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MAY 1988

& The International Greenkeeper

BULLETIN NO.54



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BIGGA UPDATE

AS I write these notes in mid-April following the Annual General Meeting, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the initial stages of the Association's development and look forward to the major events which will soon be upon us. Over an eight month period we have implemented the new structure, and the lines and methods of communication are beginning to become familiar to members. Over the next year or two, we must now make this structure work for the maximum benefit of members and use it as the

solid base on which the future development and progress of the Association can be built.

The Annual General Meeting held at York racecourse on March 23rd, was a well attended meeting and details of my annual report appear elsewhere in this issue. Additionally there were excellent contributions from the Chairman, Walter Woods on the Associations development to date; from Kevin Munt on the work of the Regions sub committee; from Bill Lawson on the Magazine sub committee; and from Cecil George on education.

In presenting the Annual accounts and Financial Report I made two fundamental points with significant implications for members:-

i) There is a long, difficult road ahead in terms of achieving financial independence. It is imperative that there is a concerted effort by all Sections to attract new members and improve the funding position in this respect whilst alternative sources of funding must also be sort.

ii) The balance of subscription income retained for the general funding of the Association is clearly inadequate. This was inevitable for 1988 given the need for a strong membership package, but the position will have to be closely re-examined in formulating the 1989 membership package.

In essence the aim is to achieve financial independence with effect from January 1st 1990, but this will not prove attainable without a concerted effort from all members and an understanding from all involved or connected with the Association, of our need for a sound financial base, in order that we can progress much needed developments with regard to both the enhancement of greenkeeping as a profession and specifically the future education and training of greenkeepers.

The proposal to adopt a revised Constitution was the other main matter for debate. This was approved and the Association now has a much

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FRONT COVER: St. Pierre, Chepstow scene of this month's Epson Matchplay Championship, the first UK European Tour event of the year and venue for the National Final of the ISEKI Greenkeepers Tournament in August.

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more concise Constitution which reflects the Association's development and progress to date and is much better suited to our needs in terms of organisation and management. Copies of the revised Constitution have been forwarded to Section Secretaries for use within the Sections. I would, however, draw members attention to section 5 (c) 1,2,3, and (d). This section sets out the conditions for both Life and Retired membership categories and should be studied by both Section Secretaries and individual members who feel they may meet the criteria set down.

It is to be hoped that future Annual General Meetings will be as well attended as the initial one and certainly it is important that each year all Sections ensure that they are represented at the meeting.

The Open Championship from 14th - 17th July will soon be with us and time is short for prospective bunker-rakers to register with David Golding. Accommodation will be provided as necessary. A recent visit to Lytham for discussions with Jimmy McDonald, the Course Manager, confirms that we have been allocated an excellent side - between the first tee and eighteenth green. This is an opportunity which must not be missed for the Association to make a real impact and our organisation is geared to this end.

Following the regional finals in May/June, the national final of the Iseki Tournament will be held at St. Pierre, Chepstow on 19th August. Those who know the course and facilities available will agree that this is an excellent choice for a national final. Section secretaries are requested to let me have the names and addresses of the regional finalists as soon as they become available, and these should be followed by the regional administrators letting me have details of the qualifiers for the national final immediately following

the regional events.

Included in this month's magazine, you will find a registration brochure for the National Tournament/ International Conference in Ayrshire at the end of September. Those intending to participate are requested to register with Chris Kennedy as soon as possible. We particularly need to have an indication of numbers for regions/ sections in order that arrangements can be put in hand to organise regional transport to get members up to Ayr. This transport will be included in the package costs, and I would repeat a point I made at the Annual General Meeting that taking into account everything that is being offered as part of the package, members are getting tremendous value for money.

Your regional administrator/ section secretary is now in possession of the brochure for the European Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, 18 - 20th January next year. These brochures have been widely distributed in the Trade and the initial response has been most encouraging. A Steering Committee representative of BIGGA, the Exhibition Organiser and the Trade has held its first meeting and detailed planning is underway. A series of educational seminars will be held in conjunction with the exhibition. Additional copies of the brochure and application forms are available direct from the Exhibition Organiser, Geo A Wright Exhibitions Limited - telephone (0533) 557449.

Looking further ahead into 1989, the Board of Manage-

ment has approved plans for a national conference to be held over three days in April and it is hoped to finalise a location shortly, whilst the national tournament will be held over three days in August - again details of location in the near future.

It goes without saying that these events will only be successful if supported by members and whilst not every member can get to every event, there does need to be a commitment from members generally to support wherever possible.

The dates for the 1989 GCSAA Conference and Show are 6th-13th February at the Anaheim Convention Centre, Anaheim, California and not as printed in the April issue. Will anyone interested in attending please contact me as soon as possible.

There has been a change of secretary in the North-West Section. The new incumbent is Mr. A. T. Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU - telephone 051-724-5412. Best wishes to Mark Lewis as he leaves for pastures new.

Finally your Board Members for the next year will be:-

SCOTLAND

Walter Woods - Jimmy Neilson

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Neil Thomas
Executive Director

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ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE following are extracts from Mr. Neil Thomas' Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting on 23rd March and published in the magazine for the general information of members.

MY first comments must be to say how delighted the Board of Management is to see so many members here today. This surely is an encouraging and positive sign of the interest in the new Association.

"For myself, I would first like to put the development of the Association into some perspective. I think it is too readily forgotten that the Association has only been formally constituted since 1st January last year and that there then followed a seven month period where the Board of Management was involved in resolving, both my appointment and that of the magazine's publisher. Certainly, this was a difficult period with members of the three previous associations anxious for developments and progress. I often feel that the efforts of the Board Members in steering the new Association through, often difficult waters are consistently under estimated and I would take this important occasion to publicly acknowledge their commitment in time and effort over a sustained period and to express my thanks for the support I have received from them all.

"Again, it has to be remembered that the office administration is not yet eight months old and I would venture to suggest that considerable and effective progress has been made in that time. Certainly these early months of the new Association have seen much time devoted to ensuring that a viable structure is established for the Association which will serve its needs in the years ahead. As you will be aware, some 24 sections were inherited from the old associations, spread across England, Scotland and Wales. The Constitution provided for the creating of five regions with Regional Boards to whom the sections would be affiliated. These Regional Boards are now established with each section having two representatives on its Regional Board. In addition, I saw the need for the appointment of regional administrators who would be the natural link from the Regions to myself. The five regional administrators have now been appointed and it is my intention to meet regularly with them after each round of Regional Board Meetings, which will be held four times a year. The Regional Boards will be responsible for nominating two regional representatives to sit on the Board of Management each year. The revised Constitution incorporates the structure I have outlined and you will be asked to approve this Constitution later this afternoon. Subject to this approval, therefore, a new Board of Management of ten members will be elected and will serve for the period running from the Annual General Meeting up to the next Annual General Meeting.

"After the first year, each Board Member will

serve for a two year period with one member per region standing down each year, although he can be renominated should the region so wish. This will allow for continuity at Board level. I believe there are already signs that the Regional Boards will contribute substantially to the levelling-up of standards within sections and enable those sections previously isolated to feel a part of the activity within the Association.

"My first meetings with the regional administrators have been most productive in establishing the general picture around the country and attacking particular problem areas in this early stage of our development.

"So, with the structure established, what then is your Association setting out to achieve? Certainly, in accordance with the Constitutional objectives, it will be aiming to promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping and to assist and encourage the proficiency of members. I believe a strong membership package has been implemented since January with members now enjoying the benefits of a professional Association, particularly in terms of legal and insurance protections, benefits which have not generally been enjoyed in the past. The details of the membership package will by now be familiar to you.

MAIN PRIORITY

"Having provided members with substantial personal benefits, the Association is now turning its attention to its main priority - the education and training of greenkeepers and this is an area I will concentrate on in this report. It is a large and complex area and one which has suffered from a piecemeal approach in the past. Now, the formation of a national Association creates the opportunity for real progress in this key area. There has to be a strong link and a consistency of policy between the three main interested bodies, i.e. the Royal and Ancient Greenkeeping Panel, the Greenkeepers Training Committee and the newly-established BIGGA Education Sub-Committee. I serve on the Greenkeeping Panel and the administration of the Greenkeepers Training Committee has recently passed to myself in my capacity as General Administrator to that Committee. With myself in a pivotal role, therefore, co-ordination and consistency of policy should be possible forthwith. Coinciding with this, funds are now becoming available at long last for greenkeeper training with contributions due from the Royal and Ancient and the four Home Golf Unions. One hopes that this will be a permanent commitment, on an annual basis, on the part of the Golf Unions and that the 2p levy per golfer will be increased as the development and progress of greenkeeper education becomes apparent. It is therefore more important now than ever that common aims are pursued and sound delegated systems introduced to ensure the pursuance of progressive education policies. >>

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"There will most certainly be a need for patience on the part of members. What then are the problems we face as, with the benefit of a year's experience, we look to the future?"

1) First there is a need for a co-ordinated approach with regard to the eight approved colleges. Ongoing discussions on syllabus content are needed with the colleges and there is a need for the GTC and BIGGA to be represented at all meetings of the colleges' local Liaison Committees as well as at the College Lecturers' Liaison Group. The formulation of a broadly accepted common syllabus, with content of an acceptable standard, is a pre-requisite to progress.

2) Secondly, there is a need for the GTC and BIGGA to actively be involved in education in general, ensuring that the voice of greenkeeping is heard loud and clear. GTC and BIGGA need to be targeting and attending key committees and bodies to ensure automatic consultation on matters concerning greenkeeping and golf course maintenance.

3) Thirdly, training courses should be established in accordance with perceived needs over and above City Guilds or Scotec. The development of intensive in-house training courses is essential. Again, management training for head greenkeepers is seen as an area of real need. Indeed, should we be moving towards a recognised BIGGA Diploma and going out and finding colleges prepared to set it up? Or even, in the longer term, organising and running our own courses?

4) Again, there must be an ability to respond quickly and positively to new developments. Current pesticides legislation is a good example where the approach to date has been adhoc and I am currently engaged in attempting to introduce some co-ordination to the process.

5) Certainly, there is a need for the updating of GTC administration. There is an opportunity for an innovative approach which can set standards for the next decade. Through BIGGA concerted efforts are being made to improve the professional image of greenkeepers and nowhere is this more important than in the field of education. Some years ago, a greenkeeper training film was produced which is now out of date. Time and money spent on a new video presentation for use at colleges and seminars would be a worthy investment. This is just one idea for the future which needs detailed consideration.

6) Again there is a stated need for validation of colleges in general over and above the current approved colleges. There are regular applications from other colleges for approval. There is a need both to assess such applications and determine the criteria to be applied in the assessment process.

7) The question must be asked as to how do we know the current expenditure through GTC and future such expenditure through BIGGA will be

correctly channelled? In the past, the limited resources available have been spent on producing improved college literature. Now with monies becoming available, it is essential that informed decisions are taken in relation to expenditure. There is a need to assess the situation and make recommendations to the respective Committees.

