

the Golf Course

SEPTEMBER 1988



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL
GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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BIGGA UPDATE

IN this month's notes, I will concentrate on forthcoming events, but first report on the success of the national final of the Iseki regional tournament held at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club, Chepstow on 19th August. The facilities were superb and those members participating clearly enjoyed themselves. The Association's appreciation is due to Iseki for

the sponsorship of this tournament in its inaugural year. There was a professional approach to the occasion and we look forward to seeing the video film of the event. Iseki are one of the Association's main sponsors and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with the company in the future.

ETME - Harrogate 18-20 January 1989

The programme for the educational seminars is now available and bookings are being taken.

There will be concurrent educational sessions and I would wish to acknowledge the support of the National Turfgrass Council in organising the seminars. In addition, courses will be run on the foundation module for the Safe Use of Pesticides. The seminar programme will be distributed with the October edition of 'the Golf Course' but those members wishing to make early reservations for the seminars can obtain a copy of the

programme by contacting Headquarters office.

The Association would like to thank ICI Professional Products - one of our main sponsors - for their support in arranging the programme.

GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show, Anaheim, California

At the time of writing these notes, I am finalising details with a view to BIGGA members attending this event on a group booking basis. Whilst the details listed below may change slightly, it can be assumed that there will only be a minimal, if any, change in price.

Depart Gatwick Airport 8th February 1989

Depart Los Angeles Airport 15th February - Arrive Gatwick 16th February

7 night accommodation based on twin beds £561 + £27 insurance.

The above cost includes all transfers to and from Los

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the Golf Course

SEPTEMBER 1988

Publisher: Fore Golf Publications

Managing Director: Michael Coffey

All advertising matter, editorial copy and correspondence should be sent to:
the Golf Course, 29 Station Road,
Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. CO12 3AL
Telephone: 0255 507526
Fax: 0206 212060

Subscription rates:

UK - £18

USA - \$45

Continent - £30

Eire - IR£23

'the Golf Course' is published ten times a year.

Printed in England by J B Offset, Marks Tey,
Colchester, Essex.

Copyright: Fore Golf Publications Ltd 1988

ISSN 0953 6043

Front cover: Edwin Walsh head greenkeeper at Whitefields Golf Club, near Manchester, winner of the inaugural Iseki Greenkeepers National Golf Tournament

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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 passengers in three-bed room).

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

A provisional party booking has been made but with the demands on the accommodation in Anaheim for the event, this can only be held for a very limited period. It is essential therefore that those members wishing to join the BIGGA party confirm their booking immediately, with a cut off date of 30th September.

Please write to headquarters office with details of any extension required on the basic package. Bookings must be accompanied by a cheque for £85 per person, representing deposit plus insurance.

N.B. The above price does NOT include conference registration. 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. Daily passes can also be purchased in Anaheim. Details available from headquarters office.

National Education Conference, 4-6 April 1989, Queens College, Cambridge

Members are advised that full details will be available shortly. The speaker list is nearly finalised and included amongst the acceptances is Professor J. B. Beard of A & M University in Texas, whose presence should ensure a heavy demand on the restricted number of places available. Other speakers will include Dr. William Dest, Associate Extension Professor at the University of Connecticut; Rolf Lowgren, Chief Consultant to

the Swedish Golf Federation; James Wyllie, Canadian Turf Grass Consultant and Jim Snow, Director of the USGA Green Section's north eastern region. Early booking is recommended and places can be secured by forwarding a deposit of £15 per person to headquarters office.

**Neil Thomas
Executive Director**



**BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
S.E. REGION**

**Educational Seminar
The Woodlands Conference Centre, Swanley,
Kent.
Thursday 10th November 1988**

PROGRAMME

- 9.40 Chairman's opening address
- 9.45 - 10.45 Gordon Macadam STRI "Drainage problems on the golf course"
- 10.45 - 11.30 Neil Baldwin STRI "Turf diseases"
- 11.30 - 11.45 Questions on diseases
- 11.45 - 12.45 David Stansfield STRI "Maintenance problems on tees, fairways and bunkers"
- 12.45 - 2.15 Lunch
- 2.15 - 3.00 Jeff Perris STRI "Maintenance problems on greens and surrounds"
- 3.00 - 3.30 General discussion
- 3.00 Disperse

The registration fee of £12.50 will include morning coffee and lunch

Please contact: John Millen, Boyton Court Cottage, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 3EG. Phone: 0622 843383, 0227 470025 (day) for further details.

BIGGA

South West & South Wales Regional Seminar Somerset College of Agriculture & Horticulture, Cannington. November 8th 1988

PROGRAMME

- 9.30-10.00 Registration with coffee and biscuits
- 10.10 Introduction by Neil Thomas BA Executive Director BIGGA
- 10.30-11.15 Mr. J. Hamilton Stutt "The way ahead, Golf 2000 A.D."
- 11.15-12.00 Mr. H. A. J. Swan "Building golf courses internationally"
- 12.00-12.30 Question time
- 12.30-1.30 Lunch
- 1.30 - 2.15 Mr. D. Godfrey "Grasses for the golf course"
- 2.15 - 3.00 Dr. I. Campbell "The selection and care of trees on golf courses"
- 3.00 - 3.30 Question time
- 3.45 Close

BIGGA members £12.00 each - Non members £15.00 each. Cheques payable to: BIGGA, S. West & S. Wales Region. Please send your fee with name and address to; Mr. G. Child, Regional Administrator, Archways, Churston Road, Churston Ferrers, South Devon. TQ5 0HU.

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BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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

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

Full Name: _____ Home address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Date of birth: _____ Postcode: _____
 Name of employer: _____ Address: _____
 Present post: _____ Date of appointment: _____
 Professional qualifications: _____

I wish to be affiliated to the _____ (Section (see below))
 I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____
 Subscriptions are NOT to be sent with this form but will be invoiced separately.
 Fees payable will be: (1) Full member **£12.50**
 (2) 18 years of age and under **£6.25**

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South East	:East Anglia, Greater London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent
South West and South Wales	:South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South West, South Wales



BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW PAYABLE AT HALF YEARLY RATES TO COVER THE PERIOD TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1986.

1988 ASSOCIATE AND TRADE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (NB Not to be completed by Trade and Associate members who joined during 1987)

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

Full name: _____ Home address: _____
 Telephone: _____ Postcode: _____
 Name of company (where appropriate) Preferred mailing address: _____

Position: _____	Postcode: _____
Categories	B. 1. Associate member £12.50
	B. 2. Associate member including £21.50 subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year
	C. 1. Trade member £15.00
	C. 2. Trade member including £24.00 subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year

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 _____ Member in Category _____
 and I enclose my cheque as indicated above in the sum of £ _____ made payable to BIGGA.
 A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____



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ISEKI

national greenkeepers' golf tournament '88

The final of the inaugural National Greenkeepers golf tournament was held at the St. Pierre Golf and Country Club at Chepstow on the 19th August.

Conditions on the day, especially from the back tees, were not easy, as there was a strong westerly wind and intermittent heavy showers.

The old course at St. Pierre, which is in the care of course manager David Jones, is a parkland layout with heavy rough and more than a few well placed trees.

The course and entrance to the club were decked out in BIGGA and Iseki flags and the specially prepared control unit was sited next to the first tee, from where the team of BIGGA officials, headed by Neil Thomas and including David Golding, Arnold Phipps Jones and Ivor Scoones, organised the golf and collated the scores. The format for the competition was nine holes in the morning (the back nine) followed by 18 holes in the afternoon from the 10th tee.

The eventual winner was Edwin Walsh, head greenkeeper at Whitefields Golf Club, which is situated between Bury and Manchester. Edwin is an appropriate winner of the first BIGGA national golf tournament as he was a Lancashire county golfer in the mid seventies, and now holds a handicap of six at Whitefields.

He qualified for the Iseki final as the runner up in division one the of the Northern regional event, and at

St. Pierre his golf was of an even higher calibre. For the morning nine holes he shot a net 33 which left him two strokes behind the leader at lunchtime, his only moment of drama in the morning coming at the 6th where he pitched into a ditch short of the green, dropped out only to fluff his pitch but then recovered by getting down in two. It was no doubt a great boost to birdie the final hole in the morning, for in the afternoon out in the middle of the field amidst gales and showers he pitched and putted for par no fewer than five times. He missed an easy birdie chance at the 7th, but throughout the round drove straight and true, eventually finishing with a 75, net 69, against a par of 71 and an SSS of 73. His only birdie came at the 5th - significantly stroke index 1.

A fantastic effort in the conditions, for which he will no doubt be rewarded by a cut in his handicap!!

Edwin Walsh has been a successful golfer for many years, winning local and national events, but few have

given him as much pleasure as winning at St. Pierre.

"It is always nice to be the first to have your name on a trophy and I am already looking forward to trying to defend the title next year. I am also very pleased to be involved in the first national event of BIGGA, as it is one of my greatest wishes to see the Association succeed and to have the opportunity to put something back into a game and an industry that I love. I have to say that the Iseki National Final has been very well run and thoroughly enjoyed by all."

