

* Page 21 refers.

the Golf Course

Incorporating Golf Greenkeeping

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988



On the Course

John Campbell visits West Kilbride and talks to Jim Paton.

Opinion

Fred Hawtree questions the cost of using American architects.

Management

Programming flag positions gives variety to play.

Exclusively

for members

The Golf Course is the only magazine entirely dedicated to helping professional greenkeepers. It is available only through membership to the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL
GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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The European Turf Management Exhibition,
Harrogate, 18–20 January 1989

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME, ROYAL BATH ASSEMBLY

SESSION 1 18th JANUARY PM

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.30 MANAGEMENT OF TIME AND PEOPLE
R Brighton
Time Management International</p> <p>2.30 COMPACT TRACTORS AND THEIR USE ON GOLF COURSES
D C Hannam
Course Manager,
Baildon Golf Club</p> <p>3.00 COFFEE</p> <p>3.15 BENEFITS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
N Bissett
Askham Bryan College, York</p> <p>3.45 CONTROL OF WEAR ON THE GOLF COURSE
D Stansfield
Sports Turf Research Institute</p> <p>4.45 FINISH</p> | <p>1.30 TURF CULTURE UNDER COMPETITIVE TENDERING
Fine Tuning the Specifications
Speaker: Jon Bauer, Senior Assistant Director of Recreation, City of Sheffield</p> <p>2.45 COFFEE</p> <p>3.00 DRAINAGE OF WINTER PITCHES
G MacAdam
Sports Turf Research Institute</p> <p>3.45 STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR WINTER GAMES AREAS AND OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES
Speaker: P Dury, Head of the Sports Facility and Landscape Development Unit, Nottinghamshire County Council</p> <p>4.45 FINISH</p> |
|---|--|

SESSION 2 19th JANUARY AM

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>9.30 BROAD DUTIES OF THE COURSE MANAGER OR HEAD GREENKEEPER
D Mortram
Reaseheath College, Cheshire</p> <p>10.00 BUILDING AND MAINTAINING A GOLF COURSE ON RECLAIMED COLLIERY SOIL
I Thompson, Course Manager,
Whitwood Golf Club</p> <p>10.30 THE GOLF COURSE WILDLIFE TRUST
D Stubbs
Conservation Officer</p> <p>11.00 COFFEE</p> <p>11.15 TREES ON GOLF COURSES
J Woods, Course Manager,
Tregenna Castle Golf Club</p> <p>11.45 PRESENTATION AND IMAGE AT WORK
R Young, Hampshire College</p> <p>12.15 THE MANAGEMENT OF A COUNTRY CLUB
M Sheehan
Course Manager, Mere Golf and Country Club</p> <p>12.45 LUNCH</p> | <p>9.30 BOWLING GREENS; SPRING AND SUMMER MAINTENANCE
R Evans
Sports Turf Research Institute</p> <p>10.15 BOWLING GREENS; AUTUMN AND WINTER MAINTENANCE
S Ormondroyd
Sports Turf Research Institute</p> <p>11.00 COFFEE</p> <p>11.15 THE SPECIFICATIONS & MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
R Hulme
Turf Irrigation Systems
P York
Phillip York & Associates</p> <p>12.00 F.E.P.A. AND CURRENT PESTICIDES LEGISLATION
R C Oddy
Principal Agricultural Inspector, HM Agricultural Inspectorate</p> <p>12.45 LUNCH</p> |
|--|--|

PHASED-RELEASE NITROGEN ... EFFICIENT & ECONOMICAL

Grass plants can take up Nitrogen in two forms; either as Ammonium Nitrogen (NH_4^+) or as Nitrate (NO_3^-). Without any controlling influence, the majority of fertilizer Nitrogen is converted into the Nitrate form by soil bacteria, in a process known as Nitrification.

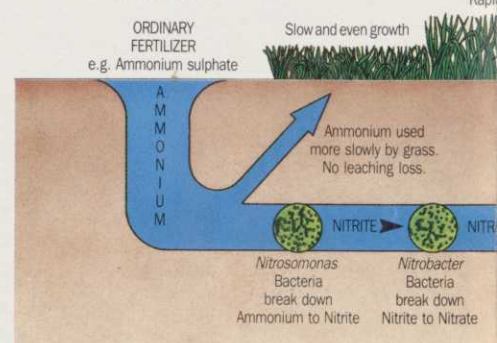
Nitrate Nitrogen is readily taken up and used by the plant, but this can result in rapid grass growth (top diagram).

Ammonium Nitrogen is also taken up by the grass plant but is used less quickly, thus grass growth tends to be slower. In addition, the Ammonium Nitrogen is held tightly in the soil which reduces the risk of Nitrogen being lost through leaching.

'Didin' inhibits the growth of the bacteria *Nitrosomonas*. This bacteria is essential for the breakdown of Ammonium Nitrogen to Nitrite Nitrogen. As a result the plant takes up Ammonium Nitrogen which is used less quickly and is not leached (lower diagram). Because of these effects, 'Longlife' fertilizers containing 'Didin' are both efficient and economical.

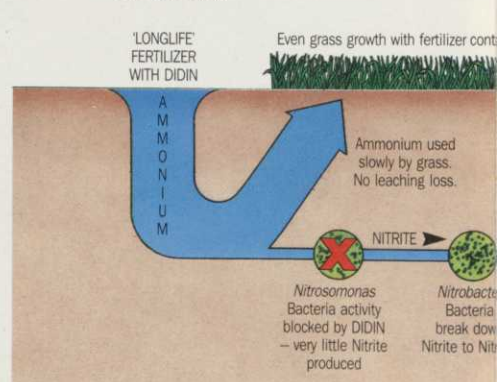
THE NITRIFICATION PROCESS: USING ORDINARY FERTILIZER

Schematic Diagram



THE NITRIFICATION PROCESS: WITH THE DIDIN

Schematic Diagram





Organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in conjunction with the National Turfgrass Council.



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OOMS

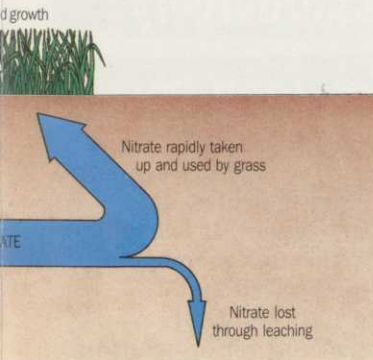
SESSION 3 19th JANUARY PM

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.30 COMMUNICATIONS
D Blackmur
Plumpton College | 1.30 RURAL AMENITY GRASS
MAINTENANCE IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE
John Campion
Gillespies Warrington |
| 2.00 Y.T.S. SCHEMES ON GOLF
COURSES
A H Thomson
Training Commission | 2.15 NATURE CONSERVANCY
Dr A Deadman
Nature Conservancy Council |
| 2.45 COFFEE | 3.00 COFFEE |
| 3.00 F.E.P.A. 1985
N Rigden
Cannington College | 3.15 THE P.S.A. EXPERIENCE
J Jervis
P.S.A. North West Region |
| 3.30 USE OF GRASS RETARDANTS
ON GOLF COURSES
P Goldsworthy
Technical Services Manager,
ICI Professional Products | 4.00 THE CONTRACTOR'S VIEW
D Oxley
Chenies Landscapes Ltd,
Amersham |
| 4.00 TURF DISEASES
N Baldwin
Sports Turf Research Institute | 4.45 FINISH |
| 5.00 FINISH | |

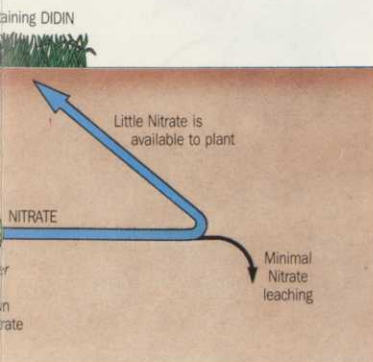
SESSION 4 20th JANUARY AM

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9.30 HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK
R G Oddy
Principal Agricultural Inspector,
H M Agricultural Inspectorate | 9.30 MANAGEMENT OF TIME
AND PEOPLE
R Brighton
Time Management
International |
| 10.30 PAY AND PLAY
R Kates
Course Manager, Wexham
Park Golf Club | 10.15 COST-EFFECTIVE
MOWING
John Parker
Property Services Department
Kent County Council |
| 11.00 COFFEE | 11.00 COFFEE |
| 11.15 'ARE YOU BEING FAIR TO
YOUR FAIRWAYS?'
D Archer
Course Manager, Whitchurch
Golf Club | 11.15 GROWTH RETARDANTS
P Goldsworthy
Technical Services Manager,
ICI Professional Products. |
| SANDS ON THE GOLF COURSE | |
| 11.45 USE OF SAND IN GOLF
COURSE CONSTRUCTION &
MAINTENANCE
S Baker, S.T.R.I. | 12.00 ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH
YOUR SPECIFICATIONS:
CAN YOU MONITOR YOUR
WORK?
Speaker: Jon Bauer
Senior Assistant Director of
Recreation, City of Sheffield |
| 12.20 NUTRITION OF SAND GREENS
T Colclough, S.T.R.I. | |
| 12.55 MAINTENANCE OF SAND
GREENS AND PROBLEMS
OF SAND CONSTRUCTIONS
J Parris
Sports Turf Research Institute | 1.30 FINISH |
| 1.30 FINISH | |