"Having looked at some of the problems, we must now consider the way ahead. I submitted a report in relation to future greenkeeper education and training to the Greenkeeping Panel on 10th March. The Panel has now made certain recommendations which will be considered by the GTC at its meeting on 26th April. This is not the time to elaborate on those recommendations, but I am hopeful that the problem areas I have outlined can begin to be tackled at an early date.

"It can be stated quite clearly therefore that the Association will in no way be merely a golfing society. This is not to underplay the role that section tournaments have in bonding members together, providing a competitive element and allowing for the exchange of views and ideas. However, I do wonder whether quality is sometimes sacrificed for quantity. In any event, the golfing side will continue. However, the Association is affirming that it will be setting policies and objectives and at the top of the list will be the development of education and training for greenkeepers. There has been much lip-service paid to education in the past but no concerted effort. Now is the time for action and we hope that all golfing bodies will lend support in the future to the development of progressive greenkeeper training policies. Nobody should be under any illusion that there is anything but a long and difficult road ahead. As I say, we shall be looking for support within golf but if this is not forthcoming then, as an Association, we must be prepared to go it alone and approach the development of greenkeeper education with vision, commitment and enthusiasm.

"If I can turn briefly to those who, from varying points of view, have an interest in the Association and greenkeeping in general without being full members. The Board has established two other categories of membership - Trade and Associate. Associate members will be those who, although not greenkeepers, have a close interest in greenkeeping. They could be chairmen of greens committees, secretaries of clubs or maybe college lecturers. Whoever, they will be welcome as will be the knowledge and advice they will be able to contribute to the Association. Trade membership is now on a national and individual basis - there are no local or regional membership categories. Naturally, those joining the Associate and Trade categories will be given first consideration in terms of participation in and attendance at BIGGA functions, eg. conferences, seminars and tournaments. They will be able to use their membership on a national basis and will not be confined to attending only their immediate local section. This will in no way interfere with any existing relationships enjoyed by Trade members with particular sections. All this will allow for the enhancement of the Association's professional

image as well as ensuring that in trade sponsored events and tournaments, there is a common approach across the country. At present, trade sponsored tournaments are under review and I am talking with individual companies to discover areas of mutual benefit and how best they can assist the Association - I would certainly hope that we can interest such companies in the education and training aspects outlined earlier on, as qualified greenkeepers will have greater knowledge of machinery and equipment and be more discerning in their choice, thereby benefiting those companies with top-quality products to sell. I do feel that the trade in general, with some notable exceptions, has tended to sit back in recent months and await developments, being slow to realise the benefits accruing from their involvement with one national Association. There are signs that this is now changing and I look forward to ongoing discussions with the various companies.

"What then are the Association's plans for the immediate future? It promises to be an exciting year. It is important that an impetus is given to the new regional structure and that members quickly identify with their regions as well as their sections. To this end, there are encouraging signs of the new Regional Boards arranging conferences and seminars on a regional basis. Alongside these, it has been decided to run a limited sponsored regional golf tournament with a national final. Not, I would hasten to add, with the primary aim of contributing to more golf, but as a means of establishing regional identification during this first full membership year.

"The Open Championship at Lytham will see a major BIGGA involvement where we will carry responsibility for the bunker-raking duties. We have received excellent co-operation from David Hill, the Championship Secretary, in terms of meeting our requests for improved facilities. In addition to the greenkeeper marquee, we will be provided with a portakabin for office and storage facilities and another for drying-out purposes, as well as a radio link with the course manager. As a further safeguard against the elements, BIGGA umbrellas are now available as you will have seen and will be provided at the Open as needed. I visited Lytham last week and our site, immediately adjacent to the first tee, is an excellent one. In short, our whole approach will be a professional one and a major opportunity to project the new Association.

"Two major Association events are planned. The last week of September will see the Association holding a national tournament and international conference over a five day period in Ayrshire. The tournament will be based at the attractive Ayr Belleisle course and the conference will be held at the Concert Hall in Troon. The Scottish Region has established a sub-committee to plan and organise the week and it is important that we have maximum support from greenkeepers. With coach trips and visits arranged for wives and girlfriends, and an intensive stamina-sapping social programme promised each evening, I am sure that it will prove an interesting and enjoyable week for all concerned.

"In January of next year, BIGGA has entered into

agreement with a major exhibition organiser for the holding of a European Turf Management Exhibition within the excellent facilities at Harrogate Conference and Exhibition Centre. This will be held over a three day period and, given the hotel infrastructure in Harrogate, the opportunity will be taken for the Association to organise a series of educational seminars to run in conjunction with the exhibition. I believe this new initiative promises much for the future and I look forward with anticipation to it. The brochure for the exhibition is now available to Trade companies and can be seen on the display board today.

"So, with the regional tournament, participation in the Open Championship, the national tournament and international conference and the European Turf Management Exhibition, we cannot be accused of standing still! We have taken professional advice in terms of public relations and promotion and, quite frankly, nearly everyone has a different viewpoint. We should do this that way or this way and at this time of the year or that. The association has now decided on its plans for the next 12 months. The situation will be reviewed as we go along - don't expect us to get it all right in one go (although it will be nice if we do!), but if we learn from the experiences, then that will prove progressive for the future.

INVOLVEMENT

"In all the events I have mentioned, their success or otherwise will ultimately be measured by the input from the membership. To make a success of this Association, it really is not enough to say "I've paid my subscription, got my membership card and now I can go and play golf when and where I like". This will not progress the education and training aspects I have already spoken about, nor will it help create a situation within golf, whether it be within the club, the golf union, or even the R and A, whereby the Greenkeepers Association is considered to be a professional body of service to its members, and contributing substantially to an improvement in the quality and condition of golf courses and to the standard of greenkeeping in general. No, this will come from each and every member doing his part in the Association and not leaving it all to the usual ten per cent who seem to end up with all tasks. The natural leaders and committee men need to come forward and serve the Association in whatever capacity they feel best suited to by temperament and ability. The individual member needs to involve himself; participating in his section events and in the national events I have already detailed. At each and every level, current members need to be seeking NEW members. Our membership figures are already at the level they were at the end of 1987 - but this is no cause for complacency and still leaves a tremendous number of greenkeepers not involved with the Association and possibly not even aware of our existence. The task for 1988 is to get to these greenkeepers and take them onboard.

"I hope, therefore, that I have demonstrated in

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this report that much is already happening and much is planned. Within the Association there is enthusiasm and optimism. Outside the Association, it must be said that we have some way to go. We will need to talk to the other major Organisations within golf, seeking to see how best we can co-operate in promoting the cause of greenkeepers. Although critical voices can be heard, it is my view that the way forward will include a professional working relationship with both the PGA and the PGA European Tour. They are often ready to talk of the need for better greenkeeping - now surely is their opportunity to join with us in ensuring this happens. We will certainly need to make many more golf clubs aware of the Association's existence and the benefits of membership for its greenkeepers. We will need to establish positive relations with the media. In relationships with

other organisations and companies, both within and outside golf, there will be no short cuts or doing what is expedient - the Board will make decisions it considers to be in the best interests of the Association - however difficult these may prove on occasions. The quality of golf depends on the course and its condition. This is all-important. The greenkeeper is therefore important within the game although this has not always been reflected in past attitudes. The new Association will seek to establish a professionalism throughout greenkeeping and an enhanced status for greenkeepers within the game in general. We will listen, talk and take advice but in the final analysis, we must be allowed to be independent and make our own way forward. I feel sure that 1988 will be a year of real progress and development".

Neil Thomas
Executive Director.

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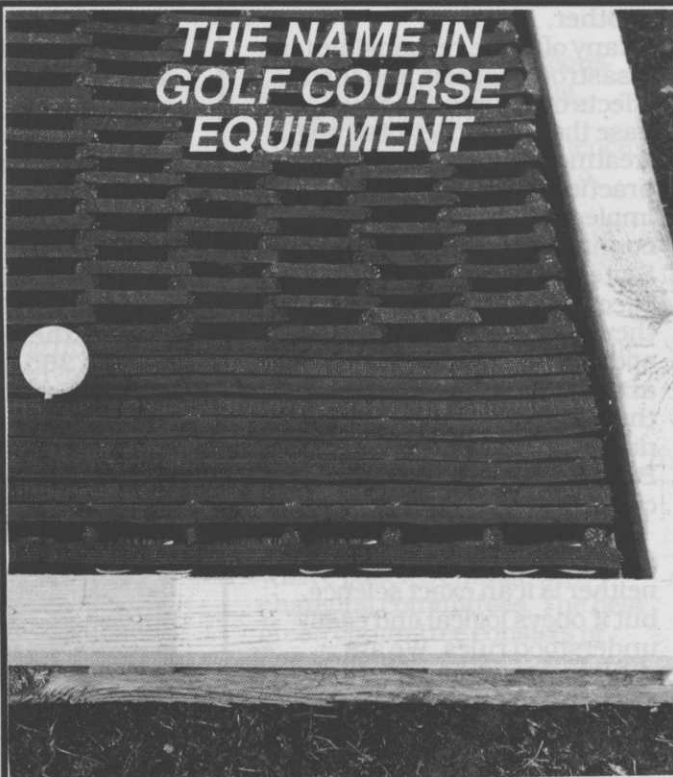
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GREENKEEPING practices and, with them, the condition of our courses, seem very vulnerable to a cyclic pattern of slow recovery from disasters directly caused by the enthusiasms of the unqualified, only to rapidly deteriorate again on a ten year pattern, sacrificed yet again to the short sighted interests of minorities who have neither the training nor the understanding to see the whole picture. Virtually none of these self styled experts can even identify one grass from another.

Many of those responsible for disastrous policies and their effects on course condition base their advocacy of wrong treatments on theories and practices they have seen implemented in other countries, notably the United States. Such policies may be effective for those areas where they have evolved to meet special problems, e.g. severely arid conditions, as found in the Middle East, but they are not relevant to conditions in Britain and most European countries.

Greenkeeping in Britain is not a complicated study, neither is it an exact science, but it obeys logical and easily understood rules. We are concerned, admittedly under wide ranging conditions, with the cultivation and encouragement of two grass species, fescue and bent and the discouragement of a third, *Poa Annua*. A weed has been described as "a very successful plant out of place" and with its track record of colonisation of bare ground and taking over fine turf areas and its ubiquity all over temperate zones of the world, *Poa Annua* must be one of the most successful weeds of all time!

When discussing criteria of quality - in every aspect of life let alone greenkeeping - there is a choice between laying down the law without explanation or arguing the reasons behind statements, which may create more confusion than conviction.

However if we talk about good and bad greenkeeping methods, and good and bad course condition, explanations and definitions are unavoidable. IT IS THE END RESULT RATHER THAN THE METHOD ITSELF WHICH MUST BE OUR YARDSTICK.

Perfection is difficult to achieve, but it is clearly impossible if there is no agreement on the definition of perfection. The first step must be to define these standards in the broadest terms.

The simplest definition is that good golf courses should provide ideal conditions of play all the year round, or as near to 365 days a year as severe frost or snow cover permits, but remember we are talking about Britain. Good conditions mean fine textured, firm yet resilient, dry and well drained putting surfaces; tees

which are almost identical to greens save only in height of cut; and fairways which provide fine wiry turf, giving tight lies, only from which can control i.e. backspin, be imparted to the ball, since if grass gets between ball and clubface, the end result is a flier and no control.