Edwin is not only a winner on the golf course but represents England at indoor bowls and was runner up in the English national singles championship (short mat) in 1987.

There were many tales of woe and disaster at St Pierre, none more unfortunate than the Scottish contingent, headed by their administrator Chris Kennedy, whose mini bus broke down both coming and going in pouring rain.

In the evening the prizegiving ceremony took



Right: Edwin Walsh - getting down in two.

place, after an excellent dinner. Our MC for the evening was the Northern region administrator, David Golding, who gave a very polished performance. David first of all introduced John Hawkins, managing director of the sponsors, Iseki UK Ltd., who was clearly delighted with the success of the event and hoped that it would be possible for Iseki to sponsor the event next year. He thanked all concerned, especially the regional administrators of the Association, who had done so much in helping to run the competitions; David Jones, the course manager of St. Pierre, for the presentation of the course; and Steve Broad of Broad Spectrum who, with his team, had organised the regional qualifying events and the finals so well. Mr Hawkins applauded the Association's commitment to better education for greenkeepers and pledged his company's support. He then turned to Iseki's new product line which had been displayed for the Press earlier in the day, and hoped that as many greenkeepers as possible would try out the various tractors, mowers and aerators and give him their opinion as reaction from the end-user was of great importance.

Next to speak was the Association's Chairman, Jack McMillan, who as usual apologised for his accent - something he has no need to do as over recent years his brogue has been listened to by more greenkeepers than anyone else in greenkeeping, with no lack of understanding.

Jack was keen to stress that although this was a golfing occasion he refuted the comments made in certain circles that BIGGA was a golfing society pure and simple. With three conferences up and coming at Ayr, Harrogate and Cambridge, the Association's educational programme was

well under way. Jack was particularly proud of the array of international speakers gathered together at Ayr, and the list of speakers for Cambridge could not be more impressive. However he pointed out that as greenkeepers the Association's members served the golfer and he felt that every greenkeeper should play and understand the game, therefore it was only natural that the BIGGA should be strongly involved in golf, for it was only through shared experience that practical help and advice could be meaningful. The Iseki tournament was devised to strengthen ties and identification for the newly formed regions, and in this it had been supremely successful. Jack thanked the sponsors for their foresight in backing the newly formed Association and he was sure that the partnership would be a long a fruitful one. He then turned to

David Jones the course manager of St. Pierre and thanked him on behalf of all the competitors for the excellent job he had done in presenting the Old course in such fine condition and for making everyone so welcome. Finally Jack also paid tribute to Steve Broad for the highly professional way in which he had organised the tournament.

Next it was the turn of the irrepressible Colin Gregory, Sales Director of Iseki, to present the prizes. Colin not only knows every part of his tractors, but he also knows every greenkeeper in the world by his first name!!

Edwin Walsh won with a superb score of 102 net for the 27 holes, playing off a handicap of 6. Edwin, from the Northern section, received a magnificent silver cup and a colour TV as well as a range of Iseki clothing.

His win was greeted with great applause.

RESULTS:-

Division 1. Arthur Williamson 108.5 (Graigle Hill GC) Scottish Region, 2. Michael Hannam 110 (Moortown GC) Northern Region, 3. John Parr 111.5 (Exeter GC) South West Region.

Division 2. Rhys Thomas 104 (Enville GC) Midlands Region, 2. Robert Phillips 107.5 (Porters Park GC) South East Region, 3. Jeff Chambers 109.5 (Leatherhead GC) South East Region.

Division 3. 1. Michael Gregson 109 (ShIPLEY Northcliffe GC) Northern Region, 2. Steven Hird 110 (Scunthorpe GC) Northern Region, 3. Mark Bindley 112 (Kirkby Muxlow GC) Midlands Region.

Over 55. Derek Coomber 110.5 (Pyecombe GC) South East Region.

Under 21. Neil Woolfrey 114 (Tewkesbury Park GC) Midlands Region.

Best gross. Charles White 115 (Largs Kelbourn GC) Scottish Region.

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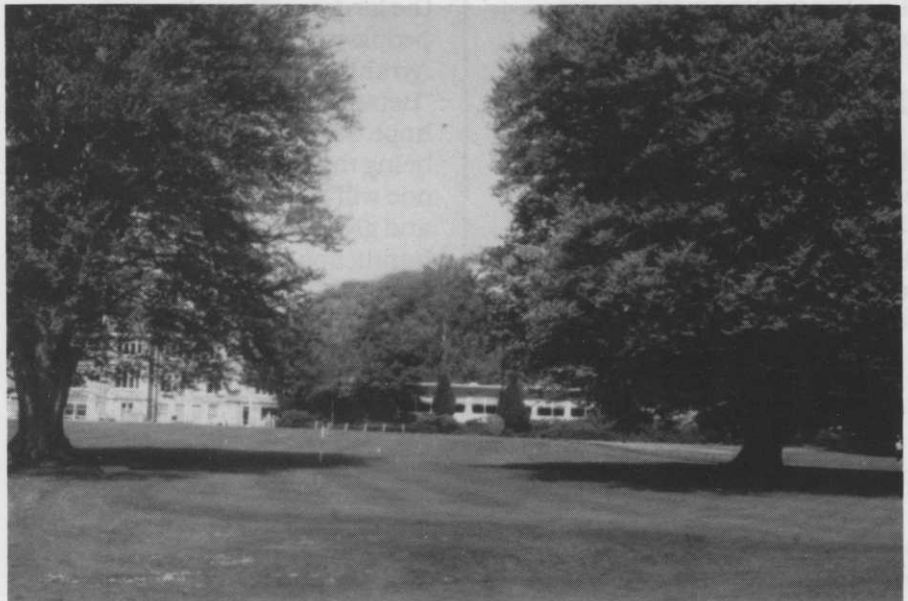


Out on the course at Ayr Belleisle

THE Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, is considered by many to be one of the finest public golf courses in Scotland. Although close to the coast, it is truly a parkland course. Belleisle was a qualifying course for the European Open in 1979, and staged the British Ladies Championships in 1979 and 1981.

In charge of the golf complex at Ayr Belleisle is Harry Diamond, 57, a highly respected man of long experience in greenkeeping. Harry said, "I started working on the golf course at Western Gailes in 1943, and from there I went to Glasgow Gailes for 11 years. During this period I did National Service in the Army in Malaya and the Far East. The Glasgow club was generous to me while I was absent and I remember receiving my usual Christmas bonus, which I accidentally dropped into a river in the Malayan jungle! However I managed to recover a soggy cheque for £5, which was most welcome.

"After my military service I



returned to Glasgow Gailes, then moved on to Irvine Golf Club as head greenkeeper at the age of 25. Ultimately, I came to look after the two courses, Belleisle and Seafield, in 1970 and have remained here ever since." Harry continued "I have three married daughters and a son, who has not followed me in greenkeeping. My wife is long suffering, like all greenkeepers' wives, I suppose. You try to give

Top: 8th green with the 6th on the right and 7th in background.

Above: The 12th, with the 18th in background.

by
**JOHN
CAMPBELL**

of your best in the job; often there is a lot demanded of you by way of long hours, which can put a strain on family life.

"The Belleisle course was designed by James Braid and opened in 1927. It has always been a popular and very busy course, averaging 60,000 rounds a year. It is quite unique, being a rolling parkland layout with lovely distant views of the sea. The main features are the well established variety of trees, which have been strategically planted to break up the landscape, and the number of bunkers on the course that come into play.

"The holes are all very testing - the aggregate length of the par fours on the course is 240 yards, longer than Augusta where the Masters is played! There are five short holes, four of which are 200 yards or more.

Although the greens are generous in size, averaging 800 sq. yds., it takes a good shot to find the putting surface and stay there."

POTENTIAL

Harry went on, "the Seafield course has all the potential of a links, constructed on sandy soil. It was built as a nine hole course within the perimeter of the old racecourse and opened



in 1904. We are trying to make it more interesting by using the natural elevated points to build tees with commanding views of the surroundings. Up till now it has been classed as a grade three course to accommodate the large number of young people who play golf in Ayrshire.

"Between the two courses, we hope with all the alterations being made on Seafield, that the one will complement the other and give players of all handicaps a really good day's golf.

"We have clays and a lot of

heavy soil to contend with and have installed a fairly extensive drainage system which has proved successful. A strict maintenance programme of cleaning all the drains annually helps to keep them free of tree roots, silt and so on.

