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# BIGGA UPDATE

WRITING these notes on the day following a pulsating climax to the Open Championship at Lytham, the immediate reflection is one of pride in the advancement made by the Association during the week of the Championship through the performance and attitude of those members undertaking duties at the course.

Given the prevailing elements, much assistance was given to Jimmy McDonald, the course manager, in addition to carrying out the official duties of bunker raking. Members

were at the course from 5.30 am on the last two days and a tremendous comradery prevailed as all pitched in to ensure a playable course following the torrential downpour on the Saturday.

Jimmy McDonald presented the course in magnificent condition and it was a fair test in all aspects for the world's best golfers. As a BIGGA member, Jimmy did the Association proud and there was a total commitment by the members present in helping him in all possible ways. At the presentation ceremony, Jimmy's achievements were given full recognition and one felt that the Association is moving forward as one of our members stood there proudly wearing his BIGGA blazer.

Throughout the week, many favourable comments were received on the way in which the greenkeepers presented themselves. All members were given BIGGA shirts and wet suits to wear, whilst the new lightweight jacket really stood out and projected the

Association, as did the new blazer and badge. Our site offices and marquee were superbly located by the R & A, adjacent to the first tee and eighteenth green, and the marquee was well set up and equally well used.

During the first round, our President, Viscount Whitelaw, and his wife visited us in the marquee and this generated considerable interest. Viscount Whitelaw spent over an hour with us. He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and his reminiscences were enjoyed by all. We are privileged to have him as our president and we look forward to his participation in our future activities.

With a view to the future, we certainly learnt from the week's experiences and will improve where necessary for next year at Troon. In terms of public relations, BIGGA is now known to many more people and the support promised from different sectors within the

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## the Golf Course

AUGUST 1988

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Front cover: The Open Champion expresses his thanks to BIGGA members at Lytham.





**Left:**  
Walter Woods,  
Neil Thomas  
and  
Viscount Whitelaw

**Bottom left:**  
David Golding,  
Trevor Foster and  
Dennis Mortram  
from Reaseheath.

**Bottom right:**  
Chairman Jack  
McMillan  
discusses  
problems with  
Lytham's Jimmy  
MacDonald.



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game holds out much for the future. In publicising ourselves, we still have work to do - how disappointing to hear the continual reference by the BBC television commentators to the 'marshals and stewards' undertaking the bunker-raking duties - and I can confirm that this was after a full briefing to the BBC on BIGGA prior to the start of the Championship through the R & A! On the positive side, how gratifying to read Donald Steel's comments in the Sunday Telegraph on our efforts to promote greater greenkeeper education and the need to upgrade the status of the greenkeeper to the level which exists in America.

Mention must be made of the work undertaken on the administrative side during the week and here special thanks are due to Ivor Scoones, Bert Cross, John Lowery and Arnold Phips-Jones. Cecil George and

Jimmy Neilson did an excellent job in ensuring bunker-rakers were on time for their matches and they established a welcome 'watering' hole in the woods half way down the first fairway! Thanks to all greenkeepers for a job well done. Last, but certainly not least, the Association is indebted to the tremendous job done by David Golding and his wife Noreen throughout the week and in the build-up to it. They were still smiling at the end of the week and met all situations with tolerance and humour. A job well done indeed.

On the final evening, I had a chance to discuss our contribution with both Michael Bonallack and David Hill, the championship secretary. Both are delighted with our developing presence at the event and with the overall performance. Another to offer congratulations was Alasdair Low, chairman of the championship committee. One

feels our cause had been much advanced and the commitment within the R & A to upgrading the greenkeeper's status is indeed encouraging.

My last memory is of our members gathered together at the edge of the eighteenth green to watch the final drama and Seve's triumph. What excitement when the great man came across to shake our hands and to express his thanks for the help given during the four rounds. Suddenly the cameras of the world's photographers started clicking and many a greenkeeper is now awaiting patiently the BIGGA group photograph, Seve in the middle with the cup held aloft! A great moment and a totally suitable climax to a tremendous week. And, so to Troon next year - somehow I don't think there will be any shortage of bunker-rakers.

**Neil Thomas**  
**Executive Director**

I WOULD like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who helped make our contribution to the 1988 Open Championship at Lytham so successful, it was a privilege to meet and work with you all.

The task of the North West organising committee was made that much easier by the sixty or so people who turned up to rake bunkers and help with general duties. Not only had they travelled from all over the country but the ranks were reinforced by friends from New Zealand, Australia, France and Sweden - a truly international effort.

The comments we received from the R & A officials and players alike were really superb and left our extremely hard working executive director Mr Neil Thomas in no doubt we were behind him all the way with our professionalism.

While I feel it may be wrong to single out personalities from that was a team effort, my grateful thanks must be expressed to David Golding, the Northern Area Administrator, who worked so hard to co-

ordinate the whole operation months before and during the event. The sleepless nights spent by course manager Jimmy McDonald in preparation for the Open paid dividends - the course was a fit for champions and reinforced everyone's opinion of his outstanding ability.

I have left the memory of the Saturday deluge until last. I could not help feeling proud of the efforts put in by everybody available, the sight of the national and past national chairman and the executive director in waterproof suits moving water off the greens and approaches epitomised everything our Association and profession stands for - dedication and team work.

Again my sincere thanks to all who took part.

**John D Lowery**  
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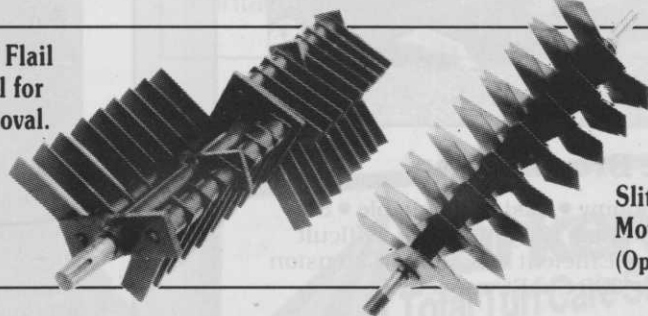


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1988 GREENKEEPER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
(NB Not to be completed by 1987 members)

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 **£12.50**  
(2) 18 years of age and under **£6.25**

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Northern England region	:North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield
Midland and North Wales	:East Midland, Midland, East of England, Mid Anglia
	:Berks/Bucks/Oxon
South East	:East Anglia, Greater London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent
South West and South Wales	:South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South West, South Wales



## BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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THE PERIOD TO  
31ST DECEMBER, 1988.

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A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

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# ISEKI

## FINAL QUALIFIERS CONFIRMED FOR ISEKI GOLF FINAL AT ST. PIERRE

WITH the final three Regional qualifiers now over, 60 of Britains best Golfing Greenkeepers are ready for the Iseki Greenkeepers Golf Final at St. Pierre on 19th August 1988.

The final three qualifiers took place over three very different Courses, but the Regional Secretaries and Players all put on both great organisation and splendid playing to record excellent scoring.

The South Western Event took place at Long Ashton Golf Club near Bristol, one of Britains few hot and summery days so far this year, as Greenkeepers working at the recent Open will know only too well!

