

What about womanpower?

WHAT with the recent legislative ruling on equal opportunities in industry for women, and the labour shortage in our trade, one wonders if there isn't a place on the greenkeeping scene for women.

This is not quite so daft as it might sound for in North America the girls are already making an impression in this very area.

Below are one or two accounts received from that part of the world and indicate that greencraft is not strictly a male preserve.

GLORIA: Fox Lake C.C. Supt. Ray Schei.

Gloria, a nineteen year old high school graduate was looking for outdoor work when she was hired. She is now one of five female crew members at Fox Lake. The girls work forty hours a week including the weekend. If they work Saturday one week then they alternate and work Sunday the next week. Gloria is a full-time year-round employee. In the summer she has sprayed greens, done sodding jobs and shovelled up sand in the bunkers. During the winter she washes the equipment with a hot water pressure cleaner, and has been grinding the bedknives. This past week Gloria attended the Toro Service Clinic held at Itasca C.C. Last summer while wearing a halter neck and short shorts to work in, she was 'propositioned' by a foursome of golfers and has since changed her dress habits. Speaking of dress, during the winter, Gloria dresses up one day a week complete with lipstick, and does secretarial work, payroll, etc. in the office.

MARY BETH: Marriott Inn Resort. Supt. Joseph Grenko.

9 Mary Beth is a college student with a farm background. The Superintendent was attracted to her when she worked as a waitress in the clubhouse. In 1974 Mary Beth operated a nine-gang fairway unit. Joe Grenko's appraisal, 'The best damn tractor driver I've ever seen. No skidding, and no banged up trees.

She was a natural'. For the 1975 season Grenko has hired five girls — so far. They will start Monday, March 17th and work 'year-round'. Joe expects half his crew to be women. The women will be supplied with Marriott uniforms which they must wear. A seven day week prevails and Grenko expects his women to do all the mowing, plus be available for night work making artificial snow, and snow removal jobs in the winter. Grenko is convinced women labour is the direction to look, and prays his 1975 crew will provide more girls like Mary Beth.

CLAUDETTE: Silver Lake G.C. Supt. Dudley Smith.

Claudette is a housewife and mother desiring to supplement the family income, but the idea of outside work 'turned her on'. She is also an ecology nut. Claudette collects mushrooms, berries and asparagus while out mowing. She has a pet crow at home and talks to the squirrels and ducks on the golf course. Claudette can handle any of our mowing jobs and usually does the fungicide applications. She 'begs off' when aquatic weed killers are applied — they harm the fish — or when arsenicals are used for Poa annua control — you are killing the birds. She wears shorts when it's hot but normally it's levis and a purple sweatshirt. The girls have an extra set of clothes in case they are caught in a thundershower. This past season the girls did all the aerifying, verticcutting and cleanup chores on all the greens and tees. Claudette and the other girls steamcleaned the dirty equipment when we dismantled it this winter and they did an excellent job painting the flagpoles, ball washers and tee benches. Women are naturally neater and they don't spill paint.

The women employees at Silver Lake have only worked Spring and Fall. They report in the morning after their children are on the school bus and leave at 3.30 p.m. to resume their motherly

duties. The women do not work on weekends or on school holidays. Since I have adequate schoolboy help during the summer months, the women fill the labour shortage that exists in early Spring and again in the Autumn. Working only six hours a day fits nicely into their home schedule as well. The women eat their sandwiches at the barn with the male employees but usually they are watching their diets and settle

for an apple or a can of beer. They use the same washroom we use but lock themselves in for privacy, they also keep the 'john' much cleaner than we did.

Transcribed from the Foreground: journal of the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Food for thought gentlemen:
March isn't a bad time of year to review
FUTURE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.

OUR THANKS TO THE NORTHERN SECTION FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION

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/COURSE CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

NEW 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE

WASHINGTON NEW TOWN—TYNE AND WEAR

Construction of the new golf course in Washington is due to commence in the late Spring/early Summer of 1976.

The Corporation wishes to recruit an experienced Head Greenkeeper who will be responsible for course upkeep and maintenance once the course construction is complete.

