT THE HARROGATE EXHIBITION HALL

Brochure and Application Form
are available from Debbie Savage
at BIGGA Headquarters

Telephone 03473 581/2
Fax 03473 8864

Those companies wishing to reserve the
same space as they occupied at the
1990 Exhibition are reminded that
existing space allocations were only
guaranteed until 28th February 1990. If
you would like to take up the offer
please contact us quickly.

1990 NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT
Ganton Golf Club
6th - 9th August

Entries are invited for the above event to
be played over three days at the majestic
Ganton Golf Club in Yorkshire.

A banquet will take place at the Royal
Hotel, Scarborough on the Tuesday
evening and the prize presentation will be
held on the Wednesday, following
completion of the third round at Ganton
Golf Club.

The event will be multisponsored and
dCoach trips will be arranged on two of the
days for companions.

Entries to BIGGA Headquarters enclosing
a cheque for £30.00 to include one
banquet ticket.

Extras:
Banquet per ticket £14.00
Coach Trip:
Monday - Yorkshire Dales £7.50
Tuesday - Trip to York £5.00

THE 119TH
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
St. Andrews
19th - 22nd July

If you wish to be considered
for the Greenkeeping Support
Team at St. Andrews, please
forward your name and address
to BIGGA Headquarters as
soon as possible.

Please note that preference will
be given to members who will
be available for the period
Wednesday, July 18th -
Sunday, 22nd inclusive.

THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
TURF CARE TRADE EXHIBITION
2nd MAY 1990
AT
LONG ASHTON GOLF CLUB
BRISTOL
10.00 am to 5 pm
NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS
RATES FOR 1990/1
By Paul Hilden, a lawyer

For employees the Lower Earnings limit (Class 1) is raised to £45.99 (up 7.4p).
In Class 4, the self-employed, the 6.3% contribution rate remains the same but the annual limits of profits between which Class 4 contributions are payable will be raised to £5,660 and £19,200 (from £5,450 and £16,800 respectively). The maximum in Class 4 will be £803.25 and the overall maximum contribution for 1990/1 will be £1,669.50.

MOVING AN EMPLOYEE

The Inland Revenue has announced that employers may now contribute an increased amount, tax free, to the extra housing costs of an employee who has moved to a more expensive housing area. The increased maximum is £22,890 and it applied to moves which took place after December 1, 1989. The previous maximum of £21,210 applied to moves which took place on or after February 1, 1989.

VAT DEFAULT SURCHARGE NOTICES

Before a default surcharge liability can arise the surcharge liability notice must be served on the tax-payer. In recent cases in front of VAT Tribunals appeals have been allowed where the tax-payer has shown that the notice has not been received. In one case a couple were adamant that they had never received a surcharge notice and the Customs showed it had been posted to them the Tribunal found, on the balance of probabilities, that it had not been received by them.

It seems, however, that rather than go to the expense of sending out recorded delivery letters the Customs intend to appeal against these decisions. Alternatively they may seek a change in the legislation.

In appeals by firms who maintain that a VAT return has been posted the practice is to call the person responsible for posting the notice to give evidence as to whether or not the notice was sent on a particular day. In a recent case where the company's managing director completed the VAT return in question and put it in his secretary's post tray the day before he flew to America he could not prove that the return was posted. The Tribunal gave him an adjournment to try to trace the secretary. Effort to find her failed and the Tribunal therefore could not find on the balance of probabilities that the return had, in fact, been posted on time. As a result the appeal failed. In a similar case the secretary was called and gave evidence that she remembered posting the return on a particular day. In this case the appeal was allowed.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JOB SEEKERS

Recruiting employees is something of a specialized art-form in itself. It is much more complicated by the possibility that an employer is open to a suit for discrimination either sexual or race. A disappointed applicant. As a rule it is an offence under the Race Relations act and the Sex Discrimination Acts to discriminate against employees on the ground of sex, race or marital status. Not one of us likes to think we discriminate against others but it does easily happen.

There are two kinds of discrimination, direct and indirect. The first occurs when a job specification eliminates a whole category of people. "Singe men only to apply". "No married women need apply". These may be extreme examples but they go to show how careful a employer needs to be from the start. Do not use the word 'he' throughout an advertisement implying that only men are really likely to be considered for the position.

Of course, the reverse may be true. In one of the first discrimination cases brought a man won compensation when after applying for a job as a telephonist he was told only women need apply. Applicants must be treated on merit and stereotyping must be avoided. If it is all to easy to fall into the trap of thinking that navvies are better workers than office people it will be where a white person wish to work as a waiter in an Indian or Chinese restaurant. He would not be able to claim he was discriminated against. It might be the case however, that when he is to be a cook and could show he had the necessary qualifications.