In category 1 J. Parr of Exminster in Devon took the prize scoring a nett 63 playing off 7 handicap, with P. Worcester of Cirencester and R. Lamb of Andover taking nett 67 and 69 respectively on a very long and hard Course. Whilst in Category 2 positions were extremely close with J. Walsh scoring a 71 off 17 handicap to beat V. Lewer of Wells in Somerset by one stroke, whilst he was just one stroke ahead of W. Potter of Budleigh Salterton and T. Patchin of Eastleigh. The same close scoring in Category 3 saw A. Torrence and H. Parry tie on grass scores with A. Torrence taking the win with a handicap of 22.

The Midlands Regional Round at Tewkesbury was also played over a testing Course with the dog leg drive at the first causing a few problems for some of the Competitors, whilst the long par 3 - 16th also caused some wayward shots in the breeze. Unfortunately the Division 1 winner J. Teixeira of Bedfordshire, who recorded a brilliant nett score of 68 had clashing holiday commitments with the Final leaving B. Hughes of Mid-Anglia to head the Midlands challenge winning on a tie break over the back 9 from N. Woolfrey of the Midlands.

In Division 2 Andy Boraston took the major award ahead of J. Paine and R. Thomas with Division 3 going to Loughborough's M. Bindley recording a nett 70 to beat M. Billings by a single stroke. Again the field was extremely competitive with some competitors even taking the time to practice the day before.

The final qualifier was held at the prestigious Wentworth Course in Surrey, home of the recent PGA Tournament, the 60 competitors from London and the Home Counties doing battle on the East Course, a Course which looked particularly hard, despite this some remarkable scores were recorded, with J. Borja of Epsom taking the Division 1 prize ahead of N. Baldwin of Northwood and M. Smith of St. Albans. Division 2 going to B. Webster of Watford and Division 3 to J. Chambers of Leatherhead. The competition and excellent play in Division 3 seeing no less than 3 nett 60's posted over what looked to be an extremely tight Course with fast greens and extremely tight pin placements being the order of the day.

With Wentworth now hard at work building the new South Course, thanks must go to Kevin Munt and his Staff for all their hard work in putting the Course together to such a high standard.

All the qualifiers now move to the tough St. Pierre Course at Chepstow on 19th August for what promises to be a very exciting day. In the morning competitors will play 9 holes on the New Course, followed by a further 18 holes on the Old Course in the afternoon, to decide the National Winners. Interest in the field of this inaugural Iseki Greenkeepers Golf Tournament has been phenomenal with a number of competitors looking to at least walk or practice on the Courses whilst Iseki will be taking the opportunity to show a full range of products at Chepstow as well to make August 19th a full and varied day for Competitors and guests alike. If you fancy spectating at the event, St. Pierre is just outside Chepstow and very close to both the M4 and Severn Bridge. We'll have full results for you in the next issue.

**Qualifiers for the National Final are as follows:**

### QUALIFIERS FOR THE NATIONAL FINAL

#### 1. NORTHERN REGION

##### Category 1:

I. FARRELL  
E. WALSH  
R. ULLATHORPE  
M. HANNAN

HESWALL G.C.  
WHITEFIELD G.C.  
SCUNTHORPE G.C.  
MOORTOWN G.C.

##### Category 2:

M. LEALMAN  
M. COULTAS  
R. JOHNSON  
S. MOON

STRENSALL G.C.  
GRANGE PARK G.C.  
GANTON G.C.  
BIRCHWOOD G.C.

##### Category 3:

G. BRAMMAH  
P. LEIGH  
S. HIRD  
M. GREGSON

HALLAMSHIRE G.C.  
HAZEL GROVE G.C.  
SCUNTHORPE G.C.  
SHIPLEY NOTHCLIFFE



## 2. SCOTTISH REGION

### Category 1:

(RES)

C. R. KENNEDY  
C. WHITE  
V. REID  
A. WILLIAMSON  
S. BALLANTYNE

WEST SECTION  
AYR SECTION  
AYR SECTION  
NORTH SECTION  
WEST SECTION

### Category 2:

(RES)

J. S. GEDDES  
T. PARKER  
R. BREWER  
D. ROBERTSON  
W. WHITFIELD

NORTH SECTION  
AYR SECTION  
WEST SECTION  
NORTH SECTION  
CENTRAL SECTION

### Category 3:

(RES)

J. GRAY  
A. P. WILSON  
M. McINNES  
S. HARVEY  
S. PATERSON

WEST SECTION  
NORTH SECTION  
NORTH SECTION  
WEST SECTION  
CENTRAL SECTION

## 3. SOUTH WEST REGION

### Category 1:

J. PARR  
P. WORSTER  
R. LAMB  
D. MYLCHREEST

EXMINSTER  
CIRENCESTER  
ANDOVER  
LLANTWIT MAJOR

### Category 2:

J. WALSH  
V. LEWER  
W. POTTER  
T. PATCHIN

BRIDGEND  
WELLS  
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON  
EASTLEIGH

### Category 3:

A. TORRANCE  
H. PARRY  
M. NORFOLK  
R. KITCHER

BATH  
CWMBRAN  
BRIDGEND  
NEWPORT

## 4. MIDLANDS REGION

### Category 1:

R. HUGHES  
N. WOOLFREY  
E. EVANS  
T. CHEESE

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  
TEWKESBURY  
WEST MIDLANDS  
WEST MIDLANDS

### Category 2:

A. BORASTON  
J. PAINE  
R. THOMAS  
S. DONOGHUE

WEST MIDLANDS  
ST. ALBANS  
WEST MIDLANDS  
LEICESTER

### Category 3:

M. BINDLEY  
M. BILLINGS  
G. ARNOLD  
S. PALMER

LEICESTER  
DERBY  
ILKESTON  
TAMWORTH

## 5. LONDON/SOUTH EASTERN REGION

### Category 1:

J. BORJA  
N. BALDWIN  
M. SMITH  
B. TURNER

EPSOM  
NORTHWOOD  
ST. ALBANS  
WOKING

### Category 2:

B. WEBSTER  
I. McMILLAN  
P. SNELL  
J. CHAMBERS

WATFORD  
FARNHAM  
BOURDON  
LEATHERHEAD

### Category 3:

R. PHILLIPS  
D. BURDIS  
D. COOMBER  
G. DEBENHAM

SHENLEY  
SHENLEY  
HASSOCKS  
FARNHAM



# OUT ON THE COURSE AT WELWYN GARDEN



THE course at Welwyn Garden City, founded in 1922, is a popular venue for Hertfordshire golfers. This well known club has a modest claim to fame - a former junior member, Nick Faldo, is the former Open Golf Champion.

The course manager, John Wells, 28, is a competent and practical man who possesses those ideal qualities of leadership and enthusiasm to inspire his industrious team of greenkeepers. John said, "I live in the Garden City with my wife Carol and young daughter Amy. I enjoy playing golf, 14 handicap, but my main sport is cricket and this year I captain our local cricket club. I was fond of football, although I've finished playing now after breaking my leg on two occasions!"

John said, "I left school at 16 not quite knowing what I wanted to do. It was purely by chance that I came into greenkeeping. When I was football training one evening a friend said there was a job going at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club - I applied and got the job. While there I attended educational classes at Oatlands Horticultural College. After a

spell I went to work at Dyrham Park as assistant head greenkeeper. Not long afterwards Welwyn Garden City had a vacancy for a course manager which I secured, and I have been here for over eight years now.

