

NOTEBOOK...

Startling! Unbelievable! Dramatic!

WHEN part of a sports ground is virtually restored to life it is hard not to use superlatives. Especially when a problem has existed for years without proper solution and the answer is achieved in three or four weeks.

But it happened at Purley Heath Cricket Club, whose outfield - like many others - is used for hockey during the winter with the inevitable after-effects. The ground lies on original soil of doubtful quality and, as a negative 'bonus', also suffers from the effects of large overhanging trees around the ground which make the groundsman's job almost a nightmare. Colin Claydon saw it both as a problem and challenge and was determined to find a cure.

The result will interest his many colleagues with similar problems.

In April 1987 his ground showed the usual ravages of winter. The outfield, including an area of two hockey pitches, seemed in worse state than usual. Missing divots, excess wear, bare and muddy patches were the order of the day.

Despite reseeding and dressing with a sound all-round fertiliser (Rigby Taylor 9-7-7) there was little sign of good grass growth by early June. Where the turf was overshadowed by large overhanging trees picturesque and photogenic but

friendly to the outfield grass - were large bare, poorly grassed patches defying all attempts to promote vigorous growth.

All this on a ground generally noted for its all-round excellence following four or five years of hard work from the time when Colin inherited pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens in a sorry state with the turf everywhere in poor condition, vulnerable to disease and thatch-ridden.

At the outset Colin took the advice of Frank Brittin, a popular and knowledgeable friend to many groundsman and greenkeepers, and began using seaweed-based products to restore his grass: using Maxidrop as a foliar feed and Alginure Soil Improver with his top dressings. The results on bowling greens and tennis courts (used regularly for prestige county events) have been to restore the turf to a healthy condition with underlying improvement in the soil structure which ensures optimum benefit is derived from irrigation and dressings.

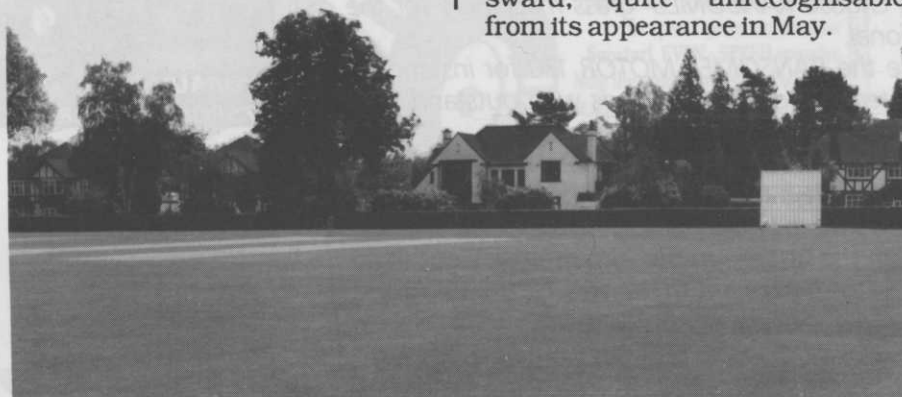
Colin therefore opted for seaweed to tackle his problem outfield areas, but using a new product - Alginure Turf Supplement, a new liquid added to Alginure's range, and the speedy result was better than he had hoped because by the end of June the area was transformed into a rich green sward, quite unrecognisable from its appearance in May.

The result was spectacular but the reason was simple. Alginure Turf Supplement is not a liquid feed, but rather, is rich in essential foods necessary for the initiation and maintenance of vital bacterial and microbial life whose activities create healthy soil conditions.

The concentration of these highly desirable 'goodies' (properly known as polysaccharides) in Alginure Turf Supplement is around 37% - an amount far in excess of that available in other purely organic liquids and it was the introduction into the soil of the natural food for those essential organisms which had the expected result.

Such organisms, encouraged to flourish, carry on the work of improving the organic structure of the soil while aeration is improved, available nutrients are released more easily and conditions are created which benefit growing vegetation.

Colin Claydon has since commenced work in his new post at Shell Sports Ground at Lensbury.



Purley Cricket Club - a view of the ground.

..NOTEBOOK

Turf Care Workshops

THESE very professionally presented days were in the main poorly attended. The original six venues were reduced to four with between 100-200 delegates expected, however the estimate was only reached at Stirling in Scotland. Whether there are now too many of these seminars during the early Autumn or whether it is just apathy, is difficult to judge. There were a sizeable number of delegates who paid but failed to turn up, most of these were apparently from local authorities. They missed several excellent presentations given by representatives of prominent companies in the industry.

The topics covered included research and development of chemicals, slow release fertilisers, organic feeds, irrigation and some aspects of the STRI's research. All the speakers got across their



message, one or two points struck home with the audience which brought forth some searching questions.

The demonstrations by TORO and SISIS were most instructive and Jimmy Kidd as guest speaker gave a beautifully illustrated talk on his time at Gleneagles.

Although the Turf Care Workshops were highly commercial, they were equally

informative and it is to be hoped that they will be staged again next year, when they may attract better support.

