

the Golf Course



STABLEFORD POINTS SCORED BY EACH TEAM			TEAM	STABLEFORD POINTS SCORED BY EACH TEAM		
1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	TOTAL		1st ROUND	2nd ROUND	TOTAL
31	29	60	SCOTLAND	43	49	92
41	42	83	SPAIN			
46	41	87	SWEDEN	41	39	
			U.S.A	43	43	
	42	81	WALES	41	60	
	31		WEST G	40		
	40	80				

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL
GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BIGGA



BIGGA
UPDATE

'AROUND THE GREEN'
Unfortunately, there will not be an edition this month as items for inclusion have not been received due to the postal dispute. I would be grateful if correspondents would submit material as soon as possible for the next edition.

**EUROPEAN TURF
MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
HARROGATE - 18th TO 20th
JANUARY 1989**

Members will find enclosed with this edition a seminar programme and admission ticket. Those members completing the application form should indicate accordingly at the foot of the form if they require details of accommodation available in Harrogate. These details will then be forwarded when session tickets are distributed.

UNIFORM

Members have requested information on the current uniform items available, and these are now available. Please note the recent inclusion of both a lightweight BIGGA jacket and a BIGGA wetsuit. For both items, I would refer members to the front cover photograph of the August edition of 'the Golf Course'

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**RECOMMENDED MINIMUM
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**the Golf
Course**

OCTOBER 1988

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Front cover: The winning Scottish Team in the Ransomes International Golf Tournament at Woodbridge Golf Club. L to R: Duncan Grey, Jhonny King-Martin Captain Woodbridge Golf Club, Ian Ritchie, George Patterson, Chris Kennedy and team manager Jimmy Nielsen. - A full report will appear in next months issue.

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The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised deputy, the appropriate salary scale of £9,646 per annum should apply.

NB Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

* Basic conditions of employment should include:-

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- (2) Where accommodation is not provided by the club, a suitable remuneration should be paid.
- (3) 40 hour week.
- (4) Retirement pension scheme.
- (5) Telephone costs on club business.
- (6) Mileage allowance.

(7) Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.

(8) If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and statutory holidays.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION
To promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping; to assist and encourage the proficiency of members; to arrange an International Annual Conference, educational seminars, functions and competitions; to maintain a Benevolent Fund; to act as an employment agency; to provide a magazine; to collaborate with any body or organisation which may in any way benefit the Association or its members or with which there may be a common interest; to carry out and perform any other duties or responsibilities which shall be in the general interests of the Association or its members.

Membership details are available from:

**The Executive Director,
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The Sports Turf Research
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UPDATE

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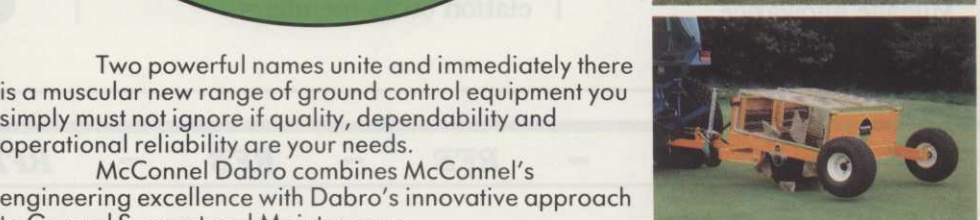
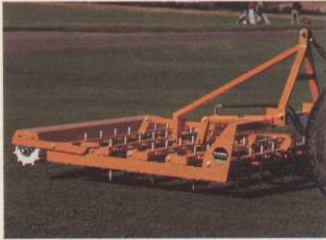
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McCONNEL DABRO

THIS month sees the retirement of Jim Arthur the country's best known golf course agronomist. Mr Arthur first started advisory work some 40 years ago as a member of the Sports Turf Research Institute staff, he later ran various successful businesses in the commercial sector. Since he set up his own golf course advisory service, he has been associated with the PGA European Tour, the R & A Championship Committee, he usually made 350/400 advisory visits to courses throughout the UK and Europe each year and he has advised on the construction of many new courses. He also served as a member of the Greenkeeper Training Committee and was involved in bringing the three previous greenkeeping associations together, through the intervention of the R & A. Mr Arthur will remain a member of the R & A's Panel on Greenkeeping.

In advocating a product, system or design Jim Arthur has always based his advice solely with the best interest of his client in mind. Such advice has occasionally upset one or two commercial interests but everyone throughout the industry is aware that no inducement to change his advice would ever have been considered. Many companies have made design alterations or modifications to their products at his suggestion.

Jim Arthur has been a regular and valued contributor to "the Golf Course" and to "Greenkeeper". He has always been known for his forthright, if sometimes controversial views, but his advice has always been based on the consistent application of sound and eminently logical greenkeeping principles. He recently summed up his views - "greenkeeping - and course presentation has much in common with climbing a mountain peak. Each foothill climbed reveals another range, with glimpses of the high peak, which is hardly ever climbed - and even if it is, it is hard to stay up there.

JIM ARTHUR RETIRES



The problem is that in any living ecology, change is inevitable. Each target when achieved is replaced with more ambitious ones. Areas of courses which would never have excited any comment a decade ago are now coming under scrutiny and in a decade's time will be as such part of routine maintenance as mowing fairways is now.

This means above all else that we must continually take stock of increasing man-power and machines - remembering that we are subject to a number of interacting factors. More play creates more compaction and this means more corrective aeration, yet itself reduces the time available in which to carry it out. It is no answer, for example, to stop mid seasonal aeration because slit-marks upsets members, but to find another way of achieving the results.

Equally, standards rise, e.g. in improving pitch and run-up conditions, this means more sophisticated machines which permit cuttings to be collected (the best way of improving the density, resilience and fineness of any turf) and which also keep potentially damaging tractors and trailed gangs away from narrow entrances already subjected to wear from players and their trolleys. The trolleys themselves are a major contributing factor to wear (by tending to restrict those towing them to set lines around the course, instead of spreading wear).

We cannot ban trolleys all year, though this would undoubtedly help, we certainly should try to ban all buggies - perish the thought that one day they may be as common here as on the other side of the Atlantic. Remember however, that if we do see such a heresy permitted, (and it will no longer be golf that we play but a different game described by Frank Tatum (as 'cart ball' - then will have to face another change - a concrete road round the whole course, to which trolleys are barely restricted by high kerbs!

My theme, is that change is unavoidable, that standards demanded as of right, not expected, will rise and we must try to guide these changes in the right direction, and that to achieve these standards we need more men and more machines - and indeed more money.

Above all else we must try to preserve the traditions and the conditions of a game which is under threat from a new entry of players who have no understanding of what the finer points of the game are all about. If we do not take steps to protect it, traditional or 'real' golf will become as rare as real or Royal tennis."

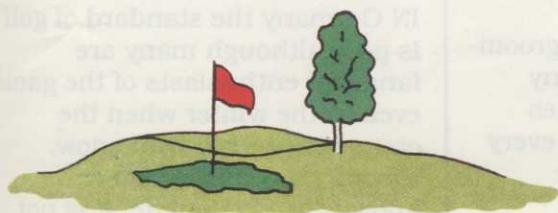
Jim Arthur has done much to enhance the greenkeeping profession; an undoubted character, he will be missed by many and the whole industry would wish him well in his retirement.

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BIGGA International Conference 1988 at Troon

**by
John
Campbell**

AS one who has attended many greenkeeping conferences over the years, this must be one of the best that I have been to in recent years. Much hard work has gone on behind the scenes to promote the event and one must pay tribute to those who organised and arranged the excellent panel of international speakers whose contributions made the conference an unqualified success. Subjects covered all aspects of golf course upkeep at home and abroad, tournament preparation, construction techniques, turf research, history of the game and a wide variety of other subjects to interest all concerned with the business of golf greenkeeping. The International Conference opened in the Concert Hall, Troon with a warm welcome and introduction by B.I.G.G.A. Chairman, Jack McMillan of Sunningdale Golf Club. The programme ran smoothly in the capable hands of the Conference Chairman, Cecil George of Lenzie Golf Club who introduced the speakers and summed up briefly at the end of each presentation.

FASCINATING

THE first speaker James Kidd, Estate Manager, Gleneagles Hotel, dealt with the subject of preparation and reparation of the Kings Course for the Scottish Open. With a fascinating collection of colour slides he explained how some aspects of the Kings Course had changed over the years and work was now taking place to bring back many of James Braid's original design concepts to improve the layout of the course.