## Young team

"I have a reasonably young team of five, including a part time handyman. Three of the staff are now at college taking City and Guilds, and the youngest member will be going next year. Peter Simmonds, our assistant course manager, has been in greenkeeping as long as I have - 11 years. He is a very experienced man, trustworthy and utterly reliable.

"We have a relatively compact parkland course laid out in less than 100 acres which needs frequent mowing to keep it in good shape. I like to keep the greens firm and resilient and prefer fast true putting surfaces that call for the right kind of shot to bite and hold rather than target golf greens.

John continued: "The course is on heavy soil and we do suffer a bit from compaction in confined areas like walkways

**Above: Constructing the new putting green at Welwyn Garden City**

and bottlenecks, so a lot of aeration needs to be done. For major tracts we use the Sisis DP 48 spiker for autumn and winter aeration on a regular basis when surface conditions permit. We have a brush for the fairways which is used three or four times a year. It helps to raise prostrate stems and allows the gangmowers to do a better job. This improves the quality of the turf and produces better lies for fairway shots.

"I like the Verti-Drain and find it invaluable for relieving compaction on our heavy soil, particularly on the greens, which are quite small. They are old established putting surfaces with very little drainage and need a lot of aeration to keep them permeable enough for rapid moisture penetration. Over the past few years we have lifted several greens and installed pipe drainage. This is part of a yearly improvement programme, whether it be to improve drainage, or re-siting to extend the yardage and adding to the playing strategy", explained John.

"Some tees are smaller than is desirable - the par 3's take quite a pounding. In the last few years we have enlarged many to present more space for all the wear and tear. In confined spots where tees have been extended we used sleeper walls as a means of revetment for the banks.

"Last winter was one of our busiest - we reconstructed the 11th green from scratch. Two tees were extended and three others were re-levelled. Two bunkers were added and two old ones filled in. All that was on top of a tree planting programme. I think most greenkeepers enjoy winter construction jobs: It's creative, the time goes quicker and it is a means of improving the course for the enjoyment of play.



John Wells, Welwyn's Head Greenkeeper

## Major projects

"We have tackled major construction projects - about 18 months ago we completely rebuilt a new putting green in front of the clubhouse. Stripping off turf, top soil and re-levelling the subgrade, installing a drainage system with gravel carpet above, a binding layer of course sand, top soil replaced then turf relaid. The area around the green was landscaped with

flower beds and floodlighting to complete the job. This now provides an extremely attractive setting and amenity in front of the clubhouse, particularly when illuminated at night.

"We have invested substantially in the latest machinery to carry out the work economically and speedily," said John. "It gives the staff incentive to know they are all valued as employees. This is reflected in the

conscientious efforts of everybody to give of their best. I think it is important for every club to appreciate those who look after the golf course and we certainly get that support here.

"We are all members of BIGGA and are given time off to attend meetings, lectures and golf days held by the association. We belong to the Mid-Anglia Section, and I have served on the committee for several years and was recently appointed regional representative for the section. It is good to be involved at committee level and know you are making a worthwhile contribution to the affairs of the association."

John continued, "We are all proud to see the association being run professionally and I am optimistic for the future. I hope the membership appreciates just how much voluntary time and effort is made by the various committees to promote our organisation. The lead coming from the top is good. We have to act more professionally in all our affairs, take pride in our jobs, and raise our standards. This is bound to bring higher rewards."

**Left: Top Soil laid on the putting green prior to laying turf. Note treading in the foreground before final raking.**



Story by John Campbell



# TURFGRASS DISEASES IN THE USA

The picture shows  
disease detection  
kits now available  
in the USA

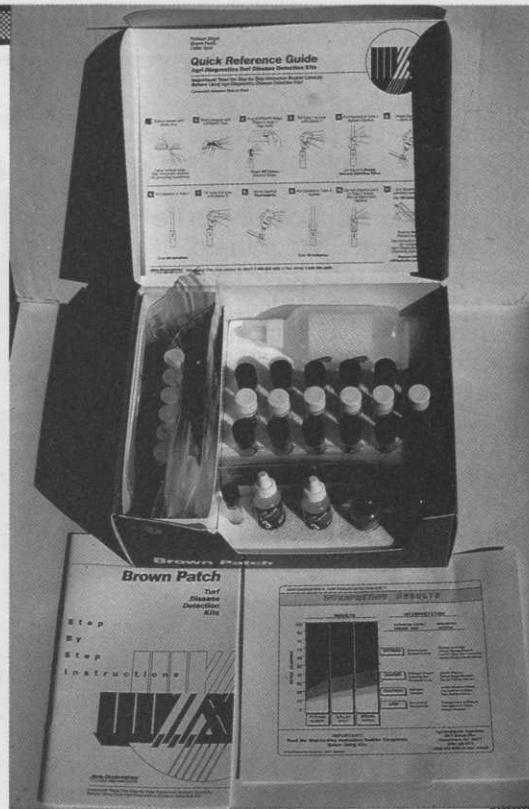
DURING February 1988 I attended the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America's annual conference in Houston, Texas, to catch up on the latest developments on my subject - turfgrass diseases.

This article aims to interest the reader by contrasting UK and USA disease problems and describing new disease control techniques that may well be of use here.

In the USA, over 35 grass species are widely grown as turf which, when subjected to the great variations in climate that occur across America, are susceptible to many different diseases. In fact over 60 different turfgrass diseases have been recorded in the USA, far more than the several fungal diseases considered important on our fescue/bent/annual meadow-grass swards. For example, pythium blight causes significant problems in many USA states, but this disease has not been recorded in the UK, probably due to less favourable environmental conditions for disease development existing here.

One major advance in the USA has been in the development of technology that enables a positive identification of disease to be made. Diagnosis based on visual disease symptoms is reliable for familiar problems such as fusarium patch, but distinguishing between, say, dollar spot, red thread and pink patch diseases can often only be accomplished through microscopical examination by an experienced plant pathologist. However, quick and accurate diagnosis for certain diseases is now possible using "Disease Detection Kits", pictured above, that rely on unique biochemical characteristics of the disease causing fungi. These kits are currently under test at the STRI to evaluate their potential under UK conditions.

As most greenkeepers are aware, the prevailing weather conditions play an important role in determining the severity



of turfgrass disease attacks. In the USA compact weather stations are being installed on golf courses that monitor the principal environmental conditions, eg air and soil temperature, rainfall and humidity, which affect both the turf and its associated diseases. Recorded weather data is then analysed by a computer which calculates daily the likelihood of disease attack. This information, combined with the experience of the greenkeeper, is enabling fungicide sprays to be used to their maximum effect.

