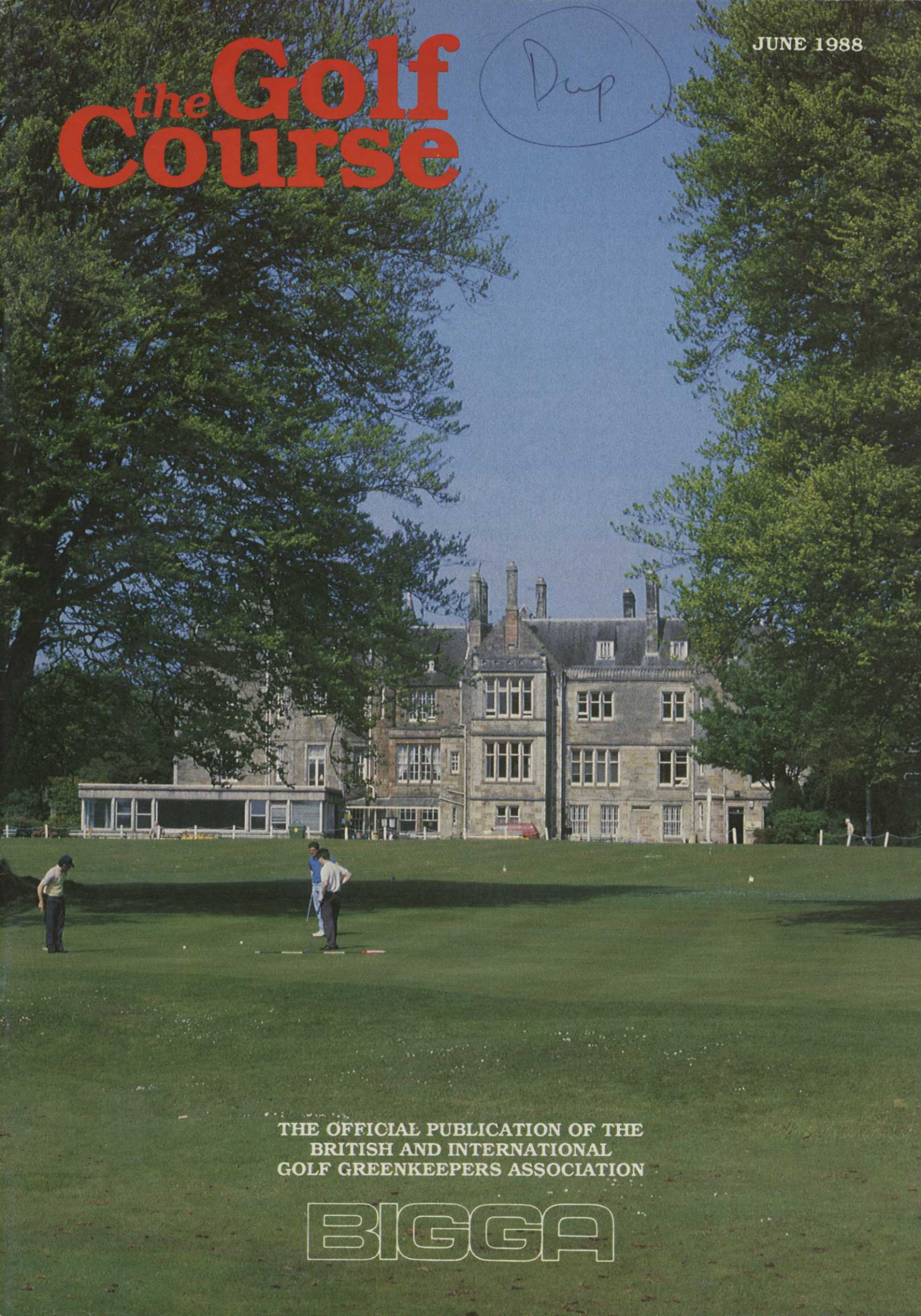


the Golf Course

JUNE 1988

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BIGGA UPDATE

AT the recent Board meeting, there was a general discussion on both the location and format of our national events and it was agreed that I outline the overall situation to members. The initial programme has been drawn up over two years, 1988 and 1989 with the intention of reviewing the situation from 1990 onwards. National events need long-term planning and it was decided, given the timespan available, that the first national event should be held during September 1988. It was agreed

that this would take the form of a National Tournament/International Conference to be held during the period 26th 30th September in Scotland. For 1989 the Tournament and Conference will be held separately and the situation will be reviewed in terms of plans for 1990 and thereafter. The other national event will be the European Turf Management Exhibition to be held in Harrogate during the period 18th - 20th January, 1989 during the same period in subsequent years with a view to continuity and expansion as well as having regard to the facilities available.

Given that the Exhibition will remain in Harrogate, it is the intention of the Board that the other events be distributed on an equitable basis around the Regions. With this in mind, the National Conference in 1989 will be held in Cambridge. It is intended that the National Tournament be held at BIGGA Headquarters in August 1989, following which a decision will need to be taken on whether it remains there for future years or moves around the Regions.

Although the South West and South Wales region will host the final of the Iseki Regional Tournament in August this year at St. Pierre, Chepstow, the Board appreciates the need for 1990 events to be allocated to the southern part of the country and thereafter it is envisaged that there will be a rotation of events on a Regional basis. I trust that this clarifies the overall situation for members.

National Tournament International Conference

I have held a further meeting with the Scottish Regional Subcommittee and the folder for the week will be available in the near future with all relevant information.

A recent inspection of the facilities in Ayrshire confirms the view that this really is an excellent location for the event and the article by John Campbell in this issue sets out the attractions of the course at Ayr Belleisle and the area in general. One point to emphasise is the range of facilities

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the Golf Course

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Front cover: 12th green Ayr Belleisle golf course
with the Belleisle Hotel in the background, venue for
the BIGGA National Tournament in September.

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available to families. The Sundrum Castle Holiday Park, with its varied choice of caravans and general facilities including an indoor swimming pool and large theatre, is particularly attractive for families. Just two minutes up the road from Ayr Belleisle one finds Butlins with plenty to keep the children occupied. The scene is set for a successful week - not least in terms of the Conference where our speakers will reflect an International flavour. Your early registration with the Scottish Regional Office would be appreciated.

**National Conference,
Cambridge**

This will be held during the

period 4th-6th April 1989 at Queen's College Cambridge. Details will appear in *the Golf Course* as they become available. The number of delegates will be restricted and places can be secured by forwarding a deposit of £15.00 per person to Headquarters Office.

Employment agency scheme

Registration forms have been distributed to those greenkeepers who expressed an interest in the scheme as detailed in the membership package for this year. Any outstanding forms should be returned as soon as possible. Additional forms have been distributed to Section Secretaries together with

details and any interested greenkeeper should contact his Section Secretary. Golf clubs are showing considerable enthusiasm for the scheme, which it is hoped to implement within the next few weeks. The date of commencement will be determined by the response of members in terms of submitting registration forms - so if you wish to register for the Scheme, please do it today. Finally - a reminder - if you are interested in attending the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim on 6th - 13th February 1989 - please let me know forthwith.

Nell Thomas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A day in the life of a greenkeeper's wife

HAVE you a greenkeeping husband who is dedicated to his job? Comes and goes at odd hours? Worries himself sick if a blade of grass is out of place, and more often than not comes home soaked to the skin? Well, I have!

If you have arranged a day out together - forget it. There are sheep on the course; or seagulls are having an "I'm a pneumatic drill" competition in the middle of the pond that has suddenly appeared on the 8th and that is the wrong kind of birdie.

Well girls, over the years I have discovered that - weather permitting, of course - if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

There was one occasion when, having a lad on holiday and a man in hospital, that inevitable urgent job cropped up. The weather is just right for it and there is a staff shortage. Having offered my services, I was recruited as a greenkeeper for the day. I sallied forth

**"If you can't
beat 'em, join
'em!"**

armed with wellies and a hat, and an eye on that nice green machine which seems to do everything. Of course, as I am so green myself, I couldn't at this early stage in my career be trusted with the tractor and trailer. However, I did get the Cushman (plenty of room for my flask of coffee) and I thoroughly enjoyed driving it. I never realised how cold it can be riding around on those machines, and I was very glad to have some gloves in my pocket. I followed the tractor around, loading top soil, shovelling it out again and generally supervising a most successful day. Which reminds me, I don't think I ever got paid! Still, it was a labour of love and much more interesting than doing the housework. Being too exhausted to cook the evening meal, another treat was in store.

I do have my uses, especially on dry summer evenings when the watering system has gone on the blink and panic stations ensue. I've gone past the stage of dancing up and down to the Rain God and now sit with a good book moving the hose pipe every twenty minutes. We have some marvellous views across

the bay and there is lots of wildlife to watch. Poking about in odd areas can be a problem though. You see an inviting little nook to explore, only to find that some idiot has put a load of grass cuttings to ferment, and you end up knee-deep in the most evil stinking slush imaginable. Back to the hose pipe!

I do not play golf myself, and in any case one in the family is enough. My husband has been known to say that courses for ladies should be built in the desert. If all golf professionals were like Omar Shariff, I would be inclined to agree with him!

I think us wives must have quite a few tales to tell between us. In fact, it might be a good idea to have a 'Ladies Page' in this magazine, just to keep us in the swing of things.

Mind you, now that my other half has become a Regional Administrator I suppose the demands for my services, especially my two-fingered typing prowess, will be on the increase. The mind boggles!

by

Marion Child

FACE TO FACE

"DURING my first six weeks at St. Pierre in early 1986 I recall the courses being frozen so hard it was impossible to change any of the holes on the greens. It wasn't long before I came to realise that the job in hand was much more challenging than any of my previous appointments.

Managing two full-size golf courses - the Old and the New - to the standard capable of withstanding the normal pounding from some 800 members and the thousands of visitors attracted to the picturesque St. Pierre complex is very much a full time job. My job is made far easier thanks to the support, and hard work, of my greenstaff. Without the support of a dedicated crew, no course manager would survive.

Following an absence of three years, 1986 saw St. Pierre's famous Old Course once again chosen to stage a major European professional tournament - the new and exciting Epsom Grand Prix of Europe matchplay event.

The sponsors, of course, expected the Old Course to be in top condition in time for the tournament. Not a tall order normally, but there were a couple of serious problems to contend with during my first winter at St. Pierre. The greens were predominantly annual meadow grass (*Poa Annua*), and had apparently been fertilized quite late in the year. They were riddled with large fusarium scars.

Poa Annua is very prone to fusarium. That's not to say that the more desirable Bent grasses (*Agrostis*), which are the indigenous grasses of this area, are not affected by fusarium,

David Jones, Course Manager at St Pierre

but *Poa* is far more readily attacked. So, when you have the situation where meadow grass is fertilized late in the year, you will always get Fusarium.

