

# LETTERS

**'Reprinted from the October 24th issue of Golf Illustrated'**

Editor,  
Golf Illustrated,  
8 Stratton Street,  
London. W1X 6AT.

Dear Sir,

In recent months there has been a considerable amount of correspondence in various golfing magazines regarding the serious shortage and the status of Greenkeepers in this country. The situation has been brought to a head simply because we are now building more golf courses per annum than ever before and many of these new clubs are finding it almost impossible to obtain experienced staff to take over from the contractors once the course has been seeded.

Fortunately for the Greenkeeper, this has meant that clubs are now being forced to raise the salaries of their greens staff to a more realistic level, rather than rely on the old agricultural standard rates of pay which makes little or no allowance for the genuine skills of the experienced Greenkeeper.

Surely the time has come when some positive action should be taken by the Golf Course Development Corporation to train and encourage more Greenkeepers into the industry.

In America there are a number of Universities where a young Greenkeeper can go on a two or three year course where he is taught by experienced staff the skills of the profession.

Such a course is financed from a central fund to which all golf clubs in the States contribute. If the Greenkeeper leaves with a Certificate of Competance, he knows he can obtain a worthwhile job and after a further three or four years of practical experience he is likely to be offered the position of Golf Superintendent which carries a deserved status together with a good salary.

Such a scheme costs money but with over 1700 Golf Clubs in the U.K., with an average Membership of 300 per club, surely no golfer would object to a 50p levy being built into his annual club subscription which could go towards a training scheme for Greenkeepers. Such a scheme would raise over £250,000 per annum which would enable the Council to approach more than one University or Horticultural Training College to set up a proper two-year training course for Greenkeepers which would be to the mutual benefit of all those interested in golf.

Yours faithfully,  
p.p. Twyford Seeds Limited.  
Jonathan Franks

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33 Knowle Drive,  
Exwick,  
Exeter,  
Devon, EX4 2DF.  
7.10.74

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write and say how much I agree with Mr. Mawdeleys' letter in the September Greenkeeper, as we here in the South West are in a similar position.

I would like to see a Greenkeepers' Union. Now this may cause a stir, but we are responsible people who would not treat a union as a chance to strike at any trivial occurrence, (we know who would have to put the

course to rights afterwards) but we could use the union to negotiate a national status for Greenkeepers and Assistants. This would cover wages, training, restrooms, toilet and washing facilities (often neglected by employers) and pension schemes etc.

The union would increase the membership of the B.G.G.A. by leaps and bounds with obvious benefits not only to the B.G.G.A. but to training and stimulation of standards and recruitment generally.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,  
B. Pile  
(Greenkeeper)

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## NEWS

A new, simple to operate trencher having a digging capacity of up to 8" wide and up to 3 ft. deep is introduced by **Trenchex of Uttoxeter.**

The 10 + 2 is powered by a 10 H.P. Kohler air cooled engine which delivers equal torque to both wheels for efficient drive and trenching. With the transmission in low range the right digging speed through the 4 speed transaxle can be matched exactly to soil conditions. Electric start adds safety and easy starting even in cold weather. Shock load protection is provided through a slipping belt.

All controls are grouped continuously together at the rear of the machine, the digging boom is raised and lowered with an easy to operate crank handle. At less than 36" wide the 10 + 2 can travel almost anywhere.

The chain and teeth are common to other Davis trenchers.

Delivery is from stock at Uttoxeter.

A new product for the treatment of fungal diseases is announced by Duphar-Midox.

It is Daconil 2787 Flowable—a liquid formulation of the product which has been available up to now as a 75 per cent wettable powder.

Main benefits of the liquid formulation are claimed to be:—

- \* Greater efficiency due to the speeding power.
- \* Less visible deposit.

Daconil 2787 covers a range of fungal problems over a variety of crops and turf.

Final drainage improvements to Poult Wood Golf Course, Tonbridge have recently been completed. The course was built from land which was 90% wooded three years ago, and the drainage then installed on all fairways consisted of PVC coiled drains alongside each fairway and the fairway mole-ploughed to create waterways to these mains. This has worked quite well on most fairways, but nos. 10, 16 and 17 have been presenting bad drainage problems, so Mr Humphries, the Parks and Cemetary's superintendent of Tonbridge and Malling District Council decided to make improvements. He chose WAVIN-FLOW pipes from Trenching Plastics Ltd., of Colne Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex in 50mm and 70mm sizes. 5,000 ft of 50mm and an equivalent amount of 70mm Wavinflow was used.

Two men, using a Ditch Witch put in the drains in 45 hours, including backfilling with  $\frac{3}{8}$ " pea, gravel topping off the last  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " with sand and soil mix. The average run length of these laterals was 40 yards.

Mr Humphries stated that the drainage on fairways 10, 16 and 17 is now 100% efficient.