To combat turfgrass diseases the American greenkeeper may make 20-30 applications of fungicides each year and also may choose from over 20 different fungicides that are available for use on turf. In contrast, fungicides may be used two or three times a year in the UK from a choice of six or so fungicides available here. However the large dependence on fungicides in the USA has led to many highly active fungicides being developed for the turfgrass market and it is hoped that these chemicals may soon be developed for the UK market, giving greenkeepers here a much wider choice of very effective fungicides.

by Neil Baldwin  
Plant Pathologist  
at the STRI

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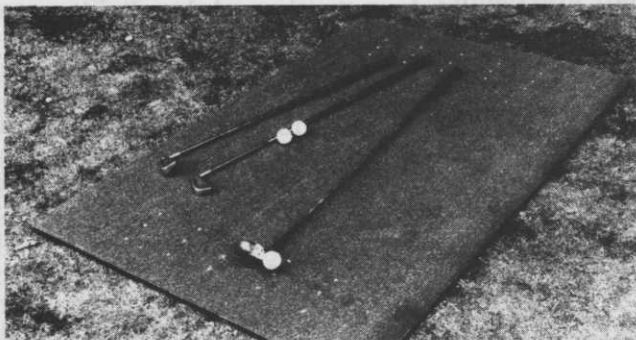
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# FACE TO FACE

FROM the first part of the report on my talk with Jeff Perris and David Stansfield it was apparent that the STRI has made a very positive commitment to the sometimes thankless task of advising golf clubs on the best ways to manage their courses. The personnel involved in the new golf unit have a considerable understanding of the problems of those at the sharp end.

Attitudes, whether of greenkeepers, club officials, golfing authorities etc, play an enormous part, and it was my task to explore these matters further.

We started by reviewing the width and extent of the services now offered. The pattern of the annual advisory visit, established in 1930 by Dawson and Hackett, would seem less than adequate to deal with some of the problems stemming from the massive increase in course usage.

David Stansfield was quick to point out that, in the past year, the number of visits he made to individual clubs varied from one to six "depending on whether there was a major problem or not."

## 'The number of topics has increased'

"The number of topics which now require discussion during a visit has increased enormously. We now have to look carefully at subjects other than standard greenkeeping - social issues, messing facilities, health and safety, provision of adequate machinery and implement sheds, efficiency of both shed facilities and machinery and conservation issues to name

but a few. Conservation is a subject which has become of major importance - especially in the south east of England, and this is spreading to other areas of the country. With all these subjects, if we do not know all the answers, at least we can point the club in the right direction to find the requisite expertise, be it an irrigation engineer or conservation expert."

## 'We are extending our services'

Jeff Perris said: "We are extending our services to golf right across the board, beginning with more feasibility studies at the planning stage and an increasing involvement in construction."

A new, and welcome, departure is for the STRI to be involved in club membership meetings, with the opportunity to explain the problems, and their solutions, to golfers. Such meetings give a chance for the incorrect beliefs of lay membership to be nailed with scientific information. It is a common observation that the really awkward club member rarely attends a site visit; in his heart of hearts he isn't sufficiently sure of his ground, but he can do great damage at the bar. At a full club meeting he has to put up or shut up.

"At one course" said Jeff, "I had been doing advisory visits for years and years, imploring the club to follow certain advice and yet progress was poor. Matters came to a head within the club and I was invited to address the members. The clubhouse was packed, they were hanging from the rafters

## PART II OF EDDIE PARK'S INTERVIEW

and we achieved more in a couple of hours than in sixteen years of annual visits. The membership is now emphatic that, whoever sits on their committee, they must implement the professional advice rather than the whim of an individual committee."

"We have to make sure that clubs are aware of the potential of THEIR course and that they realise that some courses do not have as high a potential as others - perhaps due to unfavourable soil characteristics or poor initial construction. We try to encourage clubs to produce a proper policy document as a means of introducing some continuity into the system. We do try to stop the situation where we are seeing changes of committee and of direction each time we visit the club. It is really essential to try to stop the club that "yo-yos" in its policy." Continued Jeff: "I can think of one club where I can guarantee that the chairman of the green will be one of two local professional men. Mr A favours the links type of course with firm fescue greens.

## 'Water and fertiliser mad'

After two years of this regime the members begin to think they want the opposite and install Mr B, who is water and fertiliser mad, only to find after a further two years that they really preferred links after all. This has now gone on, believe it or not, for twelve years, but at last we have managed to have an agreed policy document put in place.

"We try to establish a policy

**WITH  
JEFF PERRIS  
AND  
DAVID  
STANSFIELD**

---

which clearly spells out all the objectives and which can be taken to an AGM and voted on as official club policy. There is then an obligation on committees to implement it for five, seven or ten years, or whatever period has been decided. The greenkeeper does not then have to worry that a maverick incoming captain will be able to reverse things.

"Of course we have to think of our professional reputation, and when we find ourselves advising a club which is not implementing that advice we have to think fairly hard about our position. No one will gain in this situation - not ourselves and certainly not the club. There may well be a case for being dogmatic and saying that there is obviously no point in continuing to come to that club. Circumstances vary and much depends on whether we can see any hope for an improvement in attitudes."

I questioned what would happen in the situation, not all that uncommon, where a greenkeeper agrees with a policy, but unwittingly is not achieving results because of some misunderstanding of methods. Both advisers reckoned they could spot enough clues to be able to tell what was happening. David put it this way "If you co-ordinate what you see, both on and under the ground, with what you see in the sheds, you often don't even need to ask what is being done."

### **'Standards have risen vastly'**

There was total agreement that standards of greenkeeping have risen vastly, coupled with

a desire that BIGGA will go from strength to strength. There was concern, however, that education and training is still "rarely valuable because greenkeepers tend to go to college to learn HOW to do something, when they should be learning WHY they are doing it. They expressed the hope also that there will be a greater emphasis on management, and in this respect the course at Elmwood received praise.

Current problems? The most intractable seem to be overplay and resultant wear, especially on walk-on and walk-off areas of greens.

### **'The greatest need is to look ahead'**

The greatest need for many clubs is for them to look ahead, but this is actively discouraged by their constitutions with short-lived committees. I suspect that the pressures on clubs which result in someone wanting to play in every hour of daylight, winter and summer, are now out of control. There is now a sober warning from knowledgeable men that this may not be able to continue.

Even assuming that greenkeepers can get on the course to undertake suitable treatment on areas of high usage, there could arise the necessity for two very unpleasant measures: The need to constrain play to manageable proportions and, on some courses, there may be no alternative to the reconstruction of badly constructed greens.

The hope is that, for most clubs, both these measures are in the future and that most clubs will, in the meantime,

# **FACE TO FACE**

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realise the need for expert advice and leadership. The golfing authorities were thought "Not to be sufficiently positive and very similar to club committeemen who are at best part-time and not in a position to take an overview of the whole situation."

Jeff Perris went on the remark that "In all sports, the STRI run into difficulties with the structure of ruling authorities and this makes it difficult to get a message through. The added difficulty in golf is the large number of clubs, all of whom regard themselves as independent republics, answerable only to their members."

Talking to Jeff and David, who have such a wealth of experience behind them, and realising that there is little difference between any of the professional agronomists on basic principles, I really began to feel that this would be good time for those who believe that THEY don't need advisors to think again. Some are just being stubborn, but others are perfectly sincere.

### **'Excellent presentation, hard work, but...'**

Again and again, though, I find the same picture on their courses.

Excellent presentation shows that a great deal of hard work has been done, but fails the acid test of botanical analysis and consequently fails to provide a twelve month golf course. In this day and age nothing less will do.

