

The latest answer to moss

FISONS Agrochemical Division introduce a new mercurised Mosskiller/Fertilizer onto their range this month. New Mosstoll will complement Fisons very successful Hi-lite range of Fertilizers, being in the form of lightweight peat-based granules, formulated by a process unique to Fisons. New Mosstoll will

NEWS

replace "Mostoll", which was a mercurised mosskiller based on a traditional lawn sand. Like the rest of the Hi-lites, New Mosstoll is easy to apply and pleasant to handle. It gives long lasting efficient control of mosses in turf, without any danger of scorching. New Mosstoll is approved under The Agricultural Chemicals approval scheme.



Fisons new moss-killer and fertilizer being applied

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SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

was founded as a 9-hole course in the early 1920's, built on the low lying rich fenland soil, in the heart of an area of intensive arable farming. In 1966 it expanded to 16 holes, and in 1973 became a full 18 holes occupying 78 acres with a par of 68 and a length of 5,847 yds. The shortest hole on the course is 165 yds. and the final four holes are all par 4's, the shortest of these being 373 yds. There is one par 5, 12 par 4's and five par 3's. The first and second holes have the River Glen on their left, and the Blue Gout drain on its left. Several thousand trees have been planted since 1966 to make things even tighter in the future, and the timber clubhouse has had recent extensions to the dining and bar facilities." Signed A. W. Ward.

East Midland Section

Chairman:
G. DARBY

Hon. Secretary:
S. FRETTER
4 Queens Drive,
Leicester Forest East,
Leics.

Spring Tournament

THE Annual Spring Golf Tournament is being held at Spalding Golf Club on May 14, 1975. Would you please let me know by May 1, 1975, if you will be playing and require a meal. Would you also let me know if you require a seat on the bus, the fare is approximately £1.50 each.

Knockout Cup

The above competition is being held once again this year. Entrance fee is 50p. Would you please let me know by May 1, 1975, if you will be entering.

Captains Versus Presidents Match

The above golf match will be held at Longcliffe Golf Club on June 4, 1975. Anyone wishing to play and require a meal, please notify me by May 14, 1975.

From Head Greenkeeper, Spalding Golf Club. Details of the course where we are holding the Spring Tournament. "The Spalding Golf Club is situated near the village of Surfleet, which is four miles north of Spalding on the A16 Spalding to Boston Road. The course lies immediately south of the River Glen and one mile to the right of the A16 when proceeding north. The Club

Subscriptions

As so many subscriptions are not paid until late in the year the committee has passed that Section C Rule 7 of the Constitution Rules for British Greenkeepers which states: "no person whose subscription is in arrears shall participate in any advantages or privileges of the association, vote on any question or compete for any prize." This now applies to this section, and also the committee would like all subscriptions to be paid within one month as from May 1, 1975.

Letter from Mr. I. Toon, Vice-Chairman

It is with much regret that the East Midlands Section has had to say yet another farewell to a very valuable Greenkeeper. In this case Mr. Gerald Darby, past Head Greenkeeper of the Birstall Golf Club, who has now taken up the position as Head Greenkeeper

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[Section News from Page 32]

of the Worplesdon Golf Club near Woking in Surrey. Throughout his six years or so, at Birstall, he has served this section to his greatest ability, both as a committee member and Chairman. Besides this he has been a valued friend to myself and many others, and will be sadly missed.

May I then as Vice-Chairman, say on behalf of all the members of this section "We wish you good health and fortune in your new position, for you, your wife and your family. Many sincere thanks for all you've done".

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. J. STIMSON
North Wilts. G.C.
Devizes.

OVER forty members attended the third Winter lecture held at Alresford Golf Club on Tuesday, January 7, 1975, and they were rewarded with a very interesting talk on Irrigation by Mr. R. Gundry of Toro/Wright Rain Ltd. Mr. Gundry covered every aspect of the various water systems which are installed on golf courses in this country

and he illustrated several points by special slides.