"Another problem is the amount of play on the courses, which means careful planning of the work schedule to get all the necessary work done. In the summer, work begins at 6.30 am - if there is a special event it may be earlier. The staff usually have a short break in the middle of the day and work straight through. If important jobs need to be done we carry on

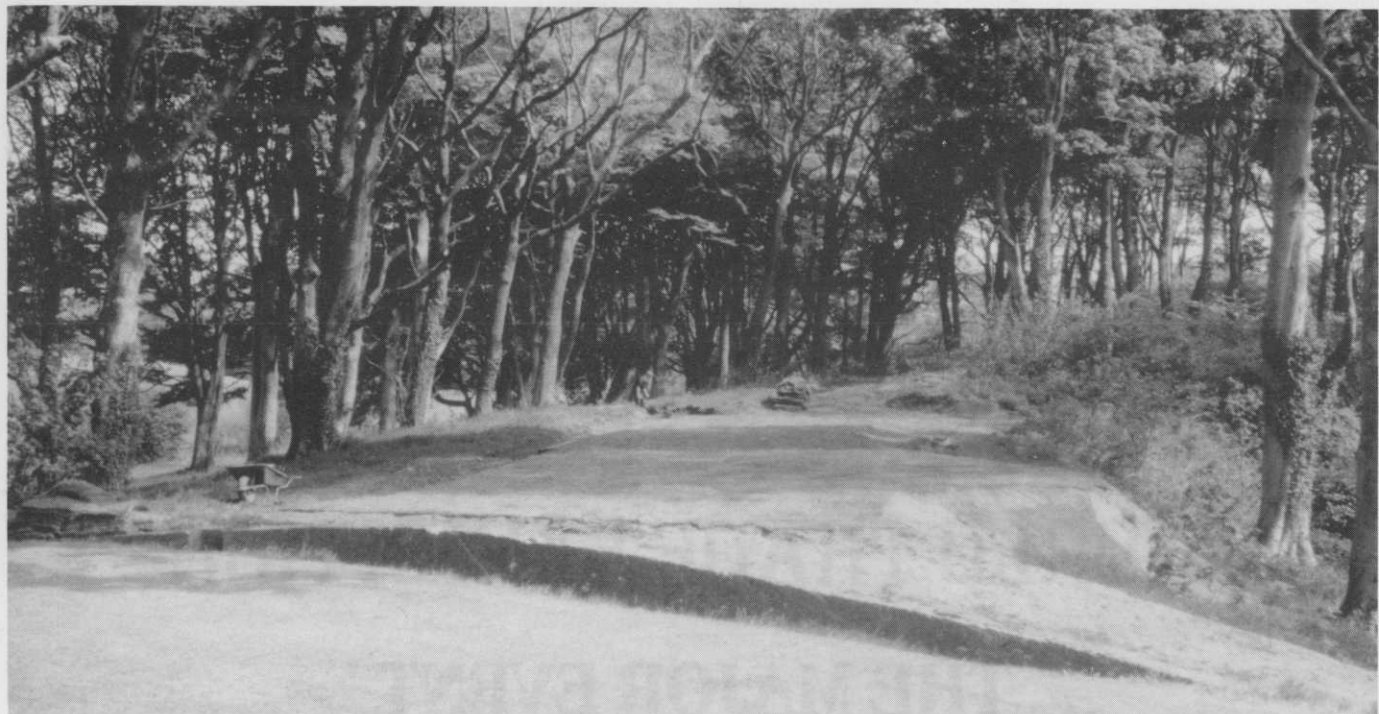
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"The Seafield has all the potential of a links course"

Above: 6th and 7th greens.

Left: Harry Diamond, John Campbell and Neil Thomas approach the 4th green.





Above: New 18th tee, Seafield.

until completion. The strength of our staff is six experienced men, plus two YTS lads." said Harry. "Since Duncan Gray came here as Parks Superintendent, responsible for eight golf courses and five bowling greens in the Kyle and Carrick region, we have been able to implement a fairly intensive training programme for all staff. I have four young men attending college and all our other courses have a similar number of staff coming into this education stream. We have appointed a foreman for each course, which is something new. Ian Campbell, who started his career at Turnberry, is in charge of the Belleisle course and Jim Devlin, who came to me five years ago as an electrical engineer looking for a job in greenkeeping, is now responsible for the Seafield course.

GOOD TRAINING

"The staff get good training and experience, as we do all our own construction, drainage, building new greens and tees. There is a training college in Ayr which is well attended. Three times a year all the students come to Belleisle and I

generally give them a three hour lecture on bunkers in the morning, then they do practical jobs on bunkers in the afternoon.

"You may wonder how it is possible to talk for three hours on bunkers - I could make it ten! I start by explaining how traps originated, how to construct them, and talk about the many different ways of revetting bunker faces." Harry explained, "Taking your place in a local authority and dealing with budget expenditure, getting new machinery etc, has been very trying for me. You don't always get what you would like to have. However, since Duncan Gray, our Parks Supervisor, arrived on the scene things have improved immeasurably. We recently took delivery of a new Jacobsen Triplex Greens mower and a Turf King. This means we have a full set of machinery for each course for the first time, so work can proceed speedily, efficiently and economically.

"We are now concentrating all our efforts to upgrade the Seafield course, which has for long been the poor relation. Lately we have carried out extensive work to improve the facilities, most of which has

been imaginative and designed to add pleasure and interest for all golfers."

ADVOCATE!

Continued Harry, "I have long been involved in the affairs of greenkeeping in Scotland at committee level and have always been an advocate for proper training and educational facilities for young aspirants coming into greenkeeping. I see BIGGA as the means of helping us to attain our objective of upgrading the status of the greenkeeper, and anything that does that will get my full support and undivided attention!

"We in Ayrshire look forward to hosting the BIGGA National Tournament and International Conference this month. It is an important occasion and one which will give us the opportunity to extend a warm Scottish welcome to all the delegates and their wives. We are planning an interesting programme of events to make their stay a memorable and enjoyable one."

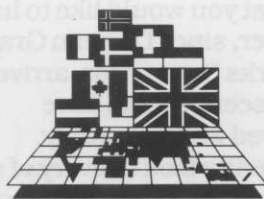
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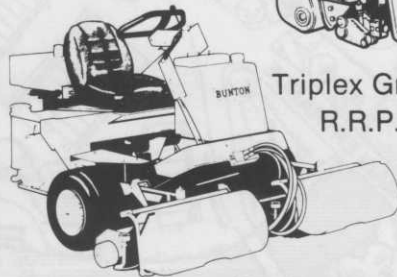
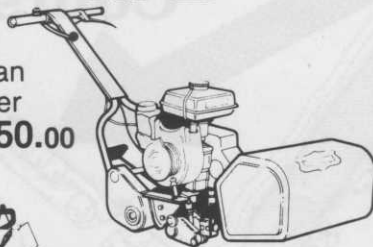
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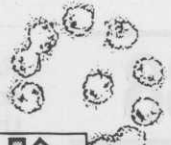


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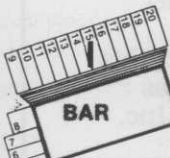
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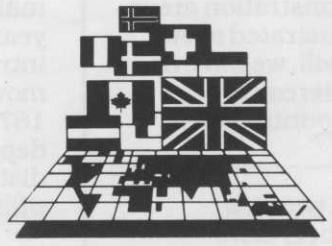
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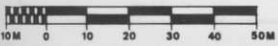
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ROYAL WINDSOR '88

The Institute of Groundsmanship Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at the Royal Windsor Racecourse, Windsor this month has seen an increase in the demand for stand space rise 25% since last year. In 1988 there are no fewer than 388 exhibitors, including those from 27 overseas Countries. To this you can add a record number of Colleges and Associations which are featured in the extended Educational and Training Section. Despite many rival attractions it is still the biggest show of its kind and the greatest meeting place for the whole industry.

We will be in our usual position, first on the left as you enter the Exhibition, Central Avenue 1-2, however this year the visitor will note a few changes - watch this space!!!

As usual there will be much to see, particularly in the expanded demonstration areas and we have illustrated a few products that will, we have no doubt, be of interest to greenkeepers countrywide.

Toro will unveil two new models the 3 wheel drive Reelmaster 216, a triplex mower complete with hydraulic drive and Kohler air cooled 16hp engine with electric start. Secondly there is to be a diesel version of the Greensmaster 3000, a restyled machine with a 3 cylinder water cooled Mitsubishi engine, this machine now features power steering and the diesel model returns excellent fuel results.

Sisis too are introducing a new Hydromain Tractor, which is capable of utilising front drive implements including a 3 unit hydraulic cylinder cutter. Also new is the Varicore, a PTO driven coring machine with variable depth control and alternative hole pattern.

Iseki, have just about turned their range on its head, as was witnessed by the competitors at the Iseki National Golf Tournament Finals at St. Pierre, last month. There is a new look for all their compact tractors with many new features in the entire range, the easy-step-thru flat bed being common to many models. Add to these the Coremaster and the new models from Turfblazer and there really is something new for everyone.

Jacobsen too are continuing to make their mark in the UK, this year they not only have introduced the LF-100 fairway mower, the diesel Tri-King 1671D, but in an entirely new departure they will now distribute E-Z-Go golf carts and utility vehicles in the UK.

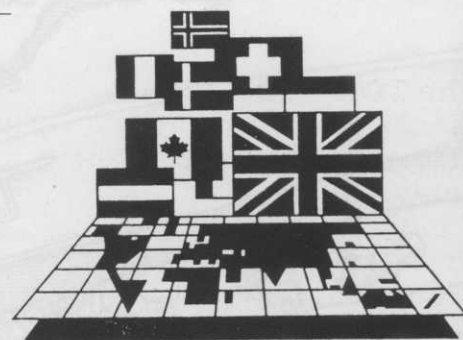
Huxleys will be showing their 358 triple greensmower to the general public for the first time (see Notebook - July '88), they will also be unveiling the latest additions to the Cushman turf care system, Royer soil processing and screening equipment and their own hydraulic reel mowers for compact tractors.