Preparing the golf course for the Scottish Open gave an insight into the vast amount of work involved weeks in advance of the event. Erection of stands, marquees, hospitality tents, cable installation, etc., has all to be supervised by the staff in addition to preparing and grooming the courses for the many tourists who visit Gleneagles from all parts of the world every year. Clearing up after the tournament is over is a

monumental task for the greenkeeping staff and not always fully appreciated by golfers. It takes weeks to get back to normal and it often takes much longer for repair and re-instatement of damage to the course in the wake of all the traffic and activities. Gleneagles has much to offer all kinds of sportsmen by way of golf, shooting, riding, fishing etc., and its magnificent setting among the Perthshire hills is always an attraction for tourists from all parts of the world.

WEST GERMANY

PETER SHAW talked about his experience as a course manager in West Germany where he has worked for the past two years. The interest in golf is growing there and quite a number of new courses are under construction with others in the pipeline. Planning restrictions and environmental laws are important obstacles to overcome before a golf course can be built in Germany.

Peter admits the language barrier made things difficult for him at first but his knowledge of German is gradually improving; he knows good communication is vital to direct the greenkeeping staff in their daily tasks. He has to order his turf fertilisers from England for they cannot be obtained locally. Machinery agents are not fully geared up for the golf course industry which makes it difficult and expensive to get equipment overhauled and repaired. Getting men with greenkeeping experience for a new course is almost impossible and it is mainly farm workers who take up this kind of employment, so it takes a lot of patience and a good command of the language to train them.

POOR STANDARD

IN Germany the standard of golf is poor although many are fanatical enthusiasts of the game, even in the winter when the course is covered with snow. Having no golf tradition or knowledge of etiquette, it is not

unusual to see someone pushing a pram around as they play. Although many clubs now insist that new members have compulsory golf lessons and educational sessions to acquaint them with the rules and etiquette of the game. The initial fee to join a club would be around £8,000 after which the annual subscription would be £2,000. Vandalism is not uncommon, mostly inflicted by youths on motorbikes and others who spray paint on greens. Winter is the time when many people want to play golf and green fees around this period may total around £160,000. Some clubs apply high nitrogen fertilisers too late in the season which leads to disease problems in the winter. When irrigation systems develop faults it is difficult to get them rectified. Some installation companies do not undertake repairs.

A WOMAN'S VIEW

IN her presentation "The Other Side Of The Coin," Jean Esposito, Course Superintendent at Hinckley Hills, Northern Ohio, gave us a woman's view of her job in greenkeeping. She followed in her father's footsteps in the business and now has the responsibility of looking after the family course. With a good training in all aspects of golf course upkeep from an early age she has acquired the necessary skills and experience to do any jobs from mowing to construction.

Jean has always been actively involved with the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and is a past president of the branch. Although the number of women employed as course superintendents in the U.S. is a relatively small in number, about 40, female labour is quite extensively used on golf courses throughout the country. Most greenkeeping tasks nowadays are physically less demanding than they used to be in the past with the advent of modern, sophisticated



Walter Woods, Links Supervisor at St Andrews

machinery. Woman employees are claimed to be more particular than men in all phases of the work and they are generally more careful with the equipment. Course operating budgets vary; affluent clubs may spend between \$236,000 - £292,000. Less wealthier clubs range from £80,000 - £160,000. Northern Ohio experienced a dry season this year, winter snowfall is generally about 55 inches.

COURSE BUILDING

AFTER lunch Dr. Tom Cavanagh, Turfgrass Consultant, Dublin, talked about golf course building in Ireland, laying out a links and all the problems associated with sand construction. Wind erosion was an important factor and he stressed the need for "heeling in" when preparing seed beds and areas for laying turf. Building costs per green with own labour and competent supervisor £10,000. Employing a contractor costs would vary between £13,000 - £15,000.

Barry Brittin, President of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association is presently involved with the construction of a brand new course at Brampton, Ontario. His colour slide presentation showed the many fine courses in and around Toronto where staff strength varies between 18-20 men for an 18 hole course. Vandalism is quite rife in this part of Canada.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

DAVID HILL, Championship Secretary, Royal and Ancient, St.

Andrews explained a few facts about the Open Championship and its organisation. The R.A. prints a staggering 18 million copies of the Rules of Golf every four years. Every manufacturer must submit golf equipment, clubs etc., to them for approval. A difference between the ruling bodies is the U.S.G.A. has a Green Section and the R.&A. has not. The S.T.R.I. is now employed by the St. Andrews Authority to advise clubs on the Championship rota about course preparation methods.

David Hill said head greenkeepers ideally should be in charge of their own courses. Close liaison is necessary between Championship Officials and the greenkeeping staff to site stands, tented village, facilities for catering, water and drainage and cable laying operations by British Telecom. Nowadays grandstands are provided to seat 18,000 spectators and something like 250,000 are expected to attend the Open Championships which are planned on a four year cycle. David Hill concluded with a film presentation of the 1987 Open Championship.

SWEDEN

ON the second day of the conference Stig Persson, the administrator of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association explained about the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and planning and maintenance of buildings for greenkeeping machinery. Sweden is one of Europe's major golfing countries. In 1985 it claimed to have 168 courses made up of 9,18,27 and

36 hole layouts and many more are planned. The Swedish golfing season varies from one end of the country to the other. In the south golf is possible from March to November or even longer if the weather is mild. In the north the season runs from May to October and the midnight sun permits golf to be played around the clock in June.

RESEARCH

DR. PETER HAYES Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, talked about research today for the golfing needs of tomorrow. Some of their research work is being supported by the R.&A. Ball bounce, turf wear factors, dry patch and fairy ring are among the main research programmes at the Institute. Dr. Hayes reported many enquiries about dry patch this year from clubs around the country. Some causes of the condition could be compaction, old fairy rings and high spots, but research work is being done to find the best methods of dealing with the problem.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

DEREK GANNING, Course Manager at The Belfry delivered an interesting paper on Project Management and the many problems he was faced with when he first joined the Club. The course is beginning to mature and gradually being brought up to the required standard to host the Ryder Cup in 1989 under Derek's experienced guidance.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS

HOWARD SWAN, Golf Course Constructor, entertained his audience with a selection of colour slides of international golf courses. Howard spends a lot of his time in Europe nowadays advising on the construction of a number of overseas projects, which seems to keep him busy.

ST ANDREWS

WALTER WOODS, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews recalled some of the history of the game at St. Andrews where the early rules were first formulated. The name of Tom Morris, Open Champion, is closely associated with the Home of Golf where he was the first custodian of the links. His son young Tom Morris, retained the Open Championship Belt after winning the award three years in succession.

Fashioning the ancient links at St. Andrews has been a process of evolution and the natural humps and hollows of the land have been cunningly used to create a great golf course. All the construction work in those days was laboriously done with wheelbarrow and shovel. Wells were sunk at different points to provide irrigation and buckets were used to apply water to the greens during dry spells. As keeper of the links, Tom Morris was a firm believer in regular sand dressings; there was little else to use then. He also decreed that the links should have a period of rest every year to allow time for repair and recovery from the depredations of golfers. To this day the practice is still observed when the Old Course is closed during the month of March.

Except at a few courses in England and two in India, golf was barely known outside Scotland as late as the 1840's.



