

the Golf Course

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

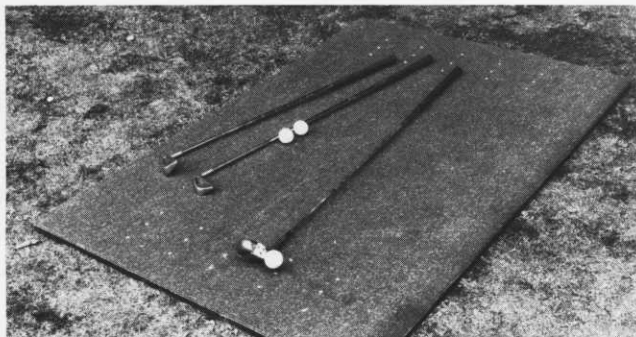
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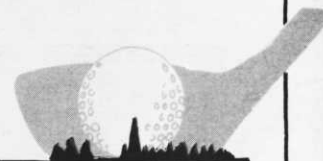
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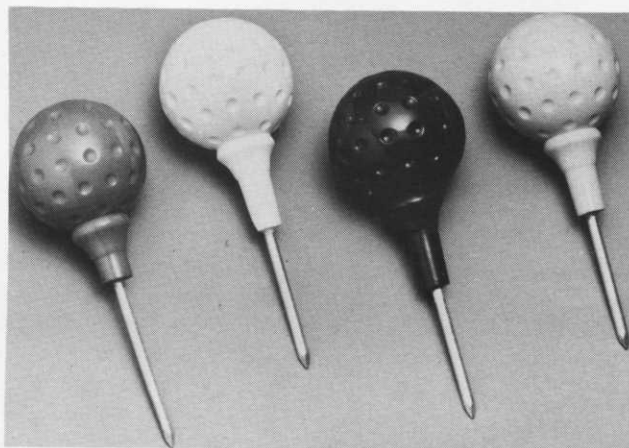


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GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT AND TURF MAINTENANCE MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS

SINCE the last UPDATE there has been a great deal of activity within the Association and I think it fair to say that members are becoming much more aware of developments and progress. The five Regional Meetings have provided the impetus to move forward. Many of the suggestions and points of concern at these meetings had a common theme and the exchange of views not only between Section representatives and myself, but also amongst the Section representatives themselves was a positive and encouraging for the future. The matters arising at these meetings were considered in detail by the Regions Sub-Committee at its meeting on 10th November and a number of important decisions were made. I will be writing to the Section Secretaries with details of the Sub/Committee decisions and also decisions arising from the Board of Management meeting that day. Whilst it is anticipated that the majority of decisions will have a general approval within the Sections, inevitably some Sections will face re-adjustment from existing practices and procedures but the difficulties should not prove insurmountable.

The Association is aiming to establish five strong Regions and to this end there has been a re-adjustment of Sections within Regions to that originally anticipated. Mid Anglia and



Bucks/Berks/Oxon Sections will move for regional purposes to Midland and North Wales Region, whilst South Coast Section will move to South West and South Wales Region. This will create a much better balance of Sections to Regions, ie. Scottish - 5, Northern England - 5, Midland and North Wales - 5, South East - 5, South West and South Wales - 4. In time it is hoped that expansion will allow for creation of further Sections and the Board will seek to maintain the balance now established.

Regional administration is going to be most important and to this end Regional Administrators will be appointed in all Regions. To date four appointments have been made:-

Scottish	-	Chris Kennedy
Northern	-	David Golding
South East	-	Norman Exley
South West and South Wales	-	Gordon Childs

It is anticipated that an appointment for Midland and North Wales Region will be announced shortly. The delay has been caused by the movement of Sections outlined above and the need for consultations. In the meantime, Paddy McCarron will act in a co-ordinating role.

It has been agreed that Section Annual General Meetings will normally be held in November,

Continued on page 6

the Golf Course

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

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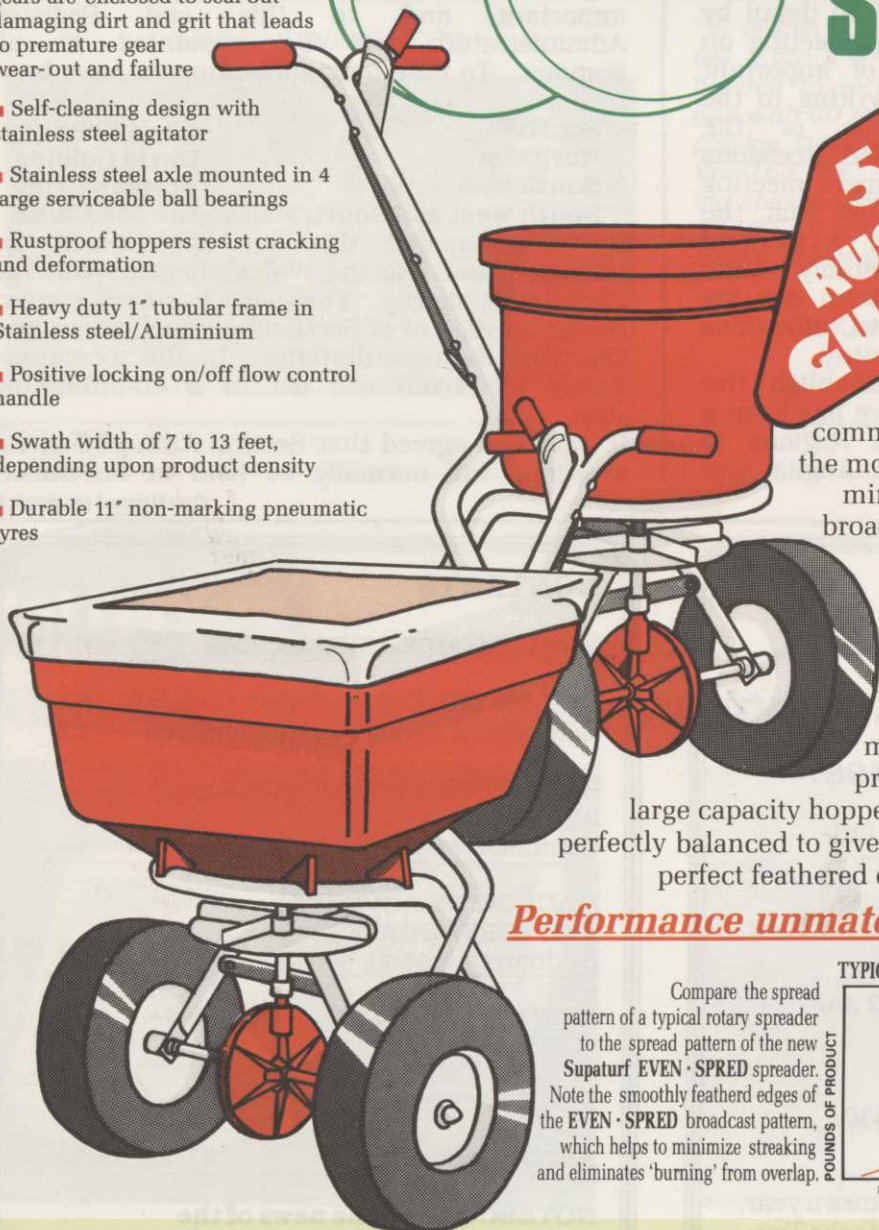
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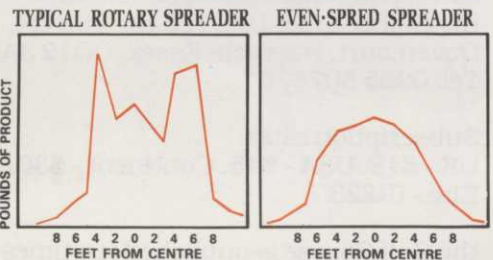


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with Regional representatives nominated by Sections in January to form the Regional Board for the ensuing year. To get matters off the ground Sections should hold AGM's by mid-January where they have not already been held and nominate their two Regional representatives as the first full meetings of the Regional Boards will be held during the last two weeks of January and Subsequently in April, July and October.

Members need to note an important diary date - Wednesday 23rd March at 2.00 pm, the first **Annual General Meeting of the Association** will be held at the Royal York Hotel. This is situated immediately adjacent to the main Railway Station in York. Both road and rail networks to York are good and as a mid-point the choice of location seems fair to members in general. Following the AGM, Regions will be asked for their nominations for the Board of Management for the ensuing year and the first meeting of the new Board will take place towards the end of April.

To establish a co-ordinated approach to developments and procedures within the Association and to ensure the viability of the structure outlined above, I will hold regular meetings with the Regional Administrators. The first will be held in the near future and subsequent meetings will take place following the quarterly meetings of the Regional Boards. When necessary, I will attend meetings of Regional Boards to deal with specific issues or concerns.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1988

I referred to the National Tournament in the last UPDATE and I can now advise members that the Board, having considered all relevant aspects, has decided that a National Tournament/International Conference will take place in Ayrshire, week commencing 25th September, 1988.

This will be based on the Ayr Belleisle Course and detailed planning is underway. The combined event is likely to be over a five day period. Members should make a note of the date and full details will be made available as soon as possible. Section Secretaries should let me know at an early date of members interested in attending.

UNIFORM

Details of the Association's approved uniform have now been finalised following Board of Management approval.

The official navy blue blazer will be available at a cost of £55.50 inclusive of VAT (to include a wire blazer badge embroidered directly onto the patch pocket). This will produce a much better appearance than an 'off the shelf' blazer with a badge sewn on. However, it is appreciated that members may wish to utilise their current blazers in the first instance and to this end a blazer badge will also be available at a cost of £6.60. The blazer will be available in sizes from 34 short to 52 long, in short, regular and long fittings. There will be a 10% increase in price for sizes 48 to 52. Slacks will be left to individual purchase, but the official colour will

be light grey.

Sweaters to include official motif are available either in lambswool at £16.95 plus VAT or in pure new wool at £13.95 plus VAT. All normal sizes can be catered for and there is a full colour range. Pure new wool slippers are available at £12.95 plus VAT (sizes 36" to 48") whilst sports shirts can be provided at £10.95 plus VAT - both with motif.

Finally the Association's official tie is available at a price of £3.26 plus VAT.

Normal delivery dates are 12-15 weeks from placing of order and members are asked to indicate their requirements as soon as possible. Orders, with size, quantity, fitting and colour as appropriate, should be placed *via your Section Secretary* and NOT direct to headquarters.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1988

Planning is well underway from the Association's point of view. As usual, there will be the Greenkeeper Marquee available. It has been agreed that 60 Greenkeepers will be provided to carry out bunker raking duties and that this will be an ongoing annual commitment. Accommodation arrangements have been made locally for those greenkeepers undertaking bunker raking duties who do not live in close proximity to the course. Greenkeepers interested in participating should apply to their Section Secretaries by 31st December. The Regional Administrators will subsequently co-ordinate applications and if these exceed the 60 required, there will be a regional allocation of places and a decision will be taken on the basis of selection within Regions. Members should note that the North West Section will be providing the organising committee for the Open Championship

SCOTSTURF

I enjoyed my visit to the Royal Highland Showground and met a number of members for the first time. I found both Greenkeepers and Trade Members optimistic for the future. The show itself was well-organised and benefits from the indoor facilities available. Thanks are due in particular to John Crawford for organising BIGGA's stand and to Elliott Small for his work on the day.

