

35% OECD ,, Highlight Chewings
Fescue
10% OECD ,, Highland Brown-
top Bent
Sowing Rate: 2 cwts per acre.

Soil Amerlioration Greens

Soil mixture comprising by volume—
1 part Soil from site
3 parts Approved sand
1 part Approved peat

Tees

(per 100 sq. yds. of surface)
7½ tons Approved Sand (P.C.)
1 ton Approved Peat (P.C.)

Approaches

(per 25 yds. x 10 yds. at each Green
entrance)

15 Tons Approved Sand
2 Tons Approved Peat

In the early stages when many trees, shrubs and ground cover were removed, there seemed to be for a period a complete absence of any form of wild life on the estate. Now it is apparent that many creatures and birds are returning to redress the balance of nature. Canada geese have already moved in and taken advantage of the peace and serenity of the lakes as though they had been there from the beginning of time.

There are 132 bunkers on the Foxhills courses and they have been artificially constructed so that their contours blend with the character of the ground in relation to the scenery as a background to obtain a harmonious and satisfactory effect. Such results are only achieved by close co-operation between architect and contractor.

Every course manager will confirm that it is no easy matter to find experienced greenkeeping staff for there is a shortage of trained men in this profession. One of the first assignments was to recruit the necessary number of greenkeeping staff to fill the vacancies. For two 18 hole courses this seemed no easy matter. However, men of the right calibre and experience were attracted to some extent by advance publicity

on the new project. Generous terms of service and a wage scale in keeping with that laid down by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association induced them to join the Club. An additional incentive to those seeking employment was the prospect of working with the very latest sophisticated equipment on which more than £30,000 was spent to maintain the courses.

Soft ground conditions brought about by heavy rain during the autumn and winter of last year delayed one of the major operations until the final stages. For the task of filling bunkers

**Mr. John K. Campbell, Course Manager
Foxhills Golf & Country Club.**



with sand it was vitally important to have firm, dry ground. Routes were carefully plotted for heavy sand lorries around the perimeter of the playing areas to avoid excessive damage to turf. Where bunkers were situated in awkward places around the edges of greens, the sand was stockpiled at a convenient point for transport by tractor and trailer in lighter loads.

Finally, after months of contemplating a lunar landscape of cavernous empty bunkers, the sanding operation appeared to bring about a transformation — and a golf course emerged, proudly displaying all its little islands of sand among a sea of green fairways.

Completion of this task set the final seal of authority on the course as an inviting test of golf. The pools of golden sand loom menacingly to the inexperienced player, while the expert plots his way by using the bunkers as a landmark to frame his route to the green.

The birth of a new golf complex must always be good news for those who are enthusiasts of the game. Watching the course being shaped from a tract of virgin land through all the stages of construction is a unique experience shared only by a dedicated body of experienced men who are the specialists in this particular form of landscaping peculiar to golf. It must be the dream of every designer that his course will achieve championship standard eventually in the future.

The project at Foxhills has all the potential ingredients to make it a golfers' paradise, and under the skilled guidance of its famous architect everything possible has been done to make it a first-class test of golf for players of every calibre. The ambitions for the future is that one day it will host a major golf tournament, and plans are being made to have all the necessary amenities when the courses have reached the desired state of maturity.

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ptc or the Sole U.K. Distributors: —
Irrigation Division, Sterling Works, Bath Road, Aldermaston, Berks. Tel: Woolhampton 2346.

A QUESTION OF COLOUR

THE course is over some hundreds of acres of pasture land. The land is undulating and 'in good heart', which means that having driven at the direction post on the sky-line and seen the ball deviate by a foot or two in its flight the player hands his driver to his caddy, takes out a niblick, and goes forward to search the luxurious vegetation which lines the fairways. A quarry or two add further perils to the player pursuing uncharted ways, a copse here and there, sombrely obtrusive, absorbs ball after ball with rattling echoes of derision, and impenetrable boundary hedges mean stroke, distance, and ball.

Time was in the early days when the founders and original members thought a day's golf on their own course very good fun. They brought packets of sandwiches for lunch, and Joe the green-keeper and staff, kept a stock of bottled beer in the shanty. The greens one could see because they were kept cut shorter than the fairways hewed through the rough. Besides, they had white calico flags on canes stuck in the holes.

But with an ever-growing membership the old order passed; new members brought new ideas; sub-committees to deal with this and that was formed; progress and improvements saw large tracts of 'ground under repair' in the fairways, temporary greens continually in use, and, in fact all the disgruntling features attendant upon a course being 'brought up to modern standards'. And the committees, as is the way of committees, served their allotted periods and were replaced by new committees with entirely divergent views from those of their predecessors, and though the work went on apace the progress of modernisation often marked time with its back to the goal.