The appointment will, however, be made in the near future to allow the Greenkeeper to act as Course Construction Supervisor and Adviser during the period of course construction.

The construction will be largely undertaken by contractors although certain aspects may be carried out by in-house labour. In the latter event the person appointed will be expected to organise, direct and supervise the work of this small labour force.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Greenkeepers for the post described.

The salary will be by negotiation.

Generous fringe benefits are available including a free life assurance scheme. Resettlement grants, lodging allowance and assistance with removal expenses are payable in approved cases. Housing accommodation for rent may be available.

Application forms are available from the Administrative Officer, Washington Development Corporation, Usworth Hall, Stephenson, District 12, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3HS, (Tel: Washington 463591), and should be returned by 25th March, 1976.

W. S. Holley,
General Manager.

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Member of British Agrochemicals Association

Hon. Secretary's Report of the Progress of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping.

The First Annual General Meeting of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping was held at the Sports Council Offices, 70, Brompton Road, London on December 10th, 1975.

It will be remembered that the Golf Development Council called together the Organisations interested in Golf Greenkeeping problems and following a few meetings The Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping was formed.

The following organisations form the Conference:

The English, Scottish, Welsh & Irish Golf Unions.

The British & Scottish Greenkeepers' Association.

The Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The Golf Development Council.

The Aspects of the Conference were as follows:

(1) To initiate, improve and promote the education and training of Golf Greenkeepers.

(2) To act as a link between bodies having similar aspects.

(3) To collaborate with educational and scientific establishments.

(4) To receive, hold and disperse monies in the pursuit of these objects.

Although the organisation is still in its infancy a considerable amount of progress has been made.

1. Agreement has been reached regarding the training of golf greenkeepers.

2. A Training Co-ordinator has been appointed. We can congratulate ourselves in finding someone with such drive and enthusiasm. Since taking up his appointment in August 1975 he has already covered a great deal of ground, and is now implementing recommendations that have been adopted.

None of the progress made could be possible without the support of the various bodies.

By now the Training Co-ordinator, Mr. G.R. Richards and Mrs. Richards

will be nearing the end of their mammoth task of visiting the Sections to outline the roll of the Standing Conference on the training and education of trainee greenkeepers, and the relationship between the Head Greenkeeper and the Training Colleges that is required if the scheme is going to succeed.

It is in the interest of Greenkeepers that the best of training is given as this should surely lead to a better working knowledge, thus, the ultimate end must be a better status, better conditions and better kept golf courses.

Looking to the future it is hoped that within the next two years the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be in the position to carry out the running of this scheme.

DIARY DATES—

Mar. 26	Southern Section Annual Dinner Walton Heath.
Apr. 2	Midland Section Dinner Dance, Elms Hotel, Aldridge.
Apr. 6	Winter Lecture, Alresford G.C. Mr. Jack Roffey.
Apr. 7	Welsh Section, Spring Meeting, Radyr G.C.
Apr. 27	N.W. Section Sisis Tournament, Macclesfield G.C., 12.30.
May 11	Southern Section Spring Tournament, Little Aston G.C.
May 17	N.W. Section. Spring Tournament. 8.15.
June 15	Welsh Section. Summer Meeting, Southerndown G.C.
Aug. 16/ 17/18	Southern Section, Annual Tournament, Walton
Sep. 21	Autumn Meeting. Swansea Bay G.C.
Sep. 22	Southern Section. Autumn Tournament, Berkshire.
Oct. 8	B.G.G.A. International Tournament, Walton Heath.
Oct. 12	Southern Section. Greenkeepers v. Secretaries. West Byfleet.

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NEWS

BGGA GROUP VISITS TORO HQ COMPLEX

THE new headquarters' complex of Toro (U.K.) Sales and Service at Faverdale Industrial Estate, Darlington, held an "at home" in December for 31 members of the North West Section of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

It was the first organised visit to the new 25,000 sq. ft. Toro office, workshop, warehouse and assembly headquarters in the United Kingdom.

The visitors were impressed with the workshop facilities and inspected the warehouse area covering more than 19,000 sq. ft. and the assembly area where a wide range of Toro equipment is prepared before delivery to golf course and other institutional and domestic customers.