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE 1988

The Board of Management has now given approval to the 1988 Membership Package and Categories of Membership. Application forms appear elsewhere in this issue for (a) New Greenkeeper members and (b) Trade and Associate Members. Current greenkeeper members should **NOT** apply on these forms as they will be invoiced separately at the beginning of January. Forms for new greenkeeper members should be forwarded to Headquarters without any payment. They will then be distributed to Sections for consideration and, upon acceptance, Section Secretaries will need to advise Headquarters Office whereupon the new member will be invoiced for his subscription.

Categories

The Board has given approval to the following categories for the year 1st Jan - 31st Dec 1988:-

A.1. Full Greenkeeper Member £25. + VAT = £28.75

2. 18 years and under £12.50+VAT = £14.38

B.1. Associate Member £25. + VAT = £28.75

2. Associate Member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year £43. + VAT = £49.45

C.1. Trade Member £30. + VAT = £34.50

2. Trade Member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year £48. + VAT = £55.20

There will be no local/regional membership categories. Those joining nationally in the Trade and Associate categories will be given first consideration in terms of participation in and attendance at BIGGA functions, e.g. conferences, seminars and tournaments, and will of course be able to use their membership on a national basis. For those Trade and Associate members who joined prior to 1st January, their current membership runs to 31st December, 1988.

THE MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

What then will members be getting for their subscription? The Board believes that it is putting forward a strong package, containing benefits which greenkeepers have not previously enjoyed:-

(i) Legal Advice:-

This is a continuation of the Scheme implemented from 1st October this year. Using his Legal Advice Card telephone number, a member can obtain legal advice and discuss his problem with the Legal Protection Group's staff, who will advise him how best to proceed. A major advantage of the Scheme is that its benefits are automatically extended to each individual eligible member's immediate family - this being defined as the member's spouse and any children or relatives permanently residing with the member.

(ii) Employment Cover:-

As an extension to the Legal Advice Service, this most important benefit has been negotiated for members. This benefit can be split in two, i.e.:-

(i) Employment Defence Cover:-

This section covers the defence by a member of any claim or legal proceedings brought against the individual concerned arising out of, or in the course of, his employment. This category of cover is particularly significant in the light of current legislation where, although a firm may be cited in an action, an individual employee can also be held responsible, even though he was acting in good faith on behalf of his employers.

(ii) Employment Pursuit:-

This is the other side of the coin; the pursuit of a claim by an eligible member arising out of his employment. For example, a member might want to institute proceedings in a dispute arising out of unfair or wrongful dismissal. In such circumstances, the service provided would take the case through to Industrial Tribunal stage and beyond if necessary. In short, a greenkeeper will no longer be left to his own devices when in an employment dispute.

This cover is provided on the basis of a £5,000 'ceiling' per case and is subject to on a £20.00 excess per claim. On this basis, members will be securing an extremely valuable service -

without the cover costs in such circumstances would be exorbitant and beyond the means of most.

(iii) Personal Accident Cover:-

This cover, arranged through Fenchurch Northern Group will provide capital sums under the following heads:-

1. Death - £5,000

2. Loss of use of one or more limbs or eyes - £5,000

3. Permanent total disablement lasting 104 weeks at the end of which being beyond hope of improvement - £5,000.

However, a most attractive feature of the negotiated scheme will enable members suffering temporary total disablement in excess of seven days to receive weekly income of £25 for a maximum of 104 weeks.

Also, it will be possible for members to purchase additional units at their own cost within the scheme and pamphlet incorporating an application form will be made available upon payment of subscription.

In negotiation with Fenchurch Northern, the Association is attempting to provide for members access to a comprehensive range of benefits including pensions and private medical benefits. An article on pensions is included in this issue, whilst discussions are continuing on private medical benefits.

(iv) Benevolent Fund:-

A fund will be created which will allow for payments to members suffering particular hardships. Applications will be made to Section Secretaries and, if approved by the Section, will be forwarded to Headquarters for consideration by the General Purposes Subcommittee. Sums will be allocated on an individual basis depending on Circumstances.

(v) In addition to a Membership Card, each member will receive a car badge sticker with the official logo and BIGGA golf bag tag.

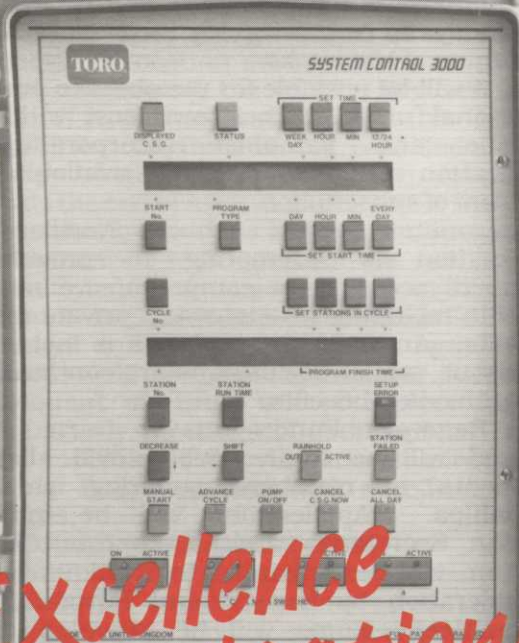
(vi) Section Secretaries will be provided with supplies of tee pax - each containing eight tees two ball markers and a pitch repairer, all with BIGGA identification. These will be handed to members participating in various Section tournaments throughout the year.

(vii) The subscription allows for a 15% return per member to his Section for purposes of Section funding and will also allow for payments to be made to both Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators for all the work they will be involved in throughout the year.

(viii) A point which is often forgotten by greenkeeper members is that payment of subscription entitles a member to ten copies a year of the Association's official publication 'the Golf Course'. The cost to a private subscriber is £18 a year.

One final point, it is essential that subscriptions are paid without delay as not only will the above benefits not apply until payment is received, but these benefits have been purchased PRIOR to receipt of subscriptions and in terms of the Association's cash flow it is essential that there is no delay in receipt of membership fees.

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by Brian A. Lucas, Fenchurch Insurance Group

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This opens up a whole new course for playing upon and, in order to assist you to keep on the fairway and avoid the bunker, your association is looking into the situation of overseeing a national scheme for your benefit as members of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

The idea is to provide a pensions facility which will be individually written and have the benefit of being fully transferable. This means that once you have driven off, your own benefits will be in the bag, no matter how many irons you put in the fire in terms of job mobility.

As we are all aware, whilst it is possible to "exist" on the basic State Pension, no-one can "live" on that level of income and, therefore, some additional provision must be made in order to prevent your standard of living dropping to an unacceptable level when the day of reckoning arrives.

Private Pensions, especially for the younger members will not cost a large proportion of

income and any contributions, within the Inland Revenue limits, will attract full Income Tax Relief. Also, from next year, the revenue will offer a five year incentive to anyone who has the initiative to make the appropriate private provision.

Your scheme will have the facility to provide life cover to retirement and, on retirement, a tax free cash lump sum, a lifetime pension and also dependants benefits during your retirement.

Normal retirement dates are being reduced with the intention of allowing you to retire at any age from 55 onwards.

However, you may not wish to fully retire at that age and so the scheme will allow you to take your cash sum at that age to give you additional income whilst your pension continues to grow until you decide to stop working and fully retire.

It is never too early to make provision for retirement. A young person can provide for the same benefits with a small "divot" from his income whereas an older person would require a more substantial slice of income to achieve the same level of benefit.

If you have a current pension scheme, arranged personally or otherwise, you would be wise to check that it is capable of providing you with all of the benefits and flexibility which the new rules will allow.

Should you wish to reduce your retirement handicap, please address your enquiry to:-

Brian A. Lucas, Fenchurch Northern, (L&P) Limited, St. Jame's House, 28 Park Place, LEEDS. LS1 2SX. Tel: 0532 449751

1988 GREENKEEPER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(N.B. Not to be completed by existing members)

To be returned to: The executive Director, BIGGA. Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU

FULL NAME _____ HOME ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ POSTCODE _____

NAME OF EMPLOYER _____ ADDRESS _____

PRESENT POST _____ DATE OF APPOINTMENT _____

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS _____

I wish to be affiliated to the _____ Section (see below)

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF **THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION** AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Subscriptions are NOT to be sent with this form but will be invoiced separately.

Fees payable will be -

1) Full member £25.00 plus VAT = £28.75

2) 18 years and under £12.50 plus VAT = £14.48

Sections:

Scottish Region

Northern England Region

Midland and North Wales

South East

South West and South Wales

North, East, West, Central, Ayrshire

North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield

East Midland, Midland, East of England, Mid Anglia, Berks/Bucks/Oxon

East Anglia, Greater London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent

South Coast, Devon & Cornwall, South West, South Wales.

SHOOT OUT BIRDIE FOR BRUCE

IN a thrilling finish to the Jacobsen National Greenkeepers Tournament, Gerald Bruce playing off a handicap of 4 birdied the first hole in a sudden death play off on the testing Hunstanton links to win himself a trip to the United States.

Three players tied on 36 pts after the regulation 18 hole final, in which area winners from all parts of the country and sections of BIGGA took part. Instead of the normal countback, the prizes were sorted out in a play off, with Alan Paterson (2nd) and Andrew Toomey (3rd).

The winner had an edge over the other contestants for until recently he was assistant to Hunstanton's Head Greenkeeper James Reed.

Needless to say the course was in fine condition with fast greens. Not surprisingly the majority of the equipment at Hunstanton is Jacobsen a coincidence not lost on the competitors.

All the contestants were well looked after by their hosts, with first class accommodation and an enjoyable meal in the clubhouse, after the tournament during which Chris Smith, Jacobsen's UK Manager presented the prizes.

Finalists:-

Raymond Day, Chris Kennedy, Arthur Williamson, Allister Connal, Elliot Small, Alan Paterson, Gerald Aycliffe, John Lawton, Paul Loffman, Peter Woodward, Jim Russell, Ian McMillan, Chris Jones, D. Searles, Steve Mason, G. Plain, H. Middlebrook, S. Wooley, R. Wood, R. Plain, S. Wood, Gerald Bruce, David Lucas, Mr. Richardson, Andrew Peal, Mike Wilson, John Hoplains, Peter Howard, R. Willars, M. Danvers, David Collins, C. Marvin, A. Toomey.



Chris Smith of Jacobsen congratulates Winner Gerald Bruce

BIGGA JOINS NTC

September's NTC business meeting saw the unanimous acceptance of the British and International Golf Greenkeeper's Association's application to join the Council and seek representation on its main body.

Howard Swan, NTC Chairman, commented "I am delighted that the new greenkeeping association has decided to join all the industry's other bodies on the Council and to show its support for us in our growing role as the umbrella organisation. I understand that in the short time BIGGA has been formed it has attracted almost 2,000 members, without trade involvement, which is remarkable achievement worthy of much congratulation. With such strength behind it, and under Executive Director Neil Thomas, I look forward to BIGGA's contribution to the future working of the NTC, which will be of important significance".