Derek Ganning

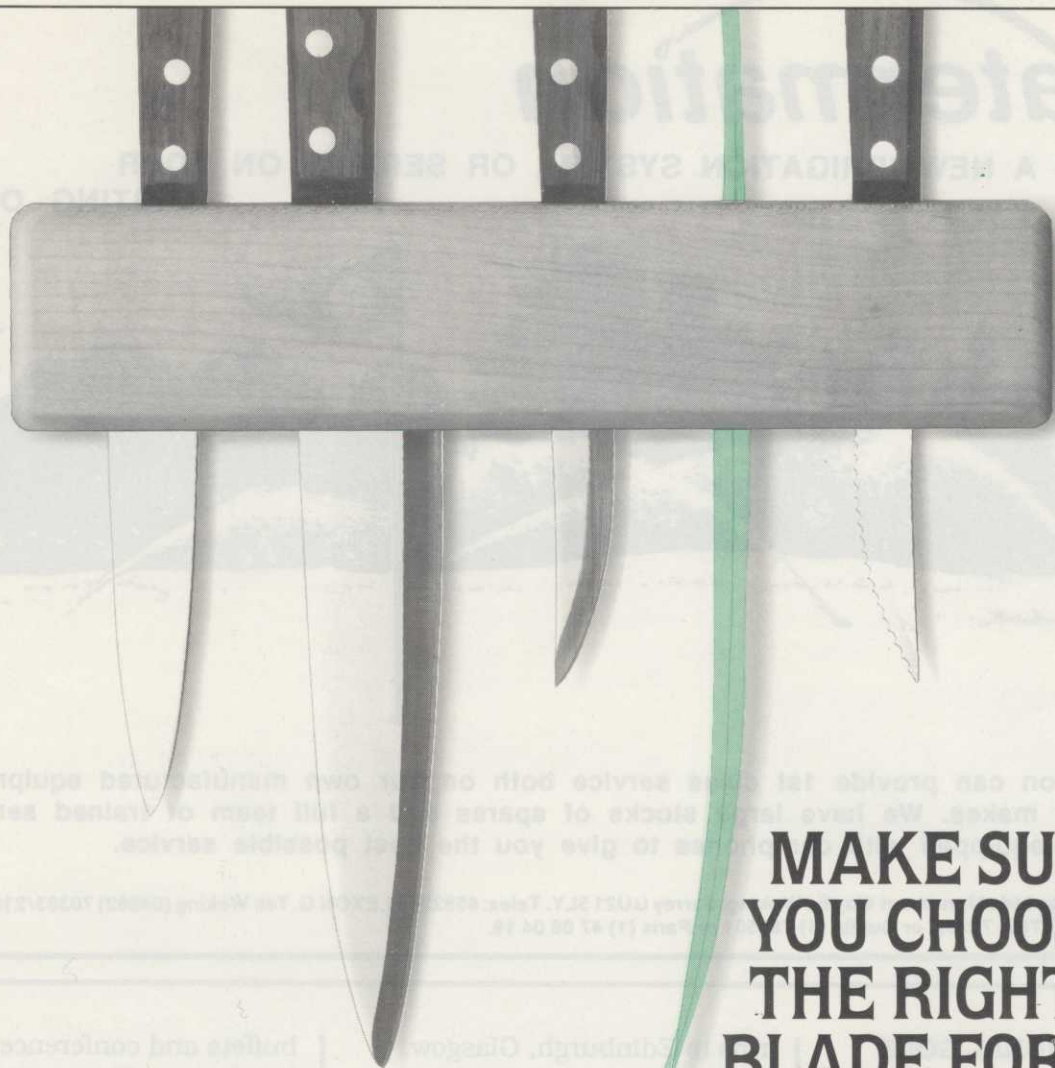
The earliest records of course designers date from this period. The first was Allan Robertson of St. Andrews who died in 1859 and David his brother who emigrated to Australia where he introduced golf and probably laid out the first course in that country. Allan Robertson planned the early changes at St. Andrews, laid out ten formal holes at Barry, Angus and according to his obituary "he laid out capital links in various districts." The new course at St. Andrews opened in 1895 and was laid out by Tom Morris. The Jubilee Course first opened in 1897 as nine holes, then revised and extended to 18 as more land was reclaimed. The Eden course planned by H.S. Colt was opened in 1914.

AMERICAN'S DEBUT

JOHN SEGUI, President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, made his debut with a video presentation "Golf At Its Best" a glossy upmarket promotion film in sound and colour made specifically to enhance the image of the American golf course superintendent and the association.

The G.C.S.A.A., formed 62 years ago, now employs a headquarter staff of 35. The annual budget is 4 million dollars. They have a certification programme for aspiring superintendents and everyone is committed to raising the standards of the profession. The official monthly magazine has an annual income of one million dollars from advertising. Other benefits - Health Insurance, Job Referral Scheme, International Trade Show, Conference and Golf Tournament every year. The average assistant greenkeeper earns 8-10 dollars an hour. Total number of golf courses in U.S.A. is 13,000.

Bill Lawson, Vice-Chairman of B.I.G.G.A. admirably summed up the Conference with some pithy comments and a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the occasion.



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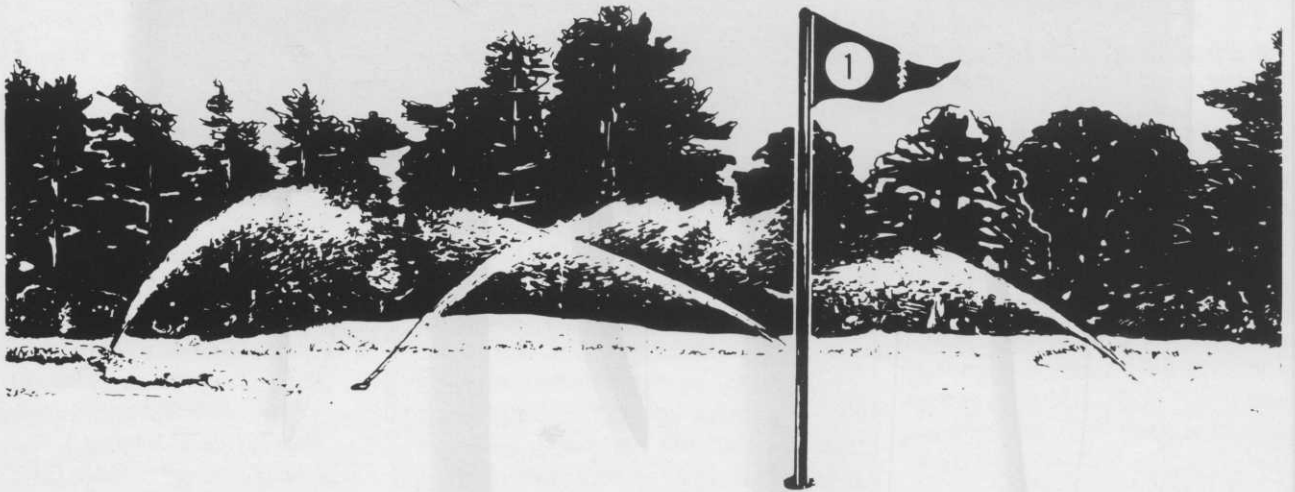
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B.I.G.G.A. NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The National Tournament at Ayr Belleisle was well supported. The course is a fairly tough layout with long par 4's and greens strategically bunkered and contoured to place a premium on accurate approach shots to score well.

Report by John Campbell

Blustery winds at times with showers and bright intervals added to the interest of play in this lovely part of Ayrshire. Due praise must go to Harry Diamond and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in such fine condition also to Duncan Gray, Parks Superintendent, who enthusiastically supported all the arrangements in connection with the event.

Full results in next issue.

LADIES PROGRAMME

The ladies were well taken care of by Mrs Chris Kennedy with coach

trips to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Burns Cottage Culzean Castle, Land O'Burns Centre, a distillery visit, etc. By all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed themselves, particularly the Swedish, American and Canadian delegates, wives.

CATERING & ENTERTAINMENT

Catering arrangements each day included buffet lunches, evening

buffets and conference luncheons. The evening entertainment included a Scottish Night Out and a Big Band Dance as well as discos and other events. On the final evening trophies and prizes for the golf were presented and this was supported by the 'Taste of Scotland' Banquet and entertainment as the grand finale.



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YEOVIL Golf Club lies on the outskirts of the town across the River Yeo, the county boundary. It was laid out in 1919 by Fowler and Alison as a nine hole course and extended to 18 holes in 1937. The natural topography of the land has been successfully used to create an interesting test of golf. A special feature is the commanding views from different parts of the course; north-west to Glastonbury, north-east to Frome and a splendid stretch of the Dorset countryside to the south. The head greenkeeper at Yeovil is Bob Moffatt, 55, a burly genial Scot. Bob was well known and highly respected among Scottish greenkeepers and golf club officials during the 14 years he



Out on the Course at Yeovil

served as general secretary of SIGGA. He said, "I am the third generation of the family in greenkeeping - my father was head greenkeeper at Lanark Golf Club for 18 years before moving finally to Sandyhills near Glasgow where I started in the profession at the age of 16. I gained useful experience working on various courses around the city before going to Cathkin Braes Golf Club as head greenkeeper. Eventually I moved south to Calcot Park and left there in 1980 to settle at Yeovil. I have always been fond of this part of the country and the course here is particularly attractive, with some interesting features that remind me of my native heath.

"The course is laid out over 120 acres; the terrain is gently undulating and varied. Some climbing occurs early in the round but players take this in their stride and find the views rewarding.

DIVIDED

The layout is divided by a minor road and the nature of the soil on each side is quite different, being



distinctly sandy on the one hand and a much heavier type on the other. We are told that the course was built on first class dairy farming land.

"A programme of turf care has been laid down by the STRI and we are following their recommendations closely to raise the standards. The main problem on the greens is shallow root growth, but we are overcoming this, having used a Verti-Drain for the past three years and we now have some root

Top:
There are many fine views to delight the golfer at Yeovil

Above:
Bob Moffatt, Yeovil's head greenkeeper

growth to a depth of nine inches. In conjunction with aeration, we regularly topdress with three parts sand to one part soil to

break down the peat which was used for many years on the greens. Phosphates and potash have been cut out of fertiliser mixtures and the main ingredients used are dried blood, sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of iron."

Bob continued, "There are no open ditches or water hazards to contend with on the course, but there are 52 bunkers where the activities of rabbits often give us a bit of extra work due to their burrowing habits in the sand. A trapper was employed at one time to deal with the menace and we did a bit of shooting ourselves to try to get rid of them. At the moment myxomatosis is rife and population numbers are gradually reducing, so they are not quite as troublesome as they used to be.