He (or she) would almost certainly be successful if he (or she) wished to be a washerwoman. For most businesses, however, these exceptions have limited application.

HIV POSITIVE EMPLOYEES

Sadly, an increasing problem for employers will be what should be done if an employee is diagnosed as HIV positive or is found to have full blown AIDS. It is sometimes difficult to judge which needs sensitive handling to be fair both to the employee in question and the rest of the staff who may be lobbying for his (or her) dismissal.

There is still a good deal of unformed prejudice about AIDS. People wrongly believe that merely by touching the person the disease may be contracted. Employers therefore need to set these groundless fears to rest.

WHEN GREEN MEANS GOLF

THERE has, as most people will know, been a dramatic increase in interest in The Green Movement and in environmental issues; but there is another 'Green' Movement which started in Scotland and has been developing at a similar rate over the past few years and according to experts will continue to expand at an even greater speed, it is, of course, golf.

A recent report from St Andrews estimates another 700 golf courses will be needed in the next ten years if the demand for the sport is to be met. This explosion of Golf Courses means staff with Greenkeeping skills and continuous up date of skills. A seminar was held at the Welsh College of Horticulture and organised by Mr Graham Wright, amenity turf lecturer at the Welsh College of Horticulture, to which over 100 greenkeepers came. The seminar was addressed by turf experts from the Sports Turf Research Institute, Mr J. Per- ris, assistant director S.T.R.I., who was brought up in Wales and educated at Bangor, but would almost certainly be successful if he were to be a washerwoman. For most businesses, however, these exceptions have limited application.

As the Department of Employment guidelines emphasize if sufficient information is given about AIDS then there would be less harassment in the workplace. Employers should almost as a matter of course provide information to their employees and point out that in most jobs there is little or no risk of becoming infected.

But what is to be done with an employee who is unwilling to work alongside a colleague with HIV positive status? Rumour? As to the first an employee is required to obey reasonable instructions and therefore may him (or himself) be in breach of contract. As to spreading rumours, in a case in the relatively early days of Aids, two law centre workers were dismissed for suggesting that a new worker at the Centre was gay he might introduce Aids into work. The tribunal upheld the dismissal.

But most employees are reasonable. Prejudice arises out of fear more often than from malice. If an employee raises the matter he, or she, should be asked to have a word with a union representa- tive, a representative of the health and safety unit or someone from the personnel department.

By education and explanation the whole problem is one which can be solved even before it has begun.

DAVID GOLDSING
Golf course irrigation?

CHOOSE THE SOUTH's SPECIALISTS...

Yes, if your club is considering updating or extending its present irrigation system or you are thinking of investing in this important "Greenkeeper's Aid", have a word with ISS. Established for over a decade, ISS have years of experience of golfcourse irrigation systems design, installation and maintenance - this experience is yours for the asking. ISS will gladly visit your course for a chat - phone or write to them now!

IRRIGATION & SLURRY SERVICES
Unit 6, The Bourne Centre, Salisbury Business Park Southampton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Telephone: (0722) 412510

The new broom on McConnel Dabro's Turf Groomer collects debris and cuttings while combing grass into the ideal cutting position.

SCARIFIES Another sweeping effect of this tough hydraulically powered polypropylene broom is to lift out growth inhibiting thatch to allow finer grasses to come on.

CUTS AND COLLECTS 42 high speed blades give a generous 71" precision cut and everything in its path is shredded and collected in the 43 cu. ft. capacity hopper for dumping.

STRIPES To complete the picture fully adjustable rollers leave your turf with an impressive light/dark striped effect.

MOWING WAS DUE FOR A FEW SWEEPING CHANGES

Write or phone for your nearest dealer.

F. W. McConnel Ltd, Temeside Works, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1JL
Telephone: 0584 3131 Fax: 0584 8463

TORO IRRIGATION AREA DISTRIBUTORS
International Golfers Club is working with Clubs across Europe and installing within them a revolutionary computerised management system. The system comprises four key interacting elements:

- Course management system
- Membership system
- Handicap system
- Accounting system

In addition, IGC is offering member clubs the facility to make reservations at other IGC clubs via remote access to the starting time system. We are advising on leasing facilities, practice facilities and in-club profitability. Of course, as well as those and other initiatives, we are stressing the vital importance of Course improvement and maintenance. We are delighted to be co-operating with BIGGA to achieve these aims.