Standing: Philip Wentworth (North Hants GC), Richard Barker (Longcliffe GC), Mike Sheehan (Capt) (Mere G&CC), Ivan Toon (Moor Hall GC) Sitting: Edwin West (Broadstone GC), Ray Howlett (Cheshunt GC), Melvin Guy (South Leeds GC), Neil Whittaker (Woburn GC).

IN this years **Kubota Golf Challenge** on October 12th and 13th at the Belfry, the greenkeepers swept all before them, for their third successive victory.

Young and fit, for the most part, they brushed aside the less athletic stewards by six matches to two in the semi-finals before overcoming the guile of secretaries in the final. The margin was 5 1/2 to 2 1/2 and the greenkeepers were always in control, losing only the last two matches. Well done our team!

NORTH WEST SECTION SUCCESS

BIGGA invited the S.T.R.I. Roadshow to Reaseheath to a packed audience of 120 Greenkeepers in the College lecture theatre, S.T.R.I. staff gave a riveting series of lectures. The proceedings were chaired by Mr. Brian Moss the Chairman of the North West Section BIGGA, and the proceedings organised by John Lowry, the education chairman of the section and his committee. Invited guests included Mr. Peter Dutton of the English Golf Union, Mr. Roger Robinson, President of the Cheshire Golf Union, Peter Wilson, Chairman of the STRI and the Greenkeeper Training Committee and Dr. Frank Harkins, the Cheshire Golf Unions representative on the Reaseheath liaison committee. The event was sponsored for student involvement by the Cheshire Golf Union.

The programme for the day included, golf course drainage, construction of a golf green, turf diseases and maintenance problems associated with fairways, bunkers, trees greens and surrounds.

FOR THE RECORD

Proper credit was not given in the Face to Face feature in October. Rodney Foster gave his talk to members of the BGGGA in November 1986 at a seminar at Moor Allerton Golf Club, organised by the Northern Section. Our apologies.

1988 ASSOCIATE AND TRADE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

to be completed by Trade and Associate Members who joined during 1987

To be returned to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU

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2. Trade Member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for one year £48.00 plus VAT = £55.20

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

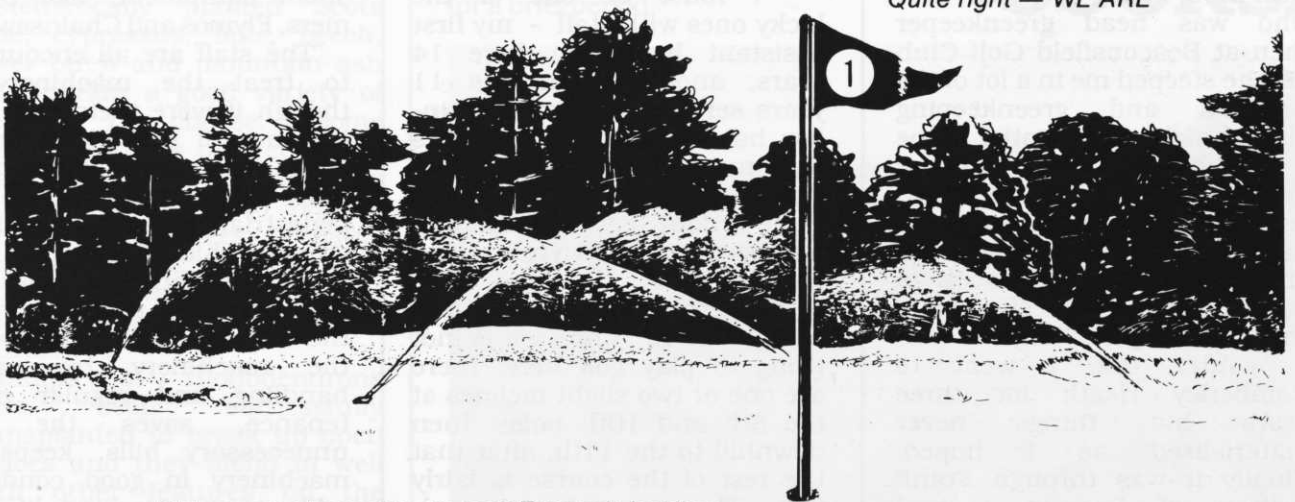
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SIGNED _____ DATE _____

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THE COUNTY of Surrey is endowed with a profusion of good golf courses and one that has always been a popular choice with golfers is Betchworth Park Golf Club on the outskirts of Dorking. Don Major, 57, head greenkeeper has been with the club for 21 years and his enthusiasm for golf and his course has never diminished during the long period I have known him. The fine condition of the course is a tribute to all the hard work and interest shown by himself and his staff over the years.

Talking about his career and his love for the game, Don Major said, "Having been in the Forces and enjoyed an outdoor life playing golf, cricket and football, it was difficult afterwards to settle down to a humdrum job with the Eagle Star Insurance Company and I always had a hankering to work on a golf course."

"Our local course, Flackwell Heath, was only a four iron shot from my home and the head greenkeeper there used to pass the door mornings and evenings, so it was not long before I persuaded him to give me a job, and from there my career in greenkeeping blossomed. I worked at the club for five years after which I married a bonnie local lass, Gillian, and we have a daughter who is married to one of my staff now at Betchworth Park.

"From there I went to work with Bob Plain, a genial Scot who was head greenkeeper then at Beaconsfield Golf Club and he steeped me in a lot of the tradition and greenkeeping skills which are essential to be a successful golf course manager. After serving seven years with Bob he decided that I had the necessary experience and competence to seek a position that would offer more scope and responsibility.

"After this I went to Camberley Heath for three years but things never materialised as I hoped. Finally it was through Frank Brittan of Parkers that I learned of the vacancy for head greenkeeper at Betchworth

Park - I applied and got the job and have remained here ever since.

"When I took over the course there was a lot of work to be done to reach the standards that I was aiming for. Over the years we have done a lot of construction work to improve the layout, tree planting, renovation and repair combined with a regular programme of turf management to keep the course in good playing condition.

"As an example we have recently had installed by Watermation a new irrigation system for all tees and upgraded the greens irrigation.



Don Major, headgreenkeeper at Betchworth for 21 years

"I must be one of the lucky ones with staff - my first assistant has been here 14 years, another man has 11 years service, and my son-in-law has clocked up five years with me. I also have a part-time employee, who works three or four days a week, who has been on the payroll a long time."

"The terrain at Betchworth is slightly undulating. It is not tiring to play golf here; there are one or two slight inclines at the 8th and 10th holes, then downhill to the 11th, after that the rest of the course is fairly flat. The greens have undulations and are deceptive to read but they putt reasonably well.

OUT ON THE COURSE

Betchworth Park

by

John Campbell

"We are fairly well equipped with two Toro GM 3's for the greens and have on standby four Auto-Certes mowers. A Ransomes 180 is used on the tees which we hope to replace with a Toro 216 Reelmaster. Trimming around the trees is done with a Toro 70 machine. A 27hp. four wheel drive Kubota tractor pulls the fairway gang units and a ten year old Ferguson tractor is used to cut the semi-rough together with a full Cushman System. In addition we have all the usual assortment of small equipment, like Strimmers, Flymos and Chainsaws.

"The staff are all encouraged to treat the machinery as though it were their own. For instance, if the GM 3 breaks down through incompetence it may mean resorting to the pedestrian mowers to cut the greens, which is not popular - so the incentive is look after the equipment properly or take the consequences. Respect for the machinery by careful handling and regular maintenance, saves the club unnecessary bills, keeps the machinery in good condition, adds to its working life and efficiency of operation and reduces down time.

**the Golf
Course**

"BIGGA deserves the full support of every greenkeeper and golf club in the country"

Don went on, "Like many tree lined courses around here we lost a lot of lovely old trees during the night of the hurricane force winds which devastated the south of England. Damage was quite extensive around the 2nd tee where 13 massive beeches came down. Around the ruins of the ancient Betchworth Castle at the 11th hole we lost a few lime and beech trees. Fortunately most of those blown over fell back into the wood behind so there was little damage to the course. Many of our trees were magnificent specimens which have taken a lifetime to grow. Their loss is a great blow.

"We have some lovely American oaks - two of these were brought down and the horse chestnuts took quite a bashing from the wind. Thankfully many of the majestic trees that enhance the golfing scene at Betchworth did survive that dreadful night but we are left licking our wounds and picking up the pieces. Hopefully we will never experience this again in our lifetime."

"Over the years we have systematically planted Scots pine, cypressus, lime, beech, silver birch and mountain ash to maintain a good variety of trees on the course. Some horse chestnuts planted a few years ago have not done so well, but we plan to replace them with may trees, probably white and pink, or white and red to add a welcome splash of colour in the middle of the course.

"Clumps of rhododendrons have been successfully transplanted to break up open spaces and they blend in well with other features on the course and create a satisfactory balance."

Don Major is a modest man, a



Betchworth has some large traps

very good golfer whose name is inscribed on many trophies. He has won the British Greenkeepers Tournament several times and been runner-up on occasions. His proudest moment recently was to win the Artisan Senior Handicap Championship at Moor Park and bring the honour back to his own artisan club at Betchworth. The trophy is displayed in the parent club.

"I was always a staunch supporter of the old BGGGA," said Don, "and have been involved with the administration of the association since 1962 when I was elected to the committee of the Southern Section. I served as an executive member for the south of England during which time my wife took over as secretary for a brief period."

"It's good to have all the greenkeeping associations now under the one banner of BIGGA with our own Executive Director, Neil Thomas at the helm. This deserves the full support of every greenkeeper and golf club in the country, but we must be patient and appreciate that it's going to take a little time to set up our new organisation - the future is bright and we have much to look forward to".

OUT ON THE COURSE



The clubhouse at Betchworth Park has a commanding view of the course

FOR the benefit of new readers of this magazine I should explain that this series started in July 1986 and was designed, in part, as a contribution to greenkeeper training to review books that might be helpful.

However, many new books are too complicated and too specialised (and too expensive!) to be considered, and anyway, I know that many greenkeepers share my own passion for ferreting around in old bookshops.

In the first article I dealt with the pathetically inadequate books devoted specifically to the upkeep of greens and lawns and found that too many of them have little or no relevance to the problems of today as they exist on British golf courses.

Further instalments have covered a much wider spectrum - the history and philosophy of golf, golf architecture, site potential, general nature study, geography and geology, soil sciences, chemical usage, botany and plant ecology.

Now it is time to focus on the grasses and their identification. Men have been writing about grasses for almost two centuries, but for most of that time their interest lay in improving pastureland. There are some beautiful old books with hand-coloured illustrations, notably one by the first Martin Sutton, but they are not really about "our" grasses. Examples of this type of book in my collection are *Grasses* by H. M. Ward (1901) and *Manual of British Grasses* by W. J. Gordon.

From the Inter-War period I have *Grasses and Rushes* by J. H. Crabtree and the standard agriculture handbook *British Grasses* by S. F. Armstrong (1917). A very helpful book from this period, because the line drawings are so good, is *Common British Grasses and Legumes* by Thomas and Davies. In the copy I found, some unknown owner had interleaved dried specimens which made it even more useful.

In passing, it is worth noting

BOOKS FOR GREENKEEPERS AND GREEN COMMITTEES

what has actually happened in agriculture. After the depression of the 1870's there was a move to "permanent grassland", achieved by sowing chosen mixtures of seeds as opposed to using areas of grassland as it had occurred naturally.