RY FERTILIZER



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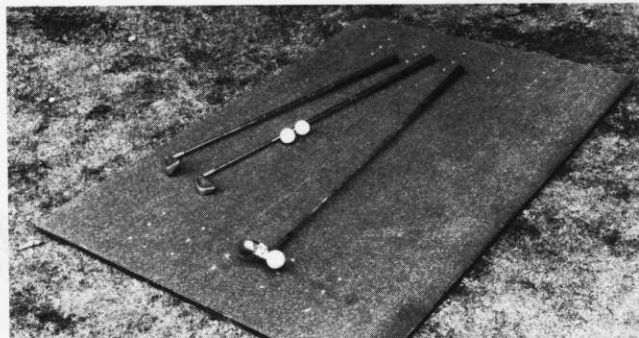
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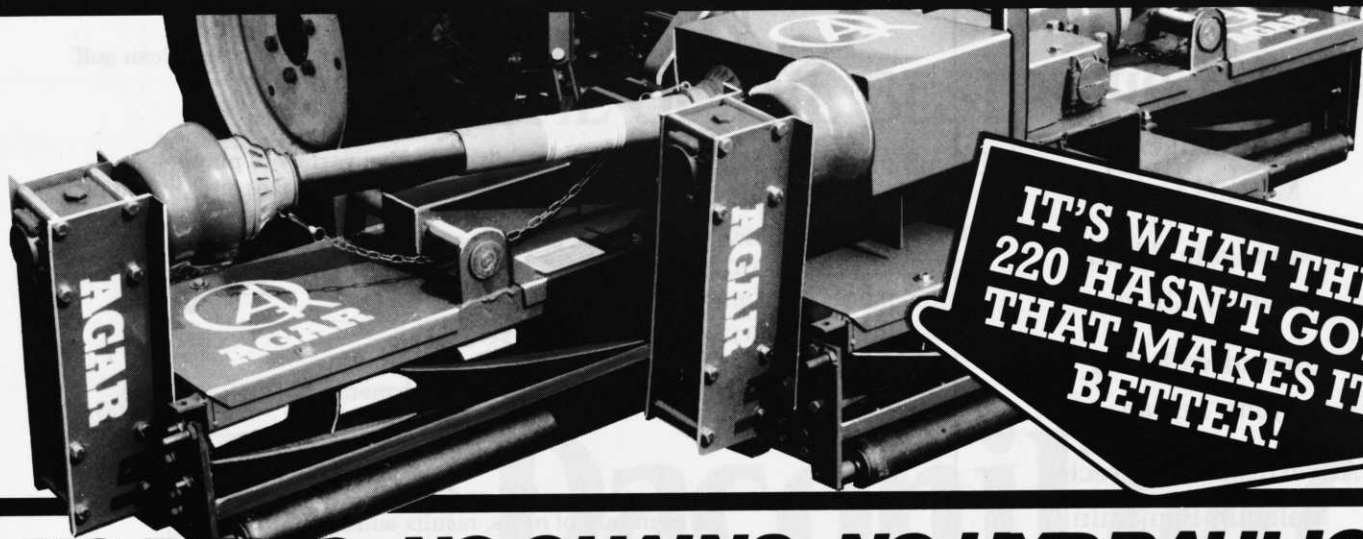


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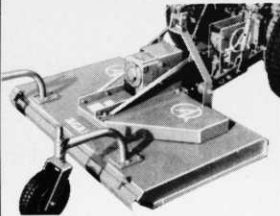
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Jack McMillan

Education and Training

Firstly, let me welcome you to the new style magazine. I hope you will find it brighter and more interesting to read, and that if you have anything to comment about please send these to "From the Fairway" which is the new reader's letters page. I know the Editor will be pleased to hear from you.

The magazine is of course just one of the many changes that have been made in our first full year of operation as BIGGA. The other one that I am most pleased to be able to report on is the education and training programme. This has been a priority for all of us on the committee and there has now been a lot of encouraging action taken. Education and training is the bedrock for the future. Without a forward thinking policy and the will to implement it the Association would be grossly neglecting its duty to all greenkeepers in the UK.

With this in mind we have endeavoured to raise more finance earmarked for Education and Training. This I am happy to tell you has been successful to a degree. With the help of a number of companies in this industry we are well on the way towards achieving our goal. In particular I must mention Jacobsen, who through Chris Smith, its UK manager has pledged a five-figure grant next year towards BIGGA's Education and Training programme. I hasten to add there are others who are keen to help us and we shall report on these in future months. Because of this finance however we are now in a position to be able to appoint a full-time education officer. This will allow us for the first time ever to be able to set-up and run our own education. In the past this has always been directed by the Greenkeeper Training Committee with the help of the Golf Unions, STRI, Colleges and the PGA Tour.

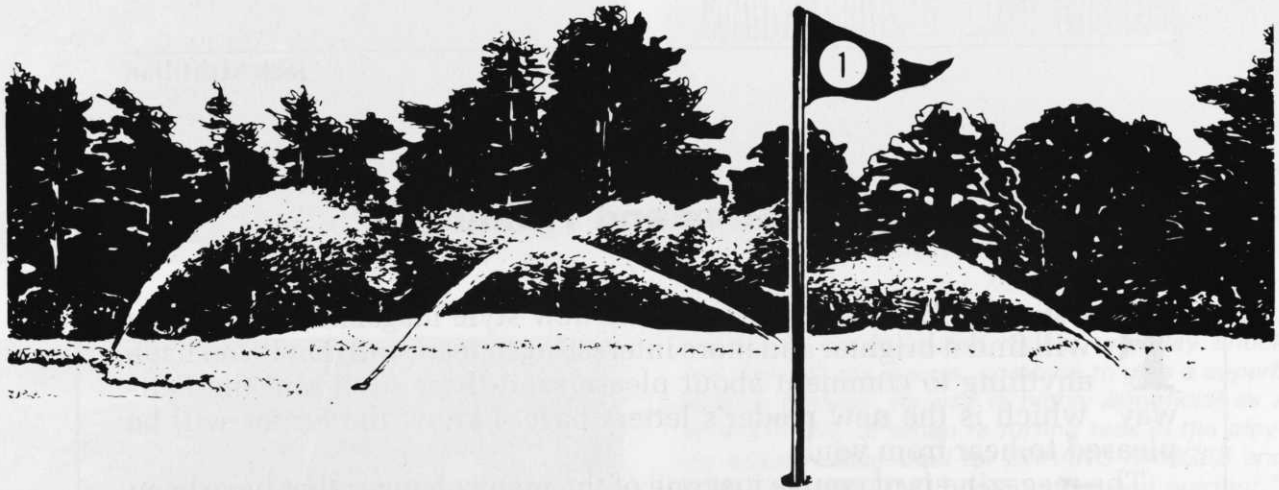
Without this support and without the backing of the Royal & Ancient we would not be in a position today to take it further on our own.

The latest moves, however, provide us with the opportunity to allow our members to reach a level of education never before available to greenkeepers. This in turn must be reflected in better working conditions for greenkeepers everywhere and consequently better quality golf courses for all to play on.

On that note may I wish every member of the BIGGA and all its supporters a Very Happy Christmas and a successful greenkeeping year in 1989.

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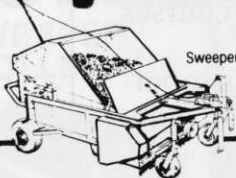
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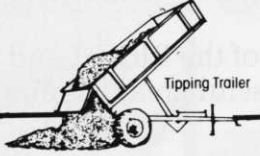


GM 122 Rotary Mower

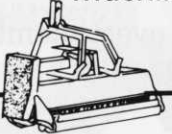
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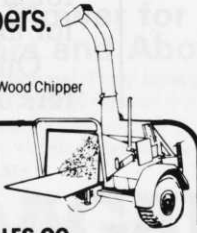
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The winning BIGGA team at the Kubota Challenge.

BIGGA team wins Kubota Trophy - again

Defending the Kubota Team Challenge for the third consecutive year was the daunting prospect for our quickly assembled BIGGA team attending the sixth Kubota Challenge.

The eight players representing the Association only qualified for the event ten days prior at the National Tournament at Ayr Belleisle.

The Kubota Challenge is a 4-team event with the Stewards Association, the Secretaries Association, the BIGGA, and for the first time, a team representing the English Golf Union.

On Monday, October 10th the semi-finals brought the Greenkeepers against the Stewards, and matches were even until the notorious 10th hole, and for once it was not the water that took its toll, but the hospitality caravan on the 10th tee. The Stewards, never ones to refuse a drink, could not resist! Match result - Greenkeepers 7, Stewards 1. The second semi-final saw the English Golf Union beat the Secretaries in a close game.

The Tuesday morning of October 11th brought about the traditional tractor driving competition, with the greenkeepers being well and truly handicapped. Whilst the other teams had the use of the very manoeuvrable ride-on Kubota G3 mower to drive round the obstacles, our team

was given the larger rear-wheel drive rotary mower. This gave our team a real opportunity to show off their driving skills, but alas, all that was left was a greenkeeping team with their pride damaged, not to mention smashed drain pipes all over the car park! No, we did not win that competition!

On to the golf and the final, which promised to be a close contest.

The English Golf Union making their debut in the event, really played well, but could not hold back our team who won 6½ - 1½.

The two days at The Belfry were thoroughly enjoyable and this was endorsed by all competitors and guests. The hospitality shown to all teams by Kubota was exceptional and the organisation by Sporting Concepts admirably led by Peter McEvoy was sincerely appreciated by all.

To the following team members we thank them for representing the Association at such short notice and winning with such 'modesty'; they were a credit.

Anthony Witt, Jimmy Richardson, Brian Payne, Mick Hannan, Edwin Walsh, Charles White, Billy Fletcher, Ritchie Barker.

In the play-off for the third and fourth place the Secretaries defeated the Stewards 4½-3½.

Brian Hurtle, marketing director of Kubota (UK), one of the leaders in small tractors, confirmed that the event will continue in 1989 and would once again be staged at the Belfry on Wednesday 11th

and Thursday 12th October 1989.

Kubota Challenge Trophy Brabazon G.C. The Belfry October 10th-11th Greenkeepers beat EGU 6½pt to 1½pts Final (Greenkeepers first)

Charles White (Largs G.C.) beat Jack Humphries (President Midland G.U.) 5 and 4.

Edwin Walsh (Whitefield G.C.) beat Richard Palmer (Member Executive Committee) 2 and 1.

Jimmy Richardson (Whickham G.C.) tied with Keith Wright (Secretary EGU).

Richard Barker (Longchilse G.C.) beat Geoff Bacon (Member Executive Committee) 1 hole.

Brian Payne (Burnham Beeches G.C.) lost to Cyril Rose (Member Executive Committee) 2 holes.

Mike Hannon (Moortown G.C.) beat Rex Warren (Past President EGU) 3 and 2.

Anthony Witt (Surbiton G.C.) beat Paul Fisher (Chairman of Committee) 2 and 1.

William Fletcher (Troon Munciple G.C.) beat Peter Dulton (President elect EGU) 5 and 4.

BIGGA to visit GCSAA Anaheim Show

Details of the BIGGA trip to Anaheim were included in the September issue of THE GOLF COURSE and, with the postal strike causing delivery of the magazine to be delayed, an extended booking date has been agreed with the Tour Operator. It is clear that we will have a good sized party travelling to Anaheim and any members who wish to join the party should contact Headquarters Office without delay.

Details: Depart Gatwick Airport 8th February, 1989.

Depart Los Angeles Airport 15th February - Arrive Gatwick 16th February, 1989.

Seven nights accommodation based on twin beds, £561 + £27 insurance.

The above cost includes all transfers to and from Los Angeles Airport. The price will apply to those members wishing to extend the trip on an independent basis.

Child discount 40%. Single room supplement £126. Third passenger reduction £98 (sharing full fare passenger in three-bed room).

We will be based at the Hotel Quality Inn, adjacent to the Convention Centre, and flights will be with British Airways.

Please write to Headquarters Office with details of any extension required on

the basic package. Booking *must* be accompanied with a cheque for £85 per person representing deposit plus insurance. The above price *DOES NOT* include Conference Registration. Normally, this is available in advance at \$190 per person. Neil Thomas reports that BIGGA has negotiated a special rate with the GCSAA and, as a result, members of our party are able to register for \$50 per person. Registration permits access to all GCSAA Education Sessions (including the Opening Session and Reception, and the major Speaker Sessions), all Allied Association Sessions and the Trade Show on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Members booking will receive a Registration Form for completion and return to Headquarters Office and the \$50 converted to Sterling will be added to the final accounts in due course.