The second problem was that there was more of a thatch layer in the greens than I would have liked. If you have a putting surface that is soft under foot and imprints, then a smooth putting surface cannot be easily maintained - a point worth thinking about when members request extra irrigation to help stop balls on greens.

TEMPTED

If I had been the sort of course manager to press the panic button then, perhaps I might have been tempted to 'tart up' the greens for the Epsom with heavy applications of fertilizer. But my belief is that consistently good putting surfaces are only achieved by sound, long term management. I could not apply long term management from February to May so I decided to aim to

achieve the smoothest putting surfaces possible in the time that was available with the application of as many light top dressings as we could get on to the greens prior to the tournament.

St. Pierre was typical of many courses in the UK that had been over fed and over watered. Since the early 70's when automatic irrigation was installed in many courses, it has become too easy for greenkeepers to apply water and fertilizer.

As soon as greens started looking a little pale, on went the NPK and water to soak it in. Then the greenkeeper could sit back and take the praise from the members.

Many greens up and down the country were fed like this four or five times a year, and so it went on, until greens got in the sorry state that many are still in.

I had spent some difficult years at my last course implementing a management policy I believed in. I was not about to take any shortcuts at St. Pierre just

Below:

TOURNAMENT PREPARATION



Golf & Country Club

because I had a big tournament on my hands. There are twelve months in the year and it is my job to ensure that the courses in my charge are in tip-top condition for as many of those months as possible - not for merely one or two special weeks.

I think it is fair to say that some greenkeepers over fed greens in the firm belief that no harm was being done, not taking into consideration the fact that if more leaf is being produced than nature can break down, "thatch" build-up is inevitable.

CAREFUL

Nowadays, greenkeepers are much more careful with the use of water and fertilizers. This situation can be attributed to the endeavours of J H Arthur who, through his straight talking to both greenkeepers and greens committees alike, has made people stop and think about what they are doing. Jim Arthur is a man I have a great respect for, not only as a friend but as the country's leading agronomist.

Having got my first Epsom Grand Prix over without any severe criticism about course condition, we embarked upon the uphill struggle to improve the all year round playability of the two courses. I knew this would take years rather than months to achieve, and that brickbats and not bouquets would be heading my way for quite a while.

I have the pleasure of working with Jim Arthur at St. Pierre. I had studied previous reports written by Jim, who is our agronomist, to determine which of his recommendations were in need of being more closely followed.



Above:
TENTED VILLIAGE SITE

I decided to increase aeration on the fairways in the autumn, and on both tees and greens throughout the year.

We aim for a target of 60 passes per year on the greens, and as often as weather permits on the fairways. Aeration definitely does the trick, and the puddles and ponding which previously resulted after heavy rainfall do not now occur. You can't aerate too often on fairways or greens. As long as the aeration slits do not open up during dry weather, the more aeration the better.

Obviously, deep aeration gives the benefit of getting water through the soil. It is also necessary to allow air into any thatch you may have, because if you don't get air into it, it's not going to break down.

CONTROLLED

Controlled feeding of the greens with a mixture of sulphate of ammonia, hoof and horn and sulphate of iron, twice a year is part of the programme; coupled with light top dressings of a mixture comprising of four parts sand and one part Fen soil applied every six weeks in the growing season. A spray mix of sulphate of iron in water is used to maintain a reasonable colour without creating a lush growth of grass. This also helps with resistance to fungal disease.

In following this policy we do find that the Poa Annua

contracts the disease Anthracnose quite badly in the early autumn. This often looks very worrying, and one does suffer a certain amount of "stick", but areas of Poa that are removed by Anthracnose are soon re-colonized with Agrostis, and so the process goes on. It is important to continue top dressing during this time to try and maintain putting surfaces, and keep your head down! I can assure you, it is well worth bringing about the change in grass species.

Some time ago I was asked if I was trying to introduce a new grass species. Was it perhaps the hard wearing American Pencross grass, I was asked. No, I said, I am not introducing pencross, or any other new grass. What will happen is that gradually, very gradually, the indigenous Agrostis grass will re-colonize itself because the

>>

FACE TO FACE

FACE TO FACE

<<

now accepted methods to rid the greens of Poa will slowly take effect.

As for Pencross, my personal opinion is that it looks quite nice from a distance, but I am not yet convinced that it likes our climate. I have not had any experience of managing Pencross greens, but from those I have seen at courses such as The Belfry, I am not convinced that they have managed to retain such a high percentage of Pencross in their sward. In fact, the last time I played at The Belfry, it was evident that the greens were becoming predominantly Poa, with only small colonies of Pencross remaining.

The only greens that I have seen which looked as if they had taken well with Pencross, are the ones at St. Mellion in Cornwall. They were pleasant colour, with an even surface cover, but I found them slower to put on in comparison with St. Pierre.

Whether Pencross will stand the closeness of mowing and verticutting required to give it some pace, coupled with our climate, I have yet to be convinced.

GRAND PRIX

The first week of May 1988, sees the Epson Grand Prix being staged here at St. Pierre for the third successive year. Last year we had comments about greens being slow. This year, with less Poa in the greens, we expect them to be quicker, in fact, as quick as they can be for the time of year.

"As for Pencross... it looks quite nice from a distance, but I am not quite convinced it likes our climate."

Obviously the sponsors are well satisfied with the present state of the Old Course. However, it is planned to make the course more difficult by introducing a few new tees to lengthen the course. Alterations to three greens are also planned, which will no doubt make certain of St. Pierre's place as a major tournament venue.

I do feel, however, that early May is sometimes pushing nature somewhat for such a major tournament in this country; but all you can do is your best!

ATMOSPHERE

Since being employed by Country Club Hotels, who own a number of other similar complexes in Britain, I have no desire to return to a club run solely by its members. I enjoy the atmosphere of working for, and being made to feel part of, the team' of a large, and successful, golf/hotel leisure company.

Although I am responsible to Mr. Geoffrey Glynn-Jones, the director of golf for Country Club Hotels, I am left to manage my own courses, as long as I do not exceed the agreed budget.

As we look on our courses as being the main reason that people visit St. Pierre, we have the sense to ensure that, whatever monies are required to maintain our high standards are made available. Having now worked in a strictly commercial area, I would find it most difficult to go back to a working atmosphere where one has to follow the instructions of a committee, who know little or nothing about golf course management.

I have played golf since I was six years of age, and still enjoy the

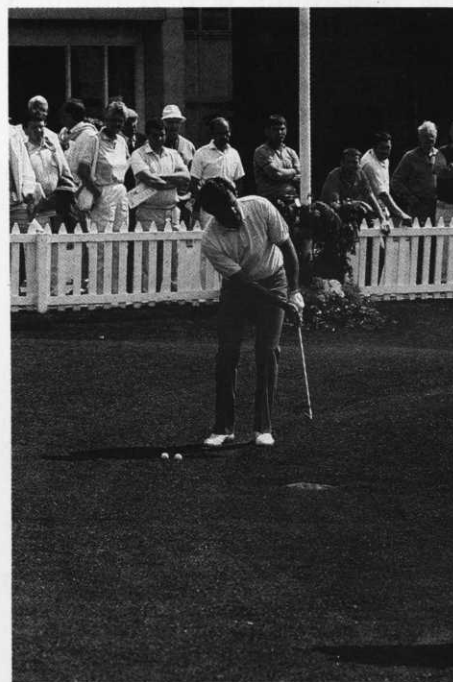
game. I am always keen to extend my knowledge of course management by attending seminars and conferences.

RESPONSIBLE

I was partly responsible for the setting up of the EIGGA - English and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, which has since opted to amalgamate with two other associations to become BIGGA - British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. I am no longer involved, or play an active part in Association matters, as two golf courses and a major tournament take up all my time."

Below:

SEVE BALLESTEROS, A SEVERE CRITIC OF THE GREENS IN 1987



A follow-up article by David Jones on his experiences with the Epson Grand Prix in 1988 will appear in a future issue.

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BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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: (i) Full Member £25.00
(ii) 18 years of age and under £12.50

Sections:

- Scottish Region : North, East, West, Central, Ayrshire.
- Northern England Region : North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield.
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BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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I wish to join as Member in Category

and I enclose my cheque as indicated above in the sum of £ made payable to BIGGA.

A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

SIGNED DATE

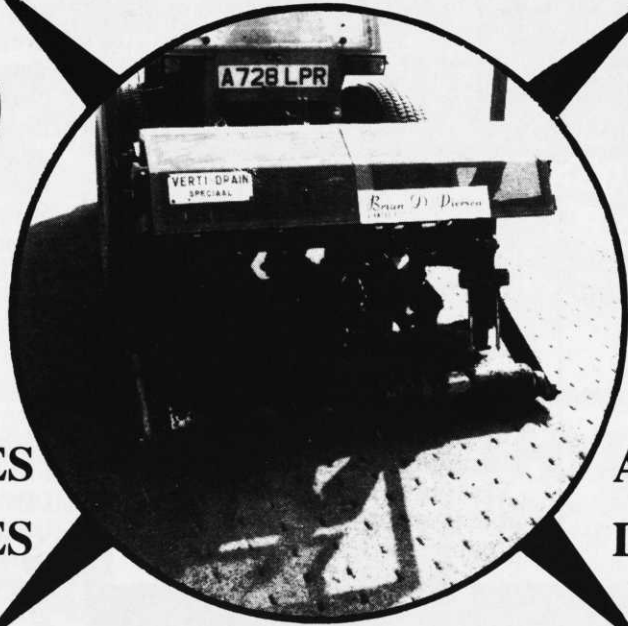
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COMPACTION ?



AYRSHIRE PLAYS HOST TO BIGGA

AYR is playing host to the BIGGA National Tournament/Annual Conference in September.

This part of the Scottish West Coast enjoys the relaxing influence of warm air from the Gulf Stream and has much to offer delegates, wives and girl friends in the way of entertainment, sport and other tourist attractions.

The Ayrshire Valleys have a

Prestwick Old Course. The Belleisle golf course is considered by many to be one of the finest public courses in Scotland, and the volume of play there is around 60,000 rounds a year. There is also an abundance of fine municipal courses, among which are Dalmilling and Seafield at Ayr.

Visiting greenkeepers will be able to sample the testing qualities of the holes on the

the Ayrshire Valleys to suit all the family. A wide choice of accommodation is available. Hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfast, self catering properties, caravans to let, caravan and camping parks. Detailed information is available from the Ayrshire Valleys Tourist Board, 62 Bank Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1ER, Scotland (Tel) 0563 39090.

The town of Ayr has a rich variety of shops. Places to visit must include The Burns Cottage and Museum, Alloway. Belleisle House Hotel (see front cover) was originally the country seat of the Glentanar family - the immediate surrounds include two excellent parkland golf courses, an aviary and deer park. Those who prefer can take one of the many walks in the grounds and enjoy the celebrated garden.