John Deere, who came into the market with their grounds care system as recently as 1986, have introduced additional items to their UK range this year (see Notebook - June '88), details will also be announced at the IOG of a new professional turf mower which is currently being evaluated in the UK.

Ransomes always come up with something new for the IOG, and this year is no exception, they are introducing the TURFTRAK system, which incorporates 2 and 4 wheel drive power units, with a wide range of front mounted attachments. The TURFTRAK system which is marketed outside the USA under the Ransomes banner, has been developed in the USA by members of the Steiner family, whose business Ransomes bought earlier this year, and is now known as Steiner Turf Equipment Inc.

Turfland Professional Equipment, who are sole distributors in the UK for the Brouwer range of turf-care machinery in the, will be demonstrating the full range of machines including the Brouwer-Vac, the largest capacity vacuum machine available, as well as their turf harvester which is the world wide market leader in mechanical turf harvesting.

There are many new developments and products to be seen from all sides of the industry, chemicals, fertilisers, irrigation, sprayers, golf course accessories etc. A review of all that's new at the IOG will appear in the next month's issue.



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The Cushman Front Line ride-on rotary mower is just one of the machines that will be exhibited by Huxleys.



The Brouwer Turf Harvester from Turfland is a world wide market leader.

WHAT'S NEW AT WINDSOR



Jacobsen's LF - 100 is a 5 unit fairway mower that offers the precision mowing and low ground pressure of a greens mower.

Jacobsen now distributes E-Z-Go golf carts in the UK, both petrol and electric models are available.



The new Iseki TU series can be fitted with optional front linkage and PTO to double the operations in one pass.

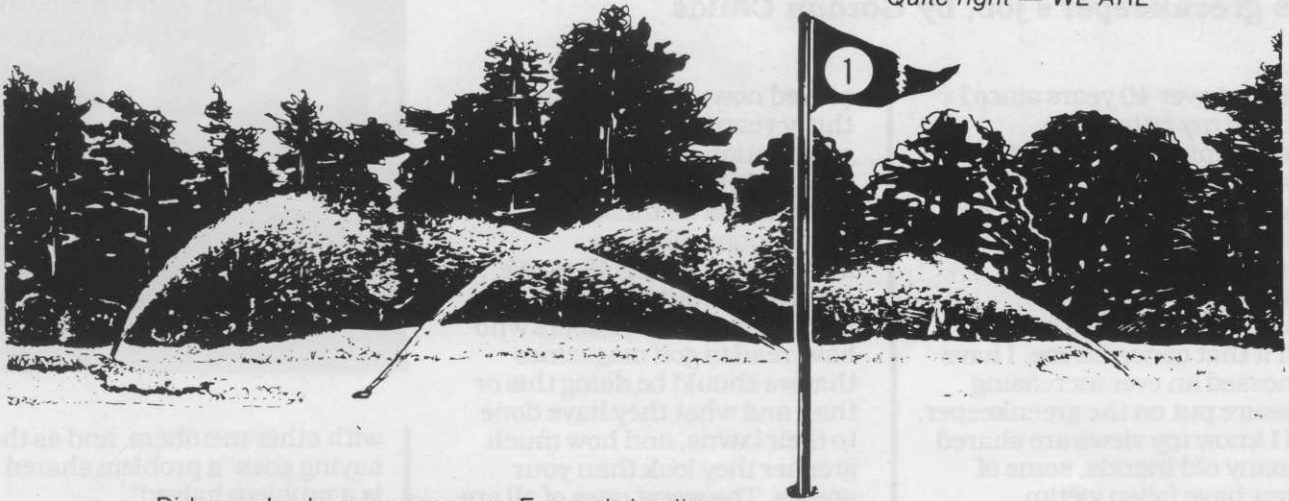


The 78 horsepower Turfblazer Hydro 180 gives a cutting width of 4.5 metres in one pass from its three rotary cutting decks.

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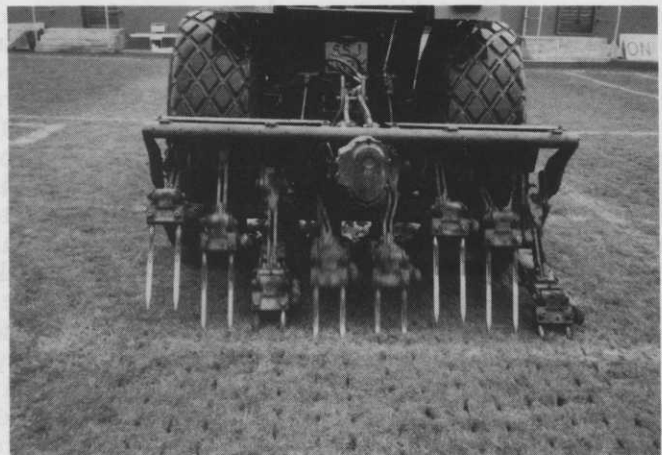
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UNDER PRESSURE

Living with the stresses and strains that come with the greenkeeper's job, by Gordon Childs

IT IS just over 40 years since I followed my father into greenkeeping, and in that time I have seen a great many changes. Surprisingly, not so much in greenkeeping itself, but more in the methods of application.

It is what change has brought with it that concerns me. I have witnessed an ever increasing pressure put on the greenkeeper, and I know my views are shared by many old friends, some of whom have fallen victim. So what are the changes that have brought about this problem, and what, if anything can we do to help ourselves? I can only give you my views and possible remedies gained from a lifetime of experience in greenkeeping.

Golf is far more competitive now, so there is a much greater need to have your course playing well all year round. When I started, you only had a few hardy golfers in winter to contend with. Work could go on uninterrupted, but not so today. I remember in the 1940's, when water was not even installed on most golf courses, it was almost impossible to over water your greens, and the golfer was quite happy to adapt his game to fit the conditions, a skill which today's golfer rarely needs. Now I am the last to condemn the watering systems of today, but many have been over used. I am sure in most cases it is the pressure put on by members who want you to water, water and water in hot, dry weather just to make their game easier. Never mind the long term damage to the turf.

So, instead of the watering system being an asset to the greenkeeper and his course, it can become, if misused, a source of extra pressure in winter when greens are boggy and have to be closed.

The increased amount of golf

played now, against twenty or thirty years ago, has given us a compaction and wear problem on a scale not known before. To combat this we must aerate much more, all to the annoyance of the golfers. We also have to put up with comments from members who have read in golf magazines that we should be doing this or that, and what they have done to their lawns, and how much greener they look than your greens. The worst ones of all are the people who set themselves up as experts, but in truth know very little about the subject, but still seem to be able to convince members that they are right. To a young man starting out in greenkeeping, it must be very confusing to read the different views expressed by agronomists on their methods of good greenkeeping.

Then we have the golf courses beautifully presented on television for a tournament, and your members want their course to look the same, but without the cost, of course. We would all like to present golf courses in immaculate condition, given the chance, but money and time are in short supply in most golf clubs. All you can do is try your best with what you have and work to convince the club to change its attitude so that you can give them what they ask for.

At golf clubs where tournaments are held, the pressures can be even greater. I could go on and on naming the pressure points, but that is no help. So I would like to suggest a few things we can do to ease the problem.

First, BIGGA is trying very hard to help by promoting greenkeeper education, which in turn will give the knowledge and confidence to resist bad policy. It also gives the opportunity to share problems



with other members, and as the saying goes "a problem shared is a problem halved".

Another very good saying, is that "a change is as good as a rest", and I don't mean a change of job. How many of us work all day on the course then go back at night to play golf, and half the time we are thinking about tomorrow's work. This can only add to the pressure you are under. I am not suggesting you should give up playing - far from it. Playing golf helps you to understand the needs of the golfer, but more time spent on outside interests or even playing golf on other courses will help.

Too many greenkeepers never get away from their jobs, and that can only be bad news for you and your family. Not only are you boring to live with, but you are risking your health in later years.

We all need an interest away from work. I personally dropped out of the pressure area seven or eight years ago, and my main interest now is horse riding. I am very lucky that my wife Marion shares my love for horses. That is an added bonus, and makes keeping a horse much easier as we share the workload.

I can honestly say, and I speak from experience, that a relaxing interest outside of work will release a lot of the pressure. There are many ways to help yourself, but it is an area we all need to be very conscious of.