Considering the fact that Mr. Gundry had to deputise for Mr. Flowerday at the last minute and he also remained unperturbed by the presence of a member only four years old, we all agree "Didn't he do well!" and extend to him our grateful thanks for making the long journey from Reading.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. P. Stanwick of Alton Golf Club and we hope his association with us will be a long and happy one. Since May, 1974, we have achieved a fifty per cent increase in membership!

Members enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining lecture evening on Tuesday, February 4, 1975, at Alresford Golf Club. Our grateful thanks to Mr. C. Head, Technical Manager of Chipman Limited, who gave us a most informative talk on Drainage and Sand Slitting and the ready response at Question Time clearly indicated that the topic was of immense interest to the audience.

Members are reminded that the 1975

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TEE OFF IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Be in at the start and make sure we amateurs match up to your professional standards.

We are in the process of constructing an 18 hole Golf Course on a 184 acre site with a 9 hole pitch and putt course and other practice, driving and putting areas.

We need a Head Greenkeeper now, who will advise on ground layout and maintenance, equipment etc, and, when the Little Hay Golf Centre opens in 1976 will proudly maintain it to those Golfers highest standards.

We need your advice, so we'll give you a salary of between £2200 and £2600 p.a. inclusive of threshold etc. A detached bungalow will be available on the site and full removal expenses will be given.

So 'phone Hemel Hempstead 54241 now for an application form or write to the Chief Executive, Personnel Services Dept., DACORUM DISTRICT COUNCIL, 41 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

The broad view

Ransomes reputation for gang mowers needs no elaboration here, we're among professionals. Two types of gang unit are available, the Sportcutter for a finish perfect for golf courses and parks, and the Magna, where finish is not the prime factor, and grass up to 8" high can be dealt with. These quick-coupling units can be used in gangs of 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, to cover a wide application of cutting tasks. Sportcutter and Magna units can also be built into a mounted 3-unit mower for use with standard tractor 3-point linkage, cutting 7 ft. wide. Your local distributor has the full story, which he'll be happy to tell you.

Check these features

NEW heavy rear rolls for even faster, smoother cutting.

Impact-resistant cutting cylinders.

Universal framework eliminates build-up of grass cuttings.

Hardened steel gears for positive drive.

Quickly removable cylinder for rapid mid-season grinding.

Width of cut from 2 ft. 6 in. to 20 ft. 6 in.

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AVAILABLE NOW SPORTCUTTER Mk11 and MAGNA Mk13 Units *send for details*

[Section News from Page 33]

Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, at Stoneham Golf Club by courtesy of the Committee. Tee off 9 a.m.: 36 Hole Medal: Entry fee £3.50. Will all members who intend to play please send their entries (indicating current golf handicap) to Mr. E. Fox, Tournament Organiser, c/o Huxleys Garden Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hampshire, not later than Friday April 28, 1975. Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to B.G.G.A. South Coast Section.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 1975 Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Section will be held at Stoneham Golf Club on Thursday, May 8, 1975, at 7 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome to the Section the following members and we hope their association with us will be a long and happy one:—

Mr. H. Hibberd, New Forest Golf Club.

Mr. R. N. Keatley (Maxwell Hart (London) Ltd.)

Welsh Section

President:
J. BIRD

Treasurer:
D. C. OLIVER
Lywnpia,
Rhondda,
Glam.

THE Spring Meeting will be held at Llantrisant and Pontyclun Golf Club, Talbot Green, on April 15, 1975. Could all attend by 9.45 a.m. for an early start.

Northern Section

Chairman:
J. SCOTT
Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
W. HEELES
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.
Tel: K'boro 3851

OUR thanks to Mr. B. Kirby and the Managing Director of Longdales Development Co. Ltd., Growers and Suppliers of TANA GRASS, for the very interesting talk and slides on the growing and uses of TANA GRASS.