BIGGA members should not miss the opportunity to visit this lovely part of Scotland, which is steeped in golfing tradition surrounding the game. Scottish greenkeepers are knowledgeable and proud of their profession and heritage, and visitors to the conference can be assured of many interesting discussions and exchanges of views in addition to a real Ayrshire welcome!



3rd green Belleisle golf course

rich tapestry of history and heritage. Over the centuries many people have come and gone; stone age hunters, bronze and iron age farmers, Roman soldiers and Viking invaders. Cairns, battle sites and prehistoric villages are a reminder of the many armies that have passed through the undulating Ayrshire terrain in years gone by.

Many famous names are associated with Ayrshire, the most notable being Robert Burns, a popular hero and great literary figure known throughout the world. You can still visit the small cottage, built by his father, where Burns was born on 25th January 1795.

Ayrshire is renowned for its famous golf courses and among the championship links are Turnberry, Royal Troon and

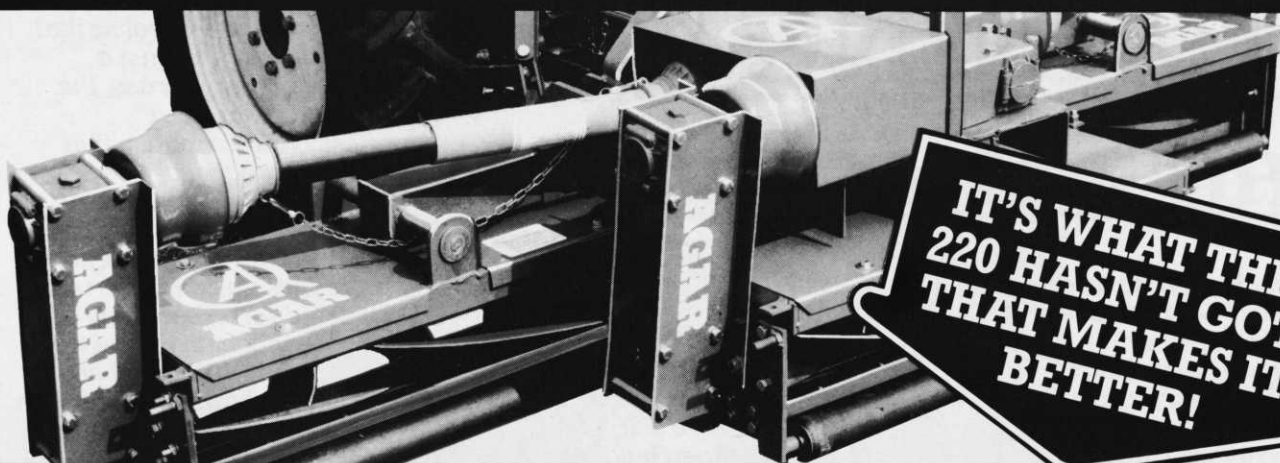


Abbotsford Hotel, one of the many available locally

Belleisle golf course, which is always in fine condition. This popular venue has staged many professional and amateur events in the past.

There is plenty to do and see in

by
**JOHN
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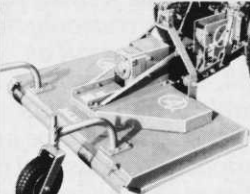
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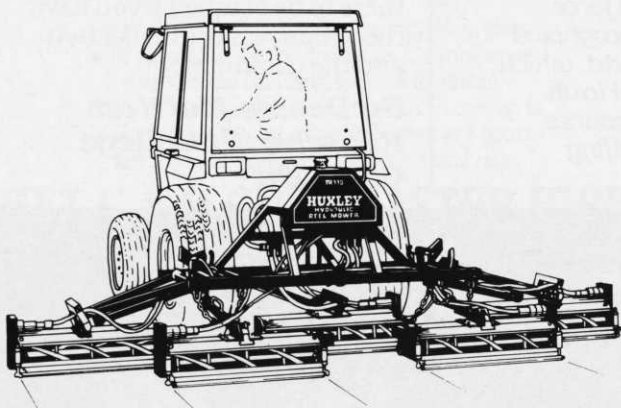
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"But what ARE my prospects? Do I aspire to the ivory towers of golf course management, and can I really expect to emulate the paths of those who manage Gleneagles, Wentworth or St. Pierre?"

I am constantly asked these questions by greenkeeping assistants attending day and block release courses at Reaseheath, as I am sure are my colleagues in other establishments.

My answer lies in the rhetorical question: "Do you want to be successful?"

In his own words, let Mark Lewis present his own 'student profile'. Mark Lewis is just 22 years of age.

"I attended Pensby Secondary School for boys in the Wirral and when I left school I started a YTS scheme at Neston Cricket Club where I gained experience in hockey, cricket and tennis. I attended Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath, for my City and Guilds in Golf Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, first Phase I followed by Phase II.

"When my YTS finished, I went to Tranmere Rovers Football Club as assistant groundsman and remained there for 18 months. In the latter half of 1984 I joined Heswall Golf Club as an assistant greenkeeper.

Left to right: Bill Lawson, head greenkeeper Heswall Golf Club and BIGGA Board of Management member, photographed with his greenstaff in 1986.

Raymond Hunt now head greenkeeper at Goodwood Park, Mark Lewis and assistant head greenkeeper Guy Canning, and Ben.

"During my three and a half years there, I have been involved with all aspects of greenkeeping, from tee and green construction to everyday maintenance of a golf course, all with the expert guidance of one of the country's most respected head greenkeepers, Mr Bill Lawson.

"Mr Lawson has helped me tremendously during my time as an assistant, sharing his knowledge with not only myself but with all greenstaff at Heswall. This has proved invaluable to me and has shown through as I have just been appointed assistant course manager at Goodwood Park and Country Club near Chichester in West Sussex. This is a new course designed by Donald Steel and built by Brian Pierson, which will be opened in 1989.

"I have also been involved with BIGGA, the new greenkeepers association; in the north-west section as a committee member, and recently as section secretary. The association is a growing professional force which is becoming recognised within the golfing world, which can only be beneficial to all greenkeepers - from course managers of large golfing complexes to trainee

greenkeepers of small courses. "The sooner people realise that greenkeeping is not just a question of cutting grass, the better, and that it is a professional occupation that requires a great deal of knowledge and expertise in turf culture.

"My future as a greenkeeper is very promising, with my ambitions set on becoming a course manager in the not too distant future. This has been possible due to three things: Mr Bill Lawson, City and Guilds qualifications and BIGGA".

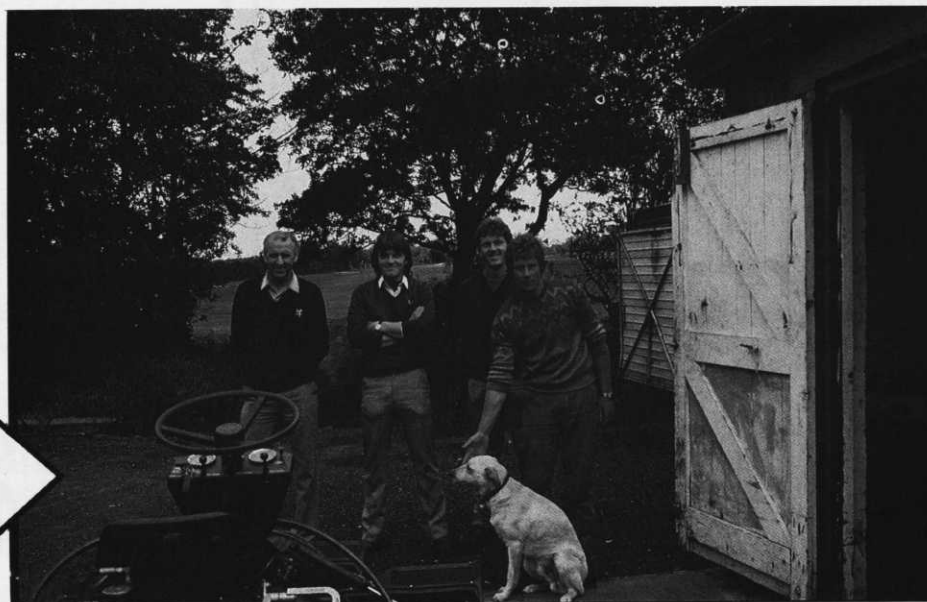
This is by no means just an isolated profile amongst Reaseheath students, but it does require dedication on the part of the young greenkeeper, dedication on behalf of his supervisor and a commitment to training on behalf of the golf club management.

Opportunities are available in a fast expanding industry. Old and traditional skills are necessary, but so are new skills in management, budgeting and communication.

Perhaps the case of Mark Lewis may prove that by lots of hard work, study and commitment, attending college and, by no means least, being a member of BIGGA, you can climb the ladder to success.

Make no mistake, the ladder is there to be climbed if you have the willpower, the dedication and the commitment.

**By Dennis Mortram
Reaseheath College
Cheshire**



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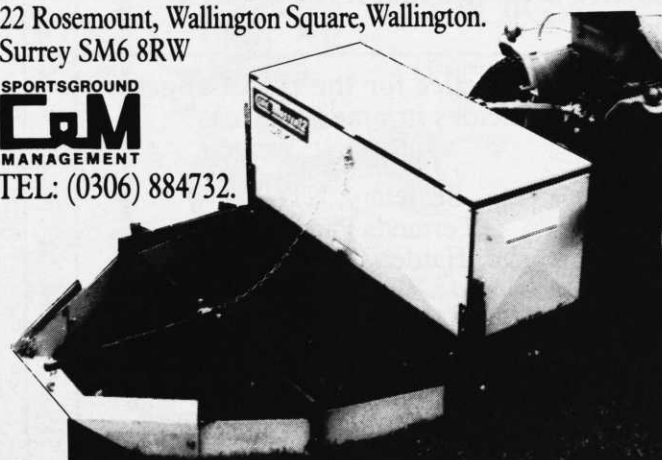
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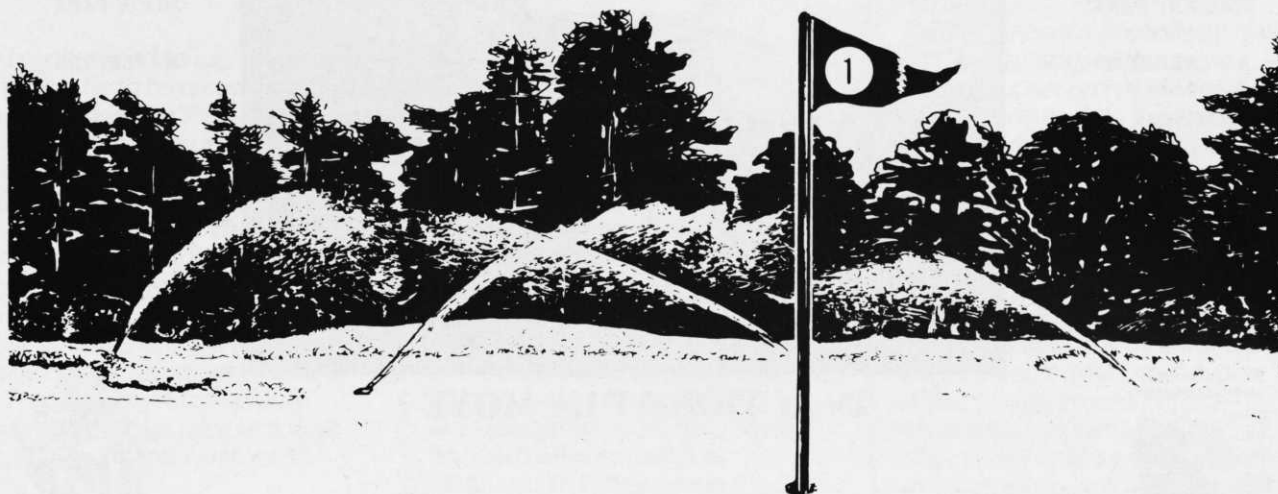
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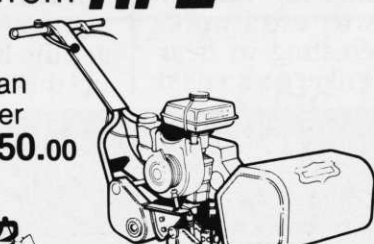
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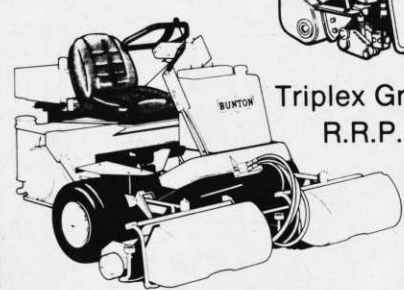
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Cirencester Golf Club