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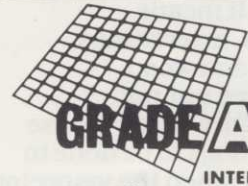
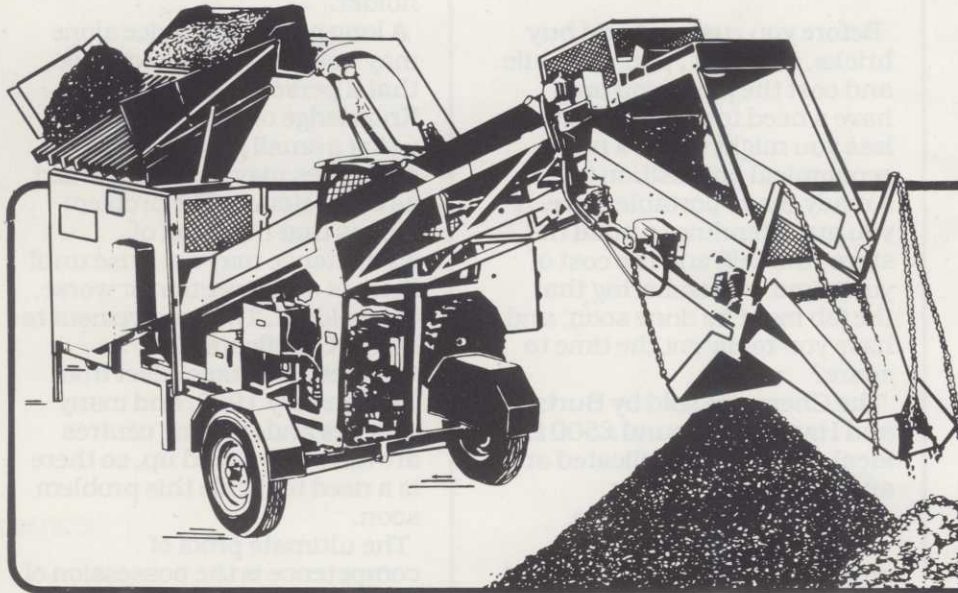
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The Food and Environment Protection Act

WITH the season upon us and the 'alligators' thick all around us, there is the problem of what to do about the new regulations. You might wonder, why us? What did we do to deserve this? The answer of course is nothing, the record of safe application of pesticides in greenkeeping is outstanding. But we must accept that the new law is necessary to control the activities of all who use pesticides.

The word pesticide itself causes confusion. It means weedkillers, insecticides, fungicides and wood preservatives but not fertilizers. On the golf course there are things to be done to ensure that when the inspector visits, all will be well.

The way pesticides are stored leaves a lot to be desired. Some stores are almost non-existent, others are well constructed but the pesticides are in with the fertilizers, tools, etc.

In future, pesticides will be stored separately and will need to be securely locked. The guidelines on a typical chemical store are intended for use by large users of pesticides; there are as yet no specific guidelines on small stores. A small pesticide store will contain less than 200 units of pesticide i.e. litres or kilos or a mixture of both.

SENSIBLE APPROACH

The most sensible approach on the golf course would be to have the store within an existing building and built to meet the following requirements:

1. Insulated from extremes of temperature and have high and low ventilation.
2. Have strong non-absorbent shelving.
3. Be able to contain any spillage within the store area, a concrete floor with minimum

6" bund across the door.

4. Have a stock list inside (and a copy in the office), a standard hazard sign on the outside of the door.
5. First Aid, including eyewash and washing facilities, should also be nearby.

Before you rush out and buy bricks, sand etc., pause a while and cost the job. If you only have a need to use 200 units or less you might find it a more economical proposition to buy a ready made portable store. If you are intending to build the store yourself, add the cost of your time, remembering that the job must be done soon, and have you really got the time to spare?

The Chemsafe sold by Burts and Harvey at around £500 is ideal, being uncomplicated and approved as a store for pesticides up to 200 units.

Finally, before you do anything, check with your local Health and Safety Executive Inspector that what you propose to do will meet with his approval.

SQUIRREL-LIKE

Greenkeepers do tend to hang on to their favourite pesticides, especially fungicides. This squirrel like habit has its problems, because only those pesticides that have current approval can be used. Disposal of old material by the local authority or authorised waste disposal contractor can be expensive so resist the squirrel syndrome! The inspector will check and won't be amused to see old cherished fungicides hidden in corners.

Providing those who spray pesticides do so only within the confines of their place or work, they need only be 'competent'. If however, spraying is carried out on other sites, the operator

must have a Certificate of Competence. A further consideration is that regardless of where the spraying is carried out, any person born on or after 31st December 1964 must have a Certificate of Competence or be supervised by a certificate holder.

A long period of service alone may not be sufficient to prove that a person is competent. Knowledge of one sprayer and using a small group of pesticides may not be regarded as competence. The problem here is that the proof of competence may not arise until there is an inspection or worse, an accident. The requirement to hold a Certificate of Competence takes effect from 1st January 1989, and many colleges and training centres are already booked up, so there is a need to tackle this problem soon.

The ultimate proof of competence is the possession of a certificate. Take the test; it is a very good qualification and may even be asked for in job interviews in the future.

Finally, examine your spraying operation and check that you are meeting your duties under the law "to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants, to safeguard the environment and in particular to avoid pollution of water."

You will need a copy of the *Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity Areas*, available from John Shildrick, secretary of the National Turfgrass Council, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1HZ. Cost £7 plus postage.

This important document gives detailed guidance on how to prepare for spraying, to calibrate, dispose of empty containers, clean out machines and more. In fact it should become the sprayer's bible!

by John Allbutt

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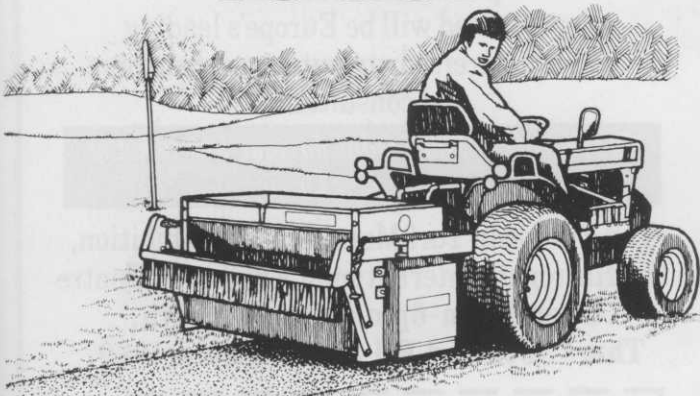
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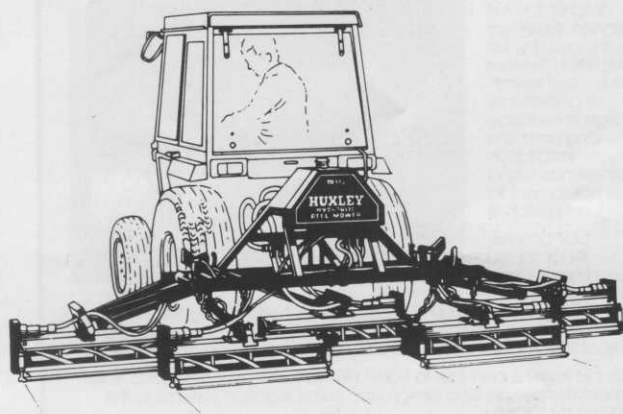
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TU 324 Four Wheel Drive
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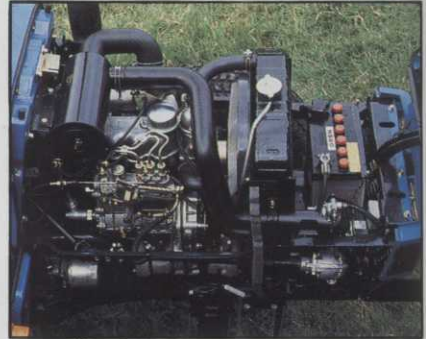


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GOLF IN SWEDEN

by

Michael Williams

AFTER being presented with the first prize for the Scotec Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship course at Elmwood College, Cupar, Michael Williams, an assistant at The Gleneagles Hotel, was invited to participate in an exchange visit organised between the hotel and Ljunghusen Golf Klubb in Sweden.

MY host, Stig Persson, was the high profile chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and general manager of Ljunghusen golf course. I worked during my first day in Sweden at Ljunghusen and then went on to the Swedish Greenkeepers Conference in the evening. This was held at Hollviken, about 30 miles south of Malmo on the south western tip of Sweden. The Falsterbo peninsula is a tourists' resort with three golf courses; Ljunghusen; Falsterbo, the oldest in Sweden; and Flommen. The three golf courses host the PLM Open in rotation. This year, the tournament is being hosted by the Falsterbo club.

The Ljunghusen club is 55 years old and has been extended twice since its conception in 1932; in 1954 to an 18 hole course, and then again in 1965 when an extra nine holes were added. The course was originally built as a nine hole golf course during the first boom in Swedish golf in the 1930's. Since then, as is happening all over Europe, the country is experiencing a second boom, with many new golf courses being constructed. At the eastern edge of the golf course is the Ljung nature reserve where many migratory birds assemble from both Sweden and Norway before continuing south.

salt marsh

The golf course is constructed on a salt marsh, having approximately six inches of semi-decomposed peat on top of



a pure sand base. There is obviously a very high water table with many lagoons scattered around the course. With such a high water table, during winter the ground can freeze to a depth of 5ft, which results in a mass die-back of the grass. This problem does not exist solely at Ljunghusen, but throughout Sweden. Alongside the problem of winter freezing is that of low light levels. Greenkeeping practices therefore have to be adjusted to encourage the growth of grass under such restrictive conditions.

aeration

Aeration is not carried out to the same extent as in the UK. I cannot recall seeing any aeration equipment, although the greens had been hollow-cored with four inch centres.