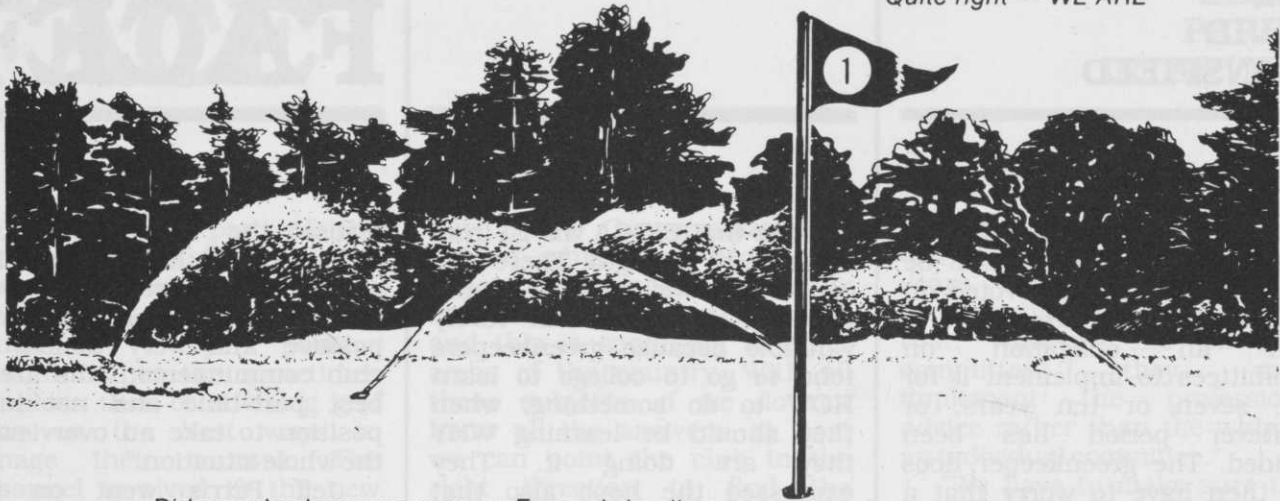
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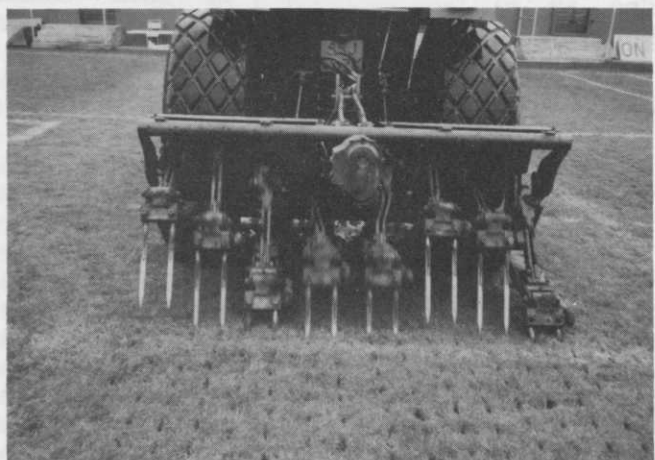
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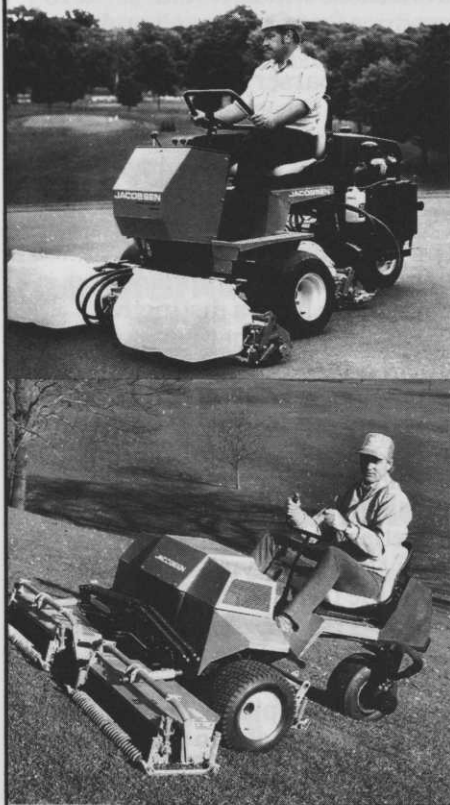
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# NOTEBOOK...

## Parkers stage working demo

GROUNDSMEN, greenkeepers and representatives from sports clubs, golf courses and local authorities in North London and Essex gathered at the London Fire Brigade Sports Club, Aveley, to attend a Turf Care Machinery Seminar arranged by Parkers of Worcester Park.

Peter Brimmell of Parkers introduced a working demonstration of a wide range of equipment. This featured Marshall and Iseki tractors and the Charterhouse range of turf aeration machinery, presented by David Jenkins, which included their Popular Vertidrain, a Compact Level



Spike, a Top Dresser, a Weight Transfer System and Level Spike, a Veredo Seeder, a Sand and Top Dresser and a slotter.

Brian Richardson of May & Baker Products gave a slide

presentation and talk on the company's environmental products. He also warned delegates of the serious legal implications of the Food and Environmental Protection Act.

## New division

**ROFFEY Brothers Ltd., and Notts Sport Ltd. have jointly set up a new division, Notts Sport Western, based at Roffey Brothers Ltd., Throop Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.**

**Chris McNamee has been appointed as technical representative.**

**David Roffey, technical director of Roffey Brothers Ltd., who will be heading this new marketing company, welcomes the agreement as a further consolidation of the company's commitment to the sports and amenity industry.**

**Roffey Brothers Ltd., believe that the Notts Sport synthetic surfaces will complement their ranges of natural turf products, which will continue to be a major part of the company's activities.**

**Shaun Patrick, sales director of Notts Sport Ltd., commented "We have worked with Roffey Brothers for just over 18 months and have been impressed with their approach to our products. We felt that this must be the next logical step in the joint advancement of both companies."**

## Johnsons seeds welcome visitors

JOHNSONS Seeds, market leaders in amenity grass seed, hosted three separate visits to their headquarters and trial grounds in Boston.

The first two groups included a wide cross section of people from the amenities, leisure and sports sectors. The third group were mainly members of the Thames branch of the British Association of Landscape Industries.

The morning was spent at the company's modern production plant where the visitors were shown the mixing and blending of different brands of amenity grasses, the modern storage facilities and the many control measures taken to maintain the quality of the seed supplied to the consumer.

On the same site, the groups visited the Satellite Seed Testing Station - one of only a few throughout the country licensed by the Ministry - where samples are constantly checked to ensure that batches meet EEC and HVS standards.

Moving to Johnsons' trial and demonstration grounds in the afternoon, the visitors were

able to see the characteristics of over 50 different grass species and mixtures when cut at varying heights and also uncut areas for low maintenance use.

The combinations varied from those which would produce fine turf for golf and bowling greens, to harder wearing coarser mixtures to withstand the wear and tear of winter games.

A number of new cultivars were on display - with Epsom chewings fescue and Prester, a turf-type perennial ryegrass, being particularly prominent. Both these have a distinctive colouring and other characteristics ideal for sports use on turf production.