This movement was to increase in pace and reach a climax in the Second War especially with the work of Stapledon and Davies when mixtures of clover and ryegrass were substituted for agrostis pastureland. With fertiliser these new crops could be more productive and carry more stock. The methods used in this "artificial" production of grassland were soon to rub off on the maintenance of sports turf with disastrous results.

Going back to agriculture again, further casualties have been the old meadows with a rich diversity of species and the ploughing-up of grassland to increase the arable acreage.

Most books on greenkeeping

becoming a world authority, and died as recently as 1980. His blue Pelican paperback has become known to thousands involved in turf-culture. In 1984 his son J. C. E. Hubbard, published an up to date edition of his work with some sections being the work of John Shildrick, deputy director of the STRI. The book consists in the main of detailed descriptions and drawings of the grasses and also contains a series of so called "keys" to enable systematic identification. An essential buy at £5.95.

Other modern books include *Grasses, Ferns, Mosses and Lichens of Great Britain and Ireland* by Roger Phillips (1980) which is notable for its beautiful colour photography, and *Collins Guide to the Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns* by R & A Fitter, recommended for a new single-access computer type key for identification. Most booksellers carry small books about grasses, but they do not give us enough detail.

Coming closer to home, in the *GREENKEEPER* of March 1984 there was a really practical article entitled "Know your Grasses" by none other than Jim Arthur.

Nobody can tell me that it is easy to recognise grasses in the cut state, but, for those engaged in golf course maintenance it is an absolutely essential skill.

In reality, unless the site is a freak, we are dealing with relatively few species although each may have countless strains and ecotypes. The greatest errors seem to arise on acid soils with confusion between the bents and invading *Poa Annua*.

It may then be necessary to get very close to the ground, put on the specs (!) and use some of these books to check out all the characteristics.

By Eddie Park

include descriptions of desirable grasses and very useful booklets were published by Suttons Grass Advisory Service and also by the STRI. The former was called *The Identification of Grasses by the Foliage* and the latter, by David Clouston, was *Identification of Grasses in Non-Flowering Condition* (1962).

For many years now the standard authority has been *Grasses* by C. E. Hubbard, first published in 1954. Hubbard started his career in the Royal Gardens, Sandringham, but spent most of his life in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He specialised in grasses,

THE ACT

WHAT was significant about October 6th, 1986? If you are intent on being an ostrich then bury your head in a bunker and forget about FEPA until it is too late. October 6th, 1986 saw the introduction of the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, introduced as a direct result of the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985.

This Act of Parliament affects everybody concerned in the sale and application of Pesticides. Pesticides, it must be explained, is a broad term which includes all weed-killers, fungicides, pest control substances and even wood preservatives - in fact any chemical covered by the 'Blue Book' MAAF Publication 500 'Pesticides 1986'.

The Regulation states that 1) Those born after December 31st, 1964 require a Certificate of Competence.

2) Those working on land other than his own or his employer is regarded as a contractor and requires a Certificate of Competence.

3) Those involved with the supervision of uncertified operators require a Certificate of Competence.

4) Those born before December 31st, 1964 and who do not fit into any of the other categories do not need a Certificate but must prove that they have been adequately trained.

The Certificate of Competence required under the Act is divided into separate modules.

The first of these modules will be required by all those seeking certification and is known as the Foundation Module.

This module consists of the following topics.

- Current legislation
 - Personal hygiene
 - Preparation for use of pesticides
 - Transport and temporary storage
 - Contamination
 - Environmental factors
 - Interpretation of labels and literature
 - Selection and use of protective clothing
 - Disposal of surplus materials
 - Keeping records
- and takes about one full day.... 6 1/2 hours.... to complete with already experienced operators.

Further operating modules will then be taken according to the types of equipment in use;

- a) Hand held applicators
- b) Tractor mounted hydraulic sprayers.

As a hypothetical situation let us consider a golf club employing five staff, a head

By Dennis Mortram. Cheshire College of Agriculture.

greenkeeper aged 42, first assistant aged 28, tractor driver aged 58, assistant greenkeeper aged 19, and YTS trainee.

First the YTS trainee cannot handle any chemicals until he is 18 years of age.

The assistant greenkeeper will require a Certificate of Competence in order to apply chemicals alone, but before he can acquire his Certificate he must attend either a registered training course and / or be under constant supervision during training by his supervisor.

The tractor driver does not need a Certificate if he can show he has been adequately trained (attending a registered

training course would be regarded as desirable by the Health and Safety Inspectorate).

Neither the head greenkeeper or the first assistant under the present law require a Certificate of Competence but like the tractor driver must show they are adequately trained. If however the tractor driver, first assistant or head greenkeeper are directly involved in supervising or training the assistant greenkeeper, they would require a Certificate. Courses are available under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food banner with the ATB acting as administrators. Courses are available at the colleges listed below and testing for certification will be on a one to one basis and may be carried out at your place of work. However, operators cannot gain an operating test module until successfully completing the foundation module.

The Greenkeeping Colleges Consultative Group was set up as a direct result of the Greenkeeping Training Committee appointing five colleges as centres of excellence for greenkeeper training. The GCCG is made up of the colleges listed below, and consists of tutors from those colleges, their county liaison office's, and a representative from Bingley and the GTC. For further details consult:-
Cheshire College of Agriculture, (0270) 625131
Askham Bryan College of Agriculture, (0904) 702121
Cannington College of Agriculture, (0278) 652226
Sparshalt College of Agriculture, 096272 441
Plumpton College of Agriculture, (0273) 890454.

EXPLAINED

REPORT: THE VERTI-DRAIN

COMPACTION is a term with which greenkeepers and groundsmen have become increasingly familiar.

Soil compaction is the most common cause of poor turf on golf courses. Constant traffic and intensive use of heavy equipment can squeeze soil particles into a highly impervious mass, especially in the top surface layer.

Most compaction in turfgrass situations occurs within two to three inches of the surface, with the highest densities occurring in the upper inch. Even though a thin layer is compacted, it can profoundly affect turfgrass growth by restricting soil aeration and water movement. This results in stagnant conditions that prevent grass roots from functioning properly.

Aeration is one of the most effective methods of dealing with compaction and it is essential for the operation to be carried out as much as possible to combat the condition. For grasses, as for other

plants, the presence of air in the soil is necessary and the object of aeration is to penetrate the ground so that air may be admitted to various depths in the soil.

Air is needed to assist chemical changes necessary for the conversion of mineral salts into available plant food. It also helps the free passage of water and permits greater ramification of grass roots, which, in turn produce healthier plants. It also benefits the physical condition of the soil, so that despite intensive play there is a reduced risk of compaction.

Compacted soils have a poor structure and drainage is restricted. This prevents root development, inhibits the gas exchange and the capacity of the turfgrass plant to absorb water and nutrients is impaired.

As a result the turf suffers by becoming thin, weak, lacking in colour and vigour of growth. It is also likely to become more susceptible to disease. According to the experiments in the USA it was found that

Verti-Drains are available in different sizes as follows:
 Popular Verti-Drain - width 1.2 metres, hp. required 17 plus.
 Tines 1/2" dia. by 10" long at 2" spacings. Tines 3/4" dia by 10" at 4" spacings.
 Hollow tines 1/2" or 3/4". Weight 500 kilograms. Ground speed 1/2 mph.
 Greens Verti-Drain - width 1.45 metres, 30 hp. required.
 Tines 1/2" by 12" at 2" spacings, 3/4" by 12" long at 4" spacings. Hollow tines 1/2" and 3/4" are also available.
 Weight approx. 800 kilograms. Ground speed .25 mph.
 Sports Ground Verti-Drain (ideal for fairways) 2 metres wide.
 70 hp. required. Tines 1/2" by 12" at 4" spacings. Tines 1" by 16" at 4" spacings. 3/4" hollow tines are available. Weight 1300 kilograms.
 Ground speed required .25mph.
 Sports Ground Verti-Drain - width 2.5 metres, as above but requiring 80 hp. tractor and weighing 1450 kilograms.

golf greens in good condition had satisfactory oxygen diffusion rates to a depth of four inches, but greens in poor condition had unsatisfactory levels, even at a depth of two inches. The tests also showed that routine aeration treatment produced satisfactory values at four inches, but not at ten inches. On the other hand, experiments with deep aeration gave satisfactory values at a depth of ten inches and perhaps deeper. It would appear from this that there is a direct relationship between depth of penetration and depth of good oxygen soil levels.

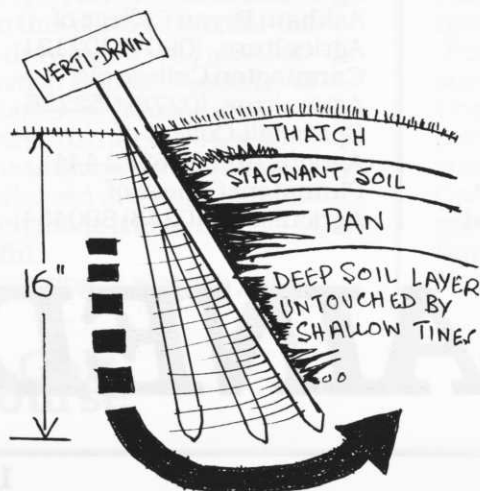
A machine which effectively achieves good depth of penetration is the Verti-Drain. Some aerating methods cause the tine to be driven into the ground forcing the soil to move sideways, increasing texture tightness and smearing the side wall. What actually is required is equipment which will deep-cultivate the soil without damage or disturbance to the turf and the Verti-Drain efficiently does this.

The Verti-Drain is fitted with powerful tines which smoothly penetrate the most compacted ground and is capable of gently heaving the soil from half an inch to two inches. The lift

is uniform, maintaining good surface levels, but directly related to the amount of air and cracking which has been exerted into the ground down to as much as 16 inches (depending on the length of the tines).

This cracking effect relieves compaction, splits up any pan, creates fissures and enables trapped stagnant gases to be released and allows oxygen laden air to take its place and water to freely percolate to the drains or drainage levels. After such treatment, roots will often be found going down to ten or 12 inches within weeks if the work is undertaken during the growing season. This improves health and vigour and enables the grass to cope with drought and hard wear.

Verti-Drains can also be equipped with hollow tines either half or threequarter inch nominal size. Using these tines large quantities of undesirable material can be removed to improve aeration, or replaced with top dressings that will eventually change the nature of the soil in which the grass is growing. Hollow tines penetrate the soil to a depth of six inches in the case of half tines and nine inches in the case of threequarter inch tines.

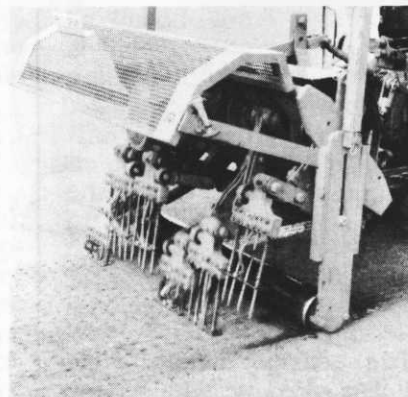


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Toro 21"	£ 600.00
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PORTUGAL

GOLF continues to boom all over the world and Portugal is no exception to this explosion in the game.