Sand is taken from the beach at Skanor and is stockpiled for a year before being used by all three golf courses on the Falsterbo peninsula. At Ljunghusen they add nothing to the sand - it is spread over the green using a fertiliser spreader mounted to a Ford 1710 tractor. Once the sand has been spread there is no rush to clear the green. During such operations a composite course is used, i.e. playing the first nine then holes 19-27.

The golfers are extremely patient. If a greenkeeper is working on a green the golfer cannot play until the green is clear, and could forfeit his membership if he were to play a shot prematurely.

Ljunghusen have two Toro triplex mowers and no handmowers. One is set for cutting the greens, while the

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other is used on the tees. Despite the fact that greens are not excessively large, the total dependence upon Toro's was due to shortages of staff.

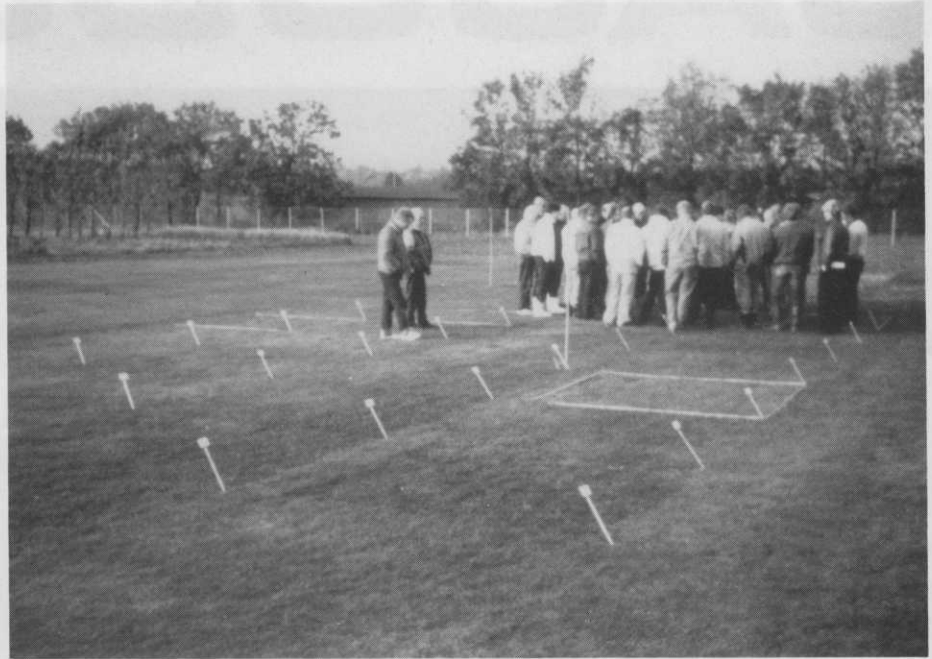
Once a green or tee has been cut, no switching is done. Many of the tees I came across, not only at Ljunghusen but throughout Sweden, were largely uneven and narrow, with very little room for moving a tee box laterally. One or two courses has resorted to the use of artificial tees.

sponsorship

It would appear that almost anything on the golf course can be sponsored - from the greenkeeper's pick-up to the holes on the course. Stig Persson drives a Subaru pick-up which is literally covered from bumper to bumper with sponsors' emblems. School children are sent to the club twice a year for a fortnight at a time to gain practical experience. They can choose for themselves which area of industry they prefer - anything from banking to greenkeeping.

conference

The Swedish Greenkeepers Conference took place at Hollsiken during the week I was in Sweden and was held at an army camp which had been leased out for the duration. There was an international flavour to the conference, and Gordon Whitteven from Toronto in Canada gave a speech on his personal mistakes over 25 years! This covered everything from mishaps with weedkillers, to greens which had to be reconstructed after being used just once, to the inevitable caddie-car in a bunker. Weibulls, the seed company who have given us *Poa pretensis* 'Sydsport', *Agrostis tenuis* 'Boral' and *Agrostis stolonifera* 'Emerald' gave us a tour of their headquarters.



peninsular

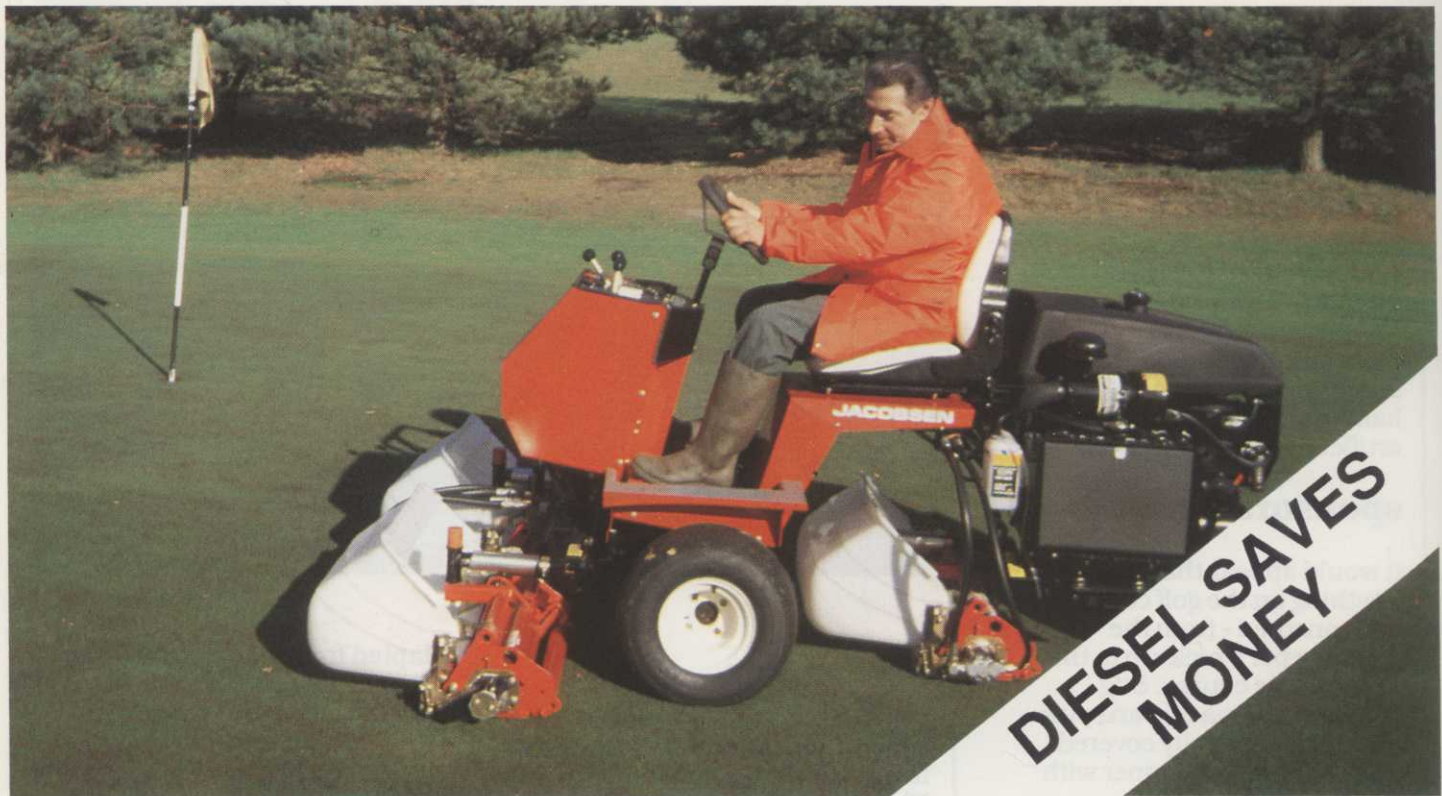
After the conference I was invited to visit Molle Golf Klubb, which is situated in the Kullaberg National Park on the outskirts of the town of Molle. The golf course is situated at the end of a peninsular, which is also the home of Europe's most powerful lighthouse. There are many deciduous trees on the course, the majority of which are beech '*Fagus sylvatica*'. The course is under the control of the national park and any work undertaken requires their authorisation. Consequently, there are very few grassed tees - the majority are artificial. There are only three bunkers on the whole course, and one was the result of a tree falling down in front of the second green - the hole it made wasn't filled in! The greenkeepers' shed is extremely cramped and somewhat reminiscent of an antique shop, with two tractors dating back to the 1950's! The environmentalists will not allow the club to expand the sheds. Molle was far removed from what I had seen at Ljunghusen. The greenkeeper there was proud of the fact that his greens were switched daily. The switch, incidentally, was

adapted from an old fishing rod, and it was hard work to move it across the grass.

expansion

Sweden is Europe's second largest golfing nation after Britain, and is currently experiencing a period of expansion. Throughout the country there are many new courses being built or being extended into 18 or 27 hole complexes. Many of these clubs are expanding their range of facilities by building country clubs, with shooting and fishing offered as an alternative to golf. This period of growth is being fuelled by large amounts of money being injected into the industry through sponsorship, etc. This is keeping the price of a game of golf extremely low compared to Britain - approximately half in real terms. Many greenkeepers have an agricultural background and an attempt is being made by the SGA to improve their system of education, but there are no specific courses being offered for greenkeeping training. Perhaps this is a measure of how far they have to go - hopefully they will succeed.