The day was spent in extended discussion between the visitors and the Toro staff on selection of correct equipment for grasscutting tasks, and operating and maintenance problems.

B.G.G.A. VISIT RANSOMES

RECENT visitors to Ransomes, Ipswich headquarters were a party from the East Midlands section of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

The visit included a tour of the factory so that greenkeepers could see the care that goes into the manufacture of Ransomes world famous range of professional grass machinery.

It was arranged through Ransomes Leicestershire distributors, the Leicester Horticultural Engineering Co. Ltd.

Mr. Roy Bailey, Sales Director of L.H.E. is President of the East Midlands section of the B.G.G.A.

NEW ULTRA-STRONG GARDEN HOSE

A NEW ultra-strong garden hose — about eight times stronger than conventional plastic hose — is being supplied by Garden Appliances with its complete range of Melnor Travelling Lawn Sprinklers.

The company has found that the new hose is highly acceptable to groundsmen working in parks, bowling greens, lawn tennis courts, cricket grounds and golf courses.

Another attraction for professional gardeners and park keepers is the lightness and flexibility of the new hosing, which makes it especially easy to handle even at low temperatures — an important requirement when in frequent use.

Called ELLBRAID, the hose is available in 50 ft. to 300 ft. lengths in three bore sizes: ½", ¾" and 1".

Guaranteed for 10 years against faulty manufacture, the hose is made from three layers: high quality PVC inner tube reinforced with high-tensile polyester fibre and then coated on the outside with a transparent PVC so as to resist abrasion. The outer PVC layer is an attractive red for easy site identification.

Garden Appliances Ltd., Thame Park Industrial Estate, Chinnor Road, Thame, Oxon. Tel: 084421 3551.

TWO NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR B.G.G.A.

GUY Catchpole, general marketing manager and John Wilson, sales manager of Ransomes Grass Machinery Division have recently been elected Vice-Presidents of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Both men have been involved in many major projects organised in conjunction with the Association. This has included the first International Golf Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament in 1973, which was spon-



Guy Catchpole (left) General Marketing Manager and John Wilson (Sales Manager) Ransomes Grass Machinery division, who have recently been made Vice-Presidents of the B.G.G.A.



B.G.G.A. Group visits Toro H.Q. Complex

sored by Ransomes, and also the First British Turfgrass Symposium.

They are now assisting the executive of the B.G.G.A. with the planning of the Second International Golf Tournament and Turf Symposium, to be held at Walton Heath Golf Club in October, 1976.

The proposed training programme being planned by Mr. & Mrs. G. Richards of the Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping is also something in which Ransomes are interesting themselves as a means of providing training for golf club staff on every aspect of greenkeeping and in particular, the maintenance and full utilisation of mechanised equipment.

TORO IRRIGATION

IN a statement issued from Ringwood by Wright Rain Limited, pioneers of large-scale sprinkler irrigation in this country, it is announced that Wright Rain have relinquished their U.K. distributorship of Toro irrigation equipment. Commenting on the decision, Mr. Barney Toulson, Sales Manager said, "The majority of our business has al-

ways been in agricultural irrigation in which our experience is probably second to none. This change will enable us to concentrate all of our efforts into that sector of the market".

The Toro International Sales Company of Riverside, California are, as from January 1st this year, marketing and distributing their irrigation equipment from a base in Southern England.

Speaking of the change, Mr. Philip York, European Sales Manager, Toro said, "Although we are assuming the responsibilities for marketing our own products which are designed primarily for irrigating golf courses, sports grounds including all weather pitches, parkland and large gardens, we shall continue to sell through the existing dealer-installer network established under Wright Rain".

The network comprises Wright Rain Limited (Swainsthorpe branch) near Norwich, Pipecraft Limited of Cambridge, J. Wallis-Titt and Company Limited, Warminster, Wilts., E.A. Yates & Sons (Sandbach) Limited, Wakefield and J.R. Stutt Limited, Paisley, Scotland. Toro's U.K. office address is P.O. Box 2, Ringwood, Hampshire.

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Utility Units Heavy-duty cutting cylinders and bottom blades for approach and tee mowing. Grass catchers provided with all units.

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Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich

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