Sadly these conditions do not always appeal to all members. We are told in a dry summer that the greens are too firm and why isn't the water, for which the members paid so much, used to make the greens hold better? If those in charge give in to these demands the result is thatch and many weeks of temporary greens in winter.

It is beyond argument that annual meadow grass cannot, even in the mildest of winters, give good surfaces, especially towards the end of winter. In fact, the more open the winter, the more play and wear, and the thinner and bumpier the turf becomes. This is totally unsurprising as annual meadow grass has, despite its varied forms, a very short life-cycle and by the end of winter is dying on its feet. It also has



"The encouragement of two grasses fescue and bent"

by Jim Arthur



"Good golf course should provide ideal conditions of play all the year round"

soft non-fibrous leaves and wears badly, as well as being susceptible to disease, not least the dreaded Anthracnose or Die Back, which hits annual meadow grass under low fertility conditions, thus giving those in charge the impossible choice between feeding and ensuring totally dominant annual meadow grass greens or continuing with a sensibly restricted nitrogen-only fertiliser policy, ending up, temporarily at least, with bare greens and irate members.

Assessment of quality is difficult because there are so many different standards. The tournament professional wants something vastly different from the average member and cares not one whit if the greens are killed by shaving them to achieve his ideas of perfection for one week out of fifty two. The poorer player likes holding greens and, perhaps being a fair weather golfer, is unimpressed by arguments about the inevitable corollary of soft thatchy bogs all winter. The spectator-golfer comments favourably on colour - the "nice and green" school. I fear it is only the minority who value the old standards as pearls beyond price, and indeed such traditional standards are getting harder to find each year.

Courses tarted up for professional events may look attractive to those brought

up to understand that "green is great" and indeed such presentation may hide a host of major troubles. Sadly, however, as troughs invariably follow peaks, the penalty for such artificiality is to see serious deterioration for many weeks or months afterwards.

Having failed to achieve fast greens by cultivating fine grasses, we then find demands by ignorant golfers to shave greens down to 1/8th inch for months on end in a misguided and vain attempt to emulate the unrealistically fast putting surfaces manufactured for televised tournament golf worldwide. These people fail to take into account the vastly different climate, financial resources, intensity of play, staffing and machinery levels and a host of other factors in other golfing countries and that such shaving is not possible for prolonged periods anywhere in the golfing world.

It is, I think, safe to say that in Britain there are more courses in poor order for some part of the year than consistently play well all the year round. The wrong reasons are advanced by many for this regrettable state of affairs. We are told that the all year round excellence of such courses as Walton Heath and Lindrick, to quote but two, is due to their being on sandy free draining soil". The only sand at Walton Heath is in the bunkers and the greens at both courses are

laid out on heavy calcareous clay, admittedly overlying chalk or limestone.

The real reason for excellence at any course is not hard to find. It is, in one word, continuity - a combination of members wanting the best and one amiable dictator seeing that they get it. That dictator may be a course manager, if he has the power, a devoted and permanent chairman/convener of a green committee, or even secretaries or the chairman of a proprietary club. Perfection in my experience is never found where policies change with changing committees. The best green committee consists of one person.

Howard Keele who asked to be chairman of green at his local club, on the grounds that to anyone who could sort out J.R.Ewing, handling the average club member would be child's play. He accepted, provided that the green committee was made up of uneven numbers, and three was too many!

Sadly our Horatios, subject to constant complaints and yet receiving very little praise when things go well or even recognition of their time and energy consuming tasks, eventually despair and go, and then the snapping terriers at their heels see a God-sent opportunity to impose their ideas, and the result is disaster and another course is lost.

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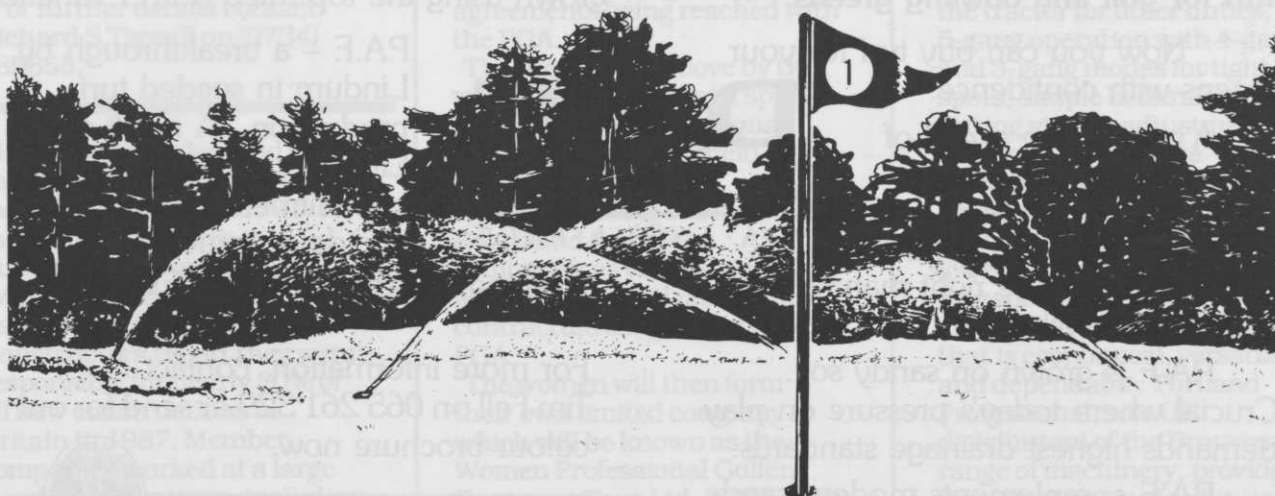
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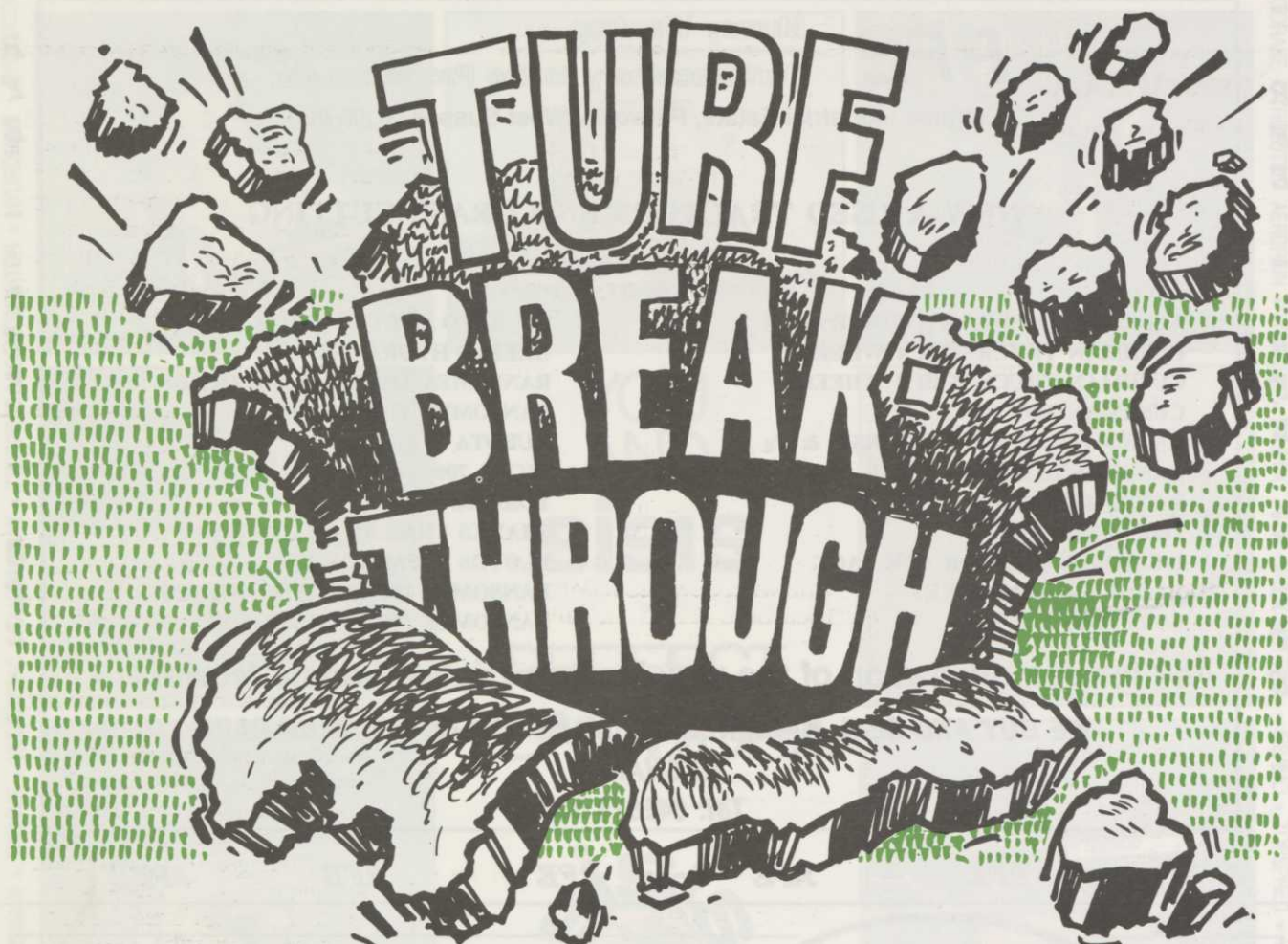
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THE increasing demand for the game in UK and Europe is meaning increased activity for those who specialise in building golf courses.

Members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors report they were responsible for nearly 80% of all new constructions in Britain in 1987. Member companies worked at a large number of locations, including Lytham St. Annes, St. Andrews, Goodwood (Brian D Pierson), The Berkshire, Gosfield Lake, High Wycombe (Golf Landscapes), Collingtree (Southern Golf), Kings Langley, Goring and Streatley (Land Unit Construction).

Members also worked extensively in Europe, Austria, West Germany, Portugal, Greece and France.

Optimism is high for a busy 1988 both at home and abroad, and perhaps most notably Golf Landscapes will build the new South Course at Wentworth, and Brian Pierson will further alter some of St Andrews hallowed holes.

The Association has been enlarged by the addition of new provisional members in Blakedown Landscapes and Sportsworks, from Scotland and with new associate members in Patrick Tallack, Owl Consulting (Hong Kong), In Turf, Wright Rain and Howard Swan, and all members now look forward to an exciting year.

Further information from: The Secretary, BAGCC (0245) 48640.

All change for the ladies

THE Women's Professional Golf Association has been given the go ahead to establish an independent company, subject to contract agreements being reached with the PGA.

The break-away move by the women was agreed at a special meeting of the Professional Golfers' Association held at The Belfry, subject to agreement being reached by the Board and the WPGA committee as to the transfer of assets and the release of the contractual obligations of the PGA.

The women will then form their own limited company which will be known as the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour Ltd. (WPG European Tour) and will operate out of the PGA's Headquarters until it can establish its own offices.