A new look and dimension in compact tractors

Iseki has recently launched a brand new range of tractors for the professional turf & horticultural market.

The new range Iseki TU Series is additional to its successful TX range and comprises 3 four wheel drive models from 19 horsepower to 27 DIN horsepower, all of them containing new practical features and showing both a dramatic design and for the first time a flat floor deck for excellent operator comfort.

The smallest of the range, the 19 horsepower DIN (21.3 horsepower SAE) TU 318 utilizes a new Iseki powerplant of 1006 cc a 3 cylinder diesel engine, and has a transmission of 6 forward, 2 reverse manual or the option of hydrostatic drive with 3 speed ranges. The new operator compartment boasts a completely new dashboard with warning lights for the major functions of the tractor and an easy step thru flat floor deck, a first on this size of tractor.

Power steering is standard on the new Iseki TU series whilst range and gears on the machine are situated to the right and left hand of the operator, along with PTO engagement and operation of the hydraulic valves.

Interestingly, Iseki has also incorporated splash guards around the footwell to stop water and debris from entering the operator area.

Technically speaking, the new 3 cylinder engines on all the TU series is rubber mounted making it one of the quietest around whilst electrics are on one side of the engine, lubricants and valve blocks on the other.

Moving up the scale is the 22 horsepower DIN (24 Hp SAE) TU 320, again with a new Iseki 3 cylinder powerplant of 1170 cc and with either a 6 forward 2 reverse manual transmission or 3 speed hydrostatic drive.

As with its smaller brother the new TU 320 has a wheelbase of 1.58m and with the new front axle incorporating four wheel drive boasts exceptional manoeuvrability with a turning circle of 2.5 metres using the wet disc brakes.

Fuel capacity is 25 litres whilst lift at the rear end is 1000Kg capable of handling large implements and coring machines.

Finally the largest machine in the Iseki TU range is the TU 324 with its 1296 cc four cylinder diesel engine producing 27 horsepower DIN (30Hp SAE). The new TU 324 is available with a 6 forward 2 reverse Transmission giving graduated speeds across the working range up to 25Km/hr. With lift capacity of 1000Kgs the new 324 is capable of lifting and operating a multitude of implements for the turf and horticultural markets.

Neptune goes nationwide

Neptune Scotland Ltd, producers of the Neptune range of organic seaweed soil improvers, has just announced that representation and distribution is now complete throughout Britain and Ireland.

The new distributors are: Stewart & Co (Seedsman) Ltd, Maxwell Hart Ltd, James Coburn & Son, Maxwell Hart Ltd (Northern Sales & Distribution Centre).

John Walker, managing director of Neptune, said: "Initially we were almost caught on the hop with sales enquiries from all over the country. It has always been my intention that we would offer more than simply a product for sale. To that end I'm delighted with our distributors who all have the ability to deliver an in depth service, product knowledge, technical know how and after sales back up. We, for our part, will concentrate on ensuring delivery and continued research."

Japanese distributor for Huxley . . .

Huxleys Grass Machinery has appointed a distributor in Japan for its range of Hydraulic Reelmowers for compact tractors.

Under the agreement, the Toko Sangyo Company Ltd of Tokyo has become the exclusive stocking distributor for Huxley Hydraulic Reelmowers throughout Japan with responsibility for demonstrations, sales, service and spare parts back-up. Huxley mowers have already been shipped to the company who intend actively promoting the range to golf clubs, local government departments and private users through its four branch offices within the country.

Kenneth Kamamura, who looks after Toko Sangyo's International Division,



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 TORO 52 OUT FRONT ROTARY
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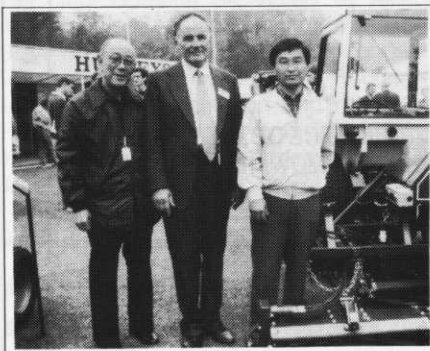
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OUT AND ABOUT

said the company had been looking for a range of hydraulic reel mowers suitable for use with compact tractors for some time. "Our North America contact spotted an article on Huxley mowers in a magazine and sent us a copy", he said. "We then approached Huxleys who mailed us a video and all relevant information. The overall impression was that Huxley mowers had been purpose-designed for compact tractors, were well-built and competitively priced and could do extremely well in Japan.



Ted Huxley (centre) with Kenneth Yamamura and Isao Emoto of Sangyo.

... and new dealer for Ireland.

Dublin-based Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd has been appointed the official sales, service and spare parts dealer in the Republic of Ireland for the Cushman Turf Care System and Royer Soil Shredders and Powerscreens.

The appointment was confirmed at September's Royal Windsor Show by Huxleys Grass Machinery, the distributor for the two product ranges in the British Isles. It followed the takeover by Broderick in early September of Brophy's Lawn & Turf Machinery, the company previously handling the Cushman and Royer ranges in the Republic of Ireland.

Tony Brophy, founder of the now-absorbed company has joined Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd with specific responsibility for service. He will also be helping the Broderick sales, service and parts departments familiarise themselves with the Cushman and Royer ranges prior to full product training by Huxleys during the coming months.

Noel Broderick, managing director of Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd, said that he intended to direct his company's established all-round sales, service and spare parts strengths to increase Cushman and Royer market shares in the Republic of Ireland."

Nigel Pring wins Jacobsen tournament

The Jacobsen's Tournament was held this year at Hunstanton Golf Club on 11th October and this fine links course was in superb condition.

A strong wind prevailed and this proved a real test for the 40 greenkeepers who had qualified for the Final from their respective Section Tournaments.

It soon became clear that the card for

36 points handed in early on by Nigel Pring of Wells Golf Club was likely to prove difficult to beat. In fact, only one other competitor - the redoubtable George Brown from Turnberry Golf Club, really challenged, and George came in with 35 points.

Both were excellent scores on a difficult scoring day, and Nigel was a worthy winner.

This was Neil Thomas' first visit to the Jacobsen Tournament as BIGGA's Executive Director and he was struck by the warm hospitality prevailing and the excellent accommodation provided through Chris Smith of Jacobsen. There was a warm welcome from the Hunstanton Club who have supported the tournament over the years.

Following dinner in the club house, Chris Smith presented the prizes, with Nigel Pring naturally delighted to win a trip to the GCSAA Show and Exhibition in Anaheim next February.

Jack McMillan, our chairman and Neil Thomas responded on behalf of the Association.

The evening was tinged with some sadness as this was the last Jacobsen Tournament. In a welcome initiative, Chris Smith has suggested that monies spent on the Tournament would be better utilised in future in supporting greenkeeper education and training.

With effect from January 1989, Jacobsen will be making a substantial annual investment in greenkeeper education and the Association is very appreciative of the lead taken by a national company in this field.

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For Less

BIGGA looks forward to a close relationship with Jacobsen in the future. The Association will not be totally losing the company as far as golf is concerned, as Jacobsen will be the principal sponsors of the National Tournament and this represents the opportunity for old acquaintances to be renewed.

This was an excellently organised event and though it will be no more, members should, in an evolving situation, look optimistically to the future, and to the benefits which can accrue from the level of support Jacobsen are prepared to give to the future education and training of greenkeepers.

BIGGA National Tournament

Ayr Belleisle G.C.
September 26th-28th

MONDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER

18 Holes Medal and First Round of 36 Holes

Hargreaves Cup - Donated by Sisis - Edwin Walsh, 71 nett
Maxwell Hart Cup Over 50's - Harry Diamond, 76 nett
Coming of Age Trophy - Gordon Payne, 76 nett
Vitax Putting Trophy - Alistair Connell

TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

18 Holes Medal
Hamilton Stutt Cup & Prize - Mike Sheenan, 70 nett
Supaturf Challenge Cup & Prize - Mick Hannam, 71 nett

36 Holes, Senior Division, 0-11 INC
Toro Cup & Prize (Best Gross) - Tony Gilles, 153 gross
Ransomes Cup & Watch (Best Nett) -



Fine weather, as always, was a great help and again featured as a highlight of the day at the annual Parker Golf Secretaries Tournament at which 80 Golf Clubs were represented and a splendid 18 holes golf was enjoyed by the competitors.

The competition was won by Liam O'Grady of Gillingham Golf Club with 41 points. The photograph shows the winners who recieved their trophies from Mrs. M. Parker, the wife of Parkers managing director, Jim Parker.

Edwin Walsh, 143 nett
Universal Cup & Prize (2nd Nett) - Tony Witt, 144 nett
Golf Illustrated Cup & Prize (3rd Nett) - Mike Sheehan, 147 nett

36 Holes, Junior Division, 12-18 INC
Pattinson Trophy & Prize (1st Nett) - Peter Woodward, 152 nett
Presidents Cup & Prize (2nd Nett) - Bill Fletcher, 153 nett
Mays Cup & Prize (3rd Nett) - Derek Ganning, 157 nett

Jubilee Regional Cup - Edwin Walsh, Peter Shaw, 459 nett
Northern Region - Barry Heaney,
Chipmans Under 25 & Prize - Richard Owens, 165 nett
Aitkens Putting Cup - Alistair Connell,

WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

18 Holes Medal
Fisons Bowl & Prize - Tony Witt, 64 nett
STRI Cup - Mick Hughes, 66 nett
Trade Prize - Robert Bruce,

54 Hole Gross
News of the World Trophy & Prize - Edwin Walsh, 231 nett

54 Hole Nett
S.A.I. Tray & Prize - Tony Witt, 208 nett
Rufford Top Dress Rose Bowl International Guest Prize - Barry Britton (Canada), 74 nett

Stewarts of Edinburgh Nearest the Hole - Jimmy Richardson (Monday) Hole in One, Jimmy Richardson (Tuesday) 14 inches, Gordon Moir (Wednesday) 10' 7"

RHONE-POULENC PUTTING COMPETITION WINNERS - Mark Esposito, Peter Shaw, Michael Hughes, Derek Wilson, James Devlin, Gavin Rowan, Jim Paton, Richard Owens, Kevin Johnson.



Frank Garvey of Ruffold presenting Barry Britton, President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association with the Rufford Top Dress Rose Bowl - the International Guest Prize.

