

topography of the course, the predominant soil type—clay—the average rain-fall and prevailing weather conditions during the season. With these facts as a basis they have produced a scheme which, with judicious use, will keep a good grass coverage and moisture in the track.

Automatic control of the 12 sections into which the course has been divided will be effected by the RAINCLOX controller. This will allow the course to be watered at night, the ideal time for maximum benefit, and is also indicative of the labour saving which can be made with the RAINBIRD equipment, as nobody needs to be in attendance during the working period. The RAINCLOX can be set to operate over a 14 day period, selecting the days or nights that irrigation is required: a 24 hour clock is utilized to select the hour at

which irrigation commences. Solenoid valves control each section individually—they can be set to operate for up to 60 minutes, and in one irrigation cycle can be missed altogether or repeated, thus allowing for varying water need in different sections of the course. Applications at the rate of 1/10" to any one section in 18 minutes, or the entire course in 3 hours 36 mins. are possible with this RAINBIRD system.

Manual control can be used when needed, mainly for washing dew or frost from the turf, watering in fertilizer and similar operations.

Work on the scheme will be completed before the start of this year's flat racing season and racegoers attending the York meetings will be able to enjoy the benefits of a course at which irrigation plays a major part in the turf culture programme.

## So why not use an ATCO VARI-GANG MK. II and have two professionals on the job!

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BGG/1

# Just a glimpse of the past

Patrick Smartt

The road to the village, a side road, passes between the 1st green on the left, and the teeing ground for the 2nd hole on the right.

A circumstance liable to cause delay in our progress. I have the perhaps unusual habit of stopping to allow golfers to cross the road from one to the other. Besides, the whole length of the 1st hole is visible, and the drives to the dog-legged 2nd, therefore important, can be watched.

Driving along that road in February, my rheumy old eyes looked upon a scene that was so unexpected and pleasurable, I stopped in wonder.

Every golfer had his bag slung over his shoulder. Not a trolley in sight. The years slipped back. It is part of life, that pauses in habit leave a gap in memory. Present custom takes over. We have, except in moments of nostalgia, come to accept the trolley and the absence of caddies. Come to think of it, I have never pulled a trolley. Unable to stop, there had to be a caddie to tee the ball. It was as well that it had to be called a day, before that race has nearly disappeared.

A sudden glimpse of a past world, when golfers had but few clubs in drainpipe bags, carried one farther back than actuality. An old picture had burst into life. It was some time before the mind returned to the immediate, and we drove on again.

A little piece of history revived.

Should anyone have suspicions, let it be known, that unlike the Irishman who: "T'ought I was took bad again" when he saw a hare among

the runners in a steeplechase, the cause of this delightful return to old golf was the wettest February known. Trolleys had, rightly, been banned.

Thinking on this, memory went back twenty years, and while granting those weeks of rain, I had strong doubts that in that era the course would have been so soggy.

It is a high course, topping the 700 feet contour at the home green, and a little more from where we start. It was until the early 1960s, a typical heath and heather golfing ground, though with clay not far beneath the surface. The fairways, like those at Walton Heath, and at one time the Old Course at St. Andrews, were of thin growth, meaning tight lies, and therefore skilful execution of the second shots. Worm casts were unknown. Indeed you could play two hours after a downpour.

During a wet spell, members from a course at a nearby town, would come over because theirs was too muddy.

Changes in a course's nature, not to be confused with architectural alterations, are also handmade. My opinion which doubtless will bring scorn from some greenkeepers, in particular green committees, is that 'progress', or the inverse in the art of shot-making, demands grassy lies for the second shot. No take it as it comes, even after a good drive. The ancients got on with it, even the professionals playing for their living.

Those who have done me the honour of reading my effusions before, will know what is coming. Yes. Those infernal chemicals. Years of application have produced what is unquestionably a good playing surface, but to one old reactionary it is park course golf. It takes longer to dry out, and requires more mowing. There is another cause of this surface water retention. The cutting of the heather. It is seldom recognized that heather roots act as drainage channels.

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There has been no notable improvement in the scores. When there are, it could be attributed with some surety to shorn rough. It is the old question of whether the figures returned on the card take precedence over the fun of accepting a real challenge.

After that grouse, it is a pleasant surprise to record the unexpected consequence that many bag carrying players enjoyed themselves. My wife, for one, said she had never felt so relaxed. Do not ask me to explain that one. It may be significant that all had to discard some clubs, to lighten the bag. Thus, the favourite ones were chosen, and the difficult ones left out. Apart from the problem, during the round, which to choose from the caboodle of fourteen, they would play better with the clubs with which there is sympathy.