The site of the tour's new offices has yet to be confirmed following several approaches from golf clubs throughout the

country, but it is hoped it will be finalised as soon as possible and certainly long before the end of the eight month transitional period in December.

Joe Flanagan, former director of the Carrolls Irish Open, has been appointed as Tour Executive of the WPG European Tour.

A new mower

NEW from Turfland Professional Ltd is the Brouwer 5-gang tractor mounted mower.

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The company were naturally reticent when asked how this has been achieved, saying that it is as a result of carefully husbandry, the judicious use of herbicides and much time and patience.

For more information on PAF contact Tim Fell (065261) 329.

Producing professionals

THE National Turfgrass Council is holding a workshop at Pershore College, Worcs, on Friday 17th June entitled "Producing professionals: Turfgrass Education in the '90's". Many changes are taking place in the national system of training and education and leisure and recreation management is expanding both in numbers and skills. The education committee of the NTC has been closely concerned with several recent developments, including the preparation of a

BTEC diploma in turf science and sportsground management and the integration into managerial training of the new award "Master of Sportsturf Management (IOG)".

Here is an opportunity to find out what is happening in turfgrass education today. The cost is £29 (inc VAT).

Details from: John Shildrick, Secretary NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, W. Yorks (0274) 565 131.

THE initial three months has seen an extremely encouraging beginning to Howard Swan's management practice.

Construction management continues for Bovis International at the new Sao Lourenco Golf Course, Quinta do Lago, Portugal, which opens for play this summer. In conjunction with this, a management contract to administer the maintenance of the course is being effected, with Peter Wisbey as golf course superintendent. Also at Quinta do Lago, Howard Swan Ltd are managing the construction of a further nine holes for Shell Portugal which will bring the courses in this prestigious resort to 54 holes.

Elsewhere in the Algarve, a nine hole course at Pinecliffs, for golf course architects Hawtree & Son and including a Sheraton Hotel, is being built under this company's management. Superintendent Steve Richardson, late of Cobtree Manor Golf Club, in Kent, is supervising the preparation and planting prior to becoming the managing superintendent.

They have also secured contracts for the construction management of two new

courses in West Germany. One, near Stuttgart, for German golf course architect, Reinhold Weisshaupt, is about to begin and will be supervised by David Lucas, until recently golf course manager at the Tytherington club, Macclesfield.

The company has also been engaged to build Turkey's first golf course for Hilton Hotels International near Izmir, some 400 miles south of Istanbul. The architects for the new country club are Hawtree & Son, in association with Land Design Research Inc., and works will commence in June.

New executive director at PGA

JOHN LINDSEY, the 41 year old businessman who has been involved in golf organisation and promotion for nearly twenty years, has been appointed the new executive director of the PGA, starting his new role at National Headquarters at The Belfry on May 9th.

His most recent role was as the tournament manager to initiate the Dunhill Cup.

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "One of the first things that has to be done is to restore the feeling that the PGA is the overall body responsible for the welfare of all its members whether the newest young assistant or the oldest senior member, and also to restore its eminent position in the game and to take advantage of the boom the game is currently enjoying in Europe for the benefit of the Association. I would like to see the PGA set the standards for those who make a living from golf."

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NOTEBOOK...

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staff, guaranteeing batch production consistency, maintaining the essential optimum particle size distribution which can be consistently repeated to meet customer requirements. With three production centres and five regional branches throughout England and Wales, Supaturf say supplies are readily available to be delivered either bagged or bulk at competitive prices.

Arsenal launched by Chipman

CHIPMAN Limited have launched their new herbicide, Arsenal XL.

Which contains Imazapyr and Atrazine for total weed control in a wide variety of situations.

Imazapyr is the first new total herbicide in the UK for over twenty years. Its unique chemistry only effects amino acids found in plants and not

in humans or animals.

Arsenal XL is approved for use on an extremely wide range of weeds, many of which are becoming resistant to conventional herbicides. Arsenal XL is available for conventional application and a special CDA formulation has also been developed.

Contact Chipman on Horsham (0403) 60341 or Harrogate (0423) 68658 for your free information pack.

New reps

SUPATURF PRODUCTS have appointed three additional field sales representatives. Clare Atkinson has joined the Supaturf southern branch covering the counties of Surrey and Berkshire. Robert Bone, a widely respected figure in the north east of England has joined Supaturf north as local authority manager and, Michael Heath has taken up the position of area rep in the north west, covering the counties of Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales.

Award

CHRIS SMITH and his team from Jacobsen/Textron Ltd., Kings Lynn, Norfolk, won an outstanding achievement award from Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. for exceptional performance in their first full year of UK branch operation.



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Workshop at National Turf Council

THE recreational use of farmland is an attractive alternative to agricultural production, but a new sports development requires skilful planning, construction and management if it is not to be an expensive failure.

The National Turfgrass Council, the National Farmers' Union and the Sports Council are arranging a workshop on the "Recreational diversification of farmland" at the NAC, Stoneleigh on Tuesday 24 May. This will be the first major workshop at which turfgrass experts and experienced amenity grass managers

will explain some of the pitfalls and plus-points in constructing golf courses and other specialized sports facilities.

The principal speaker will be the Rt Hon John Gummer, MP, Minister of State for Agriculture. Supporting speakers from the Sports Council, NFU and banking will set the scene, followed by turfgrass construction and management experts.

Further information of the workshop from The Secretary, NTC, 3, Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ Tel: (0274) 565131 or (0535) 273188 (eve).

New man

JOHN ARTLETT has been appointed sales and marketing director of Victa (UK) Ltd. John comes to Victa from Wilkinson Sword and has a background of engineering, sales, marketing,

design and public relations. He can be contacted at Victa's head office at Basingstoke.

THERMAY STA-BRITE Products Ltd. are pleased to welcome Chris Sharp as their new sales manager.

A RENOVATION service has been launched to help extend the life of flags.

The idea comes from manufacturers Flags & Pennants, London, who believe that many flags damaged in winter storms can be refurbished, thus saving considerable replacement costs. F & P say they can save between one half and two-thirds of the price of a new flag.

Under the scheme, F & P provide damage repair, re-hemming, replacement rope and toggle and dry-clean, all within a fixed price. Flags up to 4ft 6in long cost £10 each; up to 6ft long cost £12.50; and over 6ft long cost £15. These figures exclude VAT and return postage. A quantity discount will be quoted for five or more flags.

The service is being provided by F & P's production unit based at Grenestede House, Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex.



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AROUND THE GREEN



BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Wales Section

Mike Wilson, Head Greenkeeper at Ashburnham Golf Club won the West of Wales Alliance on his home course with a one over par score of 73 to win the title by two strokes. Mike got to the turn in 35 but for a disappointing finish would have captured the crown by a much bigger margin. If anybody needs any item of uniform, please can they let me know so that I can order it. Also, if there is anything to be put in the Journal, please can you forward it to me. Golf dates to be noted are as follows:
14th June Southerndown - Secretaries v Greenkeepers 1.00 pm start
15th June Long Ashton - Regional Iseki Tournament. Qualifiers will have qualified at Rolls of Monmouth on 13th April and will be notified of arrangements at a date nearer the Tournament.
7th July Royal Porthcawl 18 holes, 1.00 start
15th September Fairwood Park 27 holes, 10.00 start
October 5th St. Pierre South Wales v South West, 12.30 pm.

Devon and Cornwall Section

The Section's last meeting was held at Yelverton Golf Club on 1st March. We arrived to be met with a thin covering of snow on the heathland of Dartmoor and a keen North-Westerly wind. A few of our hardier members attempted to play golf after receiving assurances from Steve Redman, the Head Greenkeeper, that the snow would soon go. About twenty of our less hardy members, after warming up with gallons of coffee and well wrapped against the elements, walked around the course with Steve as our guide. En route we discussed a variety of topics ranging from problems specific to heathland through to observations and suggestions on how our playing members were trying to hit the ball in the strong wind. Back at the Clubhouse, the bar was opened and circulation duly restored. Cards for the

morning's golf were checked and results were as follows:

May & Baker Assistants Shield - 1st A. Woolnough (Teignmouth GC) 2nd J. Breyley (Churston GC) 3rd W. Potter (East Devon GC) Supaturf Cup - Head Greenkeepers and Trade Members 1st T. Pipe (Honiton GC) 2nd M. Pike (Elfordleigh GC) 3rd K. Stuart (Stanley AF West Ltd)
Fifty-two members sat down to a good meal. The afternoon talk was given, for the first time in our history, by a lady, Sue Goodfellow, on the Ecology of a Golf Course. Thank you Sue for an informative talk and discussion. Our thanks also go to Steve for the very good condition of the course and to the inside staff for looking after us.

B. J. Summers

Best wishes for the future go from our Section to Ken Luxton who has recently retired after being Head Greenkeeper of the prestigious East Devon Golf Club for the past eighteen years. Ken, a popular and active member of our Section from its foundation, began as a caddy at the East Devon Golf Club in 1938. He went on to join the RAF as a Flight Mechanic for the next seven and a half years, managing to put in over 2,000 flying hours. The Sunderland flying boats were Ken's main charges during his career. On leaving the Services he returned to Devon to work as a Groundsman and Gardener at the Bickton College for the following five years. His next move was to become Groundsman at the Exmouth Grammar School from where he left to start as Assistant Greenkeeper at East Devon Golf Club. After gaining valuable greenkeeping experience, Sidmouth Golf Club were to benefit from Ken's expertise for the next five years. However, Ken's heart was at Budleigh Salterton where he accepted the Head Greenkeeper's position on November 5th 1970 until his retirement in 1988. During his time at East Devon, Ken built or enlarged tees at every hole, adding a total of 3,000 square yards of new teeing area, certainly a bonus for the ever increasing traffic which all clubs are experiencing. He

also built new twelfth and sixteenth greens.

As with all greenkeepers, Ken has had many amusing incidents over the years, two of which his staff mentioned to me.

I am sure most people will have heard of the seven bore, the tidal wave that enables people to surf many miles inland on the River Severn at certain times of the year. Well, Ken created his own when his water tank gave up after many years of service and 12,000 gallons surged down a right of way by the course before making a spectacular leap from the cliffs onto Budleigh beach many feet below!!! The second incident occurred when Ken, playing in a fourball, watched aghast as having all driven a young lad appeared from the gorse beside the fairway and proceeded to collect the balls, which were also the best drives of the round, only to disappear from whence he came. Ken, still a man of action, rapidly disappeared hot on the trail of the youngster only to re-emerge some minutes later hat askew, bleeding from gorse scratches to inform his startled and by now much amused partners that he came within arms length of grabbing 'the young gentleman' when he could follow no further through a small hole in the boundary fence!!! I am sure Ken won't mind me relating these incidents and concluding by reminding him not to forget us but to continue to join us at our meetings where he will be very welcome. Perhaps it might be a quirk of fate, but it leaves me to finish these Section notes on Ken's retirement by welcoming Ralph Moore, who is at the other end of his career, to our Section. Ralph, Jack Moore's son, is leaving Fulwell Golf Club to take up the Head Greenkeeper's position at Stover Golf Club where I am sure he will make his mark.