BIGGA Official Uniform

Description	Colours available	Price
Lambswool V-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 36"-46" 34" and 48"-54" also available in many of the colours	Navy, Light Blue, Bluebird Blue, Tartan Red, Bordeaux (Burgandy), White, Black, Mid-Grey, Mink Brown, Blond, Dark Green, Sorbet Yellow, Light Pink, Azure Blue, Frost Grey, Pampas Green, Light Peach, Cherry and Catkin (mid-green)	£19.49 48"-54" £2.00 extra
Lambswool Crew-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 36"-46" only	Navy, White, Tartan Red, Sorbet Yellow	£19.49
Lambswool V-neck slipover <i>Sizes:</i> 38"-46" 34"-36" and 48"-54" also available in many of the colours	Navy, Light Blue, Bluebird Blue, Tartan Red, Bordeaux (Burgandy), Black, White, Mid-Grey, Blond, Sorbet Yellow, Light Pink, Frost Grey and Light Peach	£18.75 48"-54" £2.00 extra
Pure new botany wool roll-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> small/38"; medium/40"; large/43"; X-large/46" X-small/36"	Navy, Light Blue, Red, Wine, White, black, Grey, Beige, Tartan Green, Loden Green, Yellow Navy, Light Blue, White only	£19.49
Pure new wool V-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46" 48" on popular dark colours only	Navy, Light Grey, Burgandy, Bottle Green, Black, Brown, Natural, Red, Pale Blue, Lemon, Royal, White, Pink, Jade, Peach	£16.04
Pure new wool crew-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46"	Navy only	£16.04
Pure new wool slipover <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46"	Navy, Light Blue, Red, Black, Light Grey, Burgandy	£14.89
Jersey knit sportshirt (65% polyester/35% modal) with covered collar <i>Sizes:</i> Small, medium, large, X-large	Navy, Light Blue, Royal Blue, White, Red, Black, Wine, Mint Green, Emerald Green, Light Pink, Beige, Mocha Brown, Silver Grey, Lilac and Rose	£12.59
Jersey knit sportshire with ribbed knitted collar of a more casual type shirt <i>Sizes:</i> Small, medium, large, X-large	White, Lemon, Navy, Black, Red, Royal Blue, Grey	£11.50
Official tie	Navy Blue, Grey and Burgandy	£3.75
Official blazer including badge <i>Size:</i> 36"-50" specify short, regular or long	Navy Blue	£69.00 46"-50" £75.00
Official blazer badge		£11.50
Official golfing umbrella		£8.95
BIGGA lightweight jacket <i>Sizes:</i> 38"-48"	Navy/white with official BIGGA lettering	£28.00
BIGGA wetsuit <i>Sizes:</i> X-small; small; medium; large; X-large	Light blue	£28.00

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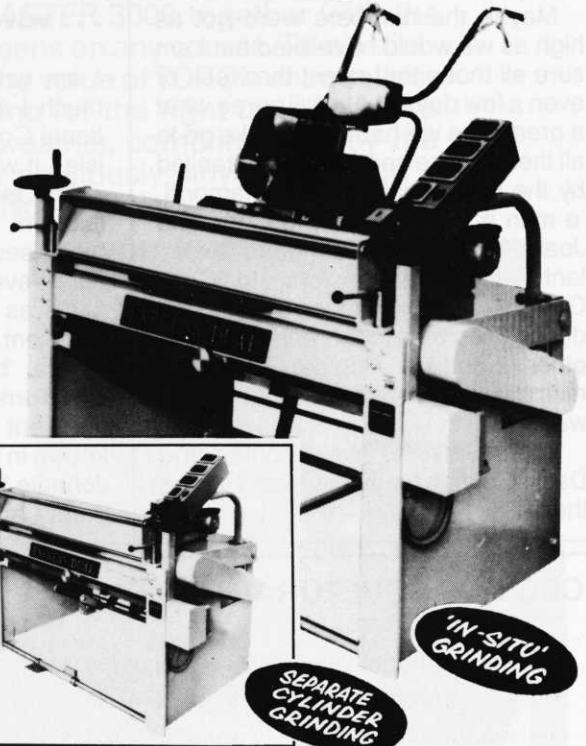
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FROM THE FAIRWAY

Tribute to helpers at Ayr . . .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who worked so hard before, during and even after the event, to make the BIGGA National Tournament and International Conference the success it was.

Maybe the numbers were not as high as we would have liked but I am sure all those that spent the week or even a few days at Ayr will agree what a great time we had. My thanks go to all the Ayrshire section committee led by the indefatigable Harry Diamond, 'a man o' mony pairts', to Chris and Joan Kennedy for their usual excellent administrative work, to Cecil George for all his efforts before and during the conference and to all the other Scottish Region Executive members who were involved in any way.

Thanks also to Neil Thomas and David Golding for their support during the week.

If the spirit and camaraderie shown during the week continues in the future then BIGGA must go from strength to strength.

Elliott R. Small
President Scottish Region

. . . wives enjoyed it too

I am writing to put on record how much I enjoyed the BIGGA International Conference, held at Ayr Belleisle - it was **GREAT**.

The events, excursions and visits laid on each day were very well organised and surpassed only by each evening's entertainment and this was second to none. We had excellent singers, country dancers, bands, 'big' band, Culzean Castle, and Turnberry Hotel. We had entertainment from Ronnie Dale, well known in these parts, we had a visit to Johnnie Walker, well known in these parts - and Burns.

Even the weather, after a wet and windy start, settled down into those nice sunny Autumn days and the Ayrshire coast and countryside looked really lovely.

I cannot speak for the men but I can say for certain that the wives had a wonderful time. The catering and all the meals, even a Banquet, given by the hotel were truly marvellous. I don't think I have ever had such a pleasant week and with such good company. I sincerely hope I will be able to attend another BIGGA Conference at some future date.

Margaret M. George,
Lenzie
Kirkintilloch

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Lloyds gets Mike on the ball

How Golf Equip started and grew into an international business

How do you pick up thousands of golf balls at a driving range, and then clean them quickly ready to be used again?

Solving that problem - and others faced by golf driving ranges - has proved that businessman Mike Collins is really on the ball. It has brought him international success - so much so that his golfing products are now a big hit in much of Europe.

In just a decade his company, Golf Equip, has grown into a market leader, with the support and expert advice of Lloyds Bank an invaluable element of Mike's success. Now even the golf professionals are adding their vote of confidence in his products, by choosing them to help polish their game.

Mike's is the classic success story. Two decades in the motor trade saw him rise from mechanic to garage proprietor. He has also run a guest house, during the mid-70s he even worked a franchised bread round.

The inspiration for Golf Equip came while Mike was travelling the country demonstrating a machine for dispensing golf balls. Mike says he was appalled by the quality of equipment usually used on golf ranges, and believed he could make better, tougher products.

He began by designing extra-tough standing and playing mats, and perfected a new rubber tee with extra-long life. From those small beginnings the company grew, and today employs six staff, including Mike's wife and son.

Mike, a perfectionist, spent three years designing and perfecting his ball collecting machine, which is now a key factor in the efficient running of driving ranges all over the



country. He also adapted existing "all terrain vehicles" to act as tractor units for the machine.

Mike believes his equipment is good enough to allow range operators to use mechanical ball collectors all year round. His ball washing equipment gives them the capacity to collect, wash and re-use thousands of balls each day - the most basic requirement for range operators.

Professional golfers and international competition organisers also put their faith in his products. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club asked him to run the practice ground at the Open Championship in 1984, and soon to follow were appearances at the Four Stars Tournament, Dunhill Cup, Dunhill British Masters and Seniors British Open.

His ball collecting equipment is also hired out for the Dunhill Cup and British Masters, the Seniors and the Ladies Weetabix Open.

Golf Equip is also building up a solid export business - its machinery and equipment can now be found in Belgium, the Channel Islands, Denmark, Eire,

France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

Despite his hectic business life, Mike still manages to fit in the odd round of golf. He is captain of Littlehampton Golf Club, and has chaired its greens committee for the past three years.

He regards local Lloyds Bank manager Tom Adams as an important factor in his business success. He has come to rely on Tom's friendly advice and counselling, as well as the regular business account service operated by Lloyds Bank.

Expansion has also brought the need for letters of credit and foreign exchange services, as well as overseas credit references - all of which Lloyds Bank has provided.

Lloyds Bank is firmly committed to helping small businesses like Mike's. The number of new business accounts gained this year alone has more than justified the many initiatives taken - initiatives like commission-free banking for 12 months with new business accounts (whether in debit or credit), a year's free subscription to Dun and Bradstreet's commercial collection service and a special small business loan without any red tape.

ON THE COURSE



Winter waves play havoc on West Kilbride

Jim Paton, head greenkeeper at West Kilbride talks to John Campbell about the problems and the benefits of managing a links course.

The golf course at West Kilbride, Ayrshire overlooks Arднеil Bay and beyond there are entrancing views across the Firth of Clyde to the Isle of Arran. The course is laid out on a narrow strip of land parallel to the shoreline and good use has been made of the ground to create an interesting test of golf. Evidence of the club's popularity is shown with a membership of 1100.

Jim Paton, 34, head greenkeeper, talked avidly about his job at the club and how he first came into greenkeeping. "After leaving school I attended Auchencruive Agri-

cultural College and then two years were spent working in landscape gardening. Being interested in golf I eventually got a job at Helensburgh Golf Club as first assistant greenkeeper. This was valuable experience for me then, my mentor was Eddie Boyce one of the old school of headgreenkeepers under whom I had a first class training. My next step up the ladder was the appointment of head greenkeeper to Machrie Golf Club, Islay. This was a challenging move to a typical seaside links where the course was laid out among the dunes whose towering banks flanked the undulating

linksland fairways."

"In 1980 I came to West Kilbride where I have settled down with my wife Jill and children, Jennifer, six and Jamie three. This is a very busy club with a large membership. The course layout is long and narrow so we tend to have quite a lot of walkways which creates compaction problems. Weekly repair of divot marks on fairways and tees involves valuable time and effort to keep the course tidy."

"A few years ago we had sheep on the course now they are gone it is interesting to see how the indigenous plants and vegetation is

ON THE COURSE



Jim Paton, head greenkeeper at West Kilbride

slowly beginning to predominate, one can see small clumps of gorse, heather and broom, etc., gradually getting established and in a few years time will add to the character and aesthetic beauty of the surroundings."

"Down at sea level we have problems at high tides when sea water backs up drain pipes and ditches but water levels drop quickly when the tide begins to ebb. Being so close to the sea we are often engaged in battles to repel it. Last winter was quite tough when two severe storms

resulted in washing away the front part of the 15th tee. To reclaim the ground 250 tons of rubble were dumped in front of the tee to close the breach and then it was rebuilt."

"Sea inundation during particularly high tides has been known to flood low lying parts of the course. I've seen the 14th green under water. When the sea recedes it's a hefty task for the staff afterwards sweeping up the flotsam and jetsam, bricks, stones,

wood, etc., and clearing up thick deposits of sand and silt. It means all hands on deck with brooms, shovels and rakes to restore the playing surface as quickly as possible."

"We have carried out quite a lot of drainage work but there are certain parts of the course where running sand is a problem when excavation takes place. In difficult situations like this when drainage is needed we prefer to employ a contractor with a Davis Ditcher to complete the work as quickly as possible."