SPECIAL INTEREST

"I have always taken a deep interest in greenkeeper training, having been involved with the greenkeeper apprenticeship scheme during my period as secretary to the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association. It has always been my policy to take a special interest in the instruction and training of young men, showing them how to handle and maintain golf course machinery in the workshop and on the course. The most important apprentice I trained was my son, Allen, who gained his City & Guilds Certificate in greenkeeping at Maidenhead College. After working as a greenkeeper for a few years he eventually moved on to become an area manager for Parkers, Worcester Park. "Like most courses, in the summer we are always busy coping with the amount of growth, particularly this year of high rainfall. Keeping the grass down invariably occupies most of our time, apart from other routine grooming and maintenance jobs. In autumn and winter months there are always construction and renovation tasks to be done as part of the on-going programme to upgrade the facilities, so the staff get ample



opportunities to gain valuable experience in all phases of golf course upkeep. Construction jobs are always interesting, and building tees, bunkers, etc, should be within the scope of every trained greenkeeper." Said Bob, "If any construction jobs need to be done on the course I generally discuss plans with the club secretary and he gives his views on my proposals. We present this to the green committee then it goes to the general committee for final approval.

"I am extremely fortunate to have a reliable and conscientious staff comprising two good experienced men and two 18 year old trainees who show much promise for the future. "

CONTENTMENT

When I asked Bob Moffatt what contributed most to staff stability and contentment, he said, "The main thing is getting them interested in the job. They should be encouraged to play golf as much as possible, even if it means having a few lessons from the professional. When they have a real interest in the game they will begin to appreciate how a golfer judges the condition of the course and the amount of preparation needed to satisfy their requirements.

"Some young men come into greenkeeping and expect too

much too soon. Generally, they are looking for a job offering more money and are not prepared to knuckle down and get the necessary training and experience as a preliminary to advancement. Some youngsters find they don't like the job for it often means being outdoors in the most inclement weather to get the work done and the sheer physical effort needed is a major deterrent to their ambition.

A GOOD FUTURE

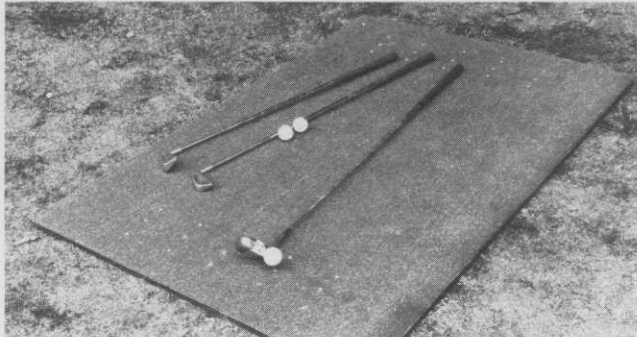
"In spite of the number of men who drop out of greenkeeping, there are many dedicated youngsters who like the lifestyle and know the job has a good future. Golf has become an immensely popular sport and there is a demand for experienced course managers to look after new courses under construction in the UK and Europe. It is encouraging to see BIGGA spearheading the drive to provide proper educational and training facilities to meet the needs of young aspiring greenkeepers."

by
**John
Campbell**

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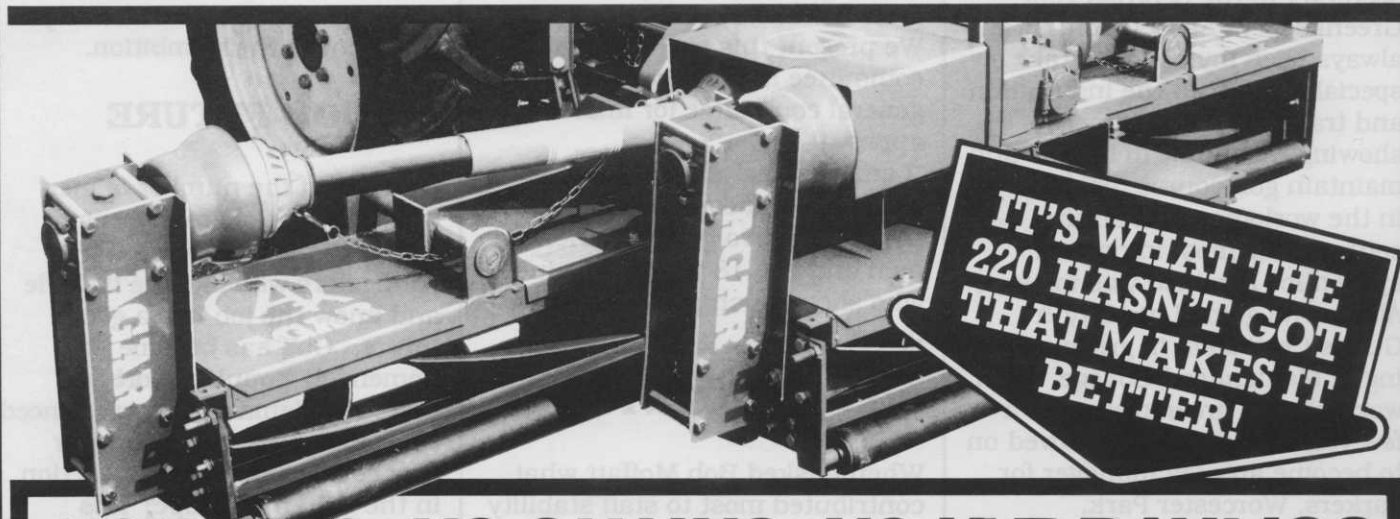
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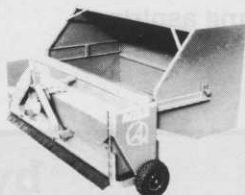
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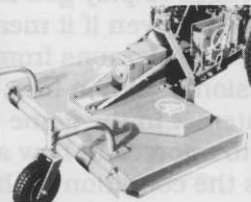
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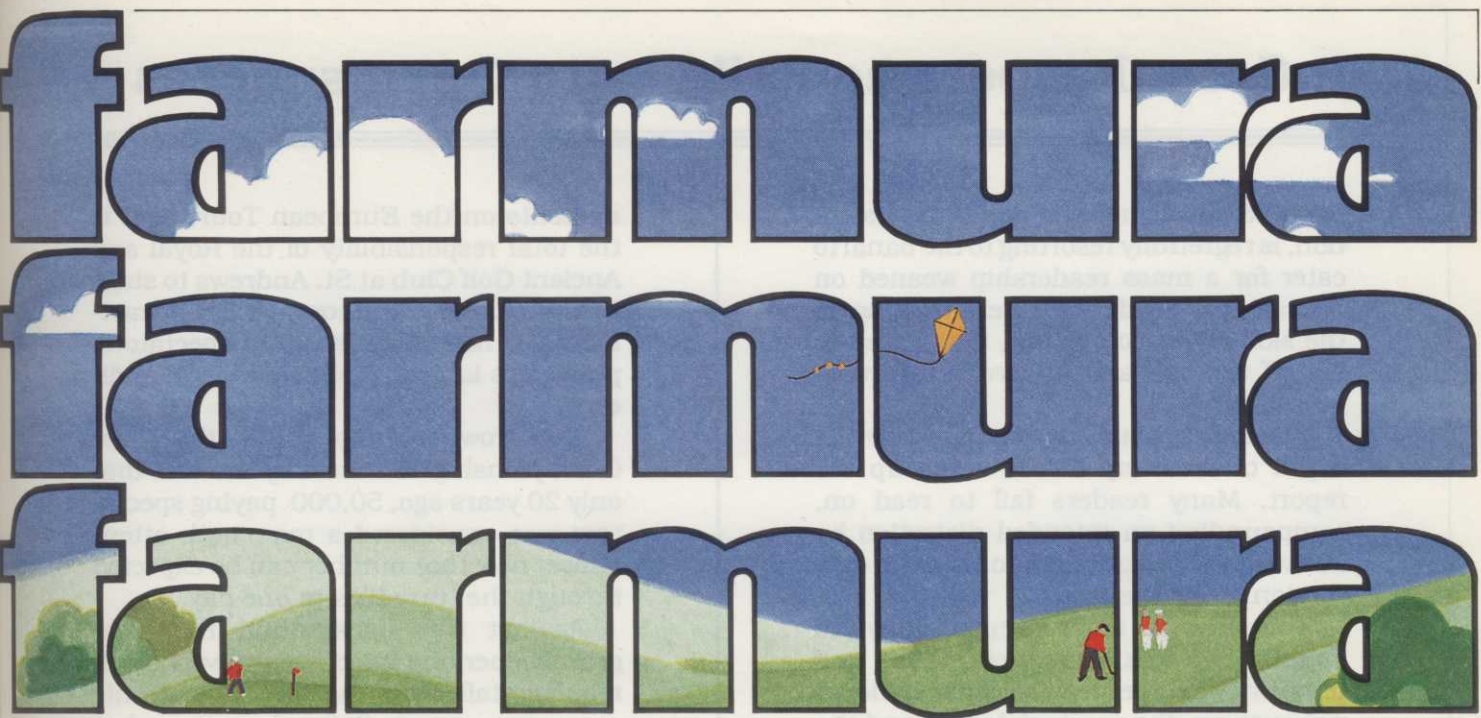
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Greenkeepers contribute to Open success

SPORTS reporting, and golf is no exception, is regretfully resorting to the banal to cater for a mass readership weaned on sensational headlines rarely relating to the skill of the competitor, more often to his off the ball and preferably bedroom activities.