A complete and fully illustrated publication featuring the Workshop presentations given by all the participating companies is available at £2.50 inc. p&p, from: TURF CARE WORKSHOPS, FREEPOST, BASILDON, ESSEX. SS16 6BR

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Slow Release Fertilisers

THE Sports Turf Research Institute is aware of increasing concern among the turf managers that a number of slow release fertiliser products on the market do not indicate the proportion (percentage) of nitrogen which is in the slow release form. In IBDU containing products the IBDU-nitrogen may make anything from about 20 to 90 per cent of the total. It is evident that the low content IBDU products will have relatively poor slow release characteristics. These low percentages of slow release compounds in fertilisers create problems with bodies such as Local Authorities and Golf Clubs who invite tenders for their annual fertiliser needs. Obviously, fertilisers with low percentages of IBDU present will be sold at lower prices and therefore competitive tenders go to the lowest bid price, and this could mean that the



Ayr College presentation to Best Greenkeeping Students - joint winners L to R: Harry Diamond (Education Convener), Colin Gemmill (Prestwick St Cuthbert), Jim Paton (Area Secretary), Andrew Kerr (Kilmarnock Barassie), Brian Finlayson (Area Chairman)

product has very little slow release compound present in the fertiliser. Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of STRI, states that, "In order to both inform turf managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers and to ensure

their confidence in the products, manufacturers should clearly show percentage of total nitrogen which is of the slow release type".

the Golf Course

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Greenkeepers Dream Time!

IF a greenkeeper has nightmares it is probably about a horde of furious members with wedges waving angrily in the air or perhaps he has more pleasant dreams - dreams of greens free of water, with no compaction and the grass growing evenly. But this time the members are angrily waving their putters in the air after a missing putt. But the greenkeeper stands, watches and smiles because he can't be blamed. The secretary invites him into the club for a drink because he too won't get any moans and groans over the bar.

There is no perfect answer but the old adage if you look after the turf then grass will look after itself is still true. Compaction is inevitable with constant mowing and the tread of hundreds of pairs of feet.

Drainage will vary but is always a problem particularly on heavy clay soils.

Mechanical means are the accepted way of alleviating the problem and they do just that. But now modern technology can help the mechanical means do an even better job.

Imagine a product which you can spray on the course which will activate and increase all the millions of micro organisms. Imagine them working away in the soil intent on restoring the soil to its natural level of fertility. To reach that point they have to breakdown the soil to overcome the compaction and the drainage so that the grass roots get a chance to dig down and rather up the benefits in the soil.

Imagination or dreams? No it's an easily applied product of modern technology readily

available at a reasonable price, SOILIFE.

For further information contact Michael Farrant of Farrant Chemicals on Winchester (0962) 51226

"Scotsturf '87" Exhibition and Seminar

The annual exhibition organised by the Scotland and Northern Ireland Zone of the Institute, will be held on Wednesday, 11 November 1987, in The Exhibition Hall, Royal Highland Showgrounds, Ingliston, near Edinburgh, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

The BIGGA will have its own stand situated in the West balcony area of the main hall and which will be manned by members and it is hoped that the Executive Director, Neil Thomas will be in attendance.

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Pattissons expand their business

FEW companies have served the sports and leisure industry longer and more faithfully than H. Pattisson & Co. Ltd., Luton, whose reputation as one of the leading suppliers of golf course requisites is well established among greenkeepers and golf club officials in this country and overseas.

Interesting news from the Pattisson world was made public recently by Tony Hemingway, Managing Director, when he announced that they had acquired the business known as Bridges Pennants. Taking over this specialised company now gives Pattisson much wider scope in relation to golf course and clubhouse needs, from handicap boards, menu cards, bar price display boards, golf bag tags and discs, score cards, green fee labels to special event armbands and rosettes.

Pattisson quality custom flag service is popular and has expanded immensely with the advent of faster and more efficient printing methods and with the right consultation the cost is not as great as is imagined, now that the bonus of another quality flag manufacturing process from Bridges comes under the Pattisson banner.

Tony Hemingway added, "Our growth is necessary to meet the growing challenge and ever increasing demands of sport and leisure. We recognise our first priority to the golf club market

which we have supplied with our extensive range of products since 1896". To meet this expansion programme another Pattisson Salesman has been appointed in the South of England, David Hawkins, who is a well known golfer in the Bedford area and he will be introducing the new and growing range of company products to golf clubs from another of the well known Pattisson Vans.

David has responsibility from Essex, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, taking over from David Craig, a 'hard pushed man' who will be able to concentrate his efforts for the next year or two in Berkshire, Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Middlesex.

In the north of England, the success story continues for Pattisson and their salesman Peter Marshall has been compelled to go around with a much bigger van - he is equipped now with a model Transit fully stocked with company products and a greater stock holding facility has been established in Leeds to cope with increased amount of business.

A New Liquid Iron

IN response to demands from groundsmen and greenkeepers Supaturf have introduced a water soluble Liquid Iron to the U.K. turf grass market.

Named 'Greenstar', the product is a patented Liquid Iron complex that stimulates a rapid plant green-up without excess growth by supplying a high concentration of iron in soluble form for plant intake through both the leaves and roots. 'Greenstar' stimulates in the plant the production of chlorophyll and promotes a dark healthy green colour in turf and shrubs. Available in convenient one litre plastic packs each treating an area of 600 sq. yds (500 sq.m.) "Greenstar" can be used anywhere to correct iron deficiencies or to promote a quick green-up in turf and ornamentals.

For further information contact Supaturf Products Ltd., Oxney Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ telephone number (0733) 68384

Rufford Top Dress Supplies

In a piece in NOTEBOOK in the September issue of 'the Golf Course' we stated that this product was made by various distributors. This was an error, it is only MARKETED by the distributors, the product is

entirely based at Rufford's own quarry and all materials used, are from their own reserves, this enables Rufford to offer guaranteed consistency of quality which very few, if any, competitors can match.

For further information contact Frank Garvey 061 747 4333

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