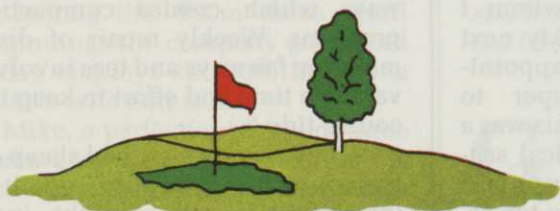
"Having an abundance of seaweed on our doorstep it is prudent and resourceful to collect some of this valuable source of humus for the compost heap. It is stored in the compost area and allowed to decompose for three years then it is moved into the shed nearby and gets processed during the winter with a Pneulec shredding machine and passed through a Royer Power Screen to make it ready for use on the course."

"During the past few years a lot of time has been spent revetting bunker faces and our long range programme is systematically to do them all. Total number of bunkers is 84, about one third have been revetted so far."

"The method of revetting is to strip down the old turf from the face, then rebuild the new wall from the bottom, packing up behind with soil as the height increases. Each row of turf in the wall is laid about $\frac{1}{4}$

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ON THE COURSE

inch back from the line underneath in a series of steps to build the sloping wall. Judging the correct pitch of the face generally requires some experience."

"We do not want to make the bunkers too difficult, there are a few good players in the club but many of the members are retired and we have a keen ladies section so we have to cater for all kinds of players and try to keep the hazards as fair as possible. The course can be extended to championship length when it is needed. Several years ago a few new trees were built to lengthen the yardage for the men so that the standard scratch was the same as the par of 71. That made the course a bit more challenging and there is a choice for all golfers."

"The average size of the greens is 500 sq. yds. Golf boils down to the putting surfaces and most courses are judged by the condition of the greens. So the aim is to keep the course in reasonably good playing condition all year round for the enjoyment of the members." Jim said, "When I first came to the club there was a policy to lift one green every winter, renovate the soil underneath and relay the turf to combat thatch and compaction problems. Now this is no longer done since the advent of the Verti Drain which we employ in tandem with our own regular programme of aeration and this is producing satisfactory results."

"Step banks around some of the raised greens are not easy to maintain with modern machinery. The course was built in 1893 when labour was more abundant and acute slopes and awkward banks were usually cut with hand machinery or even by scythe. We have had some problems with 'die-back' on these slopes and the approaches but

Jim Paton has been appointed a subject assessor in turf modules with scotec, the body set up to take over city and guilds exams in Scotland. This involves visits to the colleges which are offering the modules in his group to ensure that teaching and assessment is in accordance with the standards set out by the Scottish Vocational Educational Council.

Jim also says

"We have Dormie House Accommodation at West Kilbride and extend a welcome to any Greenkeeper or friend who may be attending the 1989 open at Troon to come and play the course here"



The 14th green with dry stone wall along the fringe

gradually overcoming this by hand forking and overseeding."

"An interesting feature of the course are the old dry stone walls. In this exposed coastal situation some of the stone is beginning to crumble due to the effects of weathering. This calls for occasional stone mason work by the greenkeeping staff to keep the walls in good repair and maintain a tidy appearance. We also look after our own boundary fencing along the shore. This work had to be done religiously when we had sheep on the course."

"Being so close to the beach its a popular spot for the many visitors and holiday makers who come to West Kilbride. Naturally they walk along the shore and there is always

the change of unauthorised intrusion. Horse riders and guys with motor bikes run up the sand dunes and contribute to the process of coastal erosion. We often chase them away but when there is nobody about their depredations still continue."

"For fairway mowing we have Ransomes trailed 7 gang units. Machinery wise there is a Toro G.M. 300, and a G. M. 3 which is used to cut tees and approaches. This year a new Toro 316 was purchased to mow the approaches much further out and keep the 7 gangs away from these vulnerable spots. We also bought a new tractor. A Sisis Hydro-main System is used for aeration and it works very well on our course which is relatively flat."

"I am a great believer in giving all

BIGGA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday, 28th February, 1989
at 2.30 pm in
The Royal York Hotel, York
immediately adjacent to the Railway Station

ON THE COURSE

the greenkeeping staff a chance to do all the jobs on the course for variety and experience. Once a man has been properly trained he will have the ability and confidence to work on his own without direct supervision. We have quite a young staff who are enthusiastic and like to talk about the profession. Three of them have the potential to eventually become good head-greenkeepers."

"My club is very progressive and have always been considerate in all their dealings with me. For the past few years we have been running on a tight budgetary system. Last year we did very well from green fees and were able to give the staff an acceptable pay increase as a result."

"Each year I present the committee with a budget for running the course which has to be approved. After this it is virtually up to me to keep strictly to my estimates. The Treasurer's monthly statements tell me whether I am under or over budget but basically my financial forecasts have always worked out quite well."

"I have a good Green Convenor who keeps in touch with me on a regular basis about course matters, I am also in daily contact with the club secretary. The committee leave me to get on with the job of running the course and we don't have too many green committee meetings which is the way things should be."

"I had always been involved with the affairs of SIGGA and at one time held the posts of vice-chairman and chairman of the West Section. When I moved to Ayrshire I eventually became Secretary for this area. Being keen on greenkeeper training and education locally I have been working closely with Harry Diamond in setting up a programme for the technical college and we have had discussions with the managing agents for the YTS. There is always plenty to do and we all have a contribution to make to the success of BIGGA."

"Part of a contented life for any greenkeeper is having a nice area to live and work in and for that I have no complaints. Another consideration is a happy family life with good educational facilities in the vicinity for the children. We are fortunate to have a superb sports complex nearby which is an added bonus. I am contented with my life style so what more could one ask for!"

BIGGA/SUPATURF 1989 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, 4th-6th April, 1989

The programme for the conference will be distributed to members shortly, but in the next few months, THE GOLF COURSE will profile a number of the speakers, commencing in this issue, with Professor J B Beard of Texas A & M University. Members are reminded that places can be secured at this stage by forwarding payment of £15.00 deposit to headquarters office.

DR JAMES B BEARD

Professor Beard was born in Bradford, Ohio and is married with two sons. His academic record includes periods at Ohio State University (B.S. Agronomy), Purdue University (M.S. Turfgrass Ecology and Ph. D. Turfgrass Physiology), and a N.S.F. Post-Doctoral at the University of California - Riverside.

He has held a number of senior positions and since 1975 has been Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas A & M University in which post he provides leadership and co-ordination of the research programme in stress physiology and culture of perennial grasses. Professor Beard has pioneered investigations concerning: turfgrass evapotranspiration, rooting, drought stress, metabolic basis of indirect heat stress, shade adaptation, wear tolerance, and thatch biodegradation. Discovery of the spring root decline phenomenon in C-4 grasses is of particular note. Other research emphases have been on the prevention of winter injury, ecology of grass communities, roadside establishment, and sod production. He is the author of 114 scientific journal papers and 286 popular technical articles.

His teaching activities have included two undergraduate turfgrass courses plus graduate grass ecology and stress physiology courses. He has been active in graduate and undergraduate curriculum development, and currently advises approximately 25 undergraduate students and has served as major professor to 36 graduate students. He was previously involved in extension activities, and lectures widely throughout North America.

He is the author, in collaboration with his wife, Harriet, of four books and a laboratory manual, and had given numerous invitational papers and served as an advisor at international conferences and symposia in the US, Europe, Far East, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. He was instrumental in the initiation and organisation of the First International Turfgrass Research Conference held in Harrogate in 1969. Professor Beard has been Chairman of the departmental Undergraduate Curriculum, Graduate, and Advisory Committees, and has served on many national committees including the Roadside Development Committee of the Highway Research Board, National Research Council, Research Advisory Committee of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Musser Foundation Board of Directors, Southern Regional Task Force on Plants to Enhance Man's Environment, and the CAST Task Force on Chlordane and Heptachlor.

Professor Beard has written a number of books including 'Turfgrass: Science and Culture' (1973), and 'Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses' (1983). He is a Past President of the Crop Science Society of America and Past Chairman of the American Society of Agronomy.

BIGGA is delighted to have obtained the services of such a distinguished speaker for the Cambridge Conference and Professor Beard has agreed to give two lectures on

- (i) 'Current Trends in the Maintenance and Science of Golf Course Turfs in the United States' and
- (ii) 'Basic Turfgrass Nutritional Strategies'

We look forward to welcoming him to Cambridge.



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REVIEW

Woodbridge set a fine test for Ransomes Tournament

Ransomes held its 6th International Greenkeepers and Superintendents golf tournament at Woodbridge Golf Club, Suffolk in October. Twelve teams were entered, however Spain had to withdraw at the last minute due to the extensive flooding in the south of their country.

The BIGGA fielded three teams, all equally splendid in their Association colours. Neil Thomas was the team manager for Wales, Jack McMillan for England and Jimmy Neilson for Scotland. As usual the USA and Canada looked very strong in practice, with the West Germans looking like a good each way bet.

Play got under way bright and early on a gorgeous autumn day, with Austria out first, then Canada who made a solid start but by the turn it was England who had their noses in front thanks to some fine play by John Teixeira and Jan Farrall. After the morning round

England led with 46 pts the USA were alongside Scotland on 43 pts with Canada, Sweden and Wales all within striking distance on 41 pts.

England clearly lunched too well as they failed to improve. Canada and the USA played consistently well, as did Wales, but it was Scotland, who brought in Regional Administrator Chris Kennedy for the afternoon round who burnt the course up scoring 4pts a hole on four occasions and with a score of 49pts eventually won by 4pts from England who faded to 41pts in the afternoon with the USA coming third.

In the evening there was a splendid banquet at the Orwell Moat House Hotel attended by team members, managers and various guest of Ransomes. The whole event was most efficiently organised by John Wilson, ably assisted by the Ransomes sales team. During the evening the presentation of the prizes

was made by the Captain of Woodbridge, Brigadier Johnny King - Martin. He, together with John Wilson, made entertaining speeches in which they both paid tribute to the excellence of the Woodbridge course under the supervision of head greenkeeper Lyn Arbon. They can be fewer more taxing events to hold for any greenkeeper than a tournament for ones peers from all over the world.

The Scots were naturally delighted by their success and in his speech of thanks on behalf of all the competitors, Chris Kennedy paid tribute to Ransomes for bringing so many members of the golf course maintenance industry together in such friendly and enjoyable circumstances. He also reminded the audience that Scotland had won the last time the Ransomes International had been held at Woodbridge when the team included Jack McMillan and John Campbell - a happy hunting ground indeed.

No doubt in three years time the tournament will attract an even larger entry and contribute to even greater friendships and contacts throughout the greenkeeping world.

Results of the 11 teams:

Scotland 43-49-92; **England** 46-41-87; **United States** 43-43-86; **Canada** 41-42-83; **Wales** 41-42-83; **Holland** 39-42-81; **West Germany** 40-41-81; **Republic of Ireland** 40-40-80; **Sweden** 41-39-80; **Northern Ireland** 40-39-79; **Austria** 31-29-60.