Screaming black headlines, twice the depth of the story below, sums up the report. Many readers fail to read on, compounding an intended distortion by allowing the imagination to write its own version of the event.

This drive for mass circulation by the popular tabloids is reducing good golf reporting to the few serious national newspapers, the provincial press and the magazines. Which is probably why most of the 700 members of the world's golfing press, packed into their new German built tentage at this year's Open Championship, missed one of the better stories at Royal Lytham St. Annes.

A little judicious questioning, combined with a walk around the course, would have revealed, if not an army, then certainly several platoons of rake carrying, blue trousered and jacketed individuals accompanying every match played over the four days.

In their case it was five days, because whilst others were sheltering from the rain lashing the Flyde Coast these unpaid and mostly unsung heroes were valiantly fighting the elements so play could continue.

We refer of course to the volunteer greenkeepers, most of whom took part of their annual holiday to support Lytham's head greenkeeper Jimmy McDonald during what must have been the most hectic week of his life.

The job of co-ordinating the plan to provide every match with an experienced green-keeper fell to the northern regional administrator, David Golding, a golf course superintendent for Trafford Borough Council.

The story really began a year ago when David drove up to Muirfield to see how Scottish greenkeepers organised their back-up support to the greenstaff at the 1987 Open Championship. This annual event is unlike the other sponsored tour-

naments on the European Tour, as it is the total responsibility of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews to stage Britain's premier golf competition, attracting as it now does 200,000 spectators, plus golf's largest global television audience.

The growth of interest in the Open Championship is shown by the fact that only 20 years ago, 50,000 paying spectators was considered a mammoth attendance; now that number can be expected through the turnstiles in one day.

Against this background the head greenkeeper and his comparatively small regular staff have the task of not only preparing a course fit for champions, but maintaining it in the same condition for five days or more, despite the constant pounding from all those spiked feet (golf spectators always seem to arrive in their golf shoes, as if hoping to be invited to play!)

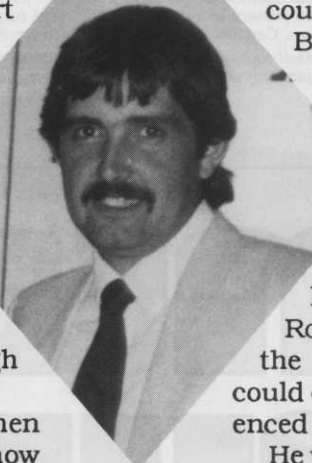
To provide a greenkeeper armed with a rake for every three ball out on the course takes a great deal of organising, though David was not short of volunteers. The difficulties arose because some were able to stay for four days; others, due to commitments at their home courses, could only give a day or two.

All this information had to be logged and co-ordinated to fit in with Jimmy McDonald's own requirements. Royal Lytham is maintained by only seven permanent staff, a far cry from the 30 greenkeepers Bill Spence has at his command as course manager at The County Club, Brookline, where the US Open Championship was held a month before.

Jimmy had a separate list of available assistance from greenstaff at two neighboring golf courses, St. Annes Old Links and Lytham (Green Drive); greenkeepers who had worked the links and knew their way around Royal Lytham. They were familiar with the angles, bumps and hollows and could cut greens and tees with an experienced eye.

He was also helped during the week by Northenden's head greenkeeper, also a previous staff member at Royal Lytham.

Overnight accommodation was arranged and booked for visiting



David Golding

greenkeepers in Blackpool's Pontins Holiday Camp. Not quite to everyone's taste, but acceptable. At least there was always the evening in-camp entertainment for those who wanted to experience a nostalgic touch of Hi-de-hi.

All would have run smoothly had it not been for the unexpected downpour on the Friday night and Saturday morning, adding another two inches of water to the drenching given to the course prior to the final practise day, much to the annoyance of some of the competitors.

Ian Woosnam was said to be very vocal in his criticism, having shot a birdie and an eagle to pull back three shots by the eighth before he was told his morning score would not count. A number of the Americans were equally miffed. They failed to understand why the right equipment was not available to remove standing water, though in fairness to the R & A it is doubtful whether the course could have been made playable, even with mechanised suction rollers, pumps and squeegees.

As it was, no one had anticipated the need for water removal equipment in July. There were a few squeegees in the sheds, but insufficient to make any impression on so much standing water. This is why greenstaff, the Association Chairman among them, were photographed pushing water off the putting surfaces with the back of wooden rakes.

The fire brigade was called in on Saturday evening to pump out the tented village and Jimmy McDonald engaged a private pump contractor to work on the course, helped by his own staff, those from two neighbouring courses and many of Royal Lytham's members, who gave their time and effort unstintingly, throughout the night.

The task of repairing the bunkers, pushing the sand back up the face and re-making to remove the compaction was given to the volunteers from BIGGA.

"They did a great job, starting at 4.30am", said Jimmy McDonald. "It was such a big undertaking after all that rain, it needed an experienced greenkeeper to put the bunkers back in the right condition.

At the end of the tournament tributes were also paid by the Championship

Committee and R & A Secretary Michael Bonallack. Even Seve Ballesteros, the champion, found time to join the greenkeepers for a photograph with the trophy and thank them on behalf of the competitors.

"Lytham has been a spring-board for the Association", said David Golding. "We had a presence at the Open, where greenkeepers were easily recognised wearing the distinctive blue and white of our blazers and badges. This must be good for the future of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

"Our marquee, adjacent to the first tee, was conveniently sited to the hub of events. Near to the administration, the club-house and the tented village, we were very accessible to the many visitors we were able to welcome and keep informed of the aims and ideals of the Association.

"This is just the beginning. We now need to put the work of the golf course manager into greater profile. To give them the opportunity to explain how they prepare golf courses, not only for a tournament such as the Open Championship, but for the club golfer back home".

Next year the Open moves back to Scotland, to Royal Troon on the Ayrshire coast, where the organisation will fall on other shoulders just as broad and willing. Here the service given by the Association will be further improved, according to BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas. He has promised additional staffing for the practice days when the bunkers are in continuous use.

It is not every greenkeeper who relishes the spotlight, but as active participants in entertainment with a capital 'E', an opportunity for the skills of the greenkeeper to be featured to the golfing public should not be missed.

To this end David Golding is looking for far greater interest from the international golf press, radio commentators and TV journalists. He believes the best story at Royal Lytham could have been told by Jimmy McDonald and his crew at 3am on the Sunday morning, while the boys in the press tent were asleep in their beds; their day's work had finished, revolving around contrived outbursts of criticism from a leading name to build those three inch headlines across the sports pages.

by John Lelean

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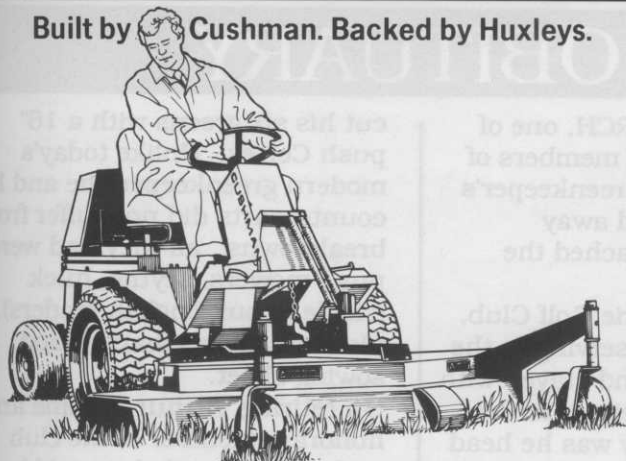
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mower. Set to cut small grooves into the soil to aerate the turf, it ensures a more efficient and economical use of fertiliser, chemicals, water and seed. For cleaning up, perhaps after a major tournament, Turfland can supply the Brouwer Vac, which has the largest capacity of any vac of its type on the market today. Grass clippings, leaves, twigs, pine needles and thatch present no problem to the Vac, and rubbish and litter vanish in a trice.

OBITUARY

ARTHUR HINDMARCH, one of the longest serving members of the Scottish Golf Greenkeeper's Association, passed away recently, having reached the grand age of 90.