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IT WAS only fair to allow Neil Thomas a full year in his post before subjecting him to some of the questions that seem to be asked fairly frequently at meetings of greenkeepers. Each month in this magazine Neil provides us with a valuable update on affairs, but I wanted to ask for his views on some wider issues.

First, though, I suggested that he was not very well known to members and he had to agree. "The point was brought home to me at the Open when I had gone out with a game to see how the bunker-raking was working. We got to the 3rd hole and the member actually doing the job turned round and asked me which section I belonged to! However, it is early days yet."

Neil is a Welshman from Penarth who studied at University College, Cardiff - part of the University of Wales, and graduated with a BA Honours degree in History. That led directly into an administrative career in Local Government and eventually to becoming Chief Administrative Officer in the Social Services Department in West Glamorgan based in Swansea. It was a career that embraced the complete range of Local Government administration with a final responsibility for a staff of 130, but left him with a hankering for a more personal and creative involvement in his job. Neil is married, with a wife and three young children who have settled well in Yorkshire.

INCREASING SUCCESS

Apart from the fact that Bingley is not exactly the ideal base for a job that involves a good deal of travelling, the only available office facilities are inadequate. That is no fault of the STRI, whose increasing success is already putting a strain on the accommodation in the new building for their own staff. Picture, if you will, the Executive Director squeezed into a small office and surrounded by packing cases holding ties, blazers, umbrellas etc - in fact the entire clothing stocks for BIGGA.

His secretary/personal assistant is located at a desk in the

STRI typing pool. It is a measure of the shortage of space that the computer, ordered in March to develop new systems as well as to take care of routine clerical work, is still sitting in the factory.

The first task was to set up a headquarters with centralised administration for the whole Association and apart from the logistic difficulties I have mentioned, this is well under way. A new constitution was produced splitting the 24 sections into five regions. This regional structure, with separate administrators for each region, is beginning to work well and should provide the essential link with the members in their sections. It is at local level that adjustment to the new system seems to be slower. In creating any new organisation, some milk will be spilt and some noses put out of joint. Time has to be allowed for the dust to settle. It is clear that there is still a need in some sections for volunteers to work even harder than in the past if the whole organisation is to succeed.

A MISERABLE LIFE

Members at the grass-roots (very apt!) are in too many cases living a fairly miserable life, badly paid and at the mercy of unsatisfactory golf club administrative arrangements. It is perfectly natural for them to judge BIGGA by immediate relief for them, but that is most probably unfair. If they are to enjoy the benefits of an enhanced professional status the foundations must be well laid. In addition, the new membership package as it has unfolded over the past six months contains some valuable items in fields such as insurance and employment protection. One difficulty is that greenkeepers put differing priorities on the items they think their Association should be providing. Some see education as

FACE TO FACE

**Eddie Park
talks to
Neil Thomas
Executive
Director
of
BIGGA**

a first priority, but others are more interested in their opportunities for summer golf tournaments. All must find a place.

I am impressed that Neil, starting from scratch just one year ago, has taken all the

Below: Eddie Park



problems on board and he readily expressed his view on a variety of topics. It is obviously of prime importance that a greenkeeping association establishes good working relationships with other interested parties - the "customers", for instance - in this case the golfers in their hundreds of independent golf clubs.

Supremely important people mainly because THEY ought to be the chief source of funding for the development of adequate greenkeeping training; something they have yet to realise!

NEW BROCHURE

Contacts are developing between an increasing number of secretaries and BIGGA and the leaflet "18 ways to help your greenkeeper" ought to be in every clubhouse together with the new Association brochure which will be published shortly. It may well be useful to try to establish contact with the Chairman of Green Committees and probably greenkeepers themselves could do much in this direction. I remarked that the old local vice-presidents of the old Associations (usually retired chairmen) formed a valuable link with their clubs, but they have largely disappeared from the new set-up.

The Association needs all the help available, but the Associate Membership category has not appealed to those more interested in their local section.

The golfing unions, both national and county, really ought to be representing golfers and collecting their contributions, which would benefit the state of their golf courses. But contacts seem to

FACE TO FACE

"The new levy on club members will test the willingness of clubs and the golfing unions to make a positive contribution"

have been few in number and not particularly helpful. Neil remarked ruefully: "The new levy on club members will test the willingness of clubs and the golfing unions to make a positive contribution to greenkeeper education."

Although many people think that a levy of 2p per club member is totally inadequate and that at least 50p, and preferably £1, would be more appropriate, it is clear, half way through the financial year, that collecting the levy for the Greenkeeper Training Committee is going to be a difficult task. This in turn will delay receipt of the R & A's "matching contribution".

The contribution of the R & A in getting BIGGA started has been invaluable (and very gratefully received), but it should not be seen as a permanent solution. Incidentally, relationships with the R & A are cordial as was evident at the Open and Neil himself represents BIGGA, by invitation, on the Greenkeeping Panel which discusses financial aid. "This, at least, allows the Association's message to be put over to the R & A and it must be acknowledged that that body has, in return, been very supportive."

Leaving the customers, how about contacts with the trade? These have been spasmodic, but there has been an increasing impetus of late. "A feeling of overall disappointment that the trade seems to have little empathy with the greenkeeper who provides much of their business. On the credit side, we now have six companies who



Neil Thomas

have begun to develop a positive, ongoing relationship with the Association - but there are many more who should be involved".

In fact, it is the more traditional firms, who might have been expected to welcome an involvement in better greenkeeper education and training, who are hanging back. Perhaps they too find it difficult to adjust to a national organisation, instead of giving prizes to section golf competitions. There are opportunities here to be grasped, but it is a subject requiring great care.

CONFERENCES

Education is a big subject and on this front much is already happening. Two educational conferences are already being arranged at Ayr and Cambridge. A three-day Educational Seminar Programme will run alongside the inaugural European Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate next January. Additionally, the Foundation Module on the Safe Use of

>>

FACE TO FACE

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Pesticides will also be available for delegates. This is the first occasion on which such a programme has been run for greenkeepers in this country and it has already created much interest.

The chief discussions concern new courses which go beyond the basic City & Guilds into the realms of management. One college is proposing a two year full time HND course in greenkeeping, but the earliest possible starting date is 1991, as the proposals need to be validated and approved through the national education structure. The course would take in school-leavers with good A-levels and after two years of theory send them out to learn the practical side. I can imagine a few old-timers having doubts about that, but nowadays that is the pattern for most practical jobs with any pretensions to a professional status.

Neil did not dismiss, either, my own belief that greenkeepers might well copy other professions in looking hard at ways of helping themselves in the educational field. After all, the medical profession has a profusion of local "study groups" operating in a variety of different fields. Most BIGGA sections hold monthly winter lectures (all too often to listen to salesmen) which could, at a minimal cost, be reconstructed into Study Groups dealing with systematic basic theory - both for themselves and for their Green Committees. Ways must be found of reducing the inflexibility of college education.

Related to education is the question of an Association magazine and Neil is beginning to appreciate the difficulty of persuading many greenkeepers to put pen to paper. Not because they can't, but because they appreciate the problems that can be created with their employers. That is a factor common to most walks of life. Neil remarked with understanding: "The biggest single problem with the membership is to get them to think in a way contrary to tradition - which is to have a quick look over the shoulder beforehand". It is a chicken and egg situation because things will not change until proper professional status is achieved and one could be forgiven for imagining that the constitution of the average golf club had been

designed to thwart that objective. In the meantime there are some hard things to be said by someone!

DISAPPOINTING

The attitude of the media is reckoned to be "disappointing and disinterested". The executive Director has communicated with all four major golf magazines, but received a negative response as they are all totally orientated to the professional tour. A briefing before the Open did little to improve the television coverage relating to greenkeeping on Television. "They still referred to marshals and stewards raking the bunkers and clearing water from the greens". Neil sees improving media response as a medium-term objective which will demand considerable lobbying.

We had covered a wide spread of topics and it was time to let Neil get on with his work "hard, but stimulating" he said. He reckons that his average working week is 65-70 hours! Members of the Board of Management and Regional and Section administrators are all making large contributions and perhaps the message to members should be something like that of President Kennedy at his inauguration.