GOLF has been played at Cirencester for almost a century, and the present course at Baunton commands truly magnificent views of this lovely part of rural England. The course was designed by James Braid on a rolling plateau where the eastern slopes of the Cotswolds descend to meet the plain.

The holes at the southern end of the plateau overlook an expanse of pleasant wooded countryside stretching as far as the great plain of Wessex. The course has occupied its present site since 1909, and so rapidly did the construction work progress that the club was able to hold its first competition in July of that same year.

David Parker, head greenkeeper at the club, is a greenkeeping enthusiast who likes to keep his course well groomed for members and visitors alike. David said, "I have always liked an outdoor life, having had a spell in farming and forestry before taking up golf course maintenance, and I've never regretted my decision to make greenkeeping my career.

"The Cirencester course, like many others around here, has its own particular character and qualities that make it attractive. We are in good playing condition all the year round, irrespective of the weather, but being on an exposed Cotswold plateau there are days when the elements can test the playing abilities of all golfers. The weather is normally mild in the spring and bracing in the summer. The course is at its best in the autumn and tough going in the winter."

David went on: "The preservation of wild life habitat and flora is an important concession we make to the environment of the course. Using selective weedkillers puts a special responsibility on us to treat particular areas with caution and protect certain flora and fauna to preserve the delicate balance of nature.



"The activities of rooks can be a bit of a problem, and I expect this is something that quite a few greenkeepers have to contend with. In our case the birds come from the woods nearby and pull out newly replaced divots on the fairways in search of food. It makes the place look untidy as well as leaving nasty lies for fairway shots, and gives us extra work. It would be interesting to hear how other greenkeepers deal

with the bird menace - apart from shooting them!

"Having many sloping fairways calls for machinery with good traction and power to negotiate steep banks to get the maintenance work done with a minimum of effort.

"Drainage is good, even under the wettest conditions and it is always possible to use our equipment without the worry of getting bogged down or 'tracking up' the turf.



David Parker with his enthusiastic greenkeeping team



Desmond Jones, Cirencester's club secretary, discusses course alterations with David Parker, head greenkeeper, while the club professional looks on.

"Use of a Verti-drain machine has done a good job for us at Cirencester. Deep penetration with the tines has helped to relieve sub-surface compaction. This has been of great benefit to greens during the winter and early spring - colour, resilience and putting quality is really good.

"We also use the Sisis Hydromain for slit-tining on a regular basis. This has proved to be a good investment and we are pleased with its performance and results. Aeration is an essential operation if you want to maintain the kind of putting surface that will keep golfers happy".

Said David: "The club has built excellent facilities for the upkeep of the course. There is

ample space in the main shed for staff quarters and all the equipment. A huge purpose-built compost and material storage building is also part of the complex and everything is centrally situated for easy access to all parts of the course. We are well equipped with all the latest machinery to keep the course in first class condition.

"We have carried out quite a bit of construction work in the past to improve the course by doing major alterations to surface levels on the 7th green and have enlarged the size of the 2nd green, making it a double-tiered putting surface in the process. At this moment in time we are laying out a new fairway for the 18th which will make it quite a spectacular finishing hole. This

"The course is in good playing condition all the year round, irrespective of the weather"

is all good construction experience to have under your belt and all the staff have enjoyed it.

"The club directors and members treat us exceedingly well, which makes for a happy relationship. I have an enthusiastic and hard working staff who are dedicated to serving the club and take pride in doing a good job. When I first started work here I had two men - now there are three and I also hope to have a young YTS lad join the team soon".

David continued, "I am interested in greenkeeper training. When I first started out in golf course work I decided to attend college and get some qualifications, and I passed City and Guilds Stage I and II in greenkeeping.

"All our staff are members of BIGGA, and although they have not as yet been to any events, we hope to organise ourselves in this direction. The Association is quite strong in the south west, but attendance tends to vary at meetings. Training and education is an important part of our profession and it is pleasing to see how BIGGA is gradually getting into its stride in this respect".

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Information & Etiquette Signs



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Please Replace Divots
Please Repair Pitchmarks
Please Keep Off the Grass



Next Tee (l. or r.)
Trolleys this Way (l. or r.)
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For Less

NOTEBOOK...

Seminars for turf managers

A series of seminars for professional turf manager will be held at the following venues.

June 22, Leeds - Leeds United AFC. June 27, Wentworth - Wentworth Golf Club. June 30, Edinburgh - Ingliston Exhibition centre. July 7, Manchester - Old Trafford Cricket Club. July 12, Birmingham - Aston Villa AFC.

Commencing at 10.00am, finishing at 3.00pm approx.

Lunch will be provided.

Participating companies will include: B.T.R. Landscaper, Ritefeed and Watmores, Turfland.

These companies together with other guest speakers will give delegates an up to date insight into a comprehensive range of products and services able to assist today's professional turf manager.

For an invitation or further details phone 0524 824141.

Iseki 'out front' with Turfblazer

THE Turfblazer range of out front mowers manufactured in America by Howard Price Turf Equipment is now available in Great Britain from Iseki UK, giving a wide variety of cutting widths in both rotary and cylinder forms from 1.5 to 4.5 metres wide.

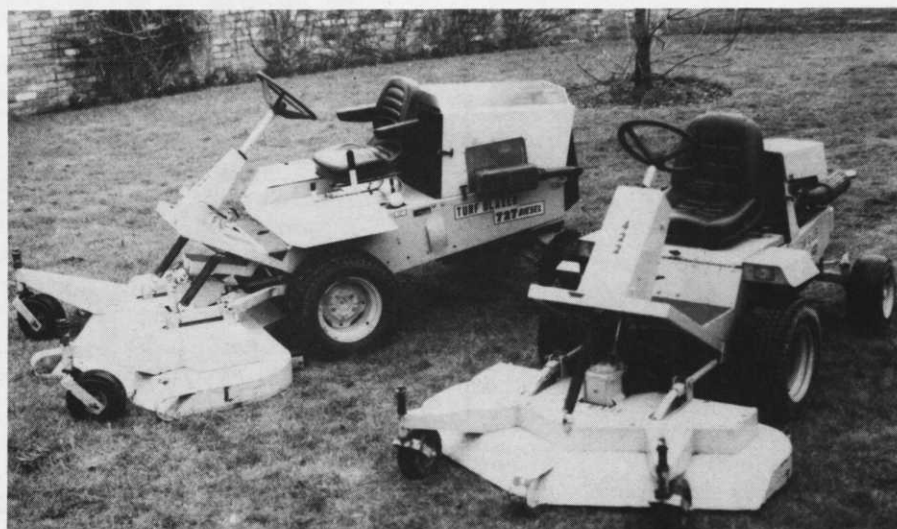
Three models are initially being imported by Iseki with power outputs from 22 to 78 horsepower, all hydrostatically driven and with three or four cylinder water cooled diesel engines.

The smallest of the models is the 22 horsepower Turfblazer 422 with a choice of 60" or 72" wide rotary cutting decks with options of snow blowers or front mounted brushes. The decks themselves are offset for close trimming and feature quick change height

adjustment from 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 inches. All turfblazer decks have front mounted flotation wheels for perfect contour following.

Moving up the scale is the Turfblazer 727 with its 27 horsepower engine. Hydrostatic drive means the operator can vary ground speed independent of engine rpm, whilst the simple two pedal control gives instant forward or reverse. On the 727 is the option of an 84" cylinder mower in three gang configuration or a five gang set up or mowing up to 130" wide on the 40hp power unit. All the cylinders are available in either 6 or 8 blade form for cutting heights from 3/8" to 2 3/8". Verticut blades are also available as an option.

Further details are available from Iseki UK on 0480 218100.



Mike Canaway appointed to Board

FOLLOWING the retirement of Mr John Shildrick, assistant director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, the Board of Management have appointed, as their new assistant director (research) Mr P.M. Canaway.

Mike Canaway joined the STRI in 1974 on a contract financed by the Department of the Environment to study wear and durability of sports turf. One of his first achievements was to develop a "wear machine" for simulating the effects of play in turfgrass experiments. The machine is capable of

simulating different types of wear, including football, golf and abrasion as occurs on training, kickabout areas and parkland. The development of the wear machine had a major impact on the Institute's research programme. Also in the early period, Mike Canaway developed equipment for measuring the "grip" or "traction" available to players on turf and this is now incorporated in a draft British Standard for testing of friction on synthetic turf. Both the wear machine and traction apparatus have been used in studies on wear tolerance of grasses, soils, and nutrition during subsequent years. In 1981 Mike Canaway started a major programme of research on sand constructions for sport, the object being to provide a free draining playing surface and good playing conditions. In 1985 he was honoured to be asked to present the Keynote Address on soils and plant nutrition at the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Avignon, France. The work on sand rootzones has flourished, with research finance being obtained from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the Football Trust and the Football Association.

Eds Note: An article by Mike Canaway on sand construction of the golf greens will appear in the next issue of the Golf Course.

NOTEBOOK...

Marriage of convenience for the ladies

THE Women Professional Golfers' European Tour will soon be on the move to its new headquarters at the Tytherington club, Cheshire.