On another site a highlight of the visit was Johnsons' development work with species of wild flowers. Over 120 varieties are being tested in many different types of soil. With the trend towards areas of 'natural' growth on amenity land, and a greater interest in conversation generally, Johnsons are pioneering a planned approach to the use of wild flowers.

# NOTEBOOK...

## National Turf Council Workshops

THE 1988 season of NTC workshops has begun well, with first-class events at Stoneleigh, on the Recreational Diversification of Farmland, and at Pershore, on Turfgrass Education in the 90's.

At the Stoneleigh Workshop, organised by NTC chairman Howard Swan, the principal speaker was John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture. He outlined the present policy of Government grants, indicated how NTC member organisations could help with diversifications, and listened attentively to pleas for grants to be made available for golf courses, at least in respect of simple cheap facilities for youngsters and "average" players. Mike Collins of the Sports Council and Sue Morris-Eyton of the National Farmers

Union filled in details of deciding what leisure facilities to provide, and the possible legal and contractual difficulties.

In the second part of the Workshop, Simon Gidman, Peter Hayes and Jack McMillan gave farmers a close-up view of the design, construction and management of outdoor sports facilities, with the emphasis on golf.

The Pershore Workshop gave educationalists, groundsmen and others a unique chance to learn about and debate the latest developments in turfgrass education. The Workshop was organised and guided through the day by Barrie Dickinson, chairman of the NTC Education Committee. In the morning, four short reports were given on recent

important achievements by the industry - the BTEC Diploma in Turf Science, the new "Master of Sportsturf Management (IOG)", the Training Information Base for amenity horticulture, and the latest advances by the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management. In the afternoon, representatives of the "powers-that-be" in London - NCVQ, NEB and BTEC - described for future framework of turfgrass education and took part in a lively discussion. One recurrent theme in this was the need to ensure uniformity of assessment, especially of practical skills, within the educational structure of tomorrow, in which modular and part-time courses will be increasingly important.

Workshop participants received copies of the new NTC booklet "Turfgrass Education: Update '88", which explains briefly the alternative options in training progression, to help managers, training personnel and those wishing to enter the industry. Single copies are available free, on receipt of a stamped (13p or 18p) addressed A5 envelope, from The Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, W. Yorks. BD16 1HZ.

**THE Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three courses at Bingley in autumn 1988 on the theory and practice of turf construction and management.**

**The courses last five days and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. The**

**commencing dates are 17th, 24th and 31st October.**

**The fee is £100 for members and £120 for non-members, plus VAT (exclusive of accommodation and meals).**

**Further details from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU.**

### Hole Cups



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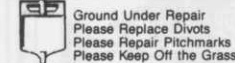


Aluminium shaft 5/8" dia., 2' 6" high, black or white top complete with hook. A multi-purpose stake when used with chain or rope make instant fencing. As no ground sockets are required they are easily removed and replaced to other areas of G.U.R. etc.

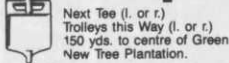
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Please Repair Pitchmarks  
Please Keep Off the Grass



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Trolleys this Way (l. or r.)  
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## For Less



# NOTEBOOK...

## New product gives a boost!

A NEW product based on selected plant extracts has recently been launched that alleviates the problem of thatching and the resultant growth deterioration on high quality sports turf - such as golf and bowling greens.

Known as Boost, the product works directly on soil micro-organisms and significantly multiplies their activity. This results in a more thorough breakdown of thatch and micro tilling of compacted soil to permit healthy root formation. The result is a high quality green, no vigorous mechanical treatments being required and no grumbles from the players.

Applied in spring and autumn, boost is highly competitive when compared to the top quality seaweed-derived conditioners. Being a highly concentrated liquid it

is easier to handle and apply. It penetrates rapidly and does not form a surface gel which takes time to get to work. Regular use of Boost can therefore significantly reduce maintenance and disruption of play.

Boost is already used at Old Thorns golf course, part of the London Kosaido Company.

Boost is part of a range of products that represent the latest in "State of the Art" technology and apart from natural plant growth accelerators, the range includes products to control waste water pollution including smell by enhancing the natural activity of micro-organisms in water. All products and full technical data sheets are available from the David Ball Group, Huntingdon Road, Bar Hill, Cambridge. Telephone: 0954 80687.

THE old-established family firm R E Rushbrook of Ipswich, Suffolk has been appointed key distributor in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge by fertiliser specialists Vitax Limited.

The company will be dealing in the full range of products developed by Vitax for the sports and leisure industry, and for the local authority market.

R E Rushbrook is based at The Old Paper Mill, Branford, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP8 4DF. Telephone: 0473 830273.

FARMURA Environmental Products have issued a brochure, "Natural Solutions to get you growing" which gives full details of their product range, and acts as a guide to greenkeepers to enable them to decide quickly and confidently which Farmura Product best suit their turf requirements.

### THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CENTRE

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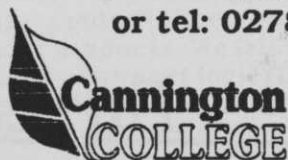
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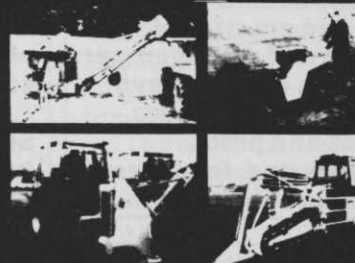
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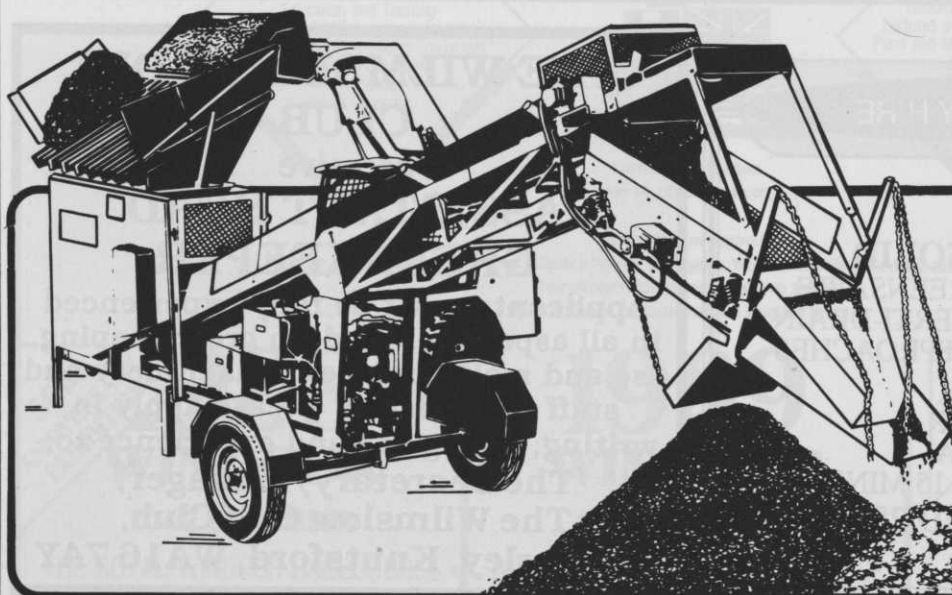
The SS100 performs aggressively on even the poorest quality damp

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# NOTEBOOK...