But the real battlefields of scientific shock tactics were the greens. Old features disappeared, new bunkers opened up, agendas frothed and bubbled in the heat of controversies; but, nourished or starved, watered or top-dressed, the greens remained 'in good heart' — except where various fertilizers had left bare patches — flaunting their patchwork coverings of verdant hues: yarrow, clover, pearlwort, the occasional plantain appearing, it would seem, in a night; buttercups and daisies in season, and here and there some grass.

The course was on the outskirts of a university town and in due time there grew up two strong factions, the town and the university staff, and at a time when the war of the greens was in its bitterest phase there were elected to the committee two professors of science. And they listened in silence for a while as the floods of eloquence, flavoured with vituperation and fertilizers, swirled round the room. When for a moment the floods were stilled, one of them spoke:

"You've only got to render the soil acid", he said, and turning to his colleague he asked: "Don't you think so B?"

"I am not altogether in agreement with you", replied B.

And for the next hour or so the rest of the committee sat silent as the two new members fell upon each other with all the vehemence that had marked the discussions before their advent. They talked of acid intoxication of the greens by avoiding lime, nitrate of soda, and all the substances that tend to produce alkalinity.

In sonorous phrases jewelled with formulae they discovered *Plantago lanceolata* or *Sagina procumbens* in the velvet carpets promised by rival treat-

ments. Of pH or hydrogen ion concentration they argued, of sulphates of ammonia; of acid and amide-plants, which depend upon their mechanisms for assisting the toxicity of absorbed ammonia. They sprayed each other with quotations from Boussingault, Prianischnikow, and Butkewich; paragraphs from *Biochemische Zeitschrift* and *Soil Conditions and Plant Growth* flowed from them as water from the hoses on the greens they were discussing. When the chairman came up for the third time they were hard at it about the detoxication of absorbed ammonia.

"That reminds me", he said, and, banging his gavel, declared a ten-minute truce.

When the meeting reassembled it was decided by a bewildering majority that Professor A should treat the first nine greens and Professor B the last nine, according to the manner of their several beliefs.

For a while the greens, with their spring growths, appeared much as usual, then slowly, but surely, the first nine became tinged with yellow, which grew in radiance till June saw nine dazzling gamboge patches. But the last nine were a little behind with their metamorphosis, for, adopting blues as their spring mode, they finally saw the summer through in a striking cobalt.

"Looks like a railway poster", said the professional moodily going into his shop and shutting the door. And there were indeed, times when few would have been surprised to see heliotrope men playing with crimson clubs in the style of the more lurid hoarding decorations. Colonel Boreham-Steadfast quaveringly declares that he actually found himself in a bunker of bold check design, with two raving Chinamen on all fours. He'll tell you, if you like or if you don't, all about it everyday.

The astonished members became violently partisan. The whole club was split up into 'yellows', 'blues', or 'scrap the lots'. Harassed committee - men played furtive rounds in the early mor-

nings or gathering dusk to avoid the unanswerable cross-questionings to which they were subjected, and the secretary worked in secret in his bedroom, leaving a vague notice on his office door: 'Back in half an hour'.

Only the two scientists stuck unflinchingly to their witchcraft, outcasts, but happy in the confident knowledge that the other was wrong and ignoring the factions who urged them to turn the rough to heather and the elms to pines.

Then gradually the dazzling creations which had so gaily flowered died away, and by the time the gentle spring's ethereal mildness had set the new year clothing itself the greens were greens.

An article written by Peter Lawless which subsequently appeared in the *Morning Post* 30:11:33.

It seems that in his wisdom man only tampers with nature. Barring the misfortune of having two eminent scientists on the green committee has the role of the greenkeeper really altered so dramatically over the last forty odd years?

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NEWS

International with his intensive knowledge of turf care.

Further details are available from Mr. C.M. Bakhurst, Managing Director V.E.B. International Ltd., Stags End House, Gaddesden Row, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

V.E.B. INTERNATIONAL LTD.

V.E.B. International Limited, who recently completed the construction of a 27 hole golf complex in the south of France at St. Cyprien, have been awarded a three year Maintenance Contract to look after the new course. The turf consultant during this period will be Donald Harradine, the well known international golf course architect, who works closely in association with the V.E.B. Group outside the U.K., and the Head Greenkeeper that has been appointed is Mr. Leslie Beetham, previously Golf Manager at the Corfu Golf and Country Club.