The decision was made following talks with various golf clubs throughout the country, which have all been vying to become the European Tour's head office, and it is hoped that the move will have taken place by the time we go to press.

Mr. Joe Flanagan, the Tour's Executive Director, said: "We are grateful to the PGA for allowing us to continue to work from The Belfry but the pressure of space is such that we had to look for new accommodation immediately.

"The Tytherington club will provide excellent facilities, with easy access to a large airport

IN the early 1970's British Seed Houses Ltd started a research and development programme to try and obtain some short growing high-quality grasses, and as a result they are now able to offer two of the shortest growing grass varieties available within their respective species.

Logro Slender Creeping Red Fescue has been specially bred by the Northern Ireland plant breeding station attached to Queens University Belfast. Trials have shown that Logro

only grows to a height of approximately 100mm (4") when left uncut.

Lorina Turf Type Perennial Ryegrass has been developed from the well known Loretta Ryegrass and this variety has been classified by the Sports Turf Research Institute as a very low growing cultivar producing an attractive sward in summer.

For leaflets giving greater details of these and other grasses, telephone BSH on 0925 54411.

and main road network."

The Tytherington club lies in 140 acres of rolling parkland near Macclesfield. It boasts an 18-hole championship golf course together with excellent country club facilities - including four restaurants, a sauna, steam room, tennis courts and swimming pool.

Mr. Christopher Seddon,

director of the Seddon Group, owners of the club, said: "We are delighted the Tour have chosen us as their headquarters. It is very much a marriage of convenience for both of us. We are a 5-star complex and the Tour is a prestigious organisation looking for a new office. We are looking forward to having them here."



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NOTEBOOK...

Ransomes welcome visitors from Japan

AS part of a sales push for a greater share of the Japanese grass cutting machinery market, in particular machines for use on golf courses, six representatives from Kubota, and their dealers, who sell and service Ransomes mowers in Japan, visited to Ipswich to undergo intensive sales and technical training with the company.

After a tour of Ransomes' factory complex, the Japanese visitors were given instruction in both the user benefits and technical aspects of Ransomes grass machinery suitable for the Japanese market.

Because of their fanatical interest in golf, over dinner one evening the Japanese visitors



Pictured is Ransomes export sales manager Andrew Sunaway with the Japanese visitors

expressed a wish to visit the 'Mecca' of golf, as they might never have the opportunity again.

Arrangements were soon made to delay their return to Japan

and fly them to Scotland for the day to visit St. Andrews. They also took the opportunity to see Gleneagles and no doubt partake of a genuine 'dram' or two.

Golf mats a hit with golfers

NEOLAST golf mats, manufactured by PN Structures Ltd, have been very well received by golf clubs and members alike.

Clubs report that the Neolast mats are very popular with the better golfers, who are impressed with the fact that they are able to use their woods directly from the mat without damage to their clubs, and more

importantly their wrists and ankles.

The Neolast golf mat is washable and portable, and in unaffected by mould or decay. It is approximately 5ft square, weighs 48lbs and is suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

For full information and more details please telephone PN Structures on 01-734-2578.



Neolast golf mats - a hit with golfers

Stirling appointments

EDWARD CONNAUGHTON, B.Sc. has been appointed to the Souter of Stirling Board of Directors.

Eddie has worked in greenkeeping since 1978 and received his B.Sc. degree in Turfgrass Management at Purdue University, Indiana, USA in 1985. He joined the company in 1985 from Bedford Golf and Tennis Club, New York, USA where he was assistant course superintendent.

Eddie is in charge of the sales and technical services dept at Souter's and will continue in this position as director.

Graham Downs has also been appointed to their Board.

Graham originally trained in the early 1970's in civil and marine engineering and progressed in the late 1970's into sportsground construction.

He joined the Souter's in 1984 to take charge of the contracts dept. and will continue with that responsibility.

NOTEBOOK...

Departure...

IN a departure from its traditional activity, Vitax are using their sales and marketing skills to introduce bird and animal repellents to commercial users.

Hoppit is a systematic bird and animal repellent which is safe, non-toxic, and non-tainting, designed to protect growing plants, shrubs and trees against predator attacks. Its systemic chemical formulation is based

on Quassia, a naturally-occurring plant extract, with wetters and synergists which, together, induce a strong revulsion in birds and animals.

Nobble is a slug and snail controller which is crop-safe and has a wettable powder formulation which is sprayed onto the soil and remains active within the soil for up to six months. The development controls all three species of slug by destroying the mucus-producing cells and the osmotic

mantle membrane, without which the slug becomes desiccated, immobile and vulnerable to parasitic and predator attack.

Dog Off is a harmless dog repellent, which may be sprayed or brushed on to all the usual "sniffing points" - walls, gateposts, paths and fences - which dogs pass to enter, and which will thus create a barrier to them. However, old habits die hard and it may be necessary to spray several times where dogs have been long-term visitors.

All three products have been developed and manufactured by Fieldspray Limited of Suffolk.

HERON FIELD HIRE who have been in the sports field hire machinery market for 25 years, are now hiring out the **TORO green aerator**.

The decision to change from their existing supplier was taken, according to Mr Doug Johnson of Heron Field, for a number of reasons. Firstly the **TORO greens aerator** has less wearing parts, which results in

much less down-time and increased profit margins. Also the new aerator is 2.5 times the speed of the previous aerator stocked, giving coverage of up to a staggering 1,209 sq metres per hour. The fact that the **TORO aerator** is very economical with fuel was another reason for the change. Heron Field Hire may be contacted on 05645-2597.

New man

FOLLOWING the recent promotion of Martin Muir to sales liaison manager at Vitax's Burscough headquarters, Ken Tombes has joined the company from SAI to take over sales responsibility for south-east England.



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NOTEBOOK...

New literature from Grundfos

NEW literature ranges have been launched by Grundfos Pumps Ltd, including sales brochures, a concise product range leaflet, and installation instructions. The literature follows a new international style designed to project a standard image for all Grundfos companies.

New sales brochures have been introduced for the following pumps and circulators; CR Multistage In-Line, CH Booster, NM/NP Single Stage End-Suction, LM/LP Single Stage In-Line, UP/UPS Light Commercial, UMC/UPC Commercial Multispeed, KP Sump Pump and JP5 Jet Pump.

Grundfos' literature

THE Sports Council have recently commissioned Nottinghamshire County Council to carry out a research project into the costs of using outdoor winter games pitches, with an emphasis on artificial sports surfaces.

The project involves the monitoring of a selected number of surfaces in excess of 6,000 square metres for use, maintenance and administrative costs, plus any provision costs involved.

Furthermore, it is intended, wherever possible, to carry out similar exercises on natural turf pitches with a view to making comparisons determining which provides the best value for money.

The project will provide the basis for better informed decisions by providers of sports facilities on the type and extent of sports surfaces provision to be made and maintained. Data generated by the project will assist The Sports Council in ongoing grant aid and advisory work, and will complement the management information systems developed for the sports and leisure industry.

Included in the brochures is information concerning hydraulic performance, electrical data, material specifications and individual equipment features.

The product range leaflet, in single page format, gives handy information and key technical

facts for the entire Grundfos range, accompanied by colour photographs.

The installation instructions now available in the new format are for UP/UPS circulators, CH/JP5 Boosters Set, CH Booster pump and UMT/UPT circulators.



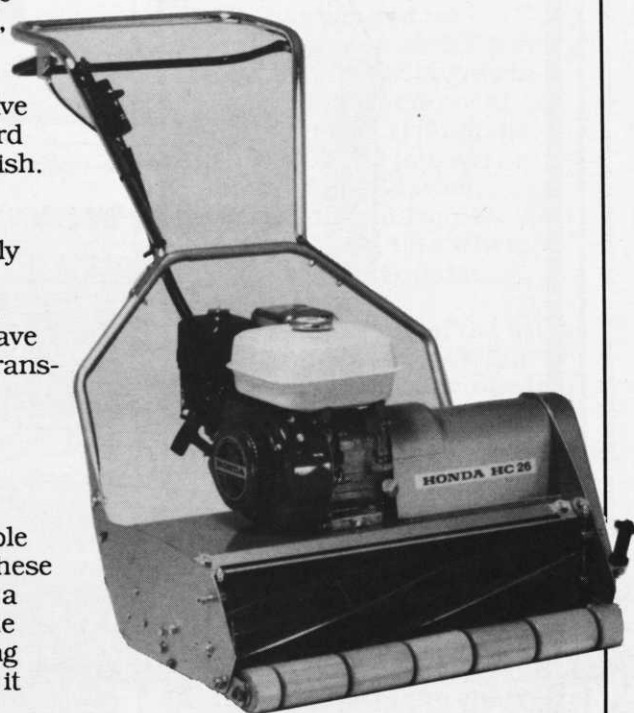
A NEW facility for the production of a range of high quality cylinder lawn mowers to be marketed by Honda UK Power Equipment has been established in time for the 1988 season.

The three models available offer cutting widths of 16", 20" and 26" and the six high-precision cutting blades on each cylinder give an average 87 cuts per yard for a close cut and fine finish.

Assembled in Britain by Sporcan Limited of Birmingham, and specially designed by Honda UK specifications, these high performance machines have trouble-free chain drive transmission and are proved by Honda G100, GX110 and GX140 engines giving 2.0hp, 3.5hp and 5.0hp respectively.

A light, strong and durable grass box complements these machines. Moulded from a high density polythene the box benefits from its fitting in a cradle which enables it to be lifted clear of the cylinder reducing the possibility of grass falling back onto the blades.

New mowers marketed by Honda UK



The Honda HC26 Cylinder mower

NOTEBOOK...

FOLLOWING the successful launch of the Traffic Control Stake and Swivel Flagpole, Tacit have introduced a hole cup to complement their swivel flagpole, made from a rigid engineering grade plastic to give a truer hole shape than the conventional flexible nylon.

Tacit combines a robust construction with a design that, they say, allows the flagpole to fine its hole first time, every time.

Maintaining their policy of "The Best for Less", Tacit have a special launch offer of only £2.99 per cup, available in packs of ten. Only from Tacit, 3 Millers Lane, Monks Kirby, Rugby. Tel: 0788 832166.

LEADING independent timber company Henry Venables Ltd of Stafford is offering top prices for quality timber despite the increase in supply created by windblown from last autumn's severe storms.

Venables believe that rather than forcing prices down, the

Testing task for Verti-Drain

A SURREY football club, beset by problems of poor pitch drainage, has been selected as the test ground for a totally new method of turf treatment.

Redhill Football Club's Kiln Brow pitch suffers water-logging from the lightest rain, due to a high clay-soll content. Laporte Earths of Redhill and Charterhouse Turf Machinery of Milford, Surrey are joining forces to eradicate RFS's pitch problem.

Laporte, which is a major sponsor of the club, is to insert its Fullasorb product into the pitch. Based on Fullers' Earth, Fullasorb has the ability to

improve drainage dramatically and has been formulated specifically for the professional groundsman and greenkeeper.