The Algarve coast in the south of the country has long been a special favorite for the Northern European golfer in ever growing numbers and in recent years the pressure on courses has become considerable.

The early sixties saw Portugal's Algarve have its first course at Penina, designed by Henry Cotton and built by Alex Swan. Others followed quite quickly- Vale do Lobo, Vilamoura, Palmares-all inspired by British expertise.

But the 1974 revolution put a severe halt on development and although tourists began to flood back once political stability was restored, it is only now that confidence in the long term economy of the country has grown sufficiently to allow real investment in new projects.

Exclusive

Courses are now being planned all along the coast and three or four are under construction. Two are at Quinta Do Lago, an exclusive and stunningly beautiful resort where the existing 27 holes, which has hosted the last three Portuguese Opens, is being extended to 54 holes.

In Quinta do Lago, as in so many developments today, courses have taken on the role of beautiful gardens for the luxury homes that line the fairways. Therefore design has to accommodate both villa and villages in order that the financial equation works.

The eighteen hole Sao Lourenco golf course is no exception. Designed by an American practice, Joseph Lee Associates, to championship length and calibre, it is the property of Bovis International Ltd., who are developing properties around the course.

The course has, however had its problems. Early construction was left entirely in local hands, and without adequate experience, the finish being produced was less than satisfactory.

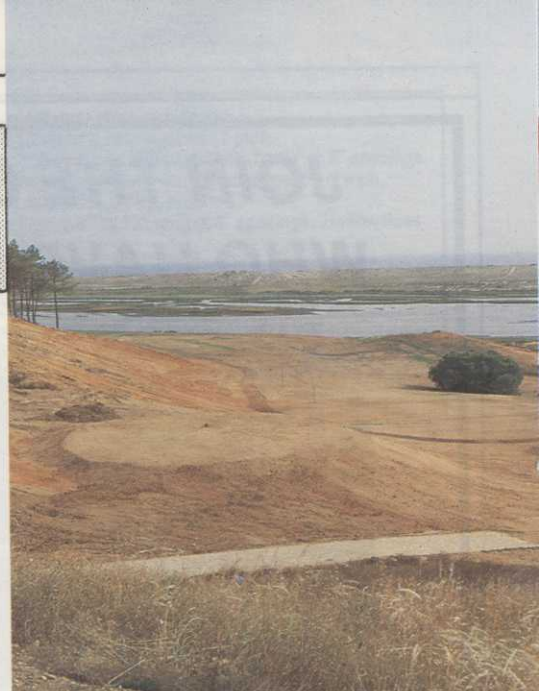
As a result, Bovis commissioned Howard Swan to inject specialist construction management to the project. Soon after, Neville Coleman, a site manager with Golf Landscapes was appointed to oversee the construction work on behalf of Bovis. Earlier this year Neville took charge, and together with local landscaping contractors and the Toro Irrigation agents, the course is nearing completion.

All work carried out on the course is under the guidance of Howard Swan. Howard spends up to eight days a month at the course, administering the construction process. It was certainly an inspired choice by the developers for he has ensured that no work is accepted unless it is to the highest standard and much of the golf course has had to be rebuilt in the past six months to ensure adequate quality of finish.

Now that construction and irrigation are close to complete, and landscaping is well underway to Swan's design the maintenance programme has commenced, and Peter Wisbey was engaged in June as golf course superintendent.

Peter is well known in greenkeeping circles, having been head greenkeeper at North

The 6th green and cart path



A view from the 6th tee of the course at Sao Lourenco

Foreland, an Open Championship qualifying course and, a leading light in the Greenkeeping Association.

Since his arrival in the Algarve, Peter has grown in confidence, having taken a change in job, staff and climate, not to mention lifestyle and language, comfortably in his stride.

Extrovert

Communication, at first a problem, has now been successfully solved by the appointment of Manuel Castro. This extrovert Portuguese has spent much of his life in Angola and until recently was head greenkeeper at Quinta do Lago. He has many talents - interpreter and engineer amongst them. The rest of the team are all locals who have learnt quickly under Peter's instruction.

Conditions are, of course, totally foreign to Peter, but he has received a great deal of assistance from Howard who, with his many trips to the States and attendance at GCSAA seminars has made a study of greenkeeping practices and grasses in a variety of differing climates.

The greens at Sao Lourenco are Pennncross Bent and already look as if they will provide excellent putting surfaces.





Peter Wisbey gives the 15th fairway its first cut

All the other parts of the course, greens surrounds, tees and fairways, were originally planted with Tifton 41A Bermuda grass, but because of poor workmanship they did not establish well.

The summer of 1987 has seen an extensive resprigging operation take place with 41A, but supplemented on the green surrounds and tees with a cool season mix of Bluegrass, Fescue and Bent, and on the fairways with common Bermuda. This action has ensured a fine cover of grass within three months, capable of taking play.

Much of the marginal areas of the course, sides of fairways, carries and tee banks have been planted with mesembryanthemum, a locally harvested succulent, yielding brightly coloured orange, yellow, red and pink flowers throughout the spring, summer and autumn.

Pine Avenues

The course winds its way through Pine avenues on undulating land, relatively sandy in its make up. A central string of lakes ensures that water comes into play on the 9th, 10th and 17th, and there is a most spectacular finishing par four to an island green beneath a hillside, atop of which is the clubhouse and hotel site.

Peter or "super" as he is known, has had to cope with many problems in his first few months and he has known moments of frustration, but not quite as many as working for a members' club in England!

Stocking the new course with machinery was an important part of Howard Swan's brief from Bovis and together with superintendent Wisbey's expert advice, some £150,000 of equipment is now on site. Some has been brought locally, but most has come from the UK. It is simply not available in Portugal.

Getting it there

But getting it there isn't easy.

Shortly after Peter's arrival, the first container of equipment arrived, but it was three weeks before Customs came to inspect the contents and give it a cursory glance for clearance. Three weeks of frustration for everyone, especially Peter.

Of course, not all the equipment is new. Some of the machines are secondhand or ex-demo models, as Peter believes the initial wear from a new course will be considerable. One piece of new equipment still to arrive and eagerly awaited is the Toro 450D. This versatile unit will help considerably with fairway management and will make contour mowing relatively simple on the hybrid Bermuda surface.

Even getting things locally is pretty difficult. There are no turf suppliers, so Bentgrass and Bermuda nurseries have been built.

Drainage pipes took eight weeks to come, eventually arriving by bus! Getting the right fertiliser is almost impossible - 5.10.15 compound requested from a local supplier was to cost £30 per kilo, and would be on 12 months' delivery from Israel! An order for Hoof and Horn became, in the supplier's own words, the supply of "hands and feet" special, and Peter is still waiting for it to arrive!!

All this, with Manuel Castro's invaluable help. What might it be without it?

Even then, Aquagro comes by charter plane, in a suitcase. Flags, poles, and holecutters arrive in golf bags. Spares and sprinklers in hand luggage... all from the UK.

Mesembryanthemum



The machinery shed!

Whilst Peter holds strong traditionalist views on the game and how it should be played, he is aware of the opportunities on offer to the skilled head man from the UK in the booming golfing market of Europe.

Big business

Golf is big business with budgets to match and playability is the key. So many courses at luxury developments are poorly maintained, that this must offer our greenkeeping talent export potential.

There is no doubt that what has been achieved by the British team at Sao Lourenco has put a professional stamp on a fine product and will lead to similar and equally exciting opportunities elsewhere in southern Portugal fairly soon.

Watch the golf course in the next few months for more news on the British influence on Portuguese golf.



..... **on the golf course**

MOLES can be responsible for considerable damage to golf courses and greens which can prove time-consuming and costly to repair.

Rabbits also cause problems because of their grazing and burrowing habits.

Rentokil believe they have the answer to these mole and rabbit pest problems with phostoxin, a 3gm tablet, coated in wax, which on contact with atmospheric moisture gives off phosphine gas, lethal to moles and rabbits. Phostoxin is manufactured in Germany and distributed exclusively in the UK and Eire by Rentokil.

From November onwards, mole activity becomes a serious problem as it is their breeding season and they are at their most active.

Moles belong to the order of mammals known as the Insectivora, which also includes shrews and

A Mole in one

of this, an average heavy infestation will only consist of about eight to ten moles per acre.

Autumn cultivation of farmland forces moles to leave arable land for pasture land, and in doing so they can cover considerable distances over ground. They swim well, so streams present no barrier to

distinctive group of workings. Within each group (which may cover many square yards) it is essential to locate the most recent excavations. In other words, the ones made within the last 24 hours (there will probably be less than half a dozen).

These can be most easily identified by a number of clues such as flattened grass around the mound - on older hills the grass will have had the chance to straighten; loose damp soil bridging the gaps between the blades grass; soil on the mounds will be soft and fine in texture and there will be no evidence of new vegetation growing on the hills. If there is still some doubt, removing some of the soil from the hill will reveal fresh not yellowed grass in recent excavations.

To use phostoxin, a hole should be made, with a probe, through the mole hill at an angle of 30 degrees. The tablet should then be dropped through this hole into the mole run. The hole should then be closed, either by heeling in or by placing a cut turf, grass side down, over the hole and heeled in. This operation should then be repeated at each fresh mound until the entire infested area has been treated.

Within an hour of the tablet being introduced into the mole run, phosphine gas is released and it will continue to evolve for up to 24 hours with maximum concentrations being achieved within six hours. The gas will work its way through the tunnel system, killing any moles in it.

Within 48 hours all traces of phosphine will have disappeared, leaving a small amount of grey, inert powder. This will have no residual effect on the soil, nor will it in any way harm plant life in the treated area.

The greatest problem encountered when attempting to eradicate moles is the risk of reinfestation by neighbouring moles. A vacant mole run is an



Locating and opening a run before treatment

hedgehogs. They nest below ground in an extension to one of their tunnels, always separate from the 'workings'. They produce one litter each year with an average of four young. Young moles leave their nests in July and August and establish their own areas, even re-infesting previously treated runs. They live on average for only about three years and are solitary animals with strong territorial instincts. Because

their movement.

It is important when attempting to control moles with fumigation products to locate the areas in which the moles are 'live' before treatment commences. A large number of mole hills often gives the impression of many moles working in the area, but often there is only one.

A careful examination of the area will soon reveal whether there are more than one



open invitation to other moles, who will soon take residence and perhaps even improve and enlarge the run.

Before carrying out treatment a thorough inspection of the whole area is recommended, paying particular attention to surrounding copses for signs of mole activity and, if found, these areas should also be treated.

The damage caused to golf courses and greens by rabbits grazing and burrowing will be all too familiar. Resistance to myxomatosis, coupled with the fact that weaker strains of the myxoma virus are now replacing the more virulent strains, means that the rabbit has once again become a major pest.

Rabbits breed from January to June, and a female rabbit born early in the year will be capable of producing litters herself in the same year! An adult will rear two to four litters each year, with each litter consisting of three to six young. After three to four

weeks the young will have been weaned and be capable of finding their own food.

Phostoxin is just as effective against rabbits and works in exactly the same way. As with mole control, the best time to control rabbits is from October to February. The rabbit

A Mole in one

population will be at its lowest at this time and burrow entrances will be easier to locate amongst the sparser vegetation.