B. Pile

SOUTH EAST REGION

London Section

For various reasons there has not been an article for the London Section here lately, but I shall try to make it a regular feature in future.

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AROUND THE GREEN

We have been relying on the local newsletter to keep our members informed. It is most unfortunate that the first paragraph of the second letter did not read as well as it might have done and we will try to see that it does not happen again.

The Spring Meeting will have been played by now at Moor Park. This proved to be a most popular venue and thanks go to John Edwards and his staff, also the Club for their hospitality.

Next month, we have Summer Meeting at Bush Hill Park with a starting time of 4.00 pm.

This is on the 1st June. Also the Grand Summer Ball will be held at Aldenham Golf Club 7.00 pm start on 10th June. Please contact me now if you would like to go to either of these - there might be a vacancy.

I am now taking names for our Summer Meeting at Pinner Hill on 23rd August at 4.00pm.

The Summer League should be in progress now and I can take this opportunity to ask those playing to watch the 'play by dates' in order that the League runs smoothly. It would be unfair if Nick and Jes have to start chasing people as they have put in so much work already.

M. Peters

Kent Section

The Kent Section's Seminar on 23rd March was well attended and delegates were treated to a wide and varied coverage of topics related to greenkeeping. Thanks go to the speakers for their time and effort. It was nice to see so many Golf Clubs represented at the Seminar, not only from Kent but also several delegates travelled in from East Sussex. It was also good to see other officials apart from greenkeepers at the event, though those who attended as members of Greens Committees were hopefully not offended by Brian Pierson's remark that 'A camel is a horse designed by a Greens Committee'. They seemed to take it in good part anyway!! Now that this appears in print, hopefully I will not get the blame of his business suddenly goes into decline!!

Thanks go to the Catering Staff for the

lovely dinner at West Malling and also for looking after us so well. Also thanks to the members of the Trade for their support at the event.

On 6th July at 3.00 pm there will be an informal afternoon's golf at Sene Valley. There will, however, be a slightly competitive edge to the proceedings as the winner and runner-up from this event qualify to play in the Jacobsen Tournament at Hunstanton on 11th October.

Dates for the diary:

29th June Wentworth Golf Club 18 holes, Iseki Regional Final.

6th July Sene Valley Golf Club 3.00 pm, Jacobsen Qualifier (2 to qualify)

14-17th July Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club British Open, raking bunkers

2nd August Hankley Common Golf Club 36 holes, Management Trophy (entries to Hankley Common please)

25-30 September Ayr, Scotland National Tournament and International Conference

11th October Hunstanton Golf Club 18 holes, Jacobsen Tournament

19th October Wilderness Golf Club 36 holes

10th Nov STRI Regional Seminar 9.00-4.00

13th December Christmas Turkey Trot and

AGM 11.00 am - 6.00 pm

Please book early with Secretary

P. Copsey

Surrey Section

Jim Russell has left Hankley Common Golf Club to take up the post of Course Manager at Lingfield Park Golf Club and, therefore, has given up the job of Secretary for the Section. He goes with our best wishes and thanks for all he has done for the Surrey Section. We also wish both him and Debbie, his fiancée, many happy years together as they are to be married next year.

Mr. D. Johnston has taken on the post of Secretary and we are sure he will fill the post admirably. Please give David your support by returning entry forms promptly to allow him to make the appropriate arrangements for forthcoming events.

Clothing - we apologise for the delay in clothing, but the Headquarters Office is

doing all it can to resolve the situation for outstanding items. If you have any queries, please contact J. Russell on (0342) 833099. Trip to Ransomes - There will be a trip to Ransomes this year and the date will be advised later.

Section Funds - We are purchasing a BIGGA flag which we can use at our functions throughout the year. We are also purchasing a word processor and printer for administration purposes, together with a projector and screen for use at winter lectures.

Seminar - because of other events that will be taking place throughout the year, we intend to hold our Seminar early next year so as not to clash with other organised events. At this moment in time, we are open to any suggestions as to possible speakers and venues, remembering that we want greenkeeper participation in our Seminar - all offers will be appreciated.

Saxons and Celts - This is an addition to the calendar and will take place on 25th July at the RAC Country Club. The Team Captains are S. McMillan and B. Turner.

I. McMillan

SCOTTISH REGION North Section

The Section outings for this year are :-
19th May Craigiehill, Perth and 15th September Strathpeffer. Entries on official forms only.

The Section, together with the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, are trying to fix up spraying courses around the North for our members. As everyone should know, new pesticide laws are coming into effect in January next year and everyone must have a certificate before they will be allowed to spray. These courses will be at Nairn, Tain and Fraserburgh and will be held in November/December. Members will receive more details later. For those in the south of the Section, courses are available at Elmwood College, Cupar - dates on request. Would members please note that a course on tractor mounted sprayers allows them to use a knapsack, but the opposite does not apply.

**Play
around
with**

ISEKI

AROUND THE GREEN

Congratulations to two of our members, C. McDonald, First Assistant at Deeside Golf Club, who recently got married and to W. Forsyth, Duff House Royal, who has been invited by Russells on an all-expenses-paid week long trip to Minneapolis to see the Toro factory. Willie is one of two Scottish greenkeepers invited. He has dealt exclusively with Russells and Toro since they came on the market.
G. Moir

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES REGION Berks, Bucks and Oxon Section.

This year we held our AGM at Goring and Streatley Golf Club where Steve Schmitz was elected as our Chairman.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman, Billy McMillan, for all his time and effort as Past Chairman. The Spring Meeting will be held at Beaconsfield Golf Club on Wednesday, 1st June. The cost will be £12 inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and an evening meal. Those who wish to play, please contact Bill Paterson, Beaconsfield Golf Club, Seer Green, Bucks.
D. Murtagh

East Midlands Section

Our Spring Golf Tournament takes place on Thursday, 12th May at Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby. Tees have been reserved from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Singles and Pairs Knockout competitions - entry forms have been sent out and the draw for these competitions will be made at the Spring Golf Tournament. If you have not received an entry form, please contact me immediately. The Autumn Golf Tournament is to take place at Kettering Golf Club on a provisional date of September 28th but as this date coincides with the Association's National Golf Tournament at Ayr, the date is yet to be confirmed. The Rigby Taylor Match against the Midland Section is to be held at Moor Hall on 7th October, first match off at 8.15 am. Qualifiers for this match are decided from the Spring and Autumn Golf Tournament.

R. W. Willars

Midland Section

By the time you read this we will be well into Spring and hopefully it will continue to be

better than the last few years even if it has been slightly wetter!! A busy golfing schedule awaits us and I hope to see you at one or more of the competitions in the year ahead. May I extend a hearty welcome to all new members. Those of you who have not been mailed entry forms for this year's competitions and would like one may ring Peter Richmond on 021-354-5616 and he will gladly put one in the post. If anyone is interested in playing in any of the inter-Section matches or other team competitions then ring Tom Kelsall on Tamworth 284782. If you know of any member who is not receiving his magazine, please let me know at once so that it may be rectified, or if any member has a grievance or helpful suggestion also to get in touch so it may be discussed at Committee level. Our lecture at Telford Golf and Country Club was very poorly supported but Toro Irrigation of Sandbach gave a very interesting talk. We also had the opportunity to view some of their underground hardware and other pieces of equipment which help to make up their systems. Let us hope that future visits and lectures receive a better response. Several members from the Midlands, myself

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AROUND THE GREEN

included, recently attended open days at Breakwells and Leicester Horticultural Engineers where we were able to keep abreast of new machinery and also avail ourselves of the refreshments provided. Both these days proved informative but unfortunately the most memorable moments were the drunken greenkeepers 'throwing up' in the middle of the afternoon.

Wishing you green grass and blue skies!

I. Toon

NORTHERN REGION

North East Section

There will be a match against Northern Secretaries at South Shields Golf Club on July 4th. The Autumn Tournament has yet to be fixed.

There will be a match against South East Scotland, probably in October - to be arranged. I would like to welcome the following new members to the North East Section:-

G. Arnott - Heworth GC

B. Hall - Hexham GC

A. Baxter - Newbiggin GC

J. Storey - Hexham GC

B. Hughes - Whickham GC

J. Richardson

North West Section

The Spring Tournament will take place at Tytherington Golf Club, Macclesfield on 12th May and names of people wishing to participate in this event should be given to Bert Cross on 051-724-5412 as soon as possible. There are still places left for bunker rakers at this year's Open Golf Championship at Lytham St. Annes. Anyone needing accommodation please contact Dave Golding on 061-748-8592 as early as possible as we have to confirm numbers very soon.

Your Section Committee attended the AGM at York on 23rd March and all agreed it was a very successful day despite the pathetic show of North-West members. There should have been a show of support for the new Association by the Section, considering the Scots and South lads made a concerted

effort to attend and we didn't have one non - Committee member there.

There is a wide selection of uniforms now available from ties to blazers, so if any member wishes to obtain these items, please get in touch. Bert Cross has been appointed as the new Secretary and I would like to conclude by thanking all concerned in helping me in my capacity as Secretary and I wish the North-West Section all the best for the future.

M. Lewis

Northern Section

There certainly has been no shortage of piquancy about our evening meetings this Spring. On 10th March we were taken down to ground level on a spectacular expedition, observing and examining at ultra-close quarters the wonder of wild flower kingdom. Names like Sanphire, Asphodel, Bird's Nest Orchid came off the tongue of our speaker, Mr. Gell, like smooth running water bringing identity to the exquisite floral studies on the screen.

With quiet enthusiasm Mr. Gell showed pictures of the flowers he had encountered on his travels. Surprisingly enough, most of the examples were resident very close to his home town, Harrogate - they are there, all about you, waiting to be noticed. Another delightful interlude was provided by our good friend Mr. Arthur Gilpin, the well known Yorkshire naturalist. Birds this time, shown with the usual degree of knowledge and aplomb. Flowers do not move and therefore the photographs need only be bothered by the wind. Birds conversely are keen, sensitive creatures, easily disturbed and certainly to not hang around to pose and say cheese - or do they? The quality, clarity and candidness of Mr. Gilpin's pictures almost lead you to believe the subjects were auditioning. Truly lovely shots highly indicative of the photographers art and patience.

The BIGGA AGM held at York on 23rd March certainly proved that the infant BIGGA is alive, kicking and exercising its lungs. 135 interested parties attended the meeting.

The Northern Greenkeepers Training Liaison

Committee met at Askham Bryan on 15th March. A plan was set in motion to arrange a Greenkeeper Education Awareness Meeting at Askham Bryan College on 12th July, 1988. The aims of the meeting are to set out the greenkeeper training facilities obtaining at Askham Bryan, the Northern centre for greenkeeper education, with the objective of bringing together Head Greenkeepers and Golf Club Officers by invitation. More details will appear later.

Those greenkeepers willing to avail themselves of a certificate of competence to spray pesticides should enquire immediately with either Askham Bryan College of Agriculture or Shipley College. Both these teaching establishments are offering foundation modules and certification courses on the usage/storage of pesticides.