Anyone with a knowledge of golfers will be certain that the whole load will come out, when trolleys are permitted again. A lesson wasted.

There must be gratitude that, contrariwise, modern methods should evoke old golf, even briefly. I was glad: Somehow, it brought the course alive.

---

## **BIG CHANCE FOR WELL-OFF GREENKEEPERS**

### **V.I.P. TOURNAMENT PATRONS FOR £100**

Prestige facilities at all professional golf tournaments, and at the Open Championship, are announced today by the Professional Golfers' Associ-

ation, for a limited number of 50 golf enthusiasts who wish to become Tournament Patrons of the Association.

The privileges, which will cost an annual subscription of £100, will include free entry to all tournaments; reserved parking accommodation; admission to the Clubhouse; a place as guest at the Association's Annual Dinner in London at the end of the season; and a copy of the P.G.A. Annual Tournament Guide with its facts, figures, and pen portraits of professionals who regularly play the Circuit.

The new band of P.G.A. Tournament Patrons will also receive a £26.40 season ticket for the Open Championship—the R. & A.'s top-price ticket—with reserved seating accommodation, and while they are at the Open Championship they will be able to use the P.G.A.'s own Private social marquee.

Colin Snape, Secretary of the P.G.A., in making the announcement, said: "A modest Tournament Patrons' Scheme has existed in the past, but the Association has held it in abeyance in recent years. We believe that what we are offering for £100 is extremely good value to the many golf enthusiasts who attend several of our events and the Open Championship itself during one season.

"Our aim is to give them 'V.I.P. treatment'. They will be easily identifiable on arrival at a tournament by their special badge and permanent car windscreen label. We feel it will be a popular move, and in granting membership we will work strictly on a first-come-first-served basis with those who apply.

"Our 50 Tournament Patrons will be a quite separate category from the Association's existing Vice-Presidents. Anyone who is interested should write to me here at the P.G.A. Headquarters, Kennington Oval, London S.E.11."

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## **WANTED FOR 1st OCTOBER 1974 EDITOR for the BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER DUTIES :**

1. Obtaining suitable articles and editing, reviewing and selecting trade information.
2. Receiving Section Secretaries' Monthly Notes, editing, typing out and forwarding.
3. Maintaining List of Members and Subscribers. Adjusting for change of address, cessation of membership etc.
4. Mailing copies monthly direct to Subscribers overseas. Sending subscription reminders and maintaining records.
5. Maintaining books of accounts.
6. Producing monthly editorial or suitable news features.
7. Maintaining contact with the publisher and proof-reading.

The present Editor is retiring at the end of this season, after 16 years, and

has notified the Executive Committee of his desire for a replacement.

Up to 1972 the duties included the obtaining of advertising, receiving blocks and despatching, sending out proofs, receiving amendments and incorporating. Sending out accounts monthly and recording payments.

That work is now mostly done by the publisher so the rest is an interesting hobby for anyone interested.

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# NEW PRODUCTS

Two new machines for the maintenance of sports grounds and amenity areas, have been introduced by **SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd.**

The **SISIS Tractor Mounted Truelevel Roller** 6ft. wide, is developed from the principle proved over 30 years on bowling greens. The three rollers mounted in a rectangular frame, ensure constant ground contact of at least two of the three rollers. Thus a true, level surface having once been achieved, can be maintained by this roller combination. By a simple lever mechanism all the weight can be transferred to the centre roller only. A full width brush can be fitted to give a brushed finish to the surface when desired.



The **SISIS Tractor Mounted Rake/Lute/Brush** is an 8 ft. wide combination of three necessary maintenance operations on hard porous surfaces, enabling simultaneous working of any combination of these three implements in the one frame. In most instances, this will allow coverage of the area in one pass, reducing the time and labour and also reducing the compaction effect of tractor wheels. The extension frame, which enables the Lute and Brush to be connected to the main frame for simultaneous use, can be purchased separately and added to existing frames of this **SISIS** category.

May

## New All-British Mower launched by Allen Power Equipment.

New for the 1974 cutting season, the **Allen Challenger Mark 6** is a single speed 22-inch Self-Propelled Rotary Mower following in the footsteps of the popular **Mark 5** machine.

The only all-British mower in its class, the **Challenger Mark 6** features a 171cc Villiers "Vertex" two-stroke engine, large five pint fuel tank, and extra large diameter rear wheels with chain drive.

The very low centre of gravity of the new **Challenger**, combined with the two stroke engine, makes this machine particularly suitable for bank work.

