GOLF COURSE NEWS
THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

US-UK study: It is greener on the other side of pond

By ANDREW OVERBECK

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — The top American golf courses earn twice as much and spend twice as much on maintenance as their U.K. counterparts, according to a survey by novice architect Bettina Schrickel.

Following a year comparing the maintenance practices of 25 of the top golf courses in both the United States and the United Kingdom for her graduate thesis in golf course architecture at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, England, Schrickel has published the findings of her study.

"Some of the numbers really surprised me," said Schrickel. "For example, the large gap between the financial income of the clubs, the maintenance budgets and the number of greenkeepers."

Of the American courses that she visited, the average income was $2 million, the maintenance budget was $970,000 and the number of greenkeepers was 18. Comparably, U.K. courses had an average income of $800,000, a maintenance budget of $340,000 and an average of eight greenkeepers. Further, annual member dues were $15,000 and an average of five per course. The average U.K. course had an average income of $600,000, a maintenance budget of $200,000 and an average of three per course.

Continued on page 18

Certification the goal of CMAA env'l audit

By PETER BLAIS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Audubon International (AI) hopes to develop a certification program within the next 12 months for clubs, club managers and superintendents, using the recently developed Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) Full Facility Environmental Audit for Clubs (see March issue).

"Audubon and CMAA are discussing what to do next with this information," said Al Executive Director Ron Dodson, referring to the self-audit that CMAA began mailing to its members in late March. "What we're starting to be played out in U.S. District Court here in June between SubAir Inc. of Middlefield, Conn. and its subsidiary, SubAir Inc., starting in 1994 that uses subsurface piping to add air or remove water from the root zone of golf course greens to enhance root health; and a method developed by Soil Air Technology to measure pressure differentials and soil-gas concentrations to optimize soil growth.

SubAir & Soil Air do patent combat in court

By MARK LESLIE

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A battle about patents — spiced with added allegations of fraud, misappropriations and false advertising — will begin to be played out in U.S. District Court here in June between SubAir Inc. of Munnsville and Soil Air Technology of Middlefield, Conn.

The skirmish revolves around technology developed by Ferris Industries and