All spray operatives under 25 or those above concerned with direct supervision of spraying activities must hold a certificate of competence before January 1st 1989. The exercise is not cheap but in the long-run would be wise. We welcome to the Section Stephen Earl who has moved from Prestwick to Strensall as Head Greenkeeper. Philip Taylor is now well-installed at Alwoodley as Head Greenkeeper at Rawdon, Formerly First Assistant at Bradford Golf Club as too is Philip Palmer now at Branshaw Golf Club from Woodsome Hall. Mel Guy has opted for the commercial side of life leaving South Leeds Golf Club to join the sales team of W. Mountain and Son, Morley, Limited. On show, for all to see, these days in Moor Allerton Golf Club House is a ceramic replica of the Ryder Cup handed over to the Club for permanent display by Howard Clark, 1987 Ryder Cup Team member and tournament professional at Moor Allerton.

Do you wish to play for your Section against the Cleveland Section at Keighley on 27th July? All you have to do is ring 0943-72008 for instant booking. A 12-man team is required; but first come, first served. The same applies to the Roses Match at Blackburn on 11th August; team of 16 for this one. 16th August Invitation Day at Pannal - now booking.

D. Hannam



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NOTEBOOK...

Ransomes man goes on tour

PICTURED at Ipswich, setting off on a three week tour of golf clubs in Portugal and Spain, is one of Ransomes demonstrators, 24 year old Julian Copping.

Last year, following a series of successful demonstrations in Britain, Julian was selected to carry out tours of West Germany, Belgium and Holland in support of Ransomes dealers.



New sprinklers

CAMERON staff were recently introduced to Rainbird's new products for 1988 by Rainbird's Northern European representative Frits Gripstra and technical manager Eric Tortelier.

Developed specifically for the landscape market, the new 'Hybird' range of pop-up sprinklers has been designed

for inclusion in systems where sprinklers are required to rise above surrounding shrubs or plants and to retract to become inconspicuous after the irrigation cycle.

Consisting of six models, three of which lift to a height of 15cm and three to 30cm, the range includes low angle trajec-

tory units, designed to combat excessive wind conditions.

Suitable for most irrigation applications, the new EX-1 range of controllers are of solid state construction housed within waterproof cabinets. They are available as four or six station controllers, each with pump start.



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THE Ministry of Agriculture has announced, following the recommendations of the advisory committee on pesticides to ministers, a series of restrictions on the way in which herbicides containing Ioxynil and bromoxynil may be used.

The changed conditions of approval are intended to reduce the potential of exposure to spray operators who do not wear appropriate clothing, to reduce

the risk of residues in food and to warn of dangers to fish.

In the professional amenity area the key change relates to use of hand-held and knapsack sprayers. This is now prohibited, and although use through powered sprayers is permitted, the minimum dilution rates stated on labels must be adhered to.

May & Baker are issuing labels to their main distributors to be placed on existing stocks of Iotox & Actrilawn 10.

"JUMBO" hollow coring tines have been satisfactorily tested on the SISIS Hydrocore and the SISIS Auto-Turfman and have now been added to the range.

This larger bore tine provides two functions in combatting some of the problems associated with fine turf. Firstly the larger hole produced allows more effective use of top dressings. Secondly, when used at a controlled shallow depth they remove a good sized "plug" of thatch.

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ASTUTE action by Maxicrop International in anticipation of the unusual climatic conditions and problems presently besetting farmers, horticulturalists and groundsmen, has resulted in a dramatic increase in demand for Maxicrop foliar sprays.

On the one hand, growing conditions have been such that shallow rooting has occurred and, on the other, excessive

rain has resulted in much of the nitrates being washed down too deep for perennial plants to benefit - a situation which could spell disaster, especially if, as history suggests, it is followed by a period of drought.

One answer in all three market places is to foliar spray Maxicrop at the same time as the fertilizer to help promote rapid root development and increased intake of nutrients.

The company has produced a special merchants video that explains exactly how Maxicrop encourages the development of roots and, as demonstrated by trial results, more efficient use of fertilizer to achieve the same or even better returns even under stress conditions.

For more information contact Sonia Cooper, Maxicrop International, Bridge House, 97-101 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent.

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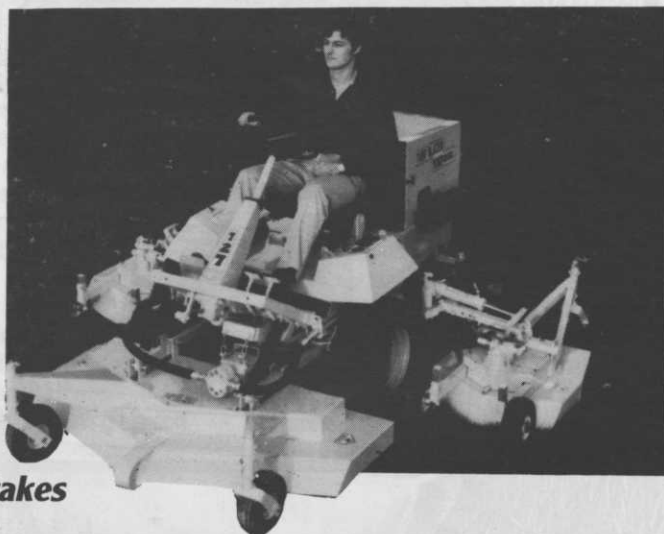
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Name..... Position.....

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NOTEBOOK...

Artificial turf given the boot!

THE artificial turf at Queens Park Rangers football ground is being lifted and replaced with washed Rolawn turf on a Cell System based pitch.

The turf is specially treated with high pressure, high volume jets of water to remove soil from the turf. Then it will be laid on an all-sand base that incorporates a sophisticated irrigation and drainage sub-system.

"The washed turf roots quicker into an all-sand construction without a layer of soil which can impede drainage and cause problems," said Robert Laycock technical director of Rolawn Ltd. "Washing off the soil also demonstrates the strength of the Rolawn root system".

From a modest beginning in Scotland in 1975 the Rolawn company has firmly established itself as Europe's largest turf grower. Today, there is over a thousand acres of

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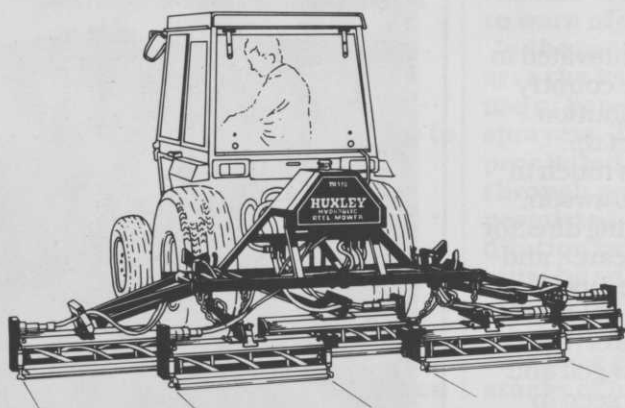
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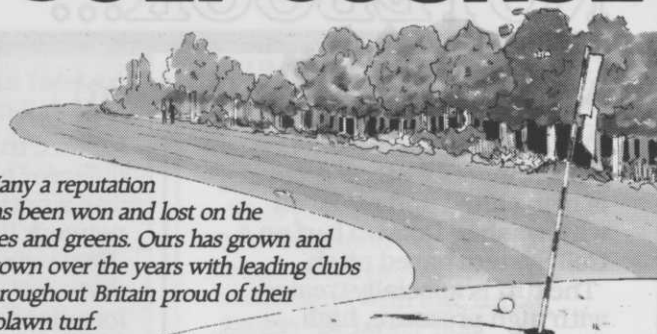
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NOTEBOOK...

Gleneagles plump for Iseki tractors

THE Gleneagles Hotel and Golf Course, Auchterarder, Perthshire, has recently taken delivery of three Iseki tractors to work on their world famous courses.

Over recent years, the Gleneagles Hotel has grown both in stature and diversity with seventeen sports being available on the estate.

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horsepower TE 4370, are now hard at work on the estate's four championship 18 hole courses in preparation for such events as the Bell's Scottish Open Championship, plus a whole host of company and pro celebrity events planned for the year.

Gleneagles' estates and golf courses manager, James Kidd, leaves the choice of machinery open to each of his respective

head greenkeepers and it is they who decide on the machinery most suitable for their own course. According to Mr. Kidd: "To have all three courses decide on the same make was rare indeed".

The three tractors will be involved in a wide variety of work, but more especially for Vertidrain and Power Gang Mowing, as they prepare the courses for the many prestigious tournaments Gleneagles hosts each year.

Iseki is the greenkeepers choice at Gleneagles, where three tractors have recently been delivered by Reekie Plant.



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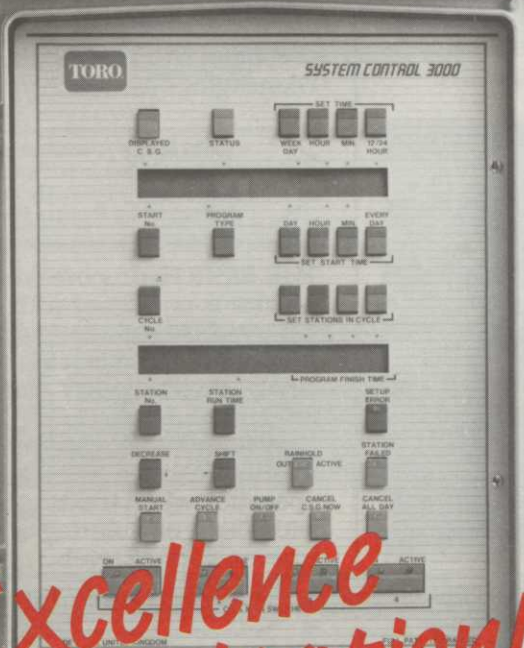
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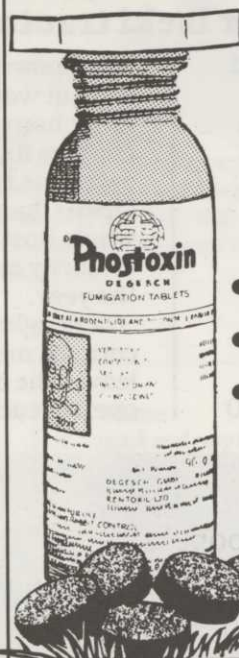
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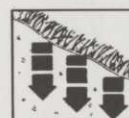
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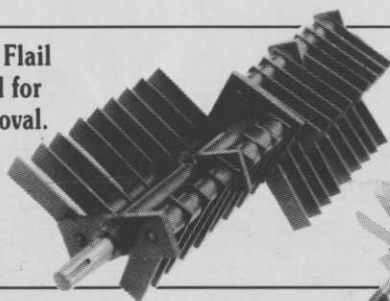
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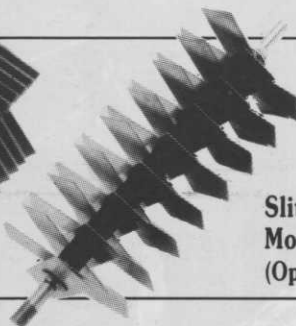


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NOTEBOOK...

Root mimic aids irrigation

JUDGING the irrigation needs of turf has always been guesswork. A Van Walt Tensiometer will help greenkeepers time irrigation better and avoid excess or insufficient watering of turf.