Arthur joined Airdrie Golf Club, Lanarkshire, after serving in the First World War, and stayed with the club until he retired at the age of 74. Not only was he head greenkeeper, but ran the shop selling golf requisites, and for 14 years his wife Nan and himself were Club Master and Mistress - literally three jobs in one.

Arthur must have been one of the few surviving greenkeepers to have cut fairways with a horse, and even in his sixties he would

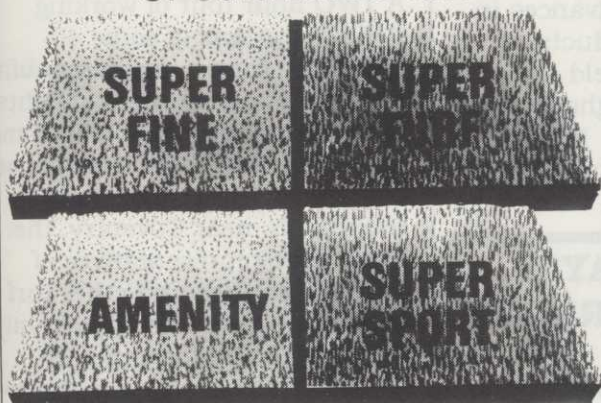
cut his six greens with a 16" push Certes. Unlike today's modern greenkeepers he and his counterparts did not suffer from breakdowns; all they had were push mowers, scythe, huck (sickle to our English readers), pick and shovel, barrow and sowing sheet.

On retiring, Arthur became an honorary member of the club and until recently he could be found playing 18 holes as often as three times a week, scorning the old men's practice of playing the six holes near the clubhouse twice, as he considered it bad for the course.

Arthur will be sadly missed by his family and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

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Keith McKee, turfcare adviser at Fisons Horticulture, will be speaking about the use and abuse of fertilisers and pesticides on fine and outfield turf.

Gordon Bennington, UK operations manager at Camerons, will provide information on the selection, design, installation, operation and benefits of the company's range of irrigation

systems. Richard Bishop, UK sales manager at Ransomes, Europe's leading manufacturer of grass cutting machinery, will give details of the latest advances in turf maintenance products.

The seminar will be held at various venues throughout the country in November. For full details write to Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston, PE21 6BR.

THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES ON PARKERS

THE 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 of golf was enjoyed by the competitors. The competition was won by Liam O'Grady of Gillingham Golf Club with 41 points.

MASSEY-FERGUSON'S 'TURF TIME 88'

A TWO hour tour of working demonstrations of some 40 machines from a dozen manufacturers was one of the highlights of Massey-Ferguson's 'Turf Time 88'. Held over three days at the company's head quarters at Stoneleigh, near Coventry, the event gave representatives of local authorities and other turf equipment users an opportunity to study the performance of Massey-Ferguson's comprehensive range of ground care and maintenance tractors in many aspects of landscape operations. M-F, which is Britain's largest manufacturer of tractors, was joined in the demonstrations by Ransomes, Huxley, Beaver, Agar, Undergear, Gannon, Wessex, Bomford, Lewis, Sisis, Charterhouse, Modus T and Terra-vac.

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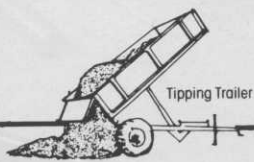
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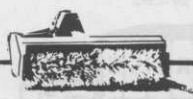
Sweeper Collector



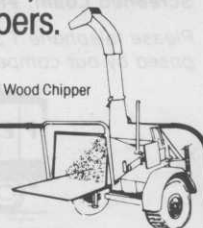
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WESSEX

NOTEBOOK...

FIRST HUXLEY GREENS MOWER FOR HAMPSHIRE

HUXLEYS Grass Machinery have supplied the first of their all-new golf greens mowers in Hampshire to the long-established Barton-on-Sea Golf Club.

Totally designed, developed and built at the company's sales, service and manufacturing centre at The Dean, New Alresford, the Huxley 358 greens mower (three cutting units; 58in mowing width) is the latest British entrant to the highly sophisticated golf course maintenance market. Incorporating a number of features as a direct result of comments and suggestions made by golf greenkeepers during initial prototype testing, the Huxley 358 mower features a diesel engine, automatic transmission and full power steering, all ensuring superb economy and ease of operation for the user.

Fuel economy was one specific feature with attracted Barton-on-Sea's head greenkeeper, Bob Parsons, to the Huxley mower. Compared with the club's previous petrol powered machine, the Huxley 358 has been found to consume less than half the quantity of fuel to give an overall cost saving, when the difference in price between petrol and diesel is taken into account, of more than 80 per cent.

In addition, the club's 18 greens are taking about an hour less to mow, thanks to the machine's excellent manoeuvrability and speed of movement around the course.

Founded in 1898, Barton-on-Sea Golf Club is laid out on 85 acres of well-drained land midway between Christchurch and Lymington. The club's 700



Bob Parsons Barton-on-Sea's head greenkeeper on the 358

members enjoy superb views of the adjacent coastline and the Isle of Wight from all parts of the par 67 course.

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IT GRADES . . . IT SHREDS . . . IT BLENDS . . .

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*MINIMUM EFFORT

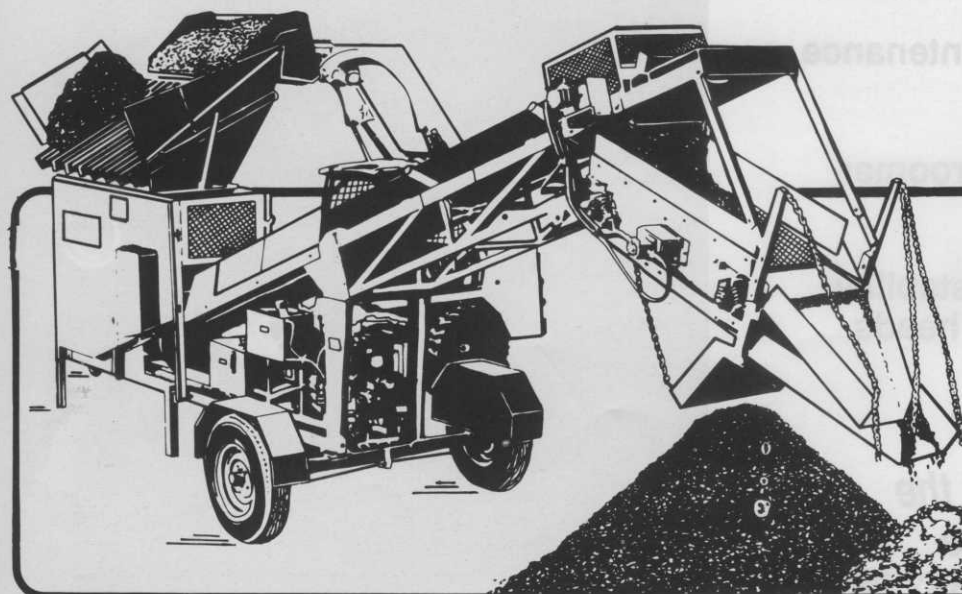
The SS100 performs aggressively on even the poorest quality damp