Seated on a bunker intimidatingly short of the 16th green at Woodbridge G.C. is Len Arbon's Greenkeeping Team which includes his son Kevin and brother-in-law Philip. Members of the team are (left to right), Allan Turner, Paul Jones, Philip Savage, Len Arbon, Maurice Bäckhouse and Kevin Arbon.



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**British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
1989 Greenkeeper Membership Application Form**

(NB NOT to be completed by 1988 members)

To be returned to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU.
Tel: 0274-560556

Please complete fully in BLOCK CAPITAL letters:

Full name Name of employer
Home address Address
.....
County County
Post code Post code
Telephone Tel:
Date of birth Position held
..... Date of appointment
Professional qualifications
I wish to be affiliated to the *Section (see below)

I hereby apply for membership of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Signed Dated

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

Fees payable will be: Full Greenkeeping Member **£28.00**; 18 years of age and under **£14.00**.

Sections

Scottish Region: Ayrshire, Central, East, North, West; **Northern England Region:** North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield; **Midlands and North Wales Region:** East Midland, Midland and North Wales, East of England, Mid Anglia, Berks/Bucks/Oxon; **South East Region:** East Anglia, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London; **South West Region:** South West, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales.

**British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
1989 Associate and Trade Membership Application Form**

(NB NOT to be completed by 1988 members)

To be returned to: The Executive Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU.
Tel: 0274-560556

Please complete fully in BLOCK CAPITAL letters:

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Categories of Membership: B.1. (Associate member) **£12.50**; B.2. (Associate member including subscription to 'The Golf Course' for 1 year) **£21.50**; C.1. (Trade member) **£15.00**; C.2. (Trade member including subscription to 'The Golf Course' for 1 year) **£24.00**.

I hereby apply for membership of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

I wish to join as a member and enclose my cheque as indicated above in the sum of £..... made payable to BIGGA. A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

Signed Dated

Please note that Trade/Associate membership is on an individual basis

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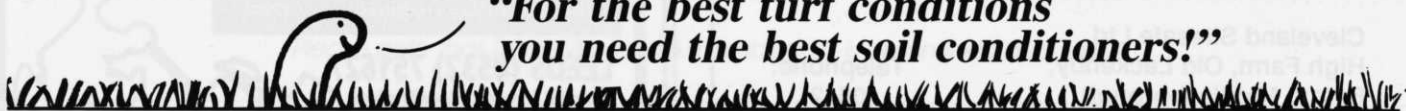
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Go home, Yanks

We love you but can't afford you says Fred Hawtree

One minute we are pleased they are coming - the next, we are telling them to go home. We have got to sort out our relationship if the children are not to grow up deprived, violent and queer. What better Marriage Guidance Counsellor than your old and wicked Uncle Fred, recently returned from exile in Siberia. "Nobody better", you say? Thank you! Let's get to work.

The first signs of the foreign invasion appeared back in the Sixties. Your older but not so wicked Uncle Robert (Trent Jones) attended the Canada Cup in Paris and took Henry Longhurst out to dinner at Maxim's. This was a sound move. Henry's articles on the back page of the Sunday Times were prescribed reading at breakfast or as he said, immediately afterwards. Never at a loss for a word, he was occasionally at a loss for a subject. This one gave him useful material though he was more impressed by the aplomb of his host who, when presented with

the bill, neither blanched, fainted nor asked if they needed any help with the washing up.

Subsequent articles mentioned the Trent Jones staff of forty in his New York office and made us Brits feel deprived. In those days, if we picked up a nice little par 3 job, we were set up for life.

I have never met the great man and still more regrettably, have never dined at Maxim's at his expense. But at least I once managed to touch the hem of his garment. When the committee of the Golf de Bonadues near Lille wanted to build a new golf course, they decided to have 9 Holes British and 9 Holes American. The site was flat as a pancake. Even the land drains were laid dead level.

I spattered lakes all over the place à l'americaine and the contractors were of that rare breed who actually read the plans and produced what was drawn. This is what one expects of an outfit with a snappy name like "Nederlandseheidema-

atschappij". I saw the other 9 Holes described later as "Trent Jones in one of his milder moods". So the clients probably got what they wanted but the wrong way round.

A similar situation cropped up in Belgium this Spring when my son, Martin, shared 36 holes for the same reason with Bill Amick from Florida. (Bill, when off duty, advocates Modified Golf with the bramble-dot ball that only goes half as far.) The golf course architects were courteously asked if Amick would do a big American eighteen and if Martin would mind tackling the "club" course. Mind? He was delighted. Only Amick was put out. They both knew that the short course (though at 6,400 yards not all that short) would be the charmer, just like the Old Course at Sunningdale compared with the New.

Where was I? Of course, New York and Paris in the Sixties. Those were the palmy days. Not necessarily because there were new courses beginning to appear in Europe (though still ten times less than in the US) but because there were fewer golf course architects and they were in business on their own account. Things are different now. Here is a random selection of six recent US resort courses with their designers:

1984 Grand Cypress, Florida
7,024 yards. 72.

Jack Nicklaus and Bob Cupp.

1985 Horseshoe Bay
(Applerock) 6,990 yards.
72.

Robert Trent Jones and Roger Rulewich.

1981 Francis H I'i Brown G C
(!) Hawaii 6,813 yards.
72.

Ray Cain, Homer Flint and Robin Nelson

1981 Sungiver (North), Oregon
6,863 yards. 72.

Robert Trent Jones and Don Knott

1980 Kapalua (Village),
Hawaii 6,602 yards. 71.

Ed Seay and Arnold Palmer

1976/82 Kingsmill (River)
Williamsburg 6,776
yards. 71.

Peter Dye 1976. Brian Ault and Tom Clark 1982.

OPINION

It is a small sample but already suggests three trends. First, and most ominous, is the role of leading professionals in bringing in the business and staying in it as co-designer.

Second is the listing of the name of the collaborator who probably did all the serious work. This may have occurred because the full list was prepared by Ronald Whitten, co-author with Geoffrey Cornish of "The Golf Course", the only full account so far of the designers of the world's golf courses. He will have been meticulous in allocating the credits.

Bob Cupp, for example, has now stepped out of the shadow of collaboration and stands alone. Jim Wyllie who will be speaking at next April's Cambridge Conference (Queens' College, by the way, not Queen's and not Queens) told me yesterday that Cupp is enjoying a vogue in Ontario re-fashioning out-dated bunkering. He is also designing a new course in Sussex for a Canadian group and already has his own under-collaborator.

Third, many of the names on the list are new or at least unfamiliar. I have certainly heard of Don Knott who married Victoria, the daughter of another golf course architect, Robert Muir Graves. Graves still ploughs his own furrow solo in spite of a long list of courses in America and as far afield as Japan and Malaysia. He started life as a licensed landscape architect in California but gradually concentrated on golf. This is still the best route into golf course architecture though collaboration with an experienced firm is probably safer at the start. Peter Dye for instance, the neo-Impressionist in golf design, has ten young men attached to his office. The policy there is one man, one course, from crackle to champagne. Even Mrs Dye has blossomed into full consultanhood and specialises in design from the forward tees.

I have reservations about collaboration with a big-name pro. They tend to have bizarre ideas amongst the good ones picked up when away from the practice ground. Unless Ronald Whitten is around, they may also get a disproportionate share of the credit.

And the owner of the big name does not pin it on the gate for peanuts. He is cashing in on a valuable



Fred Hawtree

property built single-handed over many years. The customer will not be hornswoggled but had better get his sums right before agreeing to the unlimited budget which is likely to be requested and which, as the old joke insists, will be exceeded.

That milestone on top of the other one, the advisory fee, will grind the client pretty small unless he has recourse to building or resort development. Those possibilities

are scarce in these small islands and getting scarcer as the planners and conservationists close ranks. Even the general public who prefer their present outlook to what is being offered now tag along to the Public Enquiry and register their protests about disturbance, traffic, dust, water table and excessive use of land by an élite group.

I blame all this on the amount of expensive hot air necessary to blow up the balloon. Each development has to be grander, bigger and more star-spangled than the last. These requirements determine where the golf course will be built - not the suitability of the site itself. The qualities of the site are relatively unimportant because it is simply converted into a standard 72 par product exactly like all the others apart from a few local eccentricities likely to ensure that the maintenance bill will be astronomical for ever after. The greenkeeper ends up with the headache - trying to maintain a monster which should not have been there in the first place. We grumble about inflation going up from 4.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent. Where is it going in the golfing world? It is not going down, that is for sure. And it is not steady. So there is only one other way. And, present trends look set to push it higher still.

Now, before you put in for a rise, sharpen your pencils.

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Tick one box for each question
a) £50,000 b) £100,000 c) £350,000 d) £500,000
- B. A popular but not outstanding North American club has an 8-year waiting list. What is the entrance fee?
a) \$10,000 b) \$20,000 c) \$30,000 d) \$50,000
- C. You decide to play a round at Pebble Beach. What dollar bills should you offer?
a) \$20 b) \$50 c) \$100 d) \$500
- D. Which of the above is the best value?
A. B. C.

If you got three C's and a C go to the top of the class. If not, there is still hope if you continue reading THE GOLF COURSE.

Programmed flag positions give variety to the play

John Lelean suggests ways for making courses more interesting for club members

Who decides the daily tee marker and green cup positions on your golf course?

Usually it is left to the greenstaff to move the markers and cut new hole positions whenever they consider it necessary.

Some clubs consider this to be a daily maintenance task, others select new positions less frequently, but regardless of how often, is there any planned programme of positioning or is it just a mere whim of the man who sets forth armed with the hole cutting equipment?

There is a direct correlation between the siting of the tee markers and the pin position on the green. Both influence the degree of difficulty when playing the hole.

The third factor to be considered is the prevailing weather conditions on the day, fine and sunny, cold and wet, a gentle breeze or a howling gale that can turn a difficult par four into an equally difficult par five.

Golf is a game that should be fair to the medal player and for match play. If the standard scratch for the course is 72, it should be laid out to play to that score, equally, to the handicapped golfer as well as the scratch player.