Diary Date. The Spring Tournament will be held on May 29, 1975, at the Moor Allerton Golf Club.

[Turn to Page 36]

SCUNTHORPE GOLF CLUB SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

at modern club to take charge of present 18 hole course, staff and future course developments. Must have proven ability of course management.

Generous housing assistance. Salary by negotiation. Applications treated with strict confidence. References required after interview.

The Secretary,
Scunthorpe Golf Club,
Ashby Decoy,
Burringham Road,
Scunthorpe,
South Humberside.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above post.

The course is 6000 yards set in Parkland in the County of Tyne & Wear. A Modern 2 Bedroom Flat is available.

Applicants should apply giving fullest details of previous appointments and stating age and salary requirement to:—

H. R. G. Loadman, Esq.,
Chairman, Greens Committee,
WHICKHAM GOLF CLUB
Hollinside Park, Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 5BA

Testing the seeds

More details of work at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley

Cultivar and Seeds Mixture Testing

Work on these subjects has gone on almost continuously at various levels of intensity right from the beginning and at the present time the greater part of our research effort is directed to this end.

In recent years grass breeders have produced a great many new cultivars (varieties) of the common turf species and it seems clear that independent testing is important (though not covered by the State as in Agriculture). Field tests are carried out to compare performance under different treatments (e.g. height of cut, fertiliser, artificial wear) and results are reported each year in our Journal. It is hoped that before very long we will be able to produce for sale a regular handbook summary of our evaluations.

New seed mixture trials are necessary because of the availability of improved varieties and to take account of the artificial soil conditions

which are being increasingly used. We would like to do more than we are able at present.

Needs for research at the present time

Last year a new committee of representatives of the main turfgrass breeders was formed, the idea being for us to consult with them as to whether trials we are doing on cultivars are of a satisfactory nature. Happily, it would appear that we are not far off the mark but this committee thinks that much more work is required and indeed that it should be carried out at several centres to take account of different climatic and other conditions. It is interesting to note that the idea of sub-centres was referred to in our first Journal in 1929 and was recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee in 1930!

The committee of Breeders representatives suggested the formation of

[Continued facing page]

(Section News continued from page 35)

Sheffield Section

President:

S. K. ARNOLD

Hon. Secretary:

B. V. LAX
153 Kilton Road,
Workshop,
Worksop,
Notts.

JANUARY was a vacant month in our winter lecture programme, but on February 6, Mr. M. Scheile of Agrihort Ltd. gave us a very interesting talk on the subject of Modern Grasses for Modern Golf Courses.

The meeting was very well attended. About 48 members were kept very interested for the duration of Mr. Scheile's talk. Afterwards our Presi-

dent, Mr. K. Arnold, in thanking Mr. Scheile, said he thought we had been given a look into the future as regards grasses that would be used on golf courses.

Congratulations to the Captain and Committee of Lindrick Golf Club, their course having been chosen as venue for the P.G.A. Match Play Championship.

The event is in September, and I am sure Lindrick will once again be in its usual fine condition, thanks to Harry Herrington and his staff.

[Bingley Research continued]

a wider based committee to help us, i.e. a committee representing a broad field of users. Our practical advisory committees of earlier years had petered out for various reasons but the Board had felt that the matter should be kept open and so we went ahead and formed a Turfgrass Advisory Committee with representatives of greenkeepers, groundsmen, parks superintendents, etc. At the very first meeting of this Turfgrass Advisory Committee last year the members, after examining what we were doing, expressed the opinion very forcibly that, especially in view of the very large amount of money spent annually on construction and maintenance of turf, the amount of research urgently needed is vastly beyond anything the Institute could contemplate with the scale of finances available. With the help of the Institute's staff a schedule was got out indicating work that ought to be done as soon as possible and the estimated cost of the items in it.