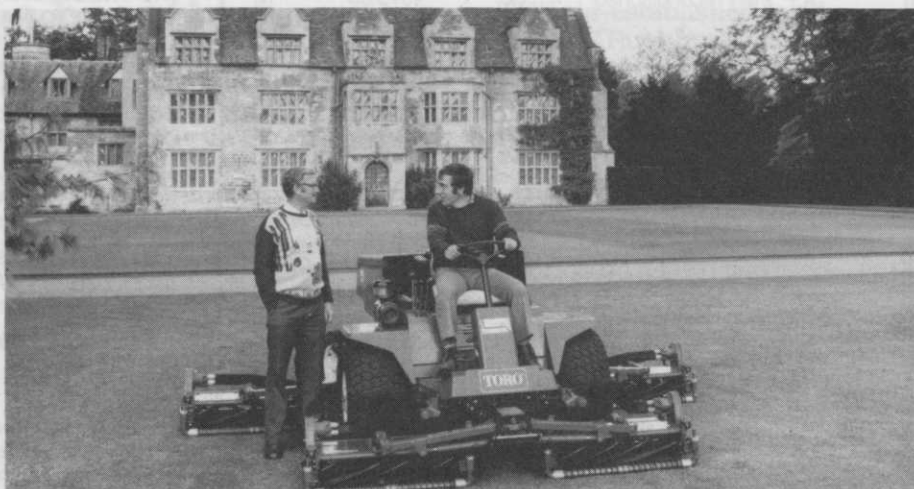
## New for old

THE National Trust owner of the beautiful Anglesey Abbey in Cambridge recently purchased a new Toro 450D the flagship of the range through local dealers Choppen.

Richard Ayres, head gardener of the Abbey said "We are very happy indeed with the machine, it is much more powerful than anything we've had here before. Because of the 450's increased power, man hours are reduced substantially. This is a major benefit when you consider we have 35 acres of lawn to cope with here!"

The Reelmaster 450D which supersedes Toro's 350D is a highly manoeuvrable hydraulic reel mower for high capacity mowing and top quality cut, therefore it is ideally suited to large tourist type environments which need close cut amenity grassland.

The power is provided by way of a 50hp diesel, water-cooled Mitsubishi engine with hydrostatic transmission and power steering. Five or seven bladed cutting cylinders, with heads that can be either fixed or floating, are available. The floating heads allow maximum contour following, producing and excellent end result every time. Cutting reels operate forward for mowing or reverse for clearing debris or backlapping.



## Contract Hire Plan by TORO

THE Toro Company has just introduced a Contract Hire Plan which is available on all their Groundsmaster product range. This will be of particular interest to Local Authorities because it will allow them to fund grass cutting machinery from annual revenue budgets as opposed to capital budgets.

Under this 3-year fixed cost scheme, the customer will have the security of knowing that the equipment will be professionally maintained on a planned basis, thereby providing worry-free operation during the whole period of the scheme. The plan not only covers unlimited use of any machine but also regular service inspections.

Toro say it is their intention to extend the scheme to other product ranges in the future.

Further and more detailed information can be obtained from any Toro appointed dealer.

## Turfco products

TURF Machinery Hire have been appointed UK distributors for the range of Turfco products, which feature the Mete-R-Matic top dressing machines and range of turfcutters. See them on Stand 7, Central Avenue, at Royal Windsor Racecourse 20-22 Sept 1988.

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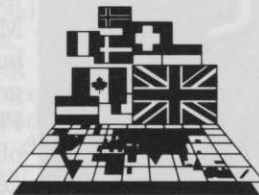
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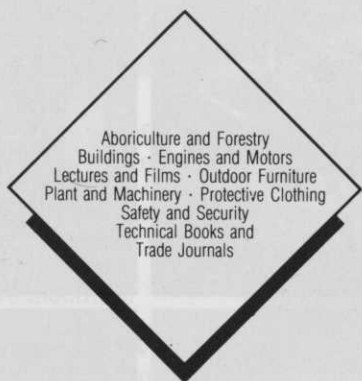
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verticut units follow undulations preventing damage to the turf. Quick tractor attachment and narrow transport width make it a most cost-effective machine.



**Ransomes TMV20**, is the most versatile turf maintenance vehicle around. Hydraulically driven, it's fast, simple to operate and has remarkably low running and maintenance costs. In addition to the big-capacity, tipping dumpbox, there's a host of attachments available from other manufacturers, from seeders to rollers, sweepers and aerators. There are few maintenance jobs the TMV20 can't handle.

Find out more about the cost-effective range of Ransomes grass machinery from your local dealer, or write to us.

**RANSOMES**





# LETTERS

SIR

HAVING read all the articles in the Research Update series, and congratulating myself on having none of them, I then read in the June issue about yellow tuft.

We had this disease regularly at Limpsfield Chart Golf Club till about 4 years ago.

I have been greenkeeper at Limpstead since 1972 and in the late spring of 1974 I noticed yellow tufts which could be easily removed.

The greens are mainly agrostis but in the next few years we suffered from thatch and the invasion of annual meadow grass. Every year we would have yellow tuft but as it never caused any harm I never worried about it!

In 1982 we purchased the Hydromain system and set about removing the thatch and meadow grass with plenty of spiking, verticutting and cutting down on water and fertiliser, and since 1983 yellow tuft has disappeared. In my opinion it will only survive where there is thatch present as it grows on top of the sward, and with the right treatment the greens will not support it.

As a note of interest our course is on acid common land and in 16 years I have never used any fungicide - on yellow tuft or anything else!

R.K. Smith  
Limpsfield Chart Golf Club,  
Oxted, Surrey.

SIR

AFTER reading and thoroughly enjoying Marion Childs article in the June issue, I feel it an excellent idea to have a regular ladies page.

I'm sure there are many of "us ladies" married to greenkeepers, who read *the Golf Course* with interest, and enthusiasm for greenkeeping news, and we must all have a story to tell, hey girls?

After being married to a head greenkeeper and living on three different golf courses in three different countries, I thoroughly enjoy and love our greenkeeping life, and everything that goes with it - Saturday evenings "cutting holes" after a heavy storm, running outside to the 9th green just to make sure it hadn't vanished off the face of the earth overnight!

Come on girls, get writing! Let's hear your opinions and views.

Margaret Garner  
Hilversumsche Golf Club,  
Netherlands.