While it is an offence under the protection of Animals Act 1911 to lay poisoned baits for rabbits, the use of poisonous

gas in rabbit warrens is permitted under the Prevention of Damage by Rabbits Act 1939.

To carry out treatment, a thorough inspection of the site is necessary. Any rabbits lying out should be driven to ground before commencing operations. One phostoxin tablet should then be placed 13 inches into each burrow entrance and the entrance sealed by cutting a turf and placing this, grass side down, over the entrance, and heeling in. Care should be taken to ensure earth does not cover the tablet when sealing the entrance, as this can reduce the rate at which the gas is evolved.

After 48 hours the site should be re-inspected and any burrow entrance that has been reopened should be treated again.

For more information and a free instruction leaflet please write to Peter Barrett at Rentokil Ltd, Felcourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2JY or ring (0342) 833022.

TADMARTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

required

for this established 18 Hole Heathland Course. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and automatic irrigation.

A certified Head Greenkeeper and member of BIGGA or IOG

Salary negotiable and will reflect previous experience. No accommodation is available but assistance will be given if required.

Applications should be in writing and include a full C.V. in confidence to:-

**The Secretary,
Tadmarton Heath Golf Club,
Wigginton,
Banbury,
Oxon.
OX15 5HL**

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Wage: approx. £160 inclusive of bonus and in charge rate for a 38 hour, 5 day week.

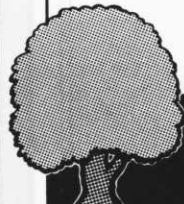
Required at Perivale Golf Course, a busy 9 hole municipal course. You must have experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be able to advise on and carry out course development work. You should also have the ability to supervise and motivate up to six staff.

Closing date: 16th December 1987

Ref: 340 CSD (M)

Applications forms obtainable from the Borough Personnel Officer, Ealing Civic Centre, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL. Tel: 01-840-1995. Please quote appropriate reference.

Ealing's new Council welcomes applications from all regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, responsibility for dependants, from people with disabilities and from lesbians and gay men.



Ealing

APPOINTMENTS

PONTYPRIDD GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

A head greenkeeper is required for this 18 hole wooded mountain course, twelve miles north-west of Cardiff.

The applicant must be fully conversant in turf management, grass cutting and other machinery and also their maintenance.

An ability to manage, motivate and train staff is essential. Salary negotiable - range £8,000 to £10,000 depending on experience and age. No accommodation available.

Applications should be in writing and include full C.V. to:-

**The Secretary,
Pontypridd Golf Club,
Ty Gwyn Road, Pontypridd,
Mid. Glamorgan, CF37 4DJ**

BLOXWICH GOLF CLUB LTD.

BLOXWICH, WEST MIDLANDS
require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have extensive experience in the theory and practice of golf course management, be conversant with the use and maintenance of all modern golf course machinery, and able, with initiative, to direct and lead by example, the excellent supporting staff.

There is no accommodation but a five figure salary is envisaged for the successful applicant. Written applications with full details of age, experience and qualifications etc. to:-

**The Secretary,
Bloxwich Golf Club Ltd.,
Stafford Road,
Bloxwich,
Walsall,
West Midlands.
WS3 3PQ**

BURTON-ON-TRENT GOLF CLUB LTD.

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Must be conversant with modern greenkeeping methods and machinery.

Must be self motivated and ambitious. Accommodation available.

Apply to:-

**Honorary Secretary,
Burton-on-Trent Golf Club Ltd.,
43, Ashby Road East,
Burton-on-Trent,
DE15 0PS**

EXETER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to start work early in 1988

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of modern course machinery and its maintenance. The ability to control and motivate staff is essential. Salary negotiable. Applications should be in writing and include a full C.V. stating present salary to:-

**C.H.M. Greetham,
Golf Manager,
Exeter Golf & Country Club,
Countess Wear,
Exeter. EX2 7AE**

APPOINTMENTS

WALTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in Greenkeeping technique and the use of modern equipment.

Application in writing, stating age, qualifications and experience to:-

The Secretary,
Walton Heath Golf Club,
Tadworth,
Surrey.
KT20 7TP



BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above post at this private members club.

Please send full C.V. to:-

The Secretary,
Bush Hill Park Golf Club,
Bush Hill,
London.
N21 2BU

SICKLEHOLME GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be of proven ability and fully experienced in all aspects of course maintenance, have a thorough knowledge of modern machinery and be able to supervise and control staff.

Salary negotiable.

No accommodation supplied.

Applications in writing stating age, experience and qualifications to:-

The Secretary,
Sickleholme Golf Club,
Bamford,
Sheffield.
S30 2BH



HESSLE GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Situated in a pleasant rural area approximately 7 miles west of Hull.

Large 18 hole parkland course opened 12 years ago has matured rapidly under the current retiring head greenkeeper to one of the finest in the area.

Applicants should be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping including machinery maintenance and be capable of controlling and motivating staff.

Excellent modern equipment and facilities.

Salary package negotiable,
no accommodation available.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:-

The Secretary,
HESSLE GOLF CLUB,
Westfield Road,
Cottingham,
Hull.
HU16 5YL

APPOINTMENTS

THURROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEAD GREENKEEPER

BELHUS PARK GOLF COURSE

up to £10,872 p.a. inclusive

Thurrock is a rapidly developing Borough fronting the River Thames and enjoying excellent rail and road links with both London and the South East generally.

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of Modern Greenkeeping. You should have a thorough knowledge of Golf Course design and the ability to direct, control and motivate staff. Applicants should also have knowledge of modern machinery, watering systems and machinery maintenance.

A three bedroom house on site is provided at a nominal rent. The council also offers a generous relocation package.

The Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Application forms are available from the Personnel Department, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex. Telephone Grays Thurrock (0375) 390000 ext. 2078 quoting post No. 2/4.

CLOSING DATE 31st December 1987.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required to work in conjunction with golf architect and construction contractor on development of 54 hole course in France (Paris).

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of modern course machinery and irrigation systems with the ability to control and supervise staff. Excellent salary, conditions and housing plus re-location expenses.

Applications in writing with full c.v. to:-

**Gilbert Lloyd,
Golf Course Management (Richmond)
Limited.**

**Richmond Park,
Roehampton Gate,
Priory Lane,
London. S.W. 15 5JR
Tel: 01 878 8432**

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We are RBM Agricultural acknowledged sellers of agricultural equipment for over 50 years. A subsidiary of an international organisation we have now expanded into the Groundcare equipment market.

Products, which you are no doubt familiar with, will include a wide range of operations, including tractors of 16-64hp. and a range of equipment as required by the specialist turf and recreational area maintenance.

We need a talented individual, with a knowledge of Groundcare equipment, to develop the sales of our products in this new and exciting area for us. Based from Market Weighton, you will primarily cover the Northern areas, including North Yorkshire and North Humberside.

Experienced in sales or otherwise, we are looking for the personal qualities of self motivation and enthusiasm which will ensure our continued success.

We offer a good basic salary plus commission and bonus earnings, company car, telephone, superannuation fund and sickness and industrial injury benefit scheme.

Please find out more by calling Colin Gardner now on Market Weighton (0696) 72421. Alternatively send career details to him at:- RBM Agricultural Ltd., Holme Road, Market Weighton, York. YO4 3EW.



RBM Agricultural Ltd

GREENKEEPER FOR GOLF COURSE IN GERMANY

Experienced greenkeeper required to improve the standard of a golf course in Germany. Knowledge of modern methods of greenkeeping and of modern machinery and maintenance is essential.

Some knowledge of the German language helpful but not necessary.

There would be a three year contract with attractive salary and conditions.

Apply in the first instance, giving details of age and experience to:-

**Mr. A. Sinclair,
17 Blairston Avenue,
Bothwell,
Glasgow.
G71 8RZ**

NOTEBOOK...

Spraysafe

SPRAYSAFE, the concept of M. Scaife and F. Miller, directors of Cleveland Land Services, Eston, Cleveland. A company entitled 'Cleveland Safes' was established with the aim of manufacturing and marketing Spraysafe and a range of other safe storage workbases called Toolsafe and Fuelsafe with applications in the Agricultural, Horticultural, Leisure, Construction, Mine and Quarrying Industries.

Spraysafe is a purpose built all-steel moveable storage unit (height 2.9M x width 1.82M) for on site safe storage of chemicals and protective clothing. Total storage capacity is 650 litres.

gallon fast delivery water tank and easy fill stand for back pack sprayers.

Designed and manufactured using the legal recommendations of the Health and Safety Executive and the Draft Code of Practice for the "Safe Storage of Pesticide", Spraysafe now complies with this draft code and the proposed legislation for the storage of pesticide, providing a safe secure storage site.

Price £1.495 plus VAT. For further information of Spraysafe, mini-Spraysafe and full range of Safestores, contact: Cleveland Safes, High Farm, Old Lackenby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. TS6 8DN Tel: (0642) 464986.



Spraysafe

Parkers Prize

AT THE IOG Exhibition at Windsor T. Parker & Sons Ltd. ran a highly successful putting competition in aid of the British Sports Association for the Disabled whose Patron is the Princess of Wales. The course featuring a three foot slope to a tilting green was certainly demanding, however further skills were required to claim the premier prize. After holding in one the winners each received a bottle of Champagne, some 50 bottles were won, and then they had to complete a sentence, illustrating why Parkers are leading in their field.

The judging panel was chaired by John Steer who organised the competition on behalf of Parkers. The panel consisted of Mr. John Parker and Michael Fabb of Parkers together with Bill Mills Editor of the "Groundsman" and Michael Coffey, publisher of "the Golf Course".

The winning entry they chose was written by David Baker formerly assistant greenkeeper at Walton Heath and now Head Greenkeeper at Addington Court. "Parkers are leaders in total turf care services because if you sow it, grow it or mow it they are always there to help".

David has won a trip for two on Concorde - well done! The BSAD have benefitted by over £400 - well done Parkers!

TACIT

THE VERY BEST IN
GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

After a wet summer and the prospect of a wet winter. Protect worn areas with Tacit Traffic Control Stakes. Just £3.99 ea. available in packs of 10.

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Unit 3 - 3 Millers Lane,
Minks Kirby,
RUGBY CV23 ORJ
Tel: (0788) 832166



TRAFFIC CONTROL STAKES WITH SINGLE OR DOUBLE SIDED SIGNS



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Rufford Top-Dress Supplies now Britains largest producers of the highest quality Top-Dress bring a new meaning to the word service, with 24 hour delivery to almost any part of the UK, to allow customers to overcome even our worst British Weather. Total consistency guaranteed and competitive anywhere in the UK. Wide range of mixes available. Twenty years reserves of the finest Silica Sand, Soil Loam, and high grade Sedge Peat. New Drying Plant recently aquired - no more reliance on British Summers.

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RUFFORD, NR. ORMSKIRK LANCASHIRE.



Turf harvesting at Lochhouses, East Linton where Stewarts have invested £200,000.

SCOTTISH turf management specialists, Stewarts, have invested £200,000 in a quality turf production development in East Lothian and are already well into their first crop of "Stronghold" product.