The second National Education Conference will be held at Egham in Surrey. For full details and application form, contact The Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF Telephone: 03473 581.

Sponsored by

INTERNATIONAL
GOLFERS CLUB

49 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4SA. Telephone: 01 248 4435. Fax: 01 236 6779
EDUCATION

BIGGA NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE
30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL 1990
ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS CLUB

DAILY PROGRAMME

Friday March 30
9.30 a.m. - REGISTRATION in Founders Building
11.45 a.m. - LUNCH - Founders Building

Conference Commences
Chairman: John Millen, Canterbury Golf Club. Member of BIGGA Board of Management and Education Sub-Committee
1.20 p.m. - Introduction - Ivor Scoones, Vice-Chairman, BIGGA
1.30 p.m. - POA ANNUAL MYTHS AND REALITIES' Donald B. White, Professor Turfgrass Science, University of Minnesota
2.10 p.m. - 'GOLF AND GREENKEEPING IN SOUTH-WEST IRELAND' David MacIndoe, Course Manager, Celtic Golf Club
2.50 p.m. - 'ROOM FOR DEVELOPMENT' George Oldham, Chief Architect, Barratt Developments
3.30 p.m. - Coffee
3.50 p.m. - 'THE SWEDISH GOLF FEDERATION AND THE SWEDISH GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION IN A PROSPEROUS CO-OPERATION' Lennart Poignon, President of the Green Committee, Swedish Golf Federation. Stig Persson, President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association
4.30 p.m. - 'THE EVOLUTION OF PUTTING GREENS FROM SOIL TO SAND' James M. Latham, Jr. United States Golf Association Greens Section
5.10 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

COMPANIONS PROGRAMME:

Sunday April 1
9.15 a.m. - 'GREENKEEPING AND OUR HARSH CLIMATE' Sydney Arrowsmith, Course Manager, Royal Portrush Golf Club
9.55 a.m. - 'IRRIGATION STANDARDS AND THE GREENKEEPER' Robin Hume, British Turf Irrigation Association
10.35 a.m. - Coffee
10.55 a.m. - 'GREENKEEPING IN THE DESERT' Barry Carter, Greens Superintendent, Emirates Golf Club
11.35 a.m. - 'CHANGING GOLF IN BELGIUM' David Singleton, Course Manager, Belgium
12.15 p.m. - 'BRITAIN - MID-AMERICAN CLIMATE - DO OUR MAINTENANCE PRACTICES COMPARE?' James M. Latham, Jr. United States Golf Association Greens Section

12.55 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL
1.20 p.m. - SUMMING UP
Paddy McCarron, Chairman, BIGGA

COMpanions PROGRAMME:
Depart by coach from College at 8.30 a.m. to Petticoat Lane market. Return at 12.00.

BIGGA wishes to thank IGC for its generous support enabling us to present the Second National Education Conference.

For full programme and application form please contact the Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York, North Yorkshire, Y06 2NF.
Telephone: 03473 5812/ Fax: 03473 8864.

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP SEMINAR
SAND CONSTRUCTED TURF AREAS FOR SPORT

A Seminar on sand constructed turf areas for sport is to be held at The New Athletics Stadium, Lckwith Road, Cardiff on Wednesday March 28, at 2.00 p.m. The seminar is being organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship - Welsh Zone.

The Seminar will be led by Ian Greenfield, B.Sc. (Agric) C.Biol., M.I. Biol., of Cayford Golf Course Construction, Bishop's Stortford, who has travelled extensively throughout the world acting as a consultant on many sportsground projects. Mr Greenfield has written a book and many articles on the subject.

The seminar will be of keen interest to all groundsmen, greenkeepers, players and administrators and will include the following topics: Selection of suitable sites; Construction of all sand play areas; Site preparation; Drainage; Irrigation; Economic advantages of sand pitches versus conventional methods; Establishment of grass seed for turf; disease control; Cutting height, frequency, cylinder or rotary mowers; Maintenance - regular feeding; irrigation requirements for turf; Particular needs of golf greens.

Questions will be welcomed. Refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. Fee: IOG Members - Free. Non-IOG Members - 5.00 (in advance). Details can be obtained from David Hart on(0222) 755500 after 6 p.m.

Warwickshire College of Agriculture

offer the following specialist courses in GREENKEEPING

Day Release over four years leading to CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE GOLF GREENKEEPING qualifications.