The test treatment is expected to produce immediate improvement to the pitch, with long-lasting effects.

The Verti-drain hollow core tining machine, distributed by Charterhouse Turf Machinery, is to be used for the first time introducing Fullasorb to the soil. Other Charterhouse equipment to be used during the renovation includes slotters, spreaders and overseeders.

availability of windblown timber will actually cause a shortage of quality timber. The company suggest two reasons for this. Firstly, there has been less available capacity to process quality timber, and secondly, landowners outside the south east are holding back

quality timber, believing it will not attract a good price.

Venables are most interested in buying oak, ash and chestnut, and the company say they will pay top prices.

For further information telephone: Geoffrey Venables on 0785 59131.



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NOTEBOOK...

New additions to the John Deere range

JOHN DEERE, the worlds largest producers of lawn and groundcare equipment, have made several additions to their range of products available in the UK for the professional user. To complement their 755 and 855 compact tractors, John Deere have launched a new loader, the model 70.

What makes this loader special is not the lift height of 78in nor the lift capacity of 700lbs. The most impressive feature is that it can be attached or detached in less than a minute with the operator only leaving the seat to connect/disconnect the hydraulic couplers. This gives the new 70 loader tremendous flexibility, especially when working in confined spaces.

Having the quick facility has not compromised other features of the loader. On the model 70 the breakout force is rated at 6.9KN or 1570lbs and the reach with bucket fully raised is 25.5ins.

The loader is available with a comprehensive range of attachments including 48, 54 and 60in buckets, a level indicator, a hood guard and a new larger ballast box.

Following the success of the 935 front mower with professional users, John Deere have now introduced the

smaller engined 17hp 915 model fitted with a 3 cylinder Diesel engine.

This machine has all the features of the 935 but offers more economy to those who don't need quite as much power.

For ease of operation two pedals by the right foot give variable speed forward and reverse and a wide pedal provides instant braking when obstructions are encountered.

In wet or slippery conditions the differential lock fitted as standard is operated with the left foot. Where large areas and long working are involved, the cruise control can be pre-set allowing greater operating ease and higher output.

The 915 is fitted with a 50in rotary deck as standard with cutting height adjustable from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2ins.

The AMT600 materials transporter has proved to be a popular workhorse since its introduction last year and John Deere have built on this by offering two useful options.

There is now an Electro-Hydraulic lift for powered tipping of the load bed. Simply operated by a switch on the seat panel, the dump kit, as it is known, can be field installed to any AMT600.

Where users find that the

600lbs capacity of the AMT600 is not enough, they can now buy the AMT11 trailer, specially designed for the AMT600. Almost identical to the 600's load bed, this trailer carries a payload of 800lb or 2.1 cubic feet.

Compaction is avoided by again using low ground pressure tyres. This versatile trailer combined with the AMT600's four wheel drive and differential lock, means that it is now possible to move a total of 1400lbs of cargo almost anywhere.

John Deere have only been selling into the UK groundcare market for a little over eighteen months, although they have been in Germany and France for over fifteen years. They have already appointed 28 out of an envisaged 35 main dealers and have three territory managers covering the country.

John Deere believe that with products well proven worldwide, a high reputation for quality and an unrivalled parts and back up service their share of the market will increase. All their main dealers are able, via a direct link computer system to the USA, to locate a spare part or order within seven seconds, and parts, if not in stock in Nottingham, can be delivered from Germany within a matter of hours.

Another innovation is John Deere's "Turfequip" financial package. Backed by Barclays Bank Turfequip offers contract hire from two-five years, including, if required, a full maintenance package, as well as short term rental. The advantages are obvious, especially when budgeting for costs can be calculated precisely and capital need not be tied up in rarely used specialist machinery. The plan also covers the full range of John Deere's tractors, which are already being seen on golf courses throughout the UK. little as £21 per week.

For further information on the John Deere range, contact Alec McKee on 0949 60491 and for Turfequip Kevin Chilvers on 0734 326551.

Ransomes announce Contract Hire Plan

IN conjunction with FAF, a member of the National Westminster Bank Group, Ransomes have announced the introduction of their 'Contract Hire Plan'. Developed to comply with current Local Government expenditure regulations, Ransomes 'Contract Hire Plan' will also appeal to organisations, such as contractors and golf clubs, who want to benefit from the use of Ransomes high output grass cutting machinery without tying up their capital.

A fixed cost 3 year contract, with the choice of playing either quarterly, half yearly or

annually, includes an inflation-proofed maintenance element for easy budgeting.

Commenting on Ransomes 'Contract Hire Plan' general sales manager John Wilson said, "With the help of FAF I'm confident we have produced a plan that is flexible, easy to operate and very helpful to our customers".

Further information should be obtained from an officially appointed Ransomes UK sales and service dealer, or Richard Bishop or Trevor Knight at Ransomes sales and marketing office in Ipswich. Tel: 0473 270000

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NOTEBOOK...



Left: Kevin Munt of Wentworth Golf Club taking delivery of three Iseki tractors.

This alone meant cutting up and removal of some sixty trees before play could even begin!

For 1988, Wentworth are hosting the PGA Championship in May and the traditional World Matchplay Championship in October, as well as building the new South Course which will hopefully be opened in 1990.

The three new Iseki Tractors, all 18 horsepower TX2160 Hydro machines, all have tasks allotted to them. The Loader Backhoe unit will be hard at work in their new soil and mixing shed along with other jobs of bunker and tee construction, and more general ditching work around the three courses, whilst the other two units will undertake mowing, spraying, aeration and top dressing programmes.

Triple success for Iseki

THREE Iseki Tractors were recently delivered to the world famous Wentworth Club by Iseki Dealers, T. Parker & Sons of Worcester Park, Surrey.

These three new units, the first Iseki tractors bought by the club, are now hard at work

at Wentworth's course maintenance programme, under the direction of estates and golf course manager, Kevin Munt.

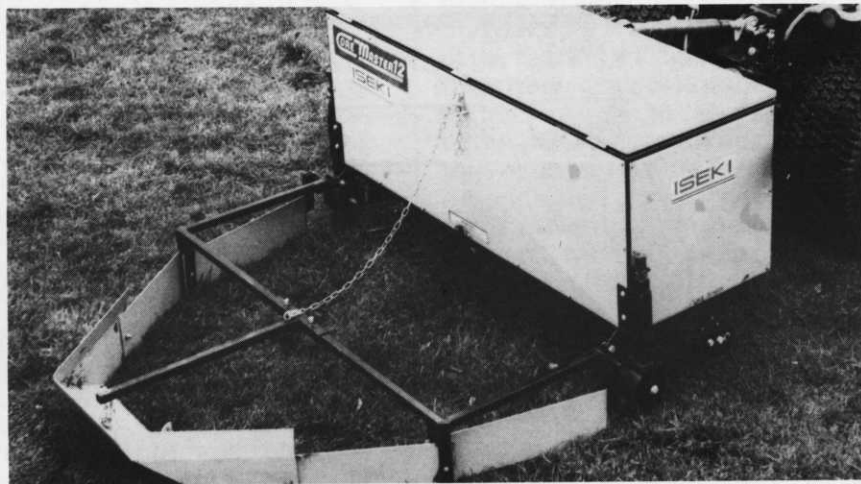
It has been a hard winter for the staff at Wentworth, dealing with the results of the hurricane in the middle of the prestigious World Matchplay Championship last October.

Coremaster now in UK

ISEKI UK are now distributing the Coremaster turf aeration system in Great Britain. This well established machine is already a favourite with greenkeepers and groundstaff in America and the Antipodes, and now comes to Britain with its reputation for both productivity and all round versatility.

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terns for large areas like tees and fairways, six inches apart.

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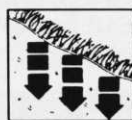
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NOTEBOOK...

New game "Par Excellence" for golfers

NEW from Pro-Line Sports (UK) Ltd is the innovative golf board game, Par Excellence. Beautifully produced and packaged, this game is the ultimate indoor entertainment for golfers who for any reason are prevented from getting out on the course to play a round of the real thing.

Ideal as a personal or business gift, Par Excellence is also finding favour with golf clubs around the country as wet weather entertainment at the 19th hole.

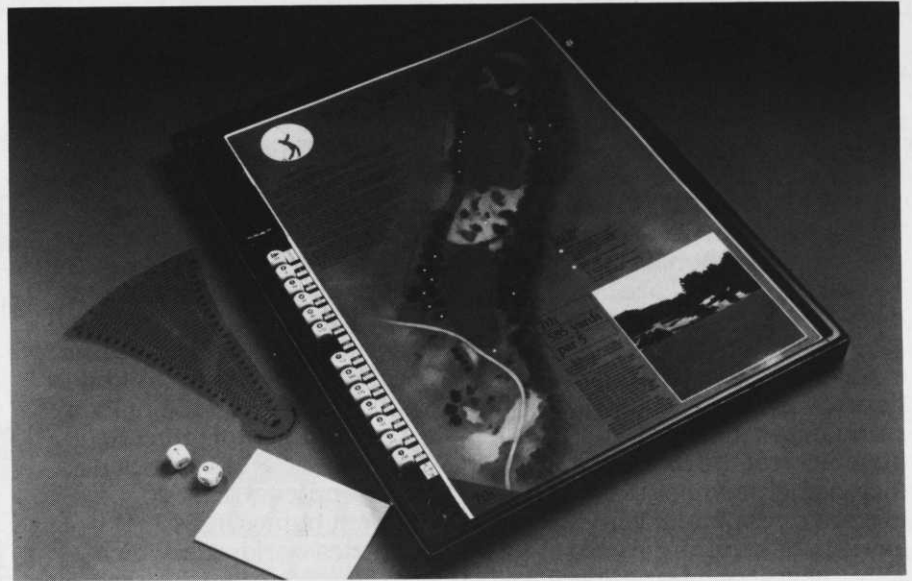
Par Excellence allows up to four golfers to play 18 of the greatest holes in the world without leaving their armchairs. The game consists of nine laminated sheets, printed on both sides in full colour. Each side features an aerial view of an internationally famous golf hole.

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each one representing a club, a directional dice, a hazard dice to add a little excitement, and a transparent overlay to meter the 'shots', players use their skill and golfing judgement to

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For further information please contact Norman Walters, Pro-Line Sports (UK) Ltd on 0342-25851.