Write to:  
**the Golf Course**  
29, Station Road,  
Dovercourt, Harwich,  
Essex. CO12 3AL

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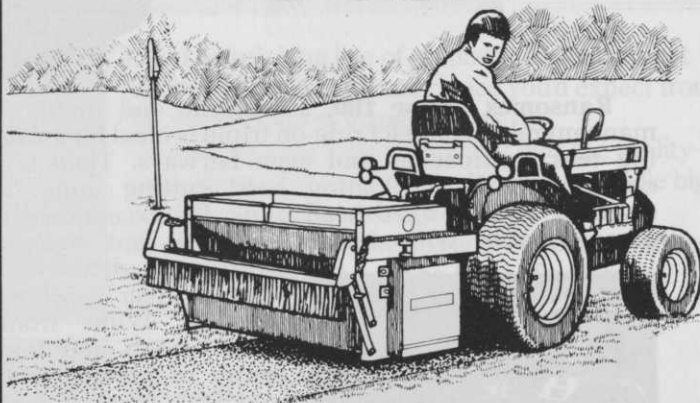
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**ROVRAL GREEN** contains iprodione  
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**CASTAWAY PLUS** contains thiophanate-methyl/lindane  
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## OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB

require

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Salary negotiable. No accommodation. (Accommodation in area is expensive).

Please apply in writing to:-

**The Secretary,  
Old Fold Manor Golf Club,  
Hadley Green,  
Barnet, Herts. EN5 4QN**

### HEAD GREENKEEPER QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED

required by

### WORSLEY GOLF CLUB

(no accommodation available)

Written applications only giving full details including present salary to:-

**The Secretary,  
Worsley Golf Club, Stableford Avenue,  
Monton Green, Eccles,  
Manchester. M30 8AP.**

## BROOKMANS PARK

## GOLF CLUB

require an

### ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have experience in greenkeeping techniques and the use of modern equipment.

No accommodation available.

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**The Secretary,  
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Brancaster,  
Nr. Kings Lynn, Norfolk.  
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# APPOINTMENTS

## GILLINGHAM GOLF CLUB LTD

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Of proven ability in all aspects of greenkeeping.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the manager/secretary for the course, and maintaining it to existing high standard, and ensuring the maintenance of equipment. Applications in writing, stating age, qualifications and experience to:-

**The Secretary/Manager,  
Gillingham Golf Club Ltd.,  
Woodlands Road,  
Gillingham. Kent.  
ME7 2BX**



## BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

From persons of proven ability with suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management, who have a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance and also the ability to direct and motivate staff. Remuneration package includes good salary and accommodation.

Please send full c.v. to the  
**Secretary/Manager,  
Bill Hill,  
Winchmore Hill,  
London.  
N21 2BU**

## ALDEBURGH GOLF CLUB SUFFOLK

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

There will be a vacancy in mid-1989 for an experienced Head Greenkeeper for this famous 104 year old East Anglian heathland course.

Applicants must be capable of motivating staff (5 for 27 holes), of using and maintaining modern machinery and materials in accordance with the best agronomic practices for this type of course. Salary and allowance negotiable but totalling not less than five figures with 3 bedroom accommodation provided.

Please apply in confidence in writing detailing age, qualifications and previous experience and present circumstances to:

**The Secretary,  
Aldeburgh Golf Club, Saxmundham Road,  
Aldeburgh, Suffolk.  
IP15 5PE**

## SELSDON PARK HOTEL Golf Course



### QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

required for this prestigious parkland championship golf course. Excellent opportunity for an ambitious greenkeeper to further his career (age 25-40 preferred).

Preference given to BIGGA members. Good salary plus single accommodation available to successful candidate if required.

Initially write or telephone for applications form

to:-

**Personnel Department,  
Selsdon Park Hotel,  
Sanderstead, South Croydon,  
Surrey. CR2 8YA  
Telephone: 01 657 8811**

# APPOINTMENTS

## CHESTFIELD (WHITSTABLE) GOLF CLUB

require a  
**FIRST ASSISTANT  
GREENKEEPER**

Applications are invited for the above position at a popular North Kent Golf Course. The person required should be between 30 to 40 years of age, having had at least 8 years experience in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, with a thorough knowledge of course machinery, fertilisers and chemical pesticide control. He must have the ability to supervise and guide a small greenkeeping staff under the head greenkeeper and be knowledgeable about the planning to completion of irrigation and course construction projects. Consideration will be given to finding suitable accommodation or housing for the successful applicant.

Please make applications in writing with full C.V. to:-

**The Manager,  
Chestfield Golf Club,  
Chestfield, Whitstable,  
Kent. CT5 3LU.**



## BELVOIR PARK GOLF CLUB

Belfast  
require a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Belvoir Park is a well established championship golf course and has hosted the Irish Open, Ulster Professional and Ladies PGA events.

Applicants should be capable of maintaining high standards and have a thorough knowledge of modern equipment. Salary negotiable depending on age and experience.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:-

**Secretary/Manager,  
Belvoir Park Golf Club,  
73 Church Road,  
Newtownbreda, Belfast.  
BT8 4AN**

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You will not only be involved in the day-to-day maintenance of five tournament-class bowling greens and surrounding features all of which have a very high reputation on the South Coast.

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- Certificate in Greenkeeping or
- Any other nationally recognised qualification in Turf Culture
- Wide practical experience of modern greenkeeping techniques and equipment

You will work a 39 hour week on a rota basis which will include weekends during the summer months (for which enhancements are paid). Opportunities for further training will be available where appropriate.

Average weekly earnings will be between £157.02 - £162.69 including weekend overtime.

Closing date: 30 August 1988

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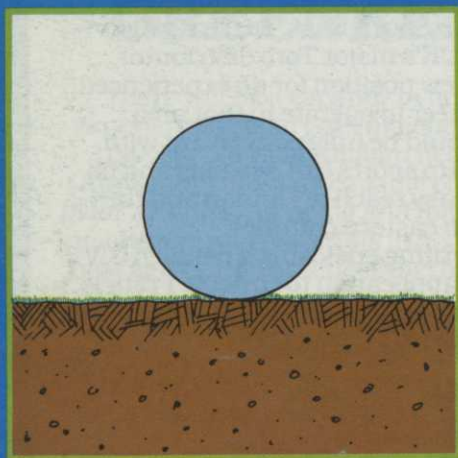
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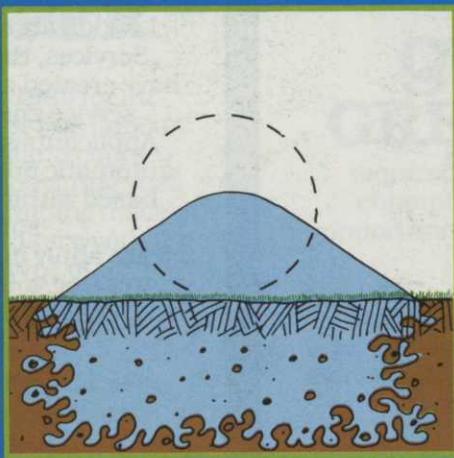
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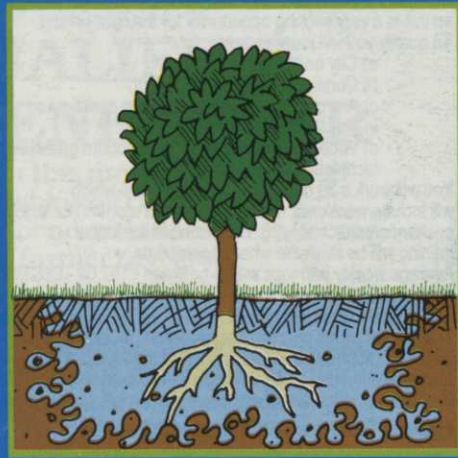
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