ADVANCED NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN GREENKEEPING
(One full year, or over two winter periods)

For further information please contact
Roy Nelson, Warwickshire College of Agriculture, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 8BL. Tel: 09268 651367

Warwickshire College of Agriculture
Important information.
Results from STRI trials 1987-89 show consistent good colour and growth through the season from one application. Of course you’d like to know the reason why. Find out, immediately by returning the coupon. You can have detailed trial results to determine your turf needs. It’s a service that costs you nothing but offers a great deal.

Optimum results with Osmocote N.
100% controlled release nitrogen assures even growth through the whole season. No flush of growth in spring, unaffected by rainfall or irrigation. One application can be safely made at any time of year. No leaching of nitrates means an environmentally friendly product.

For prompt information.
Post the coupon today and we’ll send you the information by return.
Sierra U.K. Ltd. Telephone (0602) 455100.

Sierra
High technology in plant nutrition

Coupon

Name
Address
Place
Telephone

Tell us which type of turf and we’ll supply a special recommendation.

- Golf course
- Football pitch
- Amenity turf
- I’d like a Sierra representative to visit. Call me to make an appointment.

Sierra supplies high quality controlled release fertilizers for:
- Bedding plants
- Container nursery stock
- Cutflowers
- Fruit trees
- Landscape
- Potplants
- Sports turf
- Strawberries
- Vegetable plants
- Watercress

Please return this coupon in a sealed envelope to Sierra UK Ltd., Freepost, Nottingham. NG2 1BR.

Controlled Release Fertilizers
Water soluble fertilizers
**KENT SECTION**

In January 9 at West Malling Golf Club a few of us were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation and talk from John Hinton of B.A.S.F. about fertilisers, in general, and their benefits, miss uses, and how their use fits in with the yearly management of the golf course.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the only disappointing part being the lack of members that attended, and I am in full agreement with Chris Mardon's closing comment for those who stayed away, that it was their loss not ours.

Many thanks to John Hinton for making it such an informative afternoon, and to the catering staff at West Malling for providing us with the sandwiches and afternoon tea. As a note to the "what's in it for me" and "how much is it going to cost me" members of the Association I am pleased to inform you, after the event, that the whole afternoon and refreshments would not have cost you a single penny!

I'm pleased to announce that the committee has been increased by one other member, David Horn of Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, the only drawback to this being that a round of drinks is now going to cost more!

At the time of writing this winter has not yet fully aware of how their courses and sports grounds - it's nice to know that they are fully aware of how their customers use their resources and when and how much water golf courses use.

Although in saying this I cannot see it raining everyday before the start of the summer so it looks like we may be in for another difficult time as with last summer, but we shall see, as nature has a habit of solving itself out in the end.

**PAUL COPSEY**

**SURREY SECTION**

A couple of quick reminders. First, the greenkeepers annual gentlemen dinner race place at Walton Heath on Friday March 16.

It is limited to one guest per greenkeeper and costs just £17 each, for which 18 holes and dinner sounds a very good price.

Secondly, the national education conference at Royal Holloway College in Egham runs from March 30 to April 4. This event deserves all our support, so why not encourage a capable and committee members to attend, along with your staff?

Congratulations to Donald Wells, who has just been awarded the Silver Medal for the outstanding student greenkeeper in the British Isles, quite an achievement! Don works on the South Course of Wentworth, and received a cheque from his employers, and some very good local press reports for his efforts.

Congratulations also to David Wyburn, assistant head at Foxhills, and his wife Caroline, who is expecting their first child in late June. A prospective BIGGA member, perhaps?

New to the area is Chris Kennedy, who took up his new post as Wentworth's Course Manager on February 1st, after 21 years at Hagg's Castle.

Chris tells me they have over 400 trees down over the three courses, so doubtless they'll all been pretty busy there for some time. When time allows, we hopefully see him at some BIGGA functions, meanwhile, all the best in your new post.

Leaving us, is Simon Wells, formerly a greenkeeper at Walton Heath, who has gone off round the world for a year. Also leaving us soon, is Jack McMillan of Sunningdale, who, after a tenure of ten years is learning to take up a consultancy position, with The International Golfers Club (sponsors of the National Education Conference).

Jack is former Chairman of BIGGA, and presenter of The McMillan Tankard.

Sorry to see you're leaving us Jack, but glad that your knowledge and experience will now reach a wider audience. Although with your article in the Daily Telegraph recently, you seem to have a pretty good circulation now!