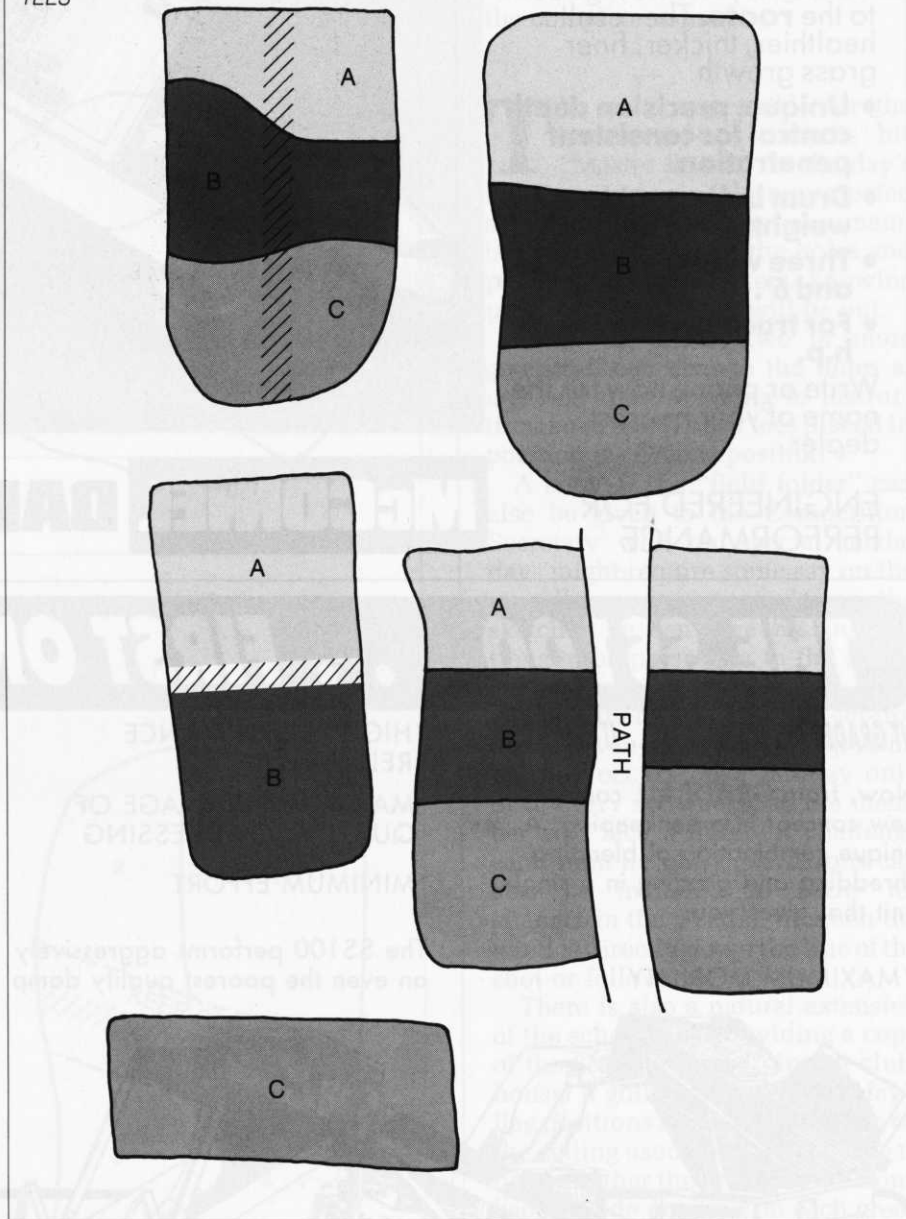
There is no point in extending the course by putting the pin at the back of the green, shielded by a bunker from the approach shot and moving the tee boxes alongside the distance markers if the golfer has to play into the teeth of a gusting north easterly.

In match play the stroke index for each hole is designed to reflect the degree of difficulty. To artificially alter the index by stretching the hole on days of adverse conditions or for that matter reducing it when the weather is perfect will not make the greenstaff many friends among the members.

There is also a fourth dimension that should be considered and that is the player. Few golfers hit every shot down the middle, they are either hookers or slicers.

All too often the course is set up to cater for one type of golfer, and this

FIGURE 1
TEES



particularly applies to pin positioning where the cups are regularly cut on one side of the green, giving for instance the right to left player a considerable advantage over the left to right hitter.

Some simple pre-planning will not only solve these problems, but give a great deal of

variety to playing the course as well. It will also curb the moans from the golfer who plays on a set day of the week, such as a Sunday, only to find that the flag on the green is always in the same place.

The first step to introduce variety, involves drawing rough sketches of all eighteen tees. The tees are then surveyed to choose marker position areas ranging from the most difficult

Tired turf needs the slice of life!

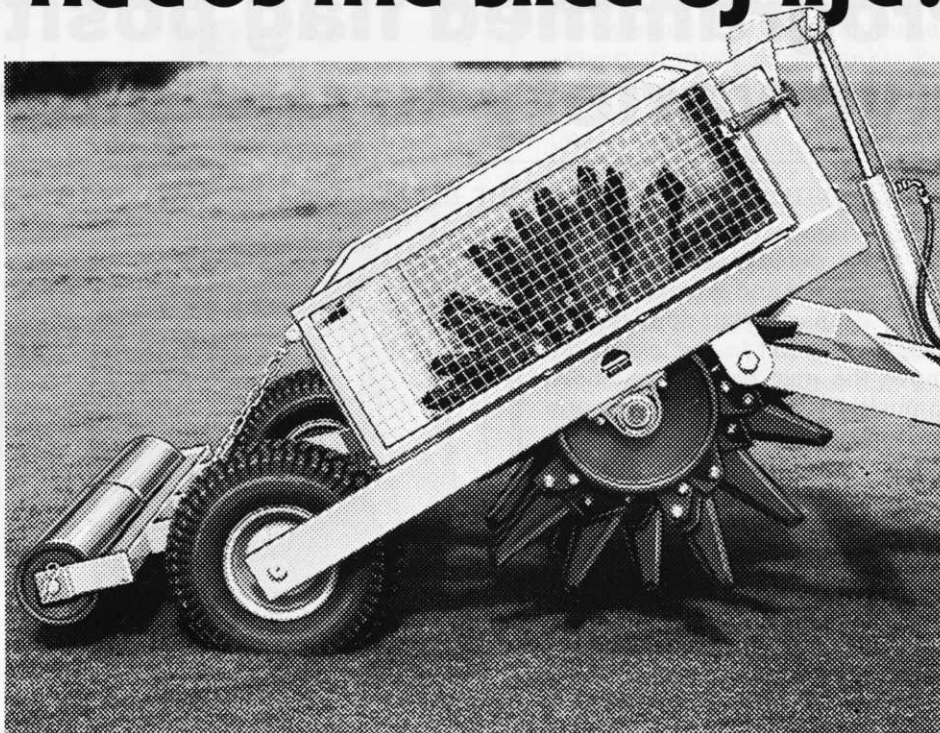
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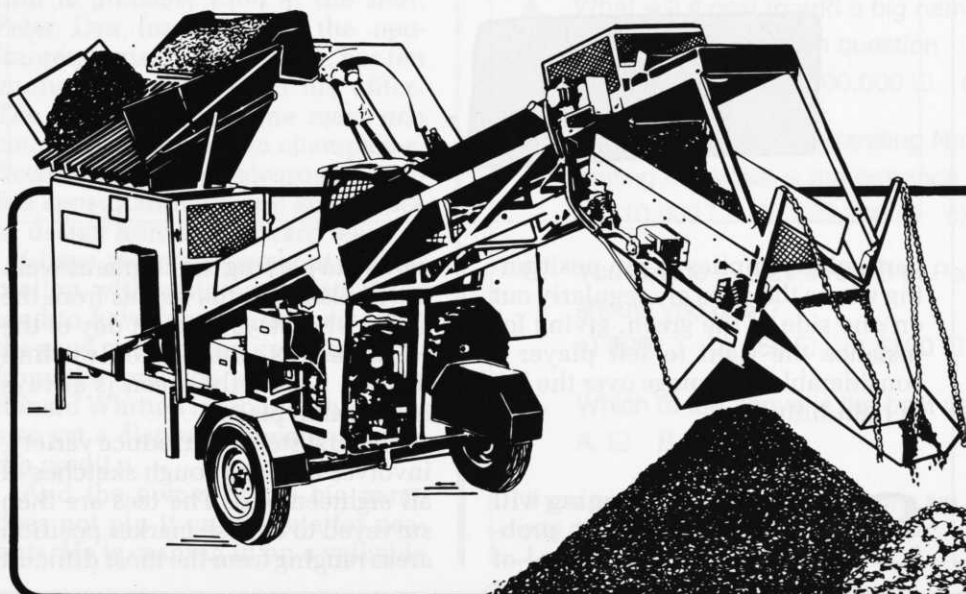
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MANAGEMENT

to comparatively easy and marked on the sketch plan in three distinct areas (see fig. 1), marked A, B & C.

The forward Ladies tees should also be treated in similar fashion in instances where their teeing areas are greater than 150 square feet.

Next, draw up sketch plans of the

eighteen greens, showing both sand bunkers and other hazards adjacent to the putting surfaces.

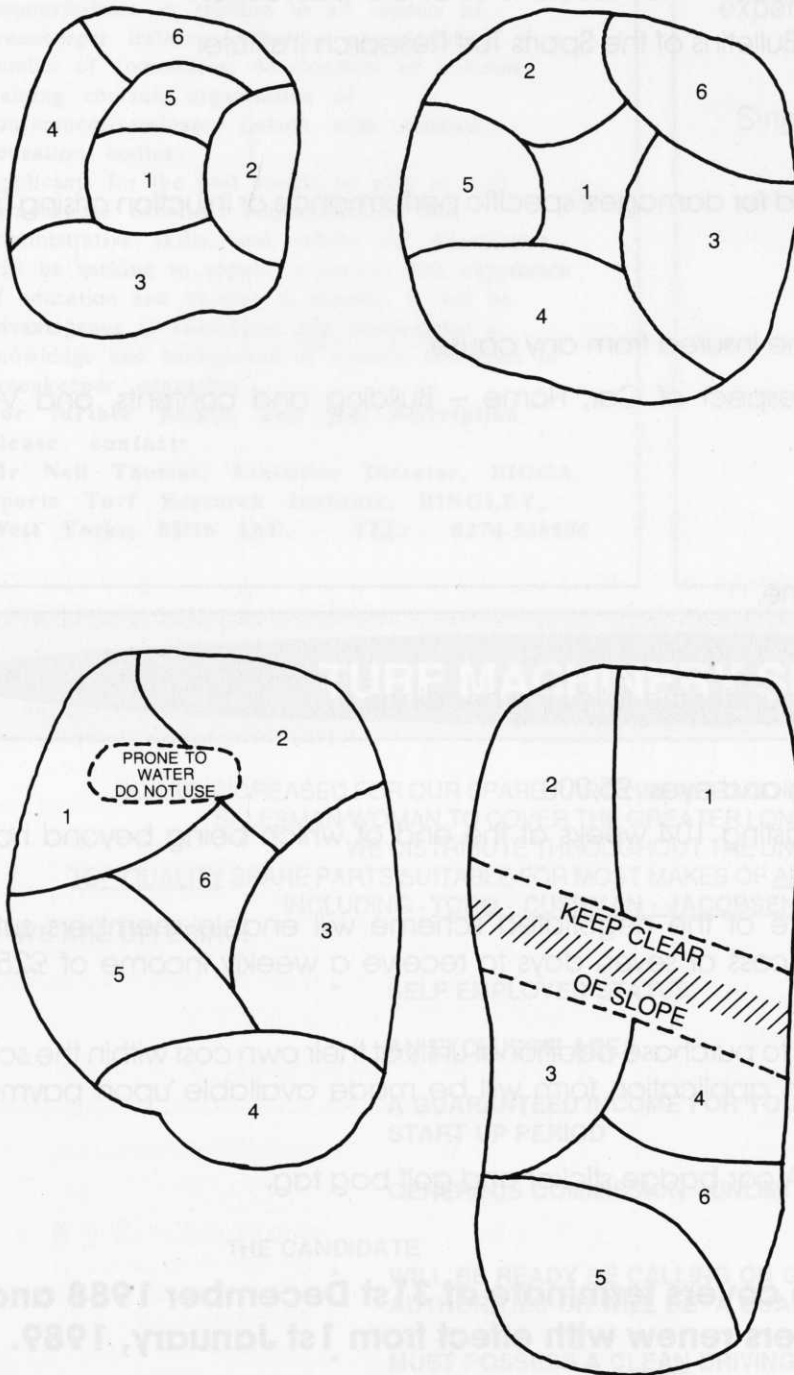
The green plans are now divided up into six segments on the sketch, ignoring any areas where a pin position is totally unfair, such as a steep slope, covered from the approach by

tree or lying in a hollow prone to fill with water in a thunderstorm.