Also featured on the **Mark 6** is the **Allen** patented aluminium conical cutter disc.

Safety is a prime consideration with this mower, as is shown by all the working parts being totally enclosed by a one piece steel guard, and the micrometer cutting height adjuster, controlled from the operator's position, which allows cutting height to be varied from 1/4".

An entirely new safety device, especially designed to prevent machine damage has been incorporated between the crankshaft and the cutter disc.

Priced at £189.00, the **Allen Challenger Mark 6** has a working speed of around three miles per hour, according to the throttle setting.

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## A MAJOR ADVANCE IN TURF DISEASE CONTROL

by **N B Thain, Brand Manager,**  
**Pan Britannica Industries Ltd**

Groundsmen, like everybody else, will always welcome innovations which make life easier for them. One way of easing their lot is to help them maintain a disease-free turf as easily as possible.

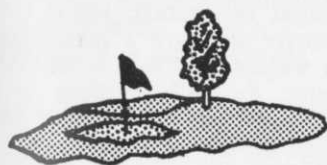
Three major fungal diseases commonly cause turf diseases in the UK—Fusarium Patch, Corticium (Red Thread) and Dollar Spot. In the past, the groundsman has had few satisfactory methods of controlling these problems. Products available either discoloured the turf or, as in the case of mercurial compounds, they were associated with some degree of risk. Recently, however, a product has become available which has been hailed by groundsmen as a major

step forward in disease control—a broad-spectrum fungicide which not only controls Fusarium, Corticium and Dollar Spot in one go, but does so safely and economically into the bargain. This product—Benlate—is the world's first broad-spectrum systemic fungicide, and extensive trial work over the last few years at the Sports Turf Research Institute has proved its efficacy time and again.

For complete control of the three diseases mentioned, it is recommended that Benlate be applied as soon as disease symptoms appear. Application should be as an overall treatment and not as a spot application. The dose should be repeated at 3-4 week intervals as necessary. The spray is applied at 2 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. at the following doses: Fusarium—6 oz/1,000 sq. ft. (approx 18 lb/acre); Red Thread and Dollar Spot—4 oz/1,000 sq. ft. (approx 12 lb/acre).

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# Melnor Travelling Sprinklers

There can be few Head Greenkeepers who, given the opportunity, would not jump at the chance of having an automatic watering system installed at their Golf Club. The advantages of automatic watering are numerous, and well known, but many Greenkeepers must regard the possibility of their Club adopting such a system as being highly unlikely.

The basic factor which unfortunately precludes many clubs from installing an automatic watering system is cost. It is estimated that conversion costs per green (in most cases involving the installation of new pipework) could amount to £500/£600 (approximately £9/£12,000 for 18 holes).

Paradoxically, the chance less well-off clubs have of enjoying the benefits derived from an automatic watering system, e.g. reducing course labour costs, becomes increasingly remote as world commodity and product prices continue to increase at an alarming rate. However, it may interest, and perhaps reassure Greenkeepers, that an "automatic" sprinkler is available (at a very reasonable cost) which will meet many of the criteria laid down for automatic pop-up sprinkler systems, i.e. the **MELNOR range of TRAVEL-MATIC SPRINKLERS.**

The unique range of TRAVEL-MATIC sprinklers are manufactured by Melnor Industries of the USA and during the past ten years or so, several hundred thousand units have been sold. Although MELNOR produces its own underground sprinkler system,

the TRAVEL-MATICs form part of their very large and comprehensive range of domestic lawn sprinklers. During the past three years in which the TRAVEL-MATIC has been sold in the UK, an increasing percentage of annual sales has been taken up by "professional" users, e.g. Bowling, Tennis, Cricket Clubs, Parks Departments, Growers, etc.

Four models of the TRAVEL-MATIC are available, the basic difference between them being the length of hose the sprinkler will accommodate, i.e.

	Water coverage up to :
Super (model 3803)	
300 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose	20,000 ft.
Deluxe (model 3503)	
240 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose	16,000 ft.
Standard (model 2503)	
150 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose	10,750 ft.
Compact (model 2203)	
100 ft. of $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose	7,900 ft.

Satisfactory coverage can be achieved at average water pressure (diameter of throw x hose length = area watered). Where conditions are adverse, the self-travelling sprinkler is the only unit that can be adapted to meet the situation.

## ASSEMBLY

Initial assembly of the TRAVEL-MATIC is simple and straightforward:

1. The appropriate length of hose is connected to the TRAVEL-