A tensiometer operates on well founded scientific principles by mimicking a plant root and so gives a direct reading of the soil moisture levels as experienced by plants.

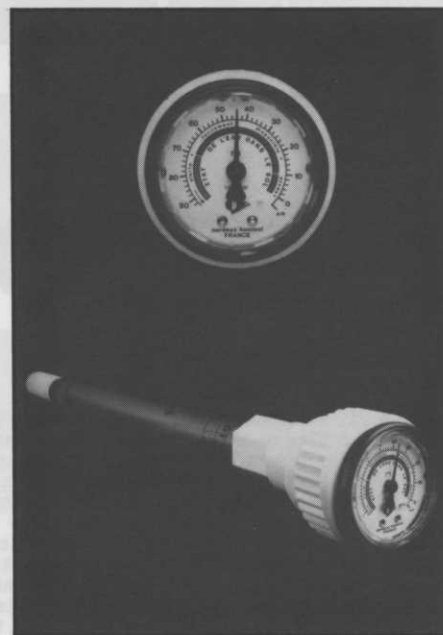
The business end of the tensiometer is a porous ceramic tip fed by a water reservoir held in the body of the meter. As the soil dries water is pulled from the tensiometer through the porous tip. The drier the soil

the greater the pull. An easy to read pressure gauge at the top gives a clear reading of the moisture level of the soil.

Tensiometers are easy to use - just insert into the soil and walk away. It will give a constant reading of moisture levels day or night and is maintenance free.

It is recommended that at least two tensiometer be used - a short and a long one to measure near the top and the bottom of the root zone. The reading from these two will give an indication of the moisture profile through the soil.

Tensiometers are priced from £38.85 + VAT phone: 0428 53404.



Ministry okays NTC pesticide code

AS the Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food with responsibility for Part 3 of the Food and Environment Protection Act, the parliamentary secretary (Lords), the Baroness Trumpington has welcomed the initiative taken by the National Association of

Agricultural Contractors and the National Turfgrass Council in producing and publishing a Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity Areas.

"It is an indication of the responsible attitude within their sector that NAAC and NTC have taken the draft Code of Practice produced by the Ministry for agricultural and commercial use of pesticides and have adapted that draft guidance to the circumstances

of amenity users" says Lady Trumpington in her foreword to the Code.

The Code is a short, easily read A4 publication covering storage transport, application and disposal of pesticides.

"It has been produced in consultation with all our member organisations concerned with pesticide use on amenity grass", said John Shildrick, secretary to NTC.

More information from John Shildrick, on (0274) 565131.

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THE WIND FACTOR



Seaside links are more exposed to the elements

IT'S quite common to see a golfer, before teeing off, pick up a few grass blades and toss them into the air to determine which way the wind is blowing. For having some idea of wind direction is critical to the experienced player.

Wind is one of the major factors contributing to the playing strategy of a golf course, particularly the seaside links, which are more exposed to the elements. In windy conditions, golfers find it difficult to remain steady and maintain a smooth swing. The flight of a ball is affected by a cross-wind, and even putting is difficult in blustery conditions.

According to the records, Andrew Lang, the poet who wrote so much about St Andrews, drove into a high wind that carried his ball backwards into a bunker behind the tee.

Yet, when American Craig Wood was involved in a play-off for the 1933 Open Championship at St Andrews, he was assisted by such a strong following wind that he drove his ball into the bunker on the face of the hill just short of the fifth green - an estimated 430 yards!

Wind is essentially air in motion, with both velocity and directional components. It consists of a succession of gusts and lulls, rather than a uniform velocity. Wind is usually the result of differences in the density of pressure of the atmosphere.

A diurnal variation in wind velocity is frequently observed in temperate climates, with maximum velocity generally occurring around noon and the minimum at daybreak and dusk.

Warm, damp winds from the south and west are usual in Britain at all times of the year and are largely responsible for the mildness of the climate. Easterly winds are less common than winds from the south and west, and are usually drier and colder.

The North Sea is shallow and cold, so, when the wind is blowing from the east, east coast areas are cool in summer and cold in winter.

Wind affects turf growth in a number of ways, according to the location, and it generally influences the turf by cooling, increasing transpiration, abrasive action or the displacement and transport of soil, sand, snow, pollen, seeds etc.

Turf can be protected from the drying action of winds by using protective windbreaks. Strategic placement of trees and shrubs can serve as wind-breaks.

It's important to have a reasonable circulation of wind and

air in the proximity of greens. Those which are constructed in sheltered locations can have problems with restricted air flow, making them more prone to prolonged moisture and fungal disease.

In the United States and Canada, wind is also a serious hazard in the transfer and deposition of snow on golf courses in the winter. Elevated, exposed areas do not receive as much precipitation as hollows and protected places due to snow removal by the force of the wind.

This often results in areas of maximum exposure being characterised by dry soils and severe winter desiccation problems. Snow fences and brushwood are often used on courses to protect turf from the drying action of the wind as well as providing more uniform snow distribution.

Greenkeepers on seaside courses are aware of the problems of sowing grass seed on light sandy soils when seeding can often be lost in brief periods of high winds. Practices that help to minimise this problem are keeping the seedbed perpendicular to the prevailing winds or using windbreaks.

Wind dissemination of weed seeds is an avenue for the constant spread of weeds into fine turf. Light seeds, or seeds with a wing-like structure, are ideally adapted to wild transport.

The parachute-like pappus of the dandelion is a typical example. Wind is also important in the dissemination of spores of many turf pathogens.

Playing on links courses in windy conditions, many golfers have experienced the blinding effects and stinging sensation on their cheeks caused by windblown sand from dune areas and bunkers in exposed situations.

The disposition of wind-blown sand can have serious effects on surrounding turf, for it may smother the grass completely and cause severe damage. The abrasive action of windblown sand can also have a damaging effect. Turf plants are frequently sheared off at the soil surface by the abrasive blasting action of gale-force winds. Only the tough, indigenous dune grasses are adapted to these conditions.

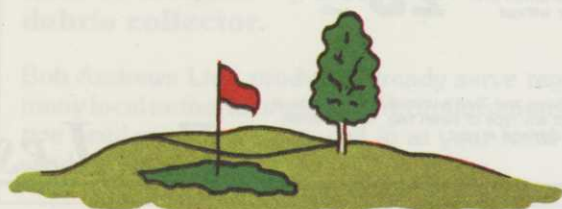
Salt spray is sometimes a problem on coastal courses, too, and this is caused by the action of the sea dashing against the rocks and shoreline, which produces a salt spray that drifts inland. Succulent grasses that are not adapted to these conditions are very susceptible to foliar injury from the windborne salt spray.

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Agreement is vital

IT has taken twenty years of hard slogging, by exhortation, explanation, demonstration and results to achieve broad agreement on a very few basic greenkeeping principles, and these are still not agreed by all and are constantly under attack.

What then are the basic points we have largely, if not universally, agreed. Very few, if one is realistic, yet such agreement is vitally important if greenkeeping is not to suffer cyclic patterns of disaster and recovery. Disagreement leaves greenkeepers and greenkeeping vulnerable to the malign influences of members, professionals and the unqualified pursuing misguided objectives with irrelevant methods.

Education is the secret, but at all levels, and perhaps nowhere more importantly than with members, from whose ranks are recruited future chairmen and conveners as well as captains. Continuity is a sure fire winner where it is combined with a proper understanding of greenkeeping principles and a full acceptance of what constitutes ideal golf course conditions.

Where then have we achieved some measure of agreement on greenkeeping practices? Firstly, on fertiliser usage, where most greenkeepers and advisers have accepted the fact, proven by research, that annual meadow grass increases and finer species decrease with increasing phosphate and potash levels. There are still some who advise use of NPK fertilisers including some inexperienced advisers and fertiliser firms, but a gratifying number of the latter advise and supply nitrogen only for golf greens. Investigations at the STRI, backed by R & A funds, linking chemical and botanical characteristics of golf greens



in profile analyses at different depths, confirm the link between high phosphate and annual grass dominance. It is known that phosphate levels as low as 10-15 ppm are quite adequate to support fine leaved agrostis and fine fescues. A recent analysis of the greens on a frequently televised links course shows figures from over 800 ppm to well in excess of 1,000 ppm. There are no prizes for guessing the grass type, virtually pure poa annua, and the Club has no chance of changing that situation without a complete rebuild of all the greens. Those greenkeepers still using NPK fertilisers in large quantities are leaving a dreadful legacy behind them.

It is all too typical of the failure by those setting themselves up as advisers, to see basic truths, claiming that those previously advising nitrogen only have changed their minds. This is based on, amongst other factors, a lecture given by STRI on the management of pure sand greens where, because the grass is grown hydroponically, both

phosphate and potash are needed, or the grass dies. Annual meadow grass invades as a result and this is one reason why pure sand greens have no relevance outside hot, arid zones of the world - but of that, more anon!

Another point on which there is basic agreement is the need for intensive aeration to combat the consolidating effects of traffic. Again we can argue about how to do it but not about how often, which admittedly varies. On one famous links the fescue dominant greens are very unconsolidated, and aeration is confined to six greens once per year with excellent results, because there is little play and so little resultant compaction. With more intensive use, we need much more frequent and deeper aeration, hence the dramatic success of the Vertidrain, a machine which I had the greatest difficulty in introducing into Britain from Holland, to the extent even that a last minute cancellation by one club, stopped a Dutch contractor coming over to Vertidrain six courses before the machine

was available over here. It is this slow acceptance of good new ideas which is as depressing as the rapid acceptance of gimmicks.

It took two more years of hard graft to persuade both clubs and contractors that this really was a better deeper method of aeration to get at deep seated pans - yet it is only mechanising the method widely used 60 and more years ago of raise-forking, inserting hand forks and prising them back. Today of course everyone is in on the act, many contractors and some clubs with their own machines yet what a task it was to start it - as its inventors are now finding in the United States.

A third measure of agreement is to irrigate sparingly, and in the case of pop-ups, to use them to the minimum possible level nightly in drought

periods. Yet there are advisors not the STRI or myself, who advise watering only once or twice a week, saturating the greens and letting them dry out - demonstrably ridiculous in practical terms of water demand and potential absorption by greens as well as being technically incorrect. There are still firms, not members of the British Turf Irrigation Association, fitting three heads, not four or more, to greens larger than 400 sq.yds. This is in direct contravention of BTIA standards. The result of spacing heads further apart than the technical maximum, the so called head-to-head cover, is uneven coverage and missed areas, especially under marginal operating conditions, such as wind. Then we find the pop-ups turned on for longer periods in a vain

attempt to cover the missed areas. The result, inevitably, is that the wet areas get waterlogged and the missed areas stay missed.

Our last measure of agreement, and it took much longer to achieve, is that there is no place for perennial ryegrass, even the so called dwarf strains, on any golf course in Britain. Yet one golf architect is still using ryegrass for fairways, despite the awful end result and the impossibility of imparting back spin from such lush meadowland lies. My advice to greenkeepers and others is to only buy seed from firms who specifically recommend non-ryegrass mixtures for tees and fairways.