The six segments are now numbered from 1 to 6 for all eighteen greens and these plans form the basis of a "Master Board" located in the Greenkeeper's Shed (see fig. 2).

It is a simple matter to extend this record on to a separate card for each tee and green, reproducing the "Master Board" into a ring folder for the complete course.

FIGURE 2
GREENS



The man responsible for the course set-up, consults his "Master Board" for the day's locations and using the now created set-up card can instruct any member of staff to change the holes and position the tee markers, knowing precisely where they will be put.

Using the cards, two or more greenstaff can change the holes at any one time, working to instructions such as - "Today tees placed in position B - Greens position 4."

A copy of the "field folder" can also be given to the Competition Secretary who on special medal days might require some say on the overall course set-up. Using the sketches he can give his instructions to be passed on to the actual hole-cutter.

Since there are now six set-ups over a seven day cycle, set-up number one occurs on a Sunday only once every six weeks, so the member will face a different challenge each time he plays. Variations can also be included to allow for changes in the weather or when the wind is directly down the line of the shot or following.

There is also a natural extension of the scheme. By providing a copy of the "Master Board" in the clubhouse. If golfers are told - "Today's flag positions are at 1, depending on the coding used, they will be able to note whether the hole is at the front, back or side position on each green before setting off on the round.

This is essential information on courses with a number of "blind" holes or on par 3s, where the bottom of the flag-stick cannot be seen from the tee.

This simple and straightforward scheme will not only please your members but has the added benefit of spreading wear on tees and greens.

Why not try it?

1989 BIGGA GREENKEEPER MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

For 1989, BIGGA will be offering a comprehensive membership package for greenkeeper members designed to offer members a full range of services and benefits in line with a progressive professional Association. Full details are available from Headquarters Office on request, but the package will include:

- (i) Monthly copies of the 'The Golf Course' – the Association's official publication.
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Also, it will be possible for members to purchase additional units at their own cost within the scheme and a pamphlet incorporating an application form will be made available upon payment of subscription.

NEW Members will also receive a BIGGA car badge sticker and golf bag tag.

NB. Existing legal and insurance covers terminate at 31st December 1988 and it is essential that *current* members renew with effect from 1st January, 1989.

Accordingly, they will be separately invoiced during early December and should *not* therefore complete the application form in this edition of 'The Golf Course'

APPOINTMENTS

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EDUCATION OFFICER

This is a new post established to meet the current and future education and training needs of greenkeepers. In line with the anticipated growth and development of greenkeeper education in the next few years, the appointed officer will have a key role in both the co-ordination and review of current college-based courses as well as the development of new and advanced courses.

The postholder will have wide-ranging responsibilities in relation to all aspects of greenkeeper training including administration of a number of committees; development of in-house training courses; organisation of conferences/seminars; liaison with national education bodies.

Applicants for the post should be able to demonstrate excellent communicative and administrative skills, and, whilst the Association will be seeking to appoint a person with experience of education and training in general, it will be advantageous if candidates can demonstrate a knowledge and background of specific relevance to greenkeeper education.

For further details and job description please contact:

Mr Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA,
Sports Turf Research Institute, BINGLEY,
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Apply in writing with full C.V. to:-

**The Secretary,
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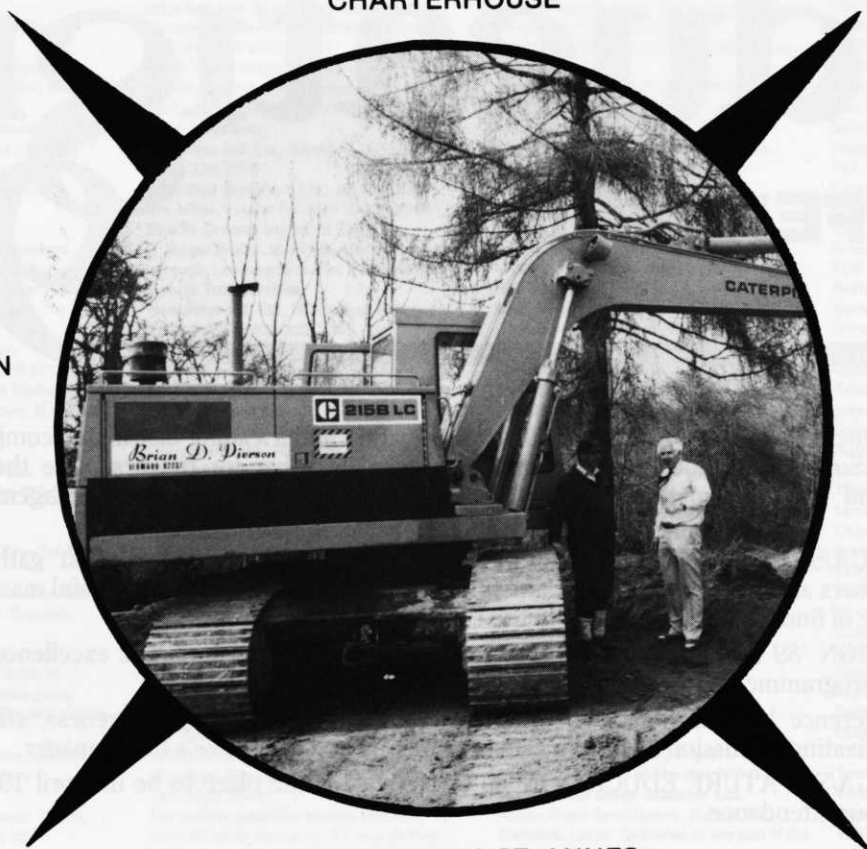
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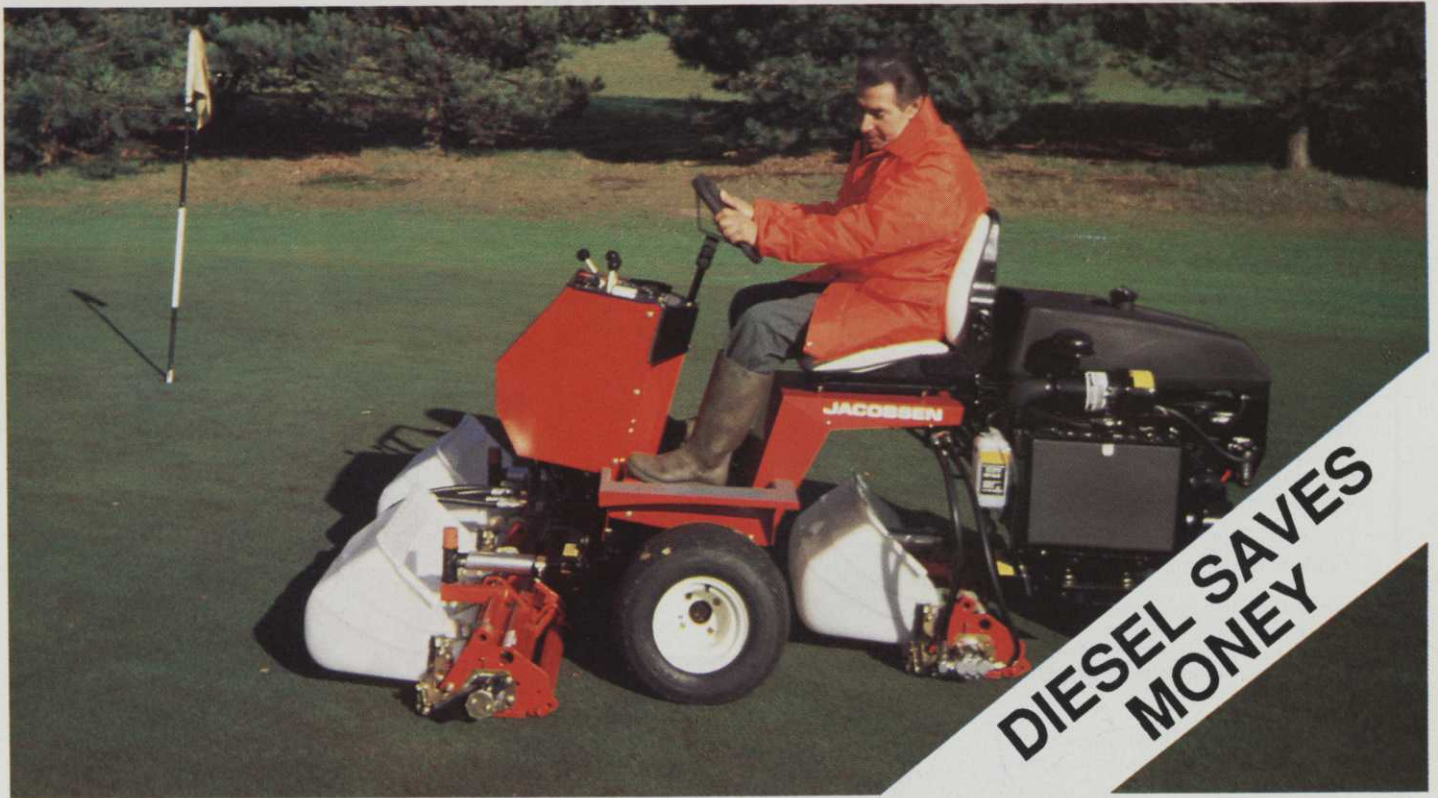
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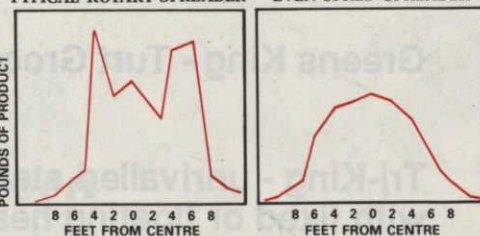
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