"We last grew our own turf 30 years ago, since when we've concentrated on the marketing and distribution of turf for other producers," said managing director Graeme Forbes. "Our decision to move back into production was prompted by the growing realisation that turf users in Scotland were being given an extremely limited choice by the industry. We also felt we could do the job better ourselves"

The Lochhouses unit already extends to a productive 77 acres and is due for rapid expansion to 200 acres in line with growing market demand.

Further information may be obtained by phoning Stewarts on 031-663-6617.

New range from McConnell

THE long hydraulic arms of F.W.McConnel Ltd, Temeside Works, Ludlow, Shropshire, recently unveiled a complete new range of tractor-mounted hedge and grass flails which will be of special interest to contractors and public authorities.

The six strong PA 90 Series brings in some important and totally new improvements and modifications to both arms and flail heads. The introduction of metal cladding on power arms now protects previously exposed hoses, oil tanks are lower for ease of maintenance - there is an anti-splash filler cap and return line filter now inside the tank making it less prone to damage.

The most significant innovation is the unique Automatic Head Control which McConnell are introducing to their larger machines to give operators complete control over hedging and grass cutting operations.

Extra's on the three largest machines, the PA95, 96 and 97 include, Head Float and Angle Float options, particularly useful for grass mowing.

Hydraulic controls allow the head to be floated up and down over contours and electric controls allow it to follow the angles of oddly-shaped bumps. Prices range from £3450 for the PA 92 which is the 'baby' of the bunch for 50hp tractors and more - to, £5950 for the PA95 which needs a 65 hp plus tractor.

Conversion from hedge to grass cutting is simple since the same hood is used. An additional flap and changing to grass flails is all that is needed. The additional flap and changing to grass flails is all that is needed. The rotor motor can drive from left or right of the head and fits more snugly into the machine to allow close cutting around obstructions. Hard-wearing nylon flail bushes replace steel to keep weight down.

Hello Peter!

PETER HAMPTON has been appointed as Roffey Bros. Ltd's agent in the Wiltshire, Avon, Oxford, Gloucester and South Wales areas.

Peter has, over the past two years, established his own business calling on golf clubs, public authorities and other professional users, producing a range of grass machinery and sundries.

The marketing agreement with Roffey Bros. will enable Peter to provide an expanded range of goods and services, particularly the range of RBL Sportsturf Dressing, including the unique RBL Xylorganic. He will also be marketing products from leading manufacturers, such as Vitax fertilisers, May & Baker, Synchemicals and Johnsons seeds.

Peter may be contacted on Trowbridge 02214 5864.

...NOTEBOOK

Greenkeepers win 'Groundsman of the year' awards

MORE than 100 people attended the Institute of Groundsmanship's third annual education and training awards ceremony held in the main library of the Reform Club in London's Pall Mall on Friday 30th October 1987.

Winner of the Young Groundsman of the Year title was 21-year-old Huw Morgan, head greenkeeper of Fairwood Golf Club, Swansea. He received a framed certificate, engraved crystal whisky decanter, and a top prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Houston, Texas, where he will be attending the GCSAA Convention next February.

Runner-up was Paul Whiting, also 21, assistant groundsman at Ranby House Preparatory School near Retford, Nottinghamshire. Paul received a £250 travel prize. Both young men received their prizes from the TV and stage star Mr. Jimmy Jewel.

Winner of the Master Groundsman of the Year competition was Laurence Pithie (35), golf course manager of Michinhampton Golf Club near Stroud, and a prominent member of the BIGGA and runner-up in last year's competition. He received a similar prize from last year's

Groundsman of the Year John Warner NDT. Runner-up was Graham Mapp NDT (47), sports ground manager for the Post & Mail newspaper in Birmingham. He received his travel prize from IOG Vice President Bob Corbin AH RHS.

The four runners-up in each section of the competition were presented with their framed certificates and engraved crystal by Jim Deen, group editor of Haymarket Publishing Limited, and also received book tokens and

subscriptions to "Horticulture Week" magazine.

The two winners will be joining an official IOG delegation to attend the annual Convention of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America which will be held in Houston, Texas from 1st-8th February 1988.

While in the USA they will be guests of the GCSAA at the education seminars and a celebratory banquet.

For further information tel: Richard Frost on 01 736 9328

New at Huxleys

HUXLEYS Grass Machinery have appointed two new area sales managers for their retail division at Alresford in Hampshire.

Taking on responsibility for direct sales of the company's grass, turf and grounds maintenance equipment to professional customers in Dorset, Southern Hampshire and West Sussex is Mike Read.

The second sales appointment by Huxleys is Roger Barnes, with responsibility for Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and parts of Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire.

Product ranges marketed by the company include Cushman and Huxley turfcare machinery, Royer soil and compost processors, Huxley hydraulic reel-mowers for compact



Mike Read & Roger Barnes

tractors, the Little David stump grinder and Red Rider work carts.

are you concerned with root development

Slow hard growth, a thick sward, drought resistance, soil conditioning, grass seed germination, tree planting, fine turf, land reclamation, indoor landscaping, a balanced management system, destructured soils, deep green colour, improving your soil ...

... then Farmura Environmental Products can help your management programme

Ask for details of the Farmura range of products or write for colour brochure to:

Farmura Environmental Products, Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent. TN27 9DU. Tel: Egerton (023376) 241

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ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

Caring for the environment naturally!



S C C Lands Maintenance Ltd

S C C LANDS MAINTENANCE LTD., Haverhill, Suffolk, offer a top quality service with the Verti-Drain that can be specially planned to suit the requirements for golf greens, fairways, bowling greens, soccer, rugby pitches and other recreation areas.

Stephen Curtis, director of the company, reports an ever-increasing demand for the Captain and Major machines. He said "Many greenkeepers are staggered by the dramatic and immediate effects achieved by using the equipment to relieve compaction". The machines are available for hire depending on each clients specific needs.

The Verti-Drain's tines penetrate the soil alternatively at a special angle and gently lever up the soil underneath to break up any panned layers to a depth of 16". The machine is uniquely designed to operate in a way that it does not damage the turf, throw up any soil or disturb surface levels.

The immediate benefits lead to rapid surface and upper layer drainage, improved aeration of the soil and more vigorous and healthier grass growth.

Verti-Drain "The Major" type 250 specification - working width 2.5m, diameter tine 3/4" -



Stephen Curtis

1", working depth 8" - 16", distance between tines 5".

Verti-Drain "The Captain" type 150 specification - working width 1.5m, diameter tine 1/2" - 3/4", working depth 0-12" distance between tines 2"-8".

Special hollow coring tines are also now available to tackle effectively those deep hollow coring jobs where earth extraction is necessary.

S C C Lands Maintenance Ltd., is a friendly family company with a well established reputation and all enquiries are assured the personal attention of Stephen and Margaret Curtis, the directors.

Divestment of Farm Machinery Business

RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES have announced the divestment of its farm machinery business to the Electrolux Group where it will form part of their product line of agricultural implements. The divestments will enable Ransomes to focus management and business resources on its main activity, the manufacture and sale of grass cutting machinery.

Electrolux will continue to employ a number of Ransomes employees engaged in the farm machinery activity and it is hoped that any redundancies will be minimised by taking advantage of natural wastage during the period to the end of 1989 and re-deployment to the grass machinery activity where business is increasing.

In recent years Ransomes has established itself as a world leader in manufacture and sale of commercial grass cutting machinery used by public authorities, golf courses and other professional users. Recent acquisitions have also placed Ransomes at the forefront of the domestic market for quality mowers. The sale proceeds will be reinvested in developing a wider range of products within

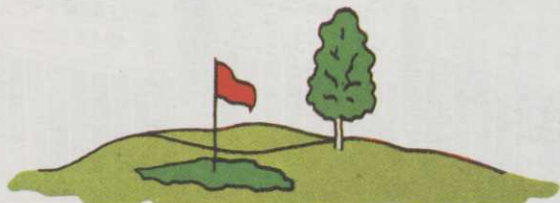
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*The proven experience in the field
for construction, drainage and irrigation*

Dries Out

RUFFORD Top-dress have overcome the problems caused by a wet last winter, followed by an equally wet summer, by installing a purpose built Sand Drying Plant at their Quarry at Rufford No. Southport. The Quarry is considered to be quite unique in that it contains vast reserves of a superb grade of Silica Sand, an equally superb Soil Loam and also a large deposit of a Sandy Sedge Peat which allows the company to offer almost any variety of mixes and blends of not only Top-Dressings but also Peat and Soil mixtures for Planting etc.

The Company has only seriously entered the market this year and have already made a very significant impact by proving to be very competitive in every corner of the UK in little more than twenty four hours. Indeed so spectacular has the service proved to be that head greenkeepers have discovered that by using Rufford Top-Dress not only do they avoid double handling or storage but they can also manipulate even the worst British Weather.

Because the company own vast reserves sufficient to last for up to twenty years Rufford's customers are assured of obtaining a guaranteed consistency of quality year in, year out.

The Company operate through a chain of Distributors such as E.T.Breakwell in the Midlands to Browns of Bristol who cover the South and Vitax Fertilisers who market Rufford in the North West.

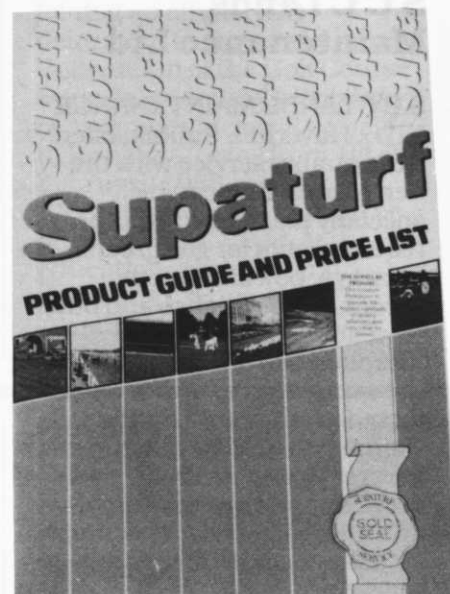
The Company are now seeking further distributors or agents to market what they believe is very high quality, cost effective product.

For further details contact:- Rufford Top-Dress supplies, Hambro House, Bradfield Road, Urmston, Manchester. M31 1PA. Telephone: 061 747 4333.

TO compliment the new range of informative and colourful product leaflets and new product technical data sheets, Supaturf have launched a free 48 page product guide and price list.

This manor new 'user friendly' brochure has been especially designed to provide customers with a comprehensive commercial and technical information on the wide range of Supaturf products, in quick and easy-to-use format. The product guide is a fully illustrative compendium of product descriptions, packs and prices, references technical information, industry facts and figures and useful hints. The guide will be a valuable addition to every greenkeeper and groundsman's office, specifier's desk and buyers bookshelf.

The guide is available free from Supaturf Products Ltd.,



Oxney Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ. Tel: (0733) 68384 or direct from a Supaturf Regional representative.

New fertiliser launched

THE news of another fertiliser introduced to the oversubscribed list of alternatives for the U.K. Turf Grass Market very rarely causes more than a minor ripple of interest these days.

However, when the news is that a unique range of fine turf and outfield fertilisers are being launched for spring and summer use, that the range includes products containing the slow release nitrogen IBDU and that they are being introduced by such a major

fertiliser company as Supaturf then that ripple turns into a wave of interest.