The news from the Surrey members who attended ETME 2, is that it was a great success and considered both valuable and enjoyable. Clive Osgood from Walton Heath, the Surrey Section ex-Chairman, is now representing us at a regional level. Thanks, Clive for giving up more free time in what must be an already busy schedule.

Despite, the appalling weather the lecture on grading at the R.A.C. Club was quite well attended. The lecture by Atterton & Ellis, was very well given, and the machines (R.A.C.s own) were very impressive as was Tony's workshop, which I'm sure made a few people rather envious. An excellent event, and our thanks to all concerned.

If you have any problems regarding the magazine, please contact me and I'll try to rectify the situation. Also any items you would like put in this section, such as appointments or golf and social events, pictures included would be very welcome. My number is (025 125) 425.

**PHIL BALDOCK**

**MIDLANDS SECTION**

May 2 brings our spring tournament to Coventry Golf Club (Finham Park) which also comes with our qualifying round for the Iseki regional final being played this year at Kedleston Park.

The Away for the Rhyd Taylor Greensomes Knockout will also be made at the spring tournament, so now is the time to choose your partners carefully.

Dates for your diary: May 2 Spring tournament, Coventry Golf Club.

July 11 summer tournament, Broadway Golf Club and August 29, autumn tournament, Llanymonch Golf Club.

Finally, if anyone has any news or ideas for the magazine or indeed for the section please do not hesitate to contact me on 0789 7692912. I look forward to seeing you at Finham Park.

**DEAN CLEAVER**

**NORTHERN SECTION**

It was good to see so many Northern Section members at E.T.M.E. 2. The show seems to be getting "Bigga" and better each year!

I hear down the grapevine of personnel changes; at Fulford, Halifax West End and Wetherby. Philip Stirk moves from Fulford to become head greenkeeper of a new development at Stockton Forest. John Grierson moves from Elland Golf Club to become head man at Halifax West End. Committee man and regional administrator, David Hannam, moves from Baldon to take over the reins.
The last Northern Section Ransomes trip of 1972. Spot the familiar faces?

from retiring John Scott at Wetherby. Our very best wishes and good luck for the forthcoming season to the new appointees. So after all these moves the gossip round the section is: 'Who has got Baildon, West End and Fulford?'

The first lecture of 1990 was a very good talk on conservation gardening by Patrick Crowley who has his own business in Leeds carrying out this work. He was formerly a professional photographer and this showed in his excellent slides. It was just a pity he had a sparse audience.

NEW VERTI-GROOM CUTTING UNITS FOR RANSOMES GT GREENS TRIPLE

INTRODUCED to maintain consistently good putting surfaces on golf greens more economically, and being exhibited at ETME 2 for the first time, were Ransomes new hydraulically driven Verti-Groom cutting units seen on their GT Greens Triple mower.

Compared with conventional greens cutting units, during trials both in Britain and overseas, the Verti-Groom units collected up to three times the amount of material after cutting a green. Besides grass cuttings, the boxes also contained thatch and moss.

Being mounted ahead of the front disc roll the Verti-Groom, which can be lifted out of work, does not throw top dressing into the cutting cylinder and as it floats independently of the cutting unit Ransomes say it is not over aggressive.

Mounting the Verti-Groom in front of the unit keeps the distance between the front and rear rolls to the minimum which reduces the incidence of scalping on undulating greens.

An extra lecture date for your diaries is in March when Ian Prouder of Endfield Nurseries talks to us about trees for the golf course, March 28 is the date, West Bowling Golf Club the venue and 8 p.m. the time. Please try and pop along and fetch a friend.

The BIG EVENT of the Northern Section social scene is the annual dinner dance, which this year will be held at Baildon Golf Club on Saturday, April 28. The time is 7.30 p.m. for a meal at 8 p.m. The disco after the meal will play until midnight.

The cost for the evening is only £10.

This event is open to friends, relations and not just members. I hope we shall see more greenkeepers this year. Tickets are available from me and a deposit of £5 per double ticket is required. In case you do not know my telephone no. is Bradford 590463 and I can also be found at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

Going through some books the other day I came across an old photograph which by chance is very topical to the Northern Section at the moment with the Ransomes trip in prospect.

It is of the last Ransomes trip some 18 years ago (I think!). See if you can spot the following (younger) faces: Brian Birdsell, (County Mowers) Geoff Mawson (retired), Hugh Marshall (retired), David Anderson (Moor Allerton), Mick Hegarty (somewhere in Germany), Ralph Smith (Bradford), Joe Baxter (St. Ives), John Storey (Cigden), John Scott (retired),

Continued on page 31