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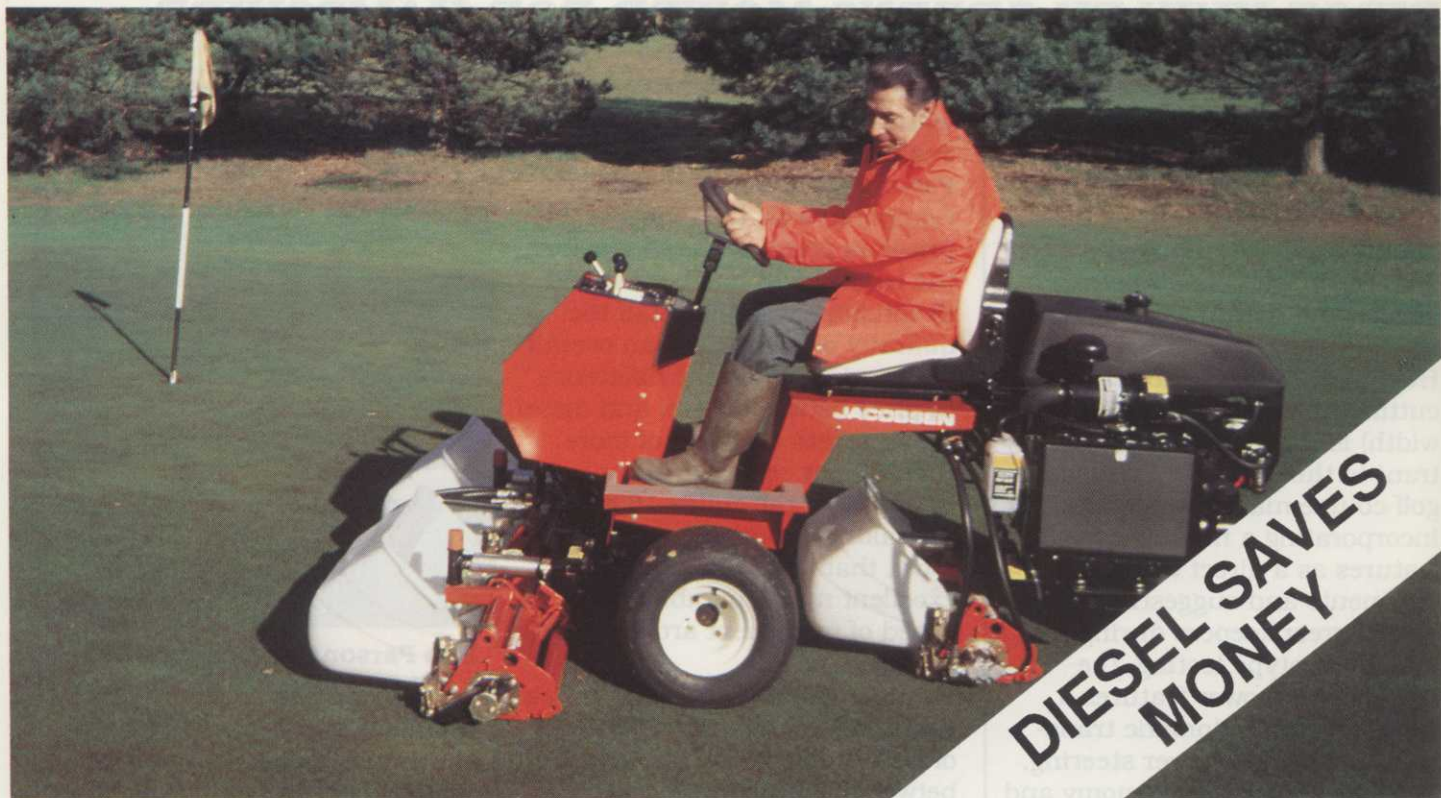


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NOTEBOOK...

RYDER CUP HOSPITALITY

THE 1989 Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup could well have the largest hospitality village ever seen at a golf event.

In response to the vast number of enquiries for hospitality facilities at the match (September 22 - 24 1989), the PGA has acquired fields around The Belfry to supplement the on-course facilities.

The Ryder Cup Committee has also announced that Keith Prowse Hospitality has been appointed the official hospitality agency for the 1989 Ryder Cup match.

John Lindsey, Executive Director of the PGA said: "We are delighted to continue the association with the Keith Prowse group which has been so beneficial in the past. The only way to obtain hospitality approved by the PGA for the 1989

Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup will be through Keith Prowse or by direct contact with the PGA.

"It has come to our attention that there is a company trading as Ryder Cup Hospitality Limited. This organisation has no links with the PGA and has not sought or received approval or endorsement from us."

Full details of all hospitality packages are available from Keith Prowse. For further information please contact: John Lindsey, 0675 70333 or Keith Brain, 0606 74033.

NEW ADDITION FOR TURFMASTER

LATEST addition to the Turfmaster range of triple cylinder specialist grass mowers is a new fully hydraulic self-propelled model which will be available for delivery in the UK next spring.

Built at the company's factory at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, the hydrostatically-driven three-wheeled T370 is the result of a £1/4 million research and development programme updating Turfmaster's well established belt driven T360.

After three years of development and substantial investment the company is now in a position to take orders for the new model and deliveries will start in April. Painted in Turfmaster's familiar white and orange colours, the T370 has a cutting width of 70in, incorporates the manoeuvrability associated with triple mowers and gives mown grass the outstanding, well groomed appearance that is the hallmark of cylinder machines.

Powered by a Perkins engine, the T370 has a 30-litre tank holding sufficient diesel to complete a minimum of at least one day's operation without refuelling. Retail price of the Turfmaster T370 is from £7,500.



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John Deere's long line of grounds care equipment brings you the quality and choice you'd expect from the world's largest manufacturer.

Mowers for every grass care job; plus the quality-build, the power and the attachments to handle big grounds care tasks throughout the year.

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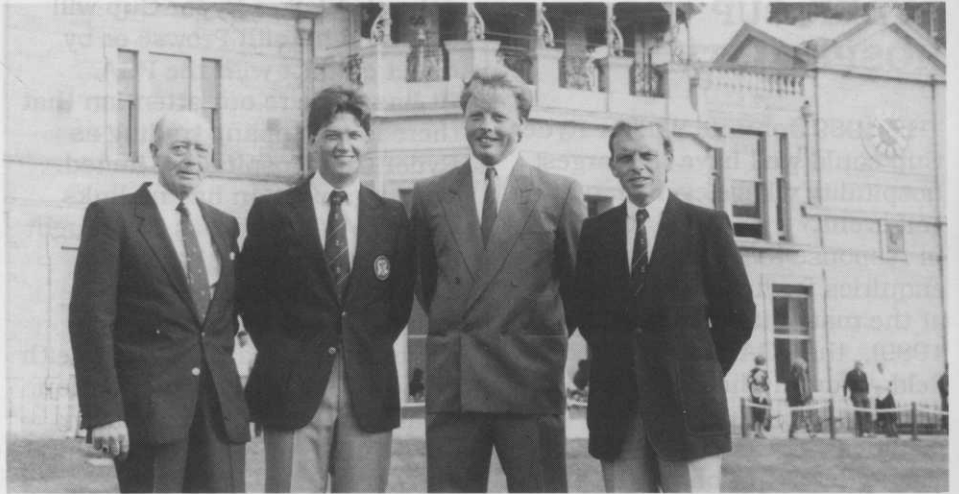
JOHN DEERE Ltd., Harby Road,
Langar, Nottingham NG 13 9 HT
Tel. (0949) 60491

ALGH 1922 E

NOTEBOOK...

NEW MEN AT ST ANDREWS

ST. ANDREWS Links Management Committee has appointed head greenkeepers to each of the four 18-hole courses on St. Andrews Links. David Dewar is now in total charge of the Old Course, Mark Brunton, David Wilson and Allan Purdie are appointed head greenkeepers at the New, Jubilee and Eden courses respectively and each has full authority and responsibility for all greenkeeping matters relating to their courses. After advertising extensively, and interviewing many applicants, only one of the new appointments was not made from existing personnel - Allan Purdie having previously been head greenkeeper at the Boomieknowe Golf Club located outside Edinburgh. The committee decided to implement these changes to allow creation of a greenkeeping management structure more in keeping with present-day control requirements, and to allow development of staff with full experience of exercising authority and responsibility over every facet of greenkeeping maintenance to championship standards. Plans to improve existing courses, construct new



David Dewar with Mark Brunton, David Wilson and Alan Purdie

courses and add extensive practice facilities effectively made the previous structure obsolete. The new head greenkeepers report to Links Supervisor,

W. Woods, whose future role will increasingly be one of forward planning and co-ordinating rather than day to day involvement in greenkeeping.

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR ROLAWN

BRITISH Seed Houses Ltd have announced the signing of a contract to give Rolawn the exclusive rights to produce turf from two new fescue and bent cultivars which will produce turf completely free of all weed grasses. The varieties Countess Chewings Fescue and Duchess Agrostis Tenuis, bred by Queens University Belfast from a research programme sponsored by British Seed Houses, have a chemical resistance which will

enable Rolawn to spray the turf produced from these varieties to remove all other grass and weed species. In making the announcement Neville Bark of BSH said "Rolawn were selected to bring this major development to the turf market because of their proven ability to produce high quality turf. Also, their regional production and distribution centres will make this new unique high quality turf rapidly available to the end user."

Hole Cups



Superior Design made from engineering grade plastic. More rigid than nylon for a truer putting hole.

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available in cartons of 10.

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High visibility, 6" dia. 3" high. Half Golf Ball design, cast in heavy aluminium, ribbed for added strength. Designed for maximum abuse.

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

£2.99 each

available in packs of 10
10% discount on 5 packs or more

Information & Etiquette Signs



Ground Under Repair
Please Replace Divots
Please Repair Pitchmarks
Please Keep Off the Grass



Next Tee (l. or r.)
Trolleys this Way (l. or r.)
150 yds. to centre of Green
New Tree Plantation.



Drop out into Semi-rough.
New Green under construction.
Drop out to nearest relief.
No Penalty.

Exclusive design in heavy duty cast aluminium, so strong they can be driven over by a tractor without breaking.