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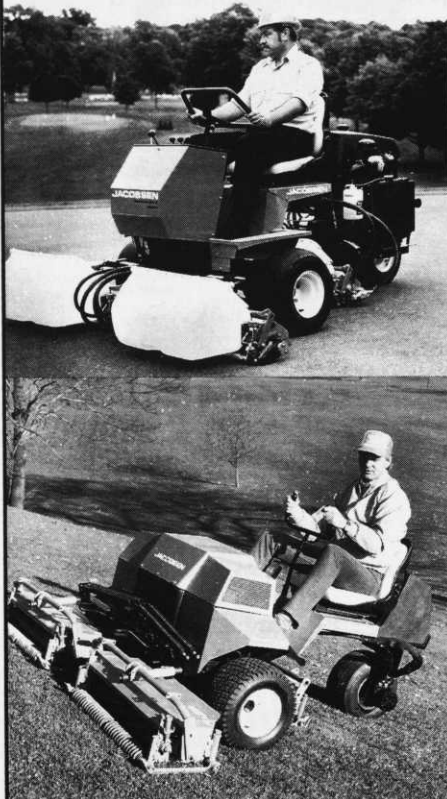
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NOTEBOOK...

MAY & BAKER, one of Britain's foremost chemical companies is changing its identity to that of its parent, the chemical multinational Rhone-Poulenc.

May & Baker has been part of Rhone-Poulenc since 1927. The move is designed to enable the company to take full advantage of being a visible part of one of the world's premier chemical groups. However, the May & Baker name will continue to be used where its particular strengths and associations have a distinctive marketing role to play, most notably in the company's health care activities.

Dr. Keith Humphreys, chairman and managing director of May & Baker, emphasises the international dimension of the move. "In the increasingly competitive world in which we operate, it is vital for us to be seen as part of a fully integrated international group in which we can make our size and strengths pay", he said. "The group is investing in the creation of a strong international identity and our own move enables us to capitalise fully on that investment".

During its 60-year association with Rhone-Poulenc, May & Baker has already become a significant force within the group. It is a major research and production entity and

New identity for chemicals company May & Baker

makes a substantial contribution to group activities world-wide, particularly in the health care and agrochemicals areas.

Rhone-Poulenc itself is the world's ninth largest chemical group. It has a turnover of almost six billion pounds per annum. The group spends £340 million each year on research and development - a greater percentage of its turnover than some of its larger rivals - and spends a further £150 million on environmental protection.

"At present, Rhone-Poulenc trades under at least 40 different names in 140 countries worldwide, which puts the group at a disadvantage as far as other multinationals go," says Keith Humphreys. "Rhone-Poulenc is looking to move from being perceived as a French company to one with a true international dimension. Already more than 70 per cent of its sales turnover is outside France. Likewise, May & Baker has been seen in its turn as a UK company with overseas affiliates. This new move enables us to be seen for what we in effect already are - part of

a truly international operation".

From May 31, May & Baker Limited will trade as Rhone-Poulenc Limited, with three divisions: Agriculture, Health Care and Chemicals. Within the divisions, those operations where the name May & Baker is currently significant to their performance and market reputation, will retain this name as part of their trading identity - eg, May & Baker Pharmaceuticals, May & Baker Garden Care and May & Baker Laboratory Products.

Overseas, the May & Baker subsidiary companies operating in the Commonwealth will change their name to Rhone-Poulenc.

The agrochemical interests of Rhone-Poulenc in the UK have been re-structured to enable the business to provide products and services that are linked more closely to the needs of its customers.

Previously known as May & Baker agrochemicals, the division has been re-named Rhone-Poulenc Agriculture: this reflects the growing involvement of Rhone-Poulenc in plant breeding, seed treatments and application machinery, as well as traditional agrochemicals.

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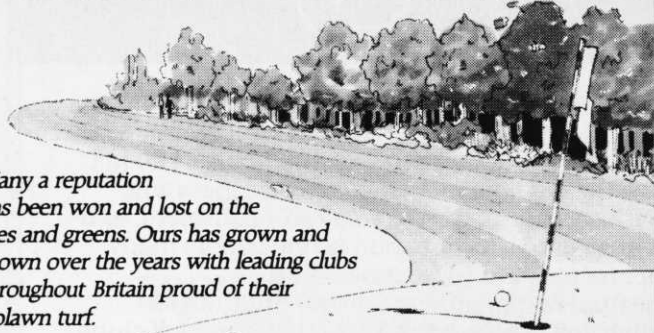
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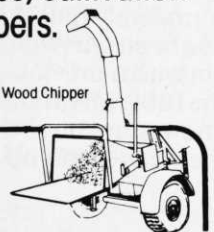
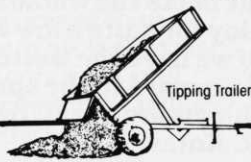
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LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I see in the greenkeeping press that the R & A has pledged £250,000 support to the STRI at Bingley to investigate the fertilizer and irrigation needs of British golf greens.

Does this mean that the R & A have decided that this is the problem? Does this mean that the advice to date from the STRI on these matters has been wrong or/and unfounded, or not even researched? Who advises the R & A on these matters?

Will this news make golf clubs paying for this advice, in good faith and coin, reconsider their position? How many greenkeepers have lost their jobs, and in some cases their health, on the 'say so' of these so called advisers?

Who is going to take the final responsibility for the condition of the British golf green?

**S L Farrington,
Course Manager,
Frilford Heath G.C.**

* Reply from Peter Hayes
Director of the STRI

"Mr Sam Farrington raises a number of points in his recent letter to *the Golf Course* concerning the R & A's research grant of £250,000, over five years, to the STRI at Bingley.

"The two projects financed by the R & A will consist of a major project looking at the effects of irrigation, construction and fertilizer nutrition of golf green turf and a second looking at the nutrient requirements of fine-leaved fescues and bentgrass for golf greens. This research programme should be of great benefit to all European golf courses and will, hopefully, result in a return to faster, firmer and truer putting surfaces.

"The R & A have decided that these are the major problems worthy of a research contract at the present time. However if head greenkeeper wish to submit research proposals to the Institute, we will consider them for a future research programme. That the Institute is carrying out research into these matters does not necessarily mean that the advice given now is wrong, but every industry has to look forward and no industry can survive without a research base. For example, the advice given to people 10-20 years ago concerning the treatment of cancer or heart conditions is completely different today due to research which has been carried out over the years, but that does not mean previous medical advice was wrong. For the future demands on golf courses we need to know more about the growth of grasses and how they can stand up to excessive wear under

different fertilizer and irrigation regimes.

"To answer Mr Farrington's other points, I do not know the number (if any) of greenkeepers who have lost their jobs on the 'say so' of advisers, and the answer to this question is not easy as many other factors would be considered.

"The final responsibility for the condition of British golf greens rests jointly between golf clubs in providing enough finance to undertake the necessary maintenance and greenkeepers with their skill to carry out such maintenance, in conjunction with the advice from agronomists from the Sports Turf Research Institute, backed by a sound research programme."

Dear Sir,

In England & Wales the average rainfall in the course of a year is between 22.5 inches and 68 inches depending on where you live. If you take the bottom figure and multiply this for the average area of a golf course (say 150 acres) you can see that in the year 76,308,750 gallons of water will have to be dealt with by surface run-off, drainage systems and general porosity of the soil. This figure also increases if we have a year like the last. Also bearing in mind that two thirds of the rain falls between September and May, the winter months in golf can be very hazardous. Controlling the greenkeeping aspects of a particularly wet course in the winter, where the greens have a high sod content, the problem of closing the course is dependent on the condition of the fairways, and not the fact that the greens are well under water.

Whilst all clubs around are closed (and we should be really) it really amazes me at the amount of golfers who turn up to play golf. After a week's deluge, they come into the clubhouse or ring up and say, "has it been raining there then" as if we were an island that the rain had missed. Most golfers will tend to stay away if it is wet, but some I am positive will play even, as I have seen, wearing their black or green wellingtons. What possible pleasure can they get from paddling around a wet, waterlogged golf course?

As it is usually only a few people who play when the conditions are atrocious, the actual damage caused by walking through sodden areas is minimal, the only problem that arises is where, wear or mud occurs on well used areas. These areas make the whole of the golf course look untidy for quite a few weeks.

So if we have the wettest winter on record, first look forward to the spring, when all your water problems are over... or just beginning!

R. R. Kates

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RESEARCH UPDATE

by Neil Baldwin, plant pathologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute

BROWN PATCH *Rhizoctonia Solani*

BROWN patch is widespread in the USA but, until recently, it has caused relatively few problems on British golf courses. However, the disease has been seen more frequently over the last two or three years and during the summer of 1987 several severe outbreaks were seen by STRI advisory agronomists.

Brown patch, regarded previously as causing few problems, is now recognised as a serious disease of turf during the summer months.

The symptoms of brown patch are largely dependent on the weather and consequently vary greatly.

Watch out for light brown, circular or irregularly shaped

patches of blighted grass, up to 15 cm in diameter which may develop quite rapidly (Figure 1). At first sight brown patch may be confused with fusarium patch disease. The diseases can be distinguished as, in the case of fusarium patch, an orange-brown colouration to the patches may be seen together with white or pink mycelium around the patch periphery.

In general brown patch seems to affect all species of turfgrass equally, although sometimes the bentgrasses (*Agrostis* spp) can appear more susceptible.

Following a change in the weather, or after fungicide application, surviving plant crowns, stolons and rhizomes in affected areas produce new leaves and the bare patches gradually fill in.

Extensive observations of brown patch in the USA have

REGULAR readers will have seen, in previous issues of the *Golf Course*, articles describing the major turf diseases - fusarium patch, fairy rings, take-all and dry patch. To conclude this series, attention is focused on some of the less common disease problems of golf courses. Although these diseases at present rarely cause significant damage, they are recognised in other parts of the world as major problems and may, in time, become serious here. Consequently, the potential threat posed by these diseases must be recognised so that control measures can be speedily implemented.

indicated that the disease most often occurs during warm (above 22 degrees), humid weather. Also, it is known that extensive damage can only occur during prolonged periods of leaf wetness caused by poor drainage, cloudy weather and a heavy dew. Furthermore, dense lightly fertilized turf is most susceptible to infection.

The persistent showery but warm weather during the summer of 1987 (in which the disease was seen extensively) would have provided ideal



Figure 1: Brown Patch disease (courtesy of May & Baker Environmental Products)

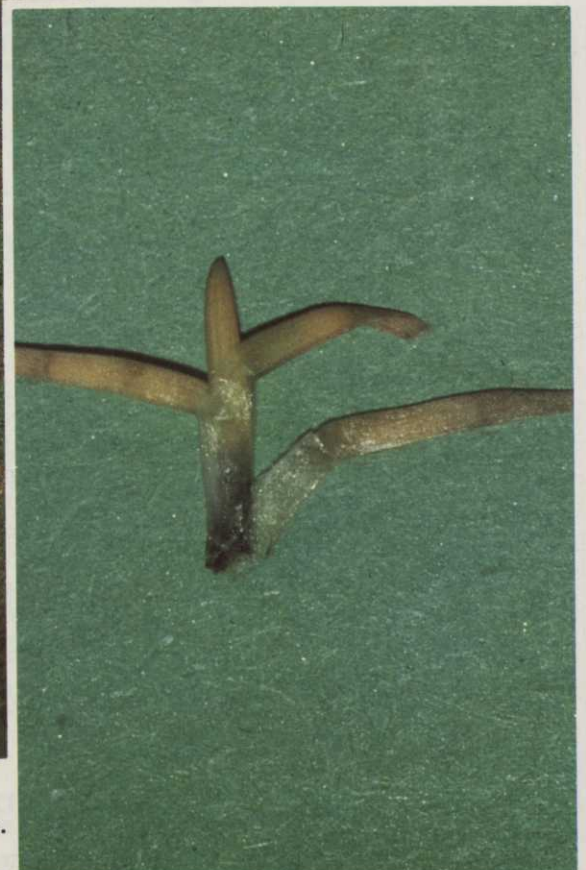


Figure 2: Anthracnose Note the black rotted base.