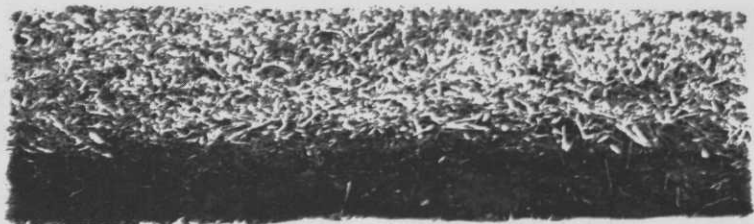
Mr. Beetham is a highly experienced greenkeeper, having previously been Head Greenkeeper at the West Bradford Golf Club, the Fixby Golf Club and Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club. During his career he has been responsible for course preparation for the British Open championship, and many other major golf course events, and he strengthens the overseas team of V.E.B.

Mr. Leslie Beetham



ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

It was agreed at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee that the handicap limit for the Annual Tournament be 18 maximum. This does not preclude higher handicap golfers from entering but they must play off 18.

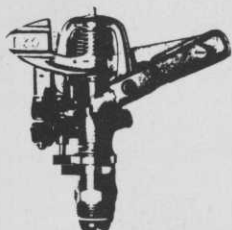


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31st INTERNATIONAL GROUNDSMEN'S EXHIBITION AT MOTSPUR PARK

THE Chairman of the Sports Council, Sir Robin Brook, C.M.G., O.B.E., will perform the official opening ceremony at the 31st International Groundsmen's Exhibition at 12 noon on Tuesday, 7th September, 1976, at the University of London's Athletic Ground, Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey.

The 31st International Groundsmen's Exhibition runs from the 7th to 9th September inclusive, opening times from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 7th and 8th, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 9th September.

JAMES R. WALSBY Public Relations,
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EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO HOLLAND 1976 - for GREENKEEPERS AND GROUNDSMEN.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

THE party will leave the Corporation Street car park, Rugby at 3.30 p.m. this is quite a safe car park under frequent Police patrol and is free, the coach will stop at Cambridge for a cup of tea etc., on the way to Harwich where the Party sail on the "SS Juliana" at 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

The Party arrive at their destination the "HOTEL PAVILION" in Rehenen for breakfast at 9 a.m., and hope to attend the service to the Men of Arnhem at the Oosterbech cemetery later in the morning, then afterwards the Party has a cruise on the River Rhine to Zutphen, on returning the coach will return to the hotel for dinner. Remainder of evening free.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

The Party are to be welcomed and take coffee at the Pappendal Sports Centrum and grass and Drisplay trials. Lunch will be taken and the ladies will go into Oosterbech for the afternoon, the evening in Amsterdam including a Canal tour and 4 hours free in the city.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

The Party are guests of Mommersteeg International Plant Breeders. Welcome at 10 a.m. with coffee, ladies in the afternoon to the town of S'Hertogenbosch to see the shops, men to join up later for at least one hours shopping time. The Party will, after visiting S'Hertogenbosch proceed to the Hook for the return journey on the "SS Edmund" to Harwich.

The cost of the trip will be £45. A deposit of £5 per person should be paid by the 8th May, made payable to:

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

NEW UK DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FOR JACOBSEN

ROLFE'S International Turf Equipment of Romsey, Hampshire, have appointed ten main distributors in the UK to form a new national network for Jacobsen turf equipment for which Rolfe's are sole UK concessionaires.

The main distributors will operate on a regional basis and will appoint various dealers in their areas. The distributors will be responsible for demonstrations, sales, spares and service of all Jacobsen machinery. In addition, distributors will provide full operator training, maintenance and service instruction. All the distributors are established suppliers of agricultural and horticultural equipment and, as part of their agreement with Rolfe's are all committed to carry Jacobsen spares in stock.

Jacobsen equipment maintains more golf courses throughout the world than any other make. The company can claim a number of industry firsts, including production of the first golf course powered greens mower, the first riding attachment for power mowers and the first hydraulic triplex greens mowers.

Jacobsen manufacture a wide range of specialised mowers with cutting swaths from 18 inches to 21 feet. The product range includes: reels, rotaries, riding mowers, snow throwers, mowing tractors, trailer type gang mowers and an extensive line of heavy duty commercial turf maintenance equipment.

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Jacobsen turf care equipment is used by golf courses, sports grounds, private parks and local authorities throughout the UK. The Jacobsen Manufacturing Company is a member of the Allegheny Ludlum Industries of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which has an annual sales volume in excess of \$500,000,000.

Further details of local distributors and products available can be obtained from Rolfe's International Turf Equipment, Winchester Hill, Romsey, Hants. SO5 8YY. Telephone: 0794 513185.

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