£8.95 each

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Municipal
8' x 1/2" White fibreglass

£3.50 each*



Links
6' x 1/2" Yellow fibreglass

£6.99 each*



Slimflex
7'3" x 1/2" Yellow fibreglass

£7.99 each*

All poles complete with bung and Tacit's unique swivel action at no extra cost. Will accept any type of tie-on flag. Quality nylon flags £1.25 each. P & P carriage at cost.

*Available in packs of 10.

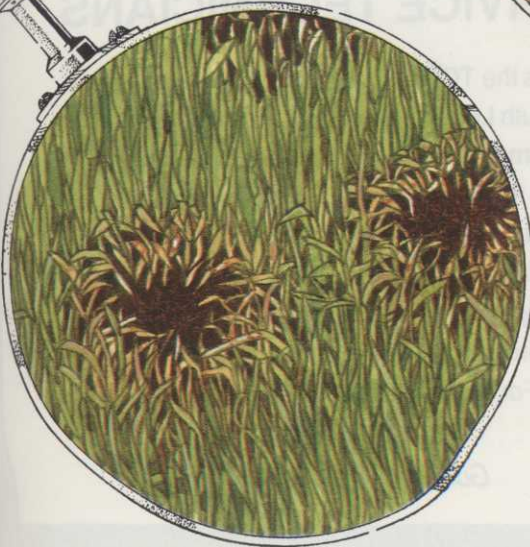
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APPOINTMENTS

BURY ST. EDMUNDS GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of
FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should hold relevant qualifications and be fully experienced. Salary and conditions negotiable - accommodation is not available. For application form apply to:-

The Secretary,
Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club,
Tut Hill, Fornham All Saints,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk. IP28 6LG

WORTLEY GOLF CLUB SHEFFIELD

require
**FIRST ASSISTANT
GREENKEEPER**

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

Honorary Secretary,
Wortley Golf Club,
Hermit Hill Lane,
Wortley,
Sheffield.
S30 4DF

EXCLUSIVE NEW 9-HOLE GOLF COURSE

(DESIGNED BY DONALD STEEL)

requires
COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must be fully trained and experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping techniques, irrigation, equipment use and maintenance, together with proven management and supervisory skills. This is a real opportunity to contribute to the high standards and prestige of this beautiful new course right from its start. Salary towards top end of BIGGA scale.

also a

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping including the use and maintenance of course machinery.

Please apply in writing, with CV and full details of relevant experience to:-

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Mill Ride,
North Ascot, Berkshire. SL5 8LT



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or call Ian Kerry on
Guildford (0483) 426030

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HEAD GREENKEEPER

A vacancy arises for a head greenkeeper on this well known west Oxfordshire course, now in its 52nd year. Applications are invited from persons with a minimum of 8 years experience and golf course work, who can direct and motivate staff, use and maintain modern machinery, and work to a high standard.

No accommodation available. Salary negotiable but related to BIGGA recommendations. Written application to:

Mr. R. Cane,
Secretary/Manager,
Burford Golf Club Ltd,
Burford,
Oxon.
OX8 4JG

APPOINTMENTS

COUNTRY CLUB HOTELS
 Invite applications for the post of an
EXPERIENCED FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

for
FOREST OF ARDEN GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

This position offers an excellent opportunity for an ambitious, experienced young greenkeeper 25-35 years preferred to develop his knowledge and training, working with one of the industries largest employers, on this magnificent 36 hole complex.

Applicants should be qualified in all aspects of modern greenkeeping methods, including machinery maintenance and be able to lead from this front.

The salary commensurate with experience.
 Please reply in writing including a full C.V. to:-

**Mr. G. Porter (Course Manager),
 Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club,
 Maxstoke Lane,
 Meriden,
 Nr. Coventry,
 CV7 7HR**

ADDINGTON PALACE GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Preference will be given to the younger experienced person holding a Greenkeeping Certificate, who plays golf and intends to pursue a career in Course Management. Salary negotiable, No accommodation.

Applications should be made in writing stating experience and qualifications to:-

**Mr. J. Houston,
 Addington Palace Golf Club,
 Addington Park,
 Gravel Hill,
 Addington, Croydon,
 Surrey. CR0 5BB**

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

required at

THE HESKETH GOLF CLUB

Must be enthusiastic and hardworking, preferably with links experience, and familiar with the maintenance and upkeep of modern greenkeeping machinery, automatic watering systems and fine turf care. Salary negotiable.

Please reply in writing giving full details and experience to:-

**The Secretary,
 The Hesketh Golf Club,
 Cockle Dick's Lane,
 Off Cambridge Road,
 Southport,
 Merseyside.
 PR9 9QQ**

COURSE MANAGER

required by

DYRHAM PARK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

An excellent opportunity for a well qualified, working course manager/head greenkeeper exists at this first class private members club. The applicant must have the essential skills and experience to fill this important position and he will, of necessity, be a member of BIGGA. Salary commensurate with experience.

Please reply in writing giving full details and experience to:-

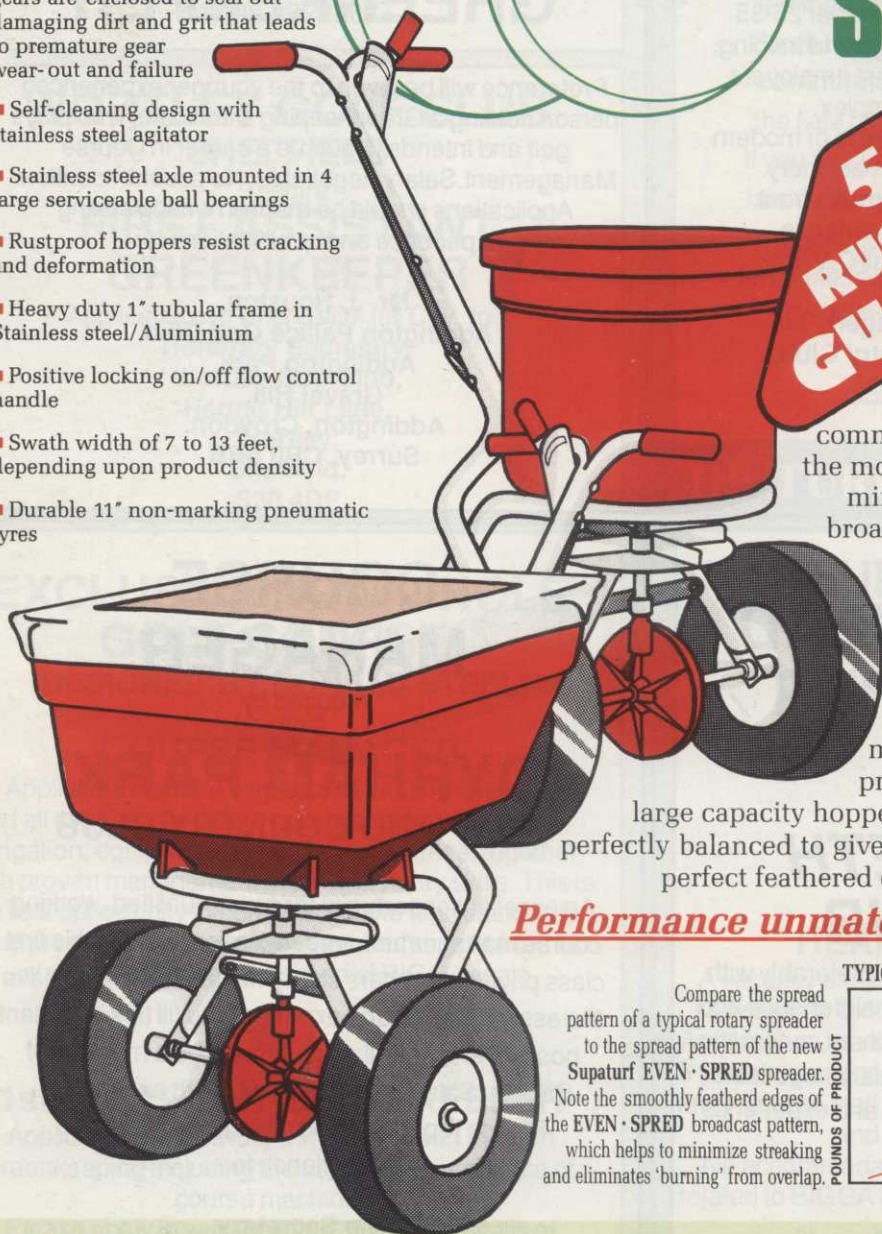
**The Secretary,
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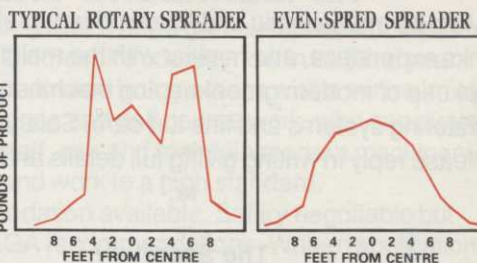


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