SLIME MOULDS AND SQUIDGE

conditions for brown patch development.

Any management practice that promotes a dry turf surface, e.g. a good drainage system and regular scarification to remove water holding thatch, will discourage brown patch. It is particularly important to switch greens every morning to remove dew as prolonged leaf wetness favours the disease. Summer applications of nitrogenous fertilizers should be light and frequent rather than single heavy applications being made, particularly when weather conditions favour the disease.

Fortunately, brown patch can be easily controlled with fungicides. Both iprodione (Rovral Green) and chlorothalonil (Daconil Turf) have a manufacturer's recommendation for control of brown patch. These fungicides will give best disease control when applied at the first signs of the disease.

ANTHRACNOSE *Colletotrichum graminicola*

BACK in 1953, diseased annual meadow-grass plants from a cricket square in Birmingham were examined at the STRI and the first case of anthracnose was recorded in the UK.

At the time it was described as a rare and unimportant disease. Now, it may be found in many golf greens and, in swards consisting largely of annual meadow-grass, may cause significant damage.

The first symptoms of attack by anthracnose to watch out for are leaves of infected plants turning yellow or even red. Similar symptoms can also be seen in annual meadow-grass when it is under stress. However, diseased plants, which can occur individually or in patches, are blackened and matted at the base and are consequently easily removed from the turf surface (Figure 2).



Figure 3: Globules of 'squidge' on fine turf

If the outer leaf sheaths of infected plants are peeled back then the black reproductive structures (acervuli) of *C. graminicola* can be seen - a diagnostic character used to positively identify the disease.

Anthrachnose is considered to be a 'biological indicator', i.e. its presence actually indicates that turf conditions, in certain respects, are poor. The disease usually only appears where turf fertility is inadequate and where compaction restricts the supply of air to the grass roots.

Long lasting control of anthracnose can be achieved only by rectifying these predisposing conditions. If the disease is present, the turf fertility, particularly in regard to nitrogen, should be increased during the summer months. Compaction, a problem at many golf clubs due to the ever increasing rounds of golf being played, can be alleviated by Verti-draining and slitting operations. If these control measures are deployed, the anthracnose will be contained.

In situations where anthracnose is causing serious problems, fungicides may be considered and, if used correctly, will give some control. However, the disease will soon return if the predisposing conditions are not rectified.

ALTHOUGH not strictly speaking diseases, as they do not harm plant tissues directly, the activities of certain fungi and algae (tiny one-celled plants with no true stems or leaves in turf may cause problems by rendering the surface very slippery which, especially on sloping ground, can present a dangerous hazard to golfers.

Despite slime moulds and squidge having a very similar end result, they differ in the way they actually cause the problem.

Slime mould fungi, e.g. *Mucilago spongiosa*, colonise grass leaves and produce masses of spore capsules surrounded by slime.

In contrast, algae, e.g. *Nostoc* spp prefer to colonise bare areas in the turf that may have been originally caused by disease or excessive wear, such as on approaches to greens. These algae can multiply rapidly, resulting in a dense algal slime within the turf (Figure 3). If these areas are walked on then the algae rise to the surface, stick to one's shoes and are exceedingly 'squelchy' - hence the common name for this problem - squidge.

Both slime moulds and squidge develop in shaded, damp, poorly drained turf. Where infection is heavy the slime produced can be brushed into heaps and taken away. Areas can then be treated with calcined sulphate of iron, dichlorophen (Super Mosstox) or cresylic acid (Brays Emulsion) which will suppress the slime moulds or algae for a time. The problem can only be prevented in the long term by attention to drainage and sand top dressings to keep the turf

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RESEARCH UPDATE

APPOINTMENTS



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RESEARCH UPDATE

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YELLOW TUFT *Sclerophthora macrospora*

surface as dry as possible. YELLOW tuft is widespread in the USA and New Zealand, but is as yet very rare here, and consequently not familiar even to experienced greenkeepers. The term yellow tuft has been used for more than 50 years to describe certain symptoms in bentgrasses (Figure 4) for which many possible causes, such as parasite nematodes, a viral infection or a physiological disorder have been suggested. However, research in the 1970's confirmed it to be a disease caused by *Sclerophthora macrospora*, a member of the downy mildew group of fungi.



Figure 4: Yellow tuft disease

The symptoms of yellow tuft to watch out for are small yellow patches, approximately 3 cm in diameter, consisting of a dense cluster of excessively tillered bentgrass shoots with few roots, which are consequently easily pulled from the turf. These symptoms are most prominent during late spring or autumn and as the spores

produced by *Sclerophthora macrospora* can actively swim in water and infect new plants, the disease is usually found in poorly drained areas. At present, yellow tuft is considered a novelty and not serious enough to warrant any specific control measures. If you see this disease on your greens we would be most interested to hear from you.

the Golf
Course

APPOINTMENTS

the Golf
Course

GARDENER

Up to £181.59 including London Weighting and bonus

Can you help us to make Wandsworth the 'Brighter Borough'? We are looking for an experienced gardener to maintain our parks and to carry out the day to day maintenance on one of our bowling greens.

Hours are 7.30 am to 4.30 pm Mon - Thurs, and 7.30 am to 2.30 pm Fri. A full driving licence would be preferred but is not essential.

The Leisure and Amenity Services Department is committed to making the Council's equal opportunity policy effective. Job applicants will be considered strictly on merit irrespective of race or colour.

Application forms from Leisure & Amenity Services Personnel Section, Town Hall, London. SW18 2PU. Telephone: 01 871 6361. Please quote ref. GC/1675. C loses 17th June.

Wandsworth an equal opportunity employer
All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disablement, race, sex or marital status.

Wandsworth
an equal opportunity employer

All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disablement, race, sex or marital status.

HEAD GREENKEEPER required in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Do you have:
- The skills and experience in motivating and communicating with a small team?

If you do:
You may be just the person we are trying to recruit. The successful person will be directly responsible to Mike Leary, Recreation Office

- A salary up to £10,230 p.a. (Incl)

PLUS

- A staff bungalow on site
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Application form an job description available from and returnable to:-
Julie Hitchcock, Leisure Services Department, Dacorum Borough Council, Civic Centre, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
Telephone: Hemel Hempstead 0442 228505.
Closing date: 2 weeks from publication date.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from registered disabled persons.



DACORUM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENTS

CHESTFIELD (WHITSTABLE) GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, soil/grass treatment, use and maintenance of machinery and ability to direct and motivate staff. Salary to be negotiated.

also

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

With similar experience as the above post except soil/grass treatment and ability to control staff.

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

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

CLEVELAND GOLF CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course maintenance have a thorough knowledge of modern course machinery and be capable of supervision and control of course staff. Previous experience on a links course a distinct advantage. Salary negotiable, no accommodation is provided. Membership of the BIGGA an advantage. Apply in writing, enclosing a full C.V. to:-

**The Secretary,
Cleveland Golf Club,
Queen Street,
Redcar,
Cleveland. TS10 1BT**



PRESTBURY GOLF CLUB

require an additional

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join their team

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

No accommodation available.

Apply in writing stating age and experience to:-

**The Secretary/Manager,
Prestbury Golf Club,
Cheshire,
SK10 4BJ**

COUNTY LOUTH GOLF CLUB



1892

**BALTRAY, DROGHEDA, CO. LOUTH
(RESIDENTIAL)**

require

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for Championship Links

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course maintenance, have a thorough knowledge of modern course machinery, supervision and control of course staff.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing to:-

**The Secretary,
County Louth Golf Club,
Baltray,
Drogheda,
County Lough, Ireland.**

APPOINTMENTS

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

required at

SONNING GOLF CLUB

It is envisaged that the successful applicant will have had several years experience as 1st Assistant, will be experienced in most aspects of course maintenance and have some knowledge of machine maintenance.

BIGGA wage scale applies.
Accommodation available.
Application with full C.V. to:-

**The Secretary,
Sonning Golf Club,
Duffield Road,
Sonning-on-Thames,
Berkshire.
RG4 0GJ**

THE HONOURABLE COMPANY

OF EDINBURGH GOLFERS

MUIRFIELD, GULLANE, EAST LOTHIAN

Due to the impending retirement of the present incumbent this famous golf club invites applications for the post of

COURSE MANAGER HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant for this prestigious appointment must have a sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping, with particular emphasis on links turf management. A practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery and the ability to lead and motivate his staff is essential. He will have responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of the golf course under the direction of the captain and committee.

An attractive package which includes a 3 bedroomed, centrally heated house adjacent to the course, car allowance and other benefits commensurate with the club of this standing is negotiable.

Written application with details of age, qualifications and experience to:-

**The Secretary,
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers,
Muirfield, Gullane,
East Lothian. EH31 2EG**

GREENKEEPER wanted

seeking enthusiastic greenkeepers to work on a 36 hole golf course in East Sussex. Will receive a vast amount of construction, grow-in and high level maintenance experience.
Send resumes to:-

**Ken Siems ,
Golf Course Superintendent,
148 High Street,
Uckfield,
East Sussex.
TN22 1AT**

ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess relevant qualifications and be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping and machinery maintenance.

Salary by negotiation. Accommodation could be provided.

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

**The Captain,
Ellesborough Golf Club,
Butlers Cross,
Aylesbury,
Bucks.
HP17 0TZ**

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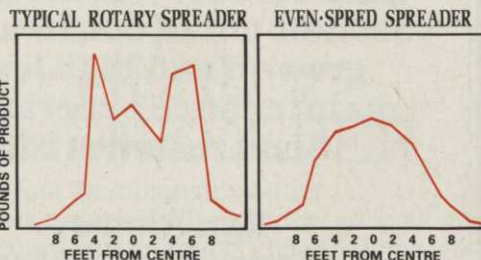
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For any further information contact one of the following branches.

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 Ripley Close
 Normanton
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 West Yorkshire
 WF6 1TB
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 Seven Hills Road
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 Buckinghamshire
 Tel: (0895) 832626/834198

South West
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 14 Fairfax Road
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 Tel: (0626) 834499

Midland & South Wales
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 Tel: (0299) 250087

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