It was felt that of outstanding importance at the present time is the need to carry out wider trial work on new grass cultivars and on grass seeds mixtures for various kinds of amenity turf (from lawns to parks, golf courses and sports grounds) and that it is necessary to have trials at several sub-centres—as many as eight being considered necessary. The cost of a really comprehensive system comparable to that of Agriculture seems to be at least £75,000 per annum for the cultivar assessment and £25,000 per annum for mixture trials aimed, not only at golf courses and sports grounds, but also at areas such as road verges where minimum maintenance is required.

The list which was drawn up and agreed by the Turfgrass Advisory Committee of some other major sub-

jects on which information is urgently needed is as follows:—

1. Physiology and morphology of wear resistance in grasses.
2. Deterioration of playing surface in relation to plant damage and recovery, and type of plant structure most important for maintaining playing surface, e.g. roots, rhizomes, etc.
3. Establishment and behaviour of turfgrass species and cultivars in different soil types, and with different nutrient status. (This would help to fill the gaps in the extension trial network.)
4. Techniques for producing clean seed beds and particularly establishment of fine turf free of *Poa annua*.
5. Requirements of turfgrass seedlings at establishment in relation to seed rate, and competition at initial stages between the components in mixtures.
6. Properties of soils affecting their use for sport, especially the production of free-draining soil profiles capable of carrying hard-wearing turf.
7. Development of reproducible assessment methods for playing surfaces, to check value for money in construction and repair of pitches etc.
8. Inter-relationship between turfgrass disease and management, especially nitrogen regime.
9. Surveys of turfgrass seed use in the U.K. (possibly repeated once or twice after intervals of a few years) and survey of numbers of turfgrass users of different categories, and numbers of facilities of different types (e.g. how many football pitches).
10. Minimum maintenance methods of turfgrass management.
11. Reaction of turfgrasses to growth regulators, appropriate methods

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of using growth regulators in different turf situations, and selection by trials of the species or cultivars of grass particularly suitable for such techniques.

12. Shade tolerance.
13. Use of grass for indoor surfaces, and response to artificial light and other indoor conditions.
14. Effect of soil heating and protective covers on turf in winter and effect of protective covers in summer.
15. Methods and mixtures for rapid re-seeding on sports fields and other areas of heavy wear.
16. Development and control of "thatch" especially in fine turf.
17. Reassessment of optimum time of fertiliser application and kind of fertiliser.
18. Light and temperature requirements for turfgrass seed germination in relation to depth of seeding and season.

The subject of annual meadow-grass control is not listed as a separate item, although perhaps it should be; it is supposed to be covered in various other items such as the fourth.

The work required is envisaged as taking 5-10 years and costing a total of between £400,000 and £500,000. It need not all be at Bingley, of course. For comparison purposes I can tell you that the expenditure on research at Bingley at present is running at £18,000 per annum, much of this on cultivar trials.

Limits

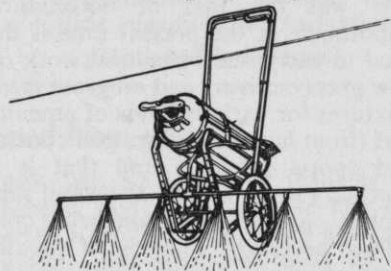
Clearly, from all that has gone before the main limit on the research that can be done is money. More staff are needed urgently but it is probable that buildings, land, etc. will come into the picture in due course.

Although research can lead to the production of high quality turf which will perform satisfactorily under heavy use even under adverse weather conditions, we have to face the fact that as far as can be foreseen there will always be such a thing as over-use of turf. It will not stand an unlimited amount of wear.

No matter how much information becomes available it is of little value unless known to those responsible for construction and management of turf. At the present time educational facilities for greenkeepers and groundsmen are less than adequate—even the present rather low state of the art is not as widely known as it should be. Obviously as more knowledge becomes available the problem of passing it on becomes the more marked.

Next issue :
Bingley looks to the future.

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