Our next objective must be to agree on green construction and I will discuss that in my next article.

by Jim Arthur



It's easy to spot cylinder quality

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Analysis	Percentage of Nitrogen from IBDU
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Surrey GU3 1LZ.
Tel: 0483 35657

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Unit 9A,
Warwick Industrial Estate,
Budbrooke Road,
Warwick CV34 5XH.
Tel: 0926 401444

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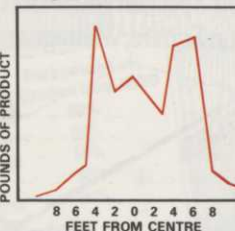
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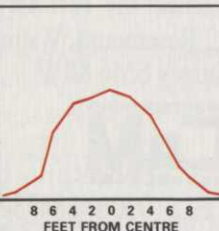
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Tel: (0895) 832626/834198

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Tel: (0626) 834499

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Unit 104B
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Tel: (0299) 250087



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Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping including the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery.

A mature person preferred. Accommodation available. Applicants should apply in writing giving age, experience and qualifications to:-

**The Secretary/Manager,
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Racecourse Road,
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RH7 6PG**

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invite applications for the post of

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Applicants should have extensive experience in the theory and practise of golf course management, be conversant with the use and maintenance of all modern golf course machinery. An ability to manage, motivate and train staff is essential. Salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

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

**The Manager,
The Quietwaters Club,
Colchester Road,
Tolleshunt D'Arcy,
Maldon, Essex.
CM9 8HX**

BUSH HILL PARK GOLF CLUB



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Assistant Greenkeeper

Applications from qualified and experienced persons are invited for the above post at this private members club. Single status accommodation available. Please send full curriculum vitae to:

**The Secretary/Manager,
Bush Hill Park Golf Club,
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The applicant must be highly experienced in all aspects of parkland golf course maintenance and have a proven ability in staff management.

Salary negotiable but will be attractive.

Temporary housing may be arranged if required.

Approx. age range 30 - 40 years.

Written applications with full detail of age, experience and qualifications etc. to:

**The Secretary of the.
Golf of Cleydael Castle,
Cleydael Castle/2630 Aartselaar,
BELGIUM.**

RESEARCH UPDATE

Over the years there have been many attempts to control fairy rings on golf courses by applying fungicides. Although fungicides can suppress fairy rings for a time, eradication or complete control is difficult to achieve. Research at the STRI, sponsored by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St.

Andrews, has been exploring new approaches to fairy ring elimination in which biological control techniques rather than fungicides are deployed. In this article, the most promising findings of this research are outlined and the potential of biological control discussed.

BY NEIL BALDWIN, PLANT PATHOLOGIST AT THE STRI

THE lush green grass rings or circles of mushrooms formed by fairy rings occur extensively on many golf courses in the UK and consequently they are easily recognised by most greenkeepers. Many first impressions are that as they occur on less intensively managed areas, such as fairways and in the rough, they do not cause appreciable damage and are consequently of little concern.

However, these first impressions can soon turn to dismay as extensive fairy ring development can cause significant damage, particularly so when they occur on tees, approaches to greens, aprons or even the greens themselves.

Biological control mechanisms, developed by plant pathologists at the STRI and universities in the USA and Canada, offer an alternative to fungicides for control of fairy rings.

By definition, biological control is the use of natural enemies to control disease. Natural enemies, in the context of turfgrass diseases, can basically be divided into two groups.

Firstly, in turf there are fungi termed hyperparasites, which attack the disease directly. Thus, in the same way that fusarium patch is harmful to turf grasses, these hyperparasites are directly harmful to the disease. Biological control based on hyperparasitism has been well developed for several diseases of agricultural and horticultural crops but, as yet,



Turf infected with fairy rings mixed with the underlying soil by use of a rotivator.

it has not been thoroughly investigated for turf diseases. Great potential for future turf disease control lies in this area.

Secondly, biological control based on another phenomenon termed antagonism has been developed for several turf diseases and in particular for fairy rings. Antagonism is a relationship between different organisms where one (the antagonist) partly or com-

pletely inhibits the growth of another (the fairy ring).

Observation on the development of Type One fairy rings (*Marasmius Oreades*) has revealed some very interesting information.

For example, it is rare to find one ring developing inside another larger ring. Also, surveys of *M. oreades* rings on lawns have indicated that fairy rings are most numerous on lawns six to ten years old, and there is a decline in the number of rings with increasing lawn age. Finally, when two rings collide, in the zone of collision the rings cancel each other out to form a figure of eight arrangement.

This observation can be repeated under laboratory conditions. If cultures of *M. oreades* are allowed to grow towards each other on a Petri dish then both cultures will stop shortly before they are due to come into contact.

These observations have led to the conclusion that fairy rings are discouraged from spreading by a naturally occurring biological control exerted by antagonistic fungi and bacteria in the soil.

The observation that one ring rarely develops inside another is explained, at least partly, by the build up of antagonists that directly inhibit any subsequent rings. Older lawns, which appear to be less prone to fairy rings, have had time to develop an antagonistic soil microflora.

>>

RESEARCH UPDATE



However, a separate theory has been suggested to explain the mutual decline of fairy rings when they collide. It appears that the fairy ring mycelium can be antagonistic to itself. This phenomenon is known as mutual antagonism and is thought to be due possibly to competition for nutrients and/or inhibitory substances produced by the fairy ring mycelium.

How can we use this antagonism between fairy rings, soil fungi, and bacteria and mutual antagonism within *M. oreades* itself to develop an effective control method?

Well, two different avenues of



Type One fairy rings

research have been followed. One particular soil fungus, namely *Trichoderma harzianum* has been shown under laboratory conditions to be highly antagonistic to fairy rings.

Cultures of *T. harzianum* have

been applied to fairy rings down hollow tine holes. In this way the natural antagonisms of the soil can be given a boost, to the detriment of the fairy ring. Suppression of fruiting body production of *M. oreades* has been achieved using this technique but it is too early to say whether a long term control measure has been found.

PROMISING

Another method of boosting antagonisms of fairy rings has been developed that shows considerable promise. Turf infected with fairy rings is thoroughly cultivated and mixed with the underlying soil using a rotorvator. This produces many fragments of fairy ring mycelium which will be mutually antagonistic and will also expose the fairy ring fungus to the antagonistic effects of the microflora of the soil.

Obviously, this technique has only been developed for use on fairways and other less-intensively managed turf areas. Fairy rings treated in this manner have not reappeared for five years.



Above left:
figure of eight
arrangement formed when two
rings collide.

Left:
hollow tining rings to assist
application of antagonists.

APPOINTMENTS

FERNFELL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

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Applicants must be an experienced greenkeeper with knowledge of course machinery, its uses and maintenance. The company is associated with two other golf courses. Apply in writing to:-

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GU6 7NG

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Applicants must have experience of greenkeeping and machinery maintenance.

Apply in writing to:-

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Little Waltham,
Chelmsford, Essex.

Tel: Chelmsford 440005 (STD 0245)

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require

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Applicants must have some experience of course machinery and maintenance. No accommodation available. Apply to:-

The Secretary,
Bushey Hall Golf Club Limited,
Bushey Hall Drive,
Bushey, Herts. WD2 2EP

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require a

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Applicants must be experienced in all aspect of greenkeeping and the use of modern equipment. A mature, qualified person preferred with the ability to work unsupervised.

Applicants should apply in writing to:-

The Secretary/Manager,
Hockley Golf Club,
Twyford, Winchester,
Hampshire. SO21 1PL



CRIEFF GOLF CLUB Perthshire

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Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Head Greenkeeper. Applicants should have a national certificate in greenkeeping and groundsmanship and several years experience with a golf club. Experience in the control and management of staff would be an advantage.

Salary and conditions are negotiable.

No accommodation is provided.

Membership of the BIGGA an advantage.

Apply in writing to:-

The Secretary,
Crieff Golf Club Ltd.,
Perth Road,
Crieff,
PH7 3LR

THE DARLINGTON GOLF CLUB (MEMBERS LIMITED)

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GREENKEEPER

from applicants suitably experienced in turf management and in the use and maintenance of course machinery and equipment.

Salary commensurate with experience, plus overtime with premiums. Accommodation not provided. Please write, giving details of training, experience and present salary to:-

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Darlington.
Co. Durham.

APPOINTMENTS



FULFORD HEATH GOLF CLUB

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from persons who wish to accept a challenge. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of modern course machinery and its maintenance. The ability to control and motivate staff is essential. No accommodation available.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Applications should be in writing and include a full C.V. stating present salary to:-

**The Secretary,
Fulford Heath Golf Club,
Tanners Green Lane,
Wythall,
Birmingham.
B47 6BH**

WEST HILL GOLF CLUB

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with experience in the maintenance of
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require a

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enclosing full C.V. to:-
**The Secretary/Manager,
Lahinch Golf Club,
Lahinch,
Co Clare,
IRELAND.**

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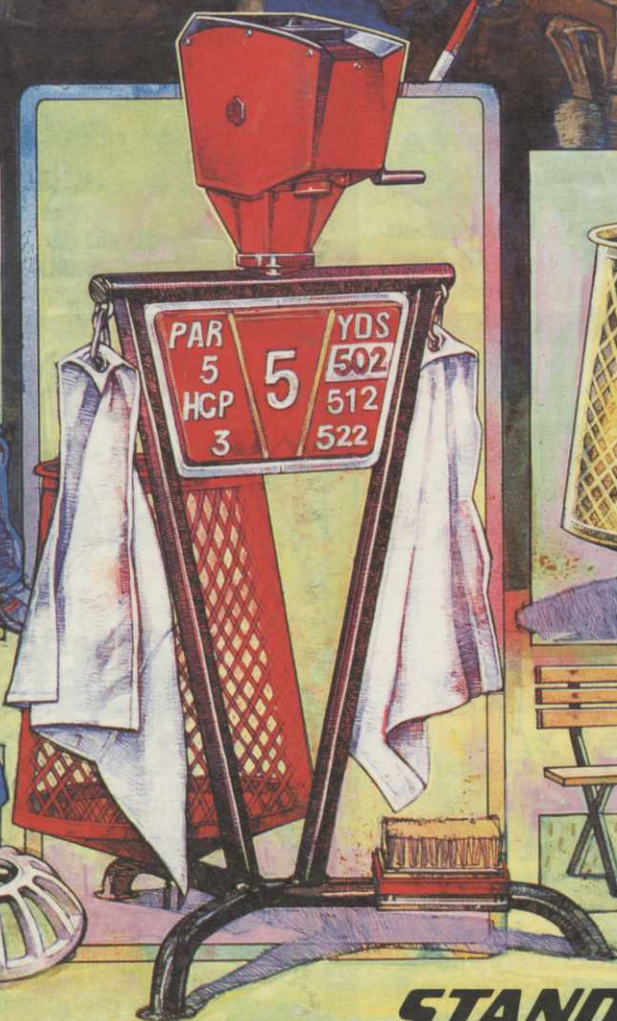
required for this prestigious parkland
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Initially write or telephone for Applications form
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Surrey. CR2 8YA
Telephone: 01-657-8811**

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