The new range, exclusive to Supaturf, are all organic based and like the majority of fertilisers containing IBDU, Supaturf have detailed the exact amount in the analysis on the bag.

For further details and a new product data sheet, contact Supaturf Products Ltd., Osney road, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ. tel: (0733) 68384 or a Supaturf area representative.





TREES

on the golf course



THIS is the final article in this in-depth series about trees on the golf course. In it I'm going to help you to devise a management plan for your course.

by Tony Gentil

AS with any management plan, before you can start to plan you need to know what you have got already. It's not sufficient to know that you have 150 acres of grass trees. You need much more detail than that if you are going to plan intelligently and effectively.

Ideally you need a large-scale plan of the course on which you can plot information about trees. This is not a difficult task but it can be very time consuming. You might find the best way of tackling it is to do bits at a time, rather than trying to do the whole thing in one go.

The first thing to do is to plot the exact position of each free-standing tree. If you have areas of woodland simply plot the perimeter outline. Later on you can draw up an individual plan for each woodland if need be.

As you record the position of a tree try and identify what it is. Don't worry about Latin names or whether a tree is a sessile oak or a pedunculate oak, simply record it as an oak.

Then you need to have a guess at its age. Record this as young, middle-aged or old. Taking the example of an oak I would say that a tree up to 20 feet high and 20 years old would be young. One which was taller than 20 feet high would be middle-aged. A tree which was very large and falling to pieces would be classed as old.

It would also be useful to note the state of health of each tree. For this I would use two categories, good and poor. Using the example of a young oak, a good specimen would be

one that appeared to be alive and well. A poor quality specimen would be one which perhaps had been attacked by rabbits, fire or a mower and appeared to be very mediocre and unhealthy.

Trees on a plan could be identified with numbers related to a separate sheet on which you could record more details about each one.

As you gather the information about the trees on your course it will help you to identify your management objectives.

Objectives are the heart of any management plan. They represent the final destination at which you hope to arrive.

Here are some examples to give you an idea of what I mean:

1. You must realise that all your trees are healthy but are also all middle-aged. They will all grow old together and at some stage in the future might all die in a short space of time. Without them the course will become very bare and exposed.

This would steer a management plan towards a major replanting programme.

2. You might find that most of your trees are deciduous. In winter the course might be very bleak, windswept and uninviting. Do you need to plant some evergreens to provide winter shelter? The same problem applies to eyesores. Deciduous trees often only hide eyesores in the summer.

3. There might be quite a few old trees with dead branches in them. Do these represent a safety hazard to people walking underneath or are they a valuable wildlife haven for bats or woodpeckers?

4. Are some of the groups of trees becoming overcrowded? If they do, the trees might spoil each other. Is it time to think about the selective removal of some of the timber? Could any of this be sold to timber merchants to bring in some income?

These are the sorts of things



Young trees ...



Middle aged trees...



An old tree

that may go through your mind as you start to devise your plan.

Trees are a long term resource and so a management plan could theoretically stretch many decades into the future. I think though that you need to be realistic. Management committees change and so do fashions, fads and fancies. A grand plan you devise now might be thrown out of the window in a few years time.

So draw up your plan only for the next five years. If it is sensible and realistic people

As we illustrated in last month's issue of "the Golf Course" the hurricane that swept the south of England on October 16th has given all greenkeeping staff in the area a major headache. A survey of how courses have been affected, conducted by Jack McMillan head greenkeeper at Sunningdale, will be published alongside an article by Tony Gentil on what greenkeepers should be planning for the future. It is obvious from reports that day to day presentation has had to take a back seat and winter programmes have had to be abandoned, especially construction work. On the heavily wooded courses in Surrey and Hampshire upto 1,000 trees have been lost on one course, often the mature and majestic specimens.

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Badly damaged by fire



A tree 'attacked' by a mower

will develop confidence in your judgement.

Keeping the plan to the next five years only, means that it can be flexible if some unforeseen event crops up out of the blue.

If you have to persuade a committee to adopt your plan make sure you are well prepared. Remember that every committee is concerned about costs. If you can show that you have calculated the exact cost of planting 200 oak whips, you are much more likely to get approval than if you say, "I'm not sure what it will cost but it won't be expensive".

The essence then of a tree management plan is:- to find out what you have got, decide where you want to go, work out how you will get there, and keep on target but be flexible if need be.

O.K.? That's it then. I hope you have enjoyed this series and found it useful. If you have any specific queries write to me care of *the Golf Course* and I'll do my best to answer them.

Damage to sheds, machinery and personal property has been widespread.

Many head greenkeepers were able to open their courses for play within a matter of hours but others have still to be able to open their courses a month after the storm.

Clubs were ill-prepared for the tragedy, none have certificated men qualified in chainsaw work. Few even had saws adequate for the task and even less had proper protective clothing.

Some 1,500 accidents have been reported amongst 'amateur' chainsaw operators and sadly even one professional lost a leg.

One or two clubs brought in outside contractors, with more than one levying their members in order to cover the cost. But the majority appear to be leaving matters to their greenstaff.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN this game called GOLF, we find ourselves as greenkeepers bonded together for the first time. Before, we were separate units, but now breathe deeply with pride that we are one Association.

I applaud the commencement of BIGGA and I am heartened by the fact that the association has already held its first seminar and appointed Neil Thomas as Executive Director.

Greenkeeping is one large family and like most families, its members from time to time will beg to differ, but no doubt the differences will be resolved through healthy debate. As greenkeepers we can take much pleasure in our work, striving to produce the best conditions for the greatest game in the world. Maintenance problems pose a day to day puzzle, although not nearly so bewildering as the historical puzzle as to where the game began. Its roots seem untraceable as there are so many versions that it is impossible to be certain.

Although a game in the form of golf did exist as far back as Roman times which had the name "PAGANICA" and in ancient England called "CAMABUCA", in Belgium it was called "CHOLE" and in Holland "KOLVEN". I must say that I prefer the Dutch name, but in France as ever the

description was more flowery, "JEU DE MAIL".

We can safely say that Scotland was in full 'swing' long before 1427, the year the first edict, of which there were three, banning golf in favour of archery practice was proclaimed. From this time until the forming of the various societies and companies there appeared to be a constant battle between the Church and the players of golf, who had excused themselves from the then frequent two or three hour sermons, perhaps to avoid falling asleep!

Golf continued during these years in an unorganised fashion. No one had created any hard and fast rules and no clubs had been formed. Eventually some gentlemen from Edinburgh formed the Edinburgh Golfing Society now known as the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh, whose home is at Barnton.

The Royal Burgess pre-dates the Royal and Ancient by some nineteen years and the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers by nine years. The latter were the first to lead the way by drawing up a set of rules that laid the foundation of the game as we know it today. But it was the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews that the leading clubs looked to for an authoritative and uniform version

of the rules which they could all adopt.

One of the first golfers to achieve fame was Alan Robertson from St. Andrews who by all accounts was peerless as a golfer, never having lost a single match playing level. He could not be called the champion for no Championship existed, all his matches being head to head encounters for a side bet. One of the stories as to how the Open Championship started at Prestwick was the desire to find the best golfer in the land after the unbeaten Robertson's

death. The first Championship was played on Wednesday 17th October 1860. It had eight entrants and was played over three rounds of twelve holes at Prestwick. The winner was Willie Park with a score of 174 and the runner up was the legendary Tom Morris with a score of 176. This then was the platform on which the modern game was built, with ever greater heights being reached as this year's Ryder Cup win proved.
R. R. Dickson
Course Manager
Gosforth Park Golf Club

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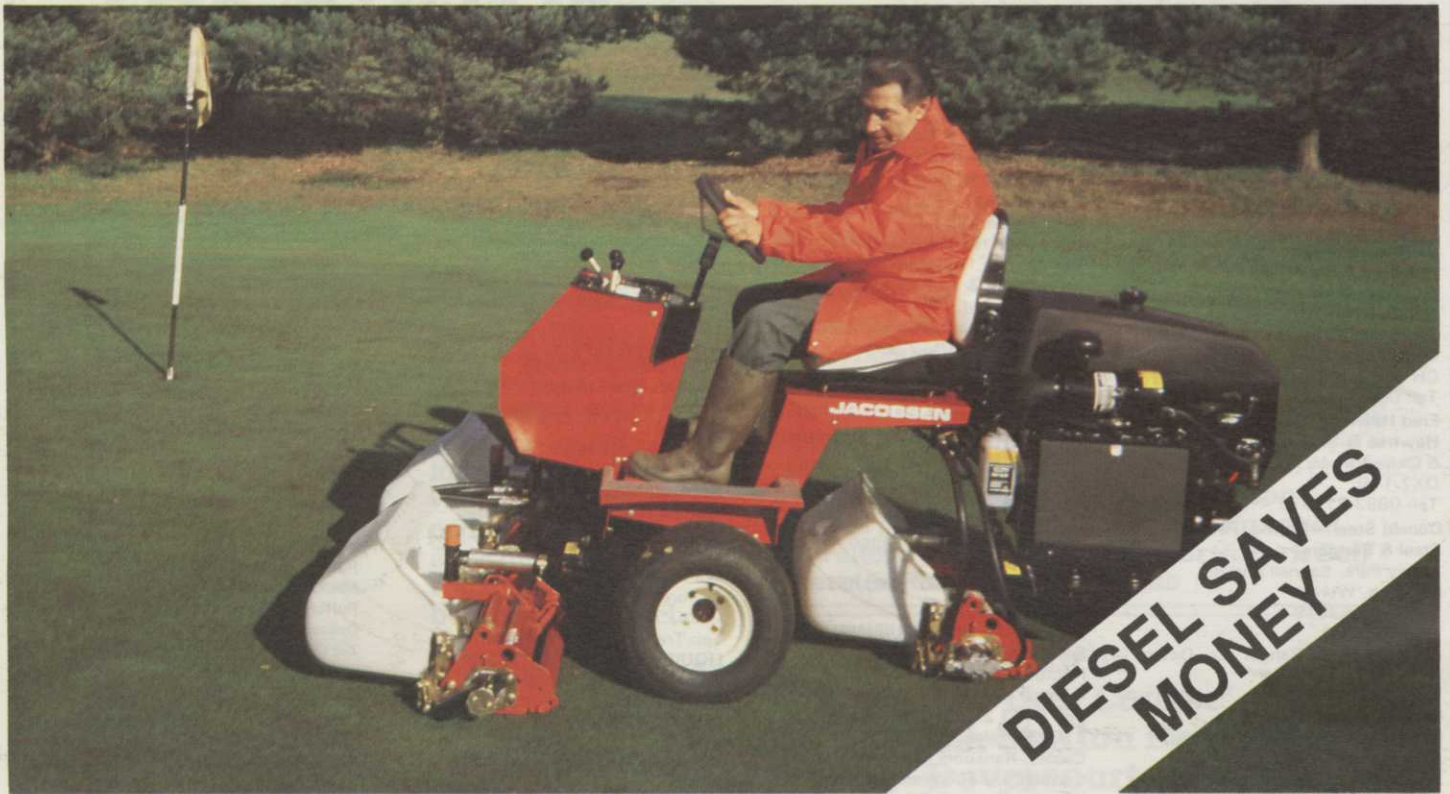
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