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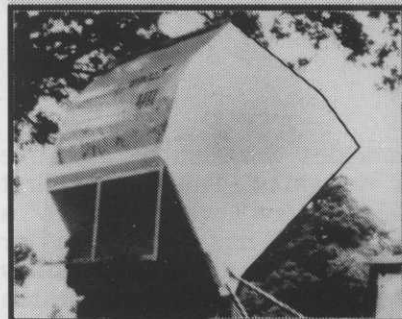
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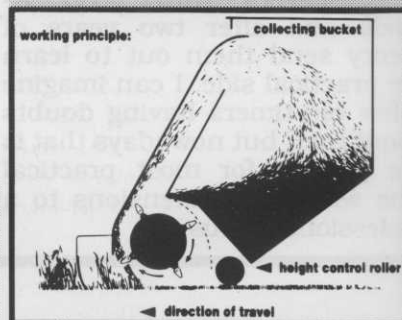
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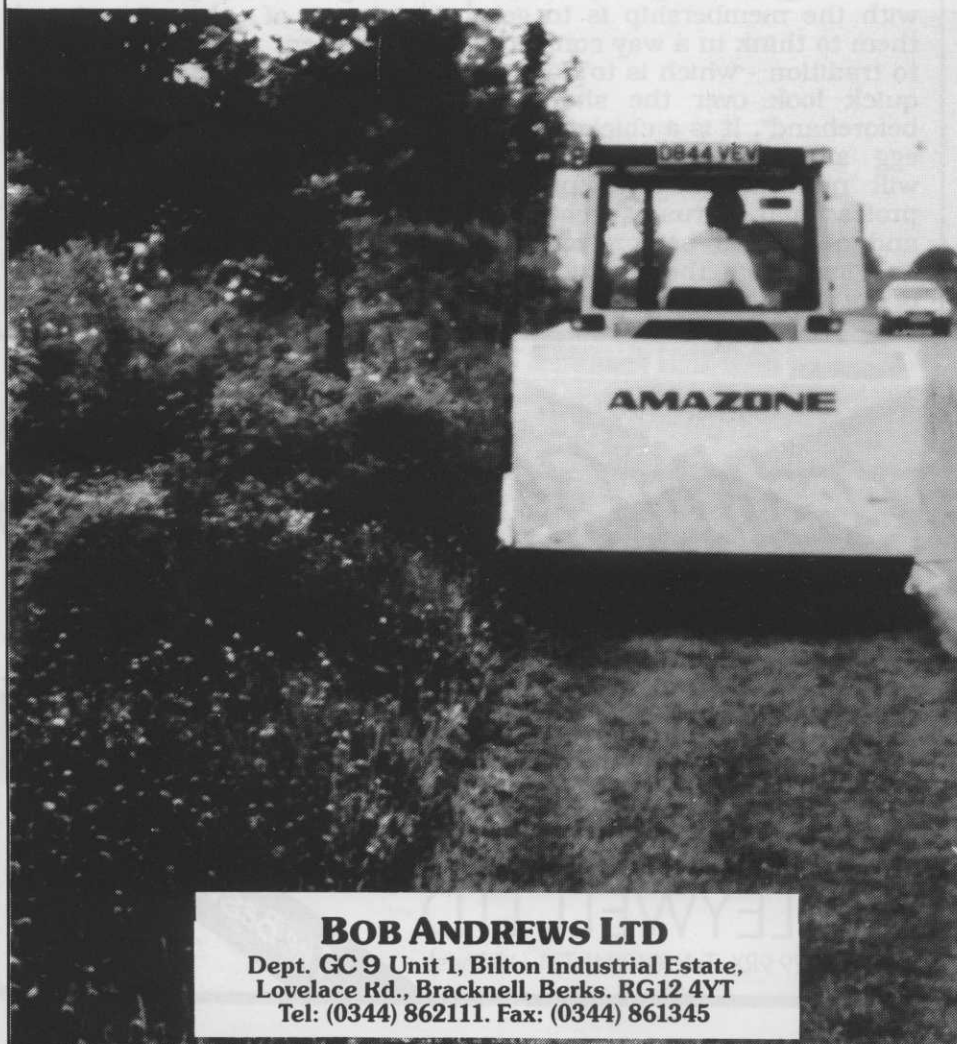


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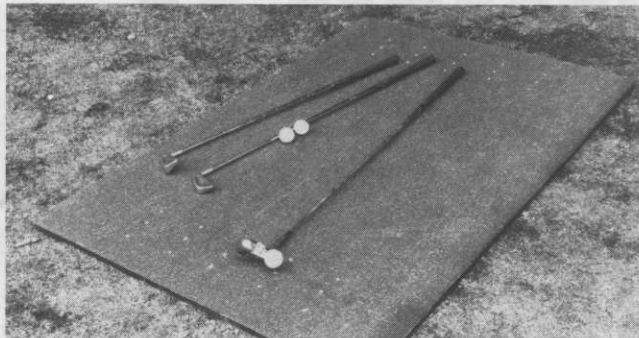
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New partners 'delighted'

CHESHIRE based Toro Distributor, Turf Irrigation Services has assumed all irrigation sales marketing and service responsibilities previously handled by Golf Landscapes Limited of Brentwood.

This move established Turf Irrigation Services as the largest Toro Area Distributor in the UK. By absorbing the former Golf Landscapes sales territory covering London, S.E. counties and East Anglia, TIS now represents Toro Irrigation products in England from the South Midlands northwards. They are also responsible for Scotland and Wales.

Commenting on this important change, Bob and Peter Dunning, founder directors of Golf Landscapes said "We are very happy with this new arrangement - the growth in both landscape and golf course construction contracts has been so dramatic during the past five years that we need to concentrate our experts and energies in those markets.

"We will continue to provide irrigation system installation and maintenance services but we shall be working hand-in-hand with TIS, whose presence in our area will ensure that Toro customers will be given an even better sales advisory and after-sales service.."

Speaking on behalf of Turf Irrigation Services, Robin Hume, director, said "I have known and worked with both Bob and Peter Dunning for many years. We were all involved in the recent Penina (Portugal) Golf Course contract and as a result of this close contact, I identified the advantages of pooling our resources and business interests in consolidating our efforts in the UK turf irrigation market."

Both the Dunning brothers and Robin Hume stress that this



Above: Bob Dunning, Robin Hume, Peter Dunning and Graeme Francis.

new arrangement offers increased benefits to the end user. "Between us, we shall have more experienced people out in the field providing regular customer contact, a much larger stock of spares to draw upon and, of course, a much more flexible and mobile installation and service team line-up."

Delighted with the way both companies have come together, Peter Roberts, General Manager, Toro Irrigation Limited commented: "This is the opportunity I have been

waiting for to help all of us consolidate our UK market penetration, especially in the development of golf course irrigation". Bob, Peter and Robin are dedicated professionals in the sports turf business, between them, they will provide the 'tools' to take us into the nineties and maximise Toro service to the end user - our fast growing numbers of customers!"

UPON reaching the age of 65, Ransomes much travelled grass machinery technical representative, Bill Palmer, retires after giving 42 years valuable service to the company. He is well known to Ransomes UK dealers and many of the company's overseas distributors for his extensive knowledge of grass machinery and also for his dry and quick wit, which he put to good effect when taking service training courses.

Bill Palmer joined Ransomes after war service with the Royal Navy as a Leading Radar Operator. He served on an anti-aircraft cruiser and minesweeper prior to being attached to an 8th Army Long Range Desert Group, the equivalent of today's SAS, during the North Africa Campaign. Upon his safe return to Egypt, Bill Palmer vowed he

would never volunteer for anything again!

Among his many tasks was to help UK dealers and overseas distributors to solve technical problems and to train their service engineers. The latter became increasingly important as greater use was made of hydraulics as well as electric and electronic controls in Ransomes grass machinery.

During the past six years he made yearly visits to Israel and, like anybody going there for the first time, he was surprised to see such well maintained grass areas under irrigation, particularly in the Kibutzine.

During his retirement, while not admitting it, because he plays golf purely for the fun of it, Bill Palmer would be secretly pleased to see a drop in his handicap on the board at Rushmere Golf Club in Ipswich.

Royal venue for grass machinery show

ROYAL ASCOT'S stable complex was once again the venue for Andrews Professional Grass Machinery Show. In beautiful surroundings, and with an abundance of grass on which to demonstrate the large variety of equipment they handle, Andrews entertained some four hundred people over two days.

Many suppliers contributed to the day with demonstration teams, and prospective customers were able to use the machinery for themselves. Ransomes, Hayters and Kubota had many large machines working throughout the day, amply demonstrating how easily large areas could be cut. Bob Andrews Ltd had their latest Scarifier, The Turf Doctor, on show for the first time and Allen Power Equipment were demonstrating their new Safeway Mowing System. Sisis and Twose were showing their turf conditioning

equipment and Saxon their large range of trailers. Stihl, apart from chainsaws and stone cutters, displayed their range of professional brushcutters and the new Dynajet High Pressure water cleaner was very much in evidence, quickly cleaning the machinery in use as well as cars and the patio area.

Charles Chance, Andrews' sales manager, expressed his delight with support he received both from suppliers and visitors and hoped that next year's show would be even bigger.

Andrews of Sunningdale cover the area of Surrey, Berkshire, a large part of Hampshire and most of London and any professional user seeking advice or equipment should contact Charles Chance at Robert H. Andrews Limited, the Garden Centre, London Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 0JJ. Telephone Ascot (0990) 27651

A statement by Keith McKee, Turf and Amenity Adviser, Fisons Horticulture.

IN considering the use of an IBDU based, slow release N, fine turf fertilizer, there are two factors which must be borne in mind. Firstly, the proportion of slow release to rapid release N source and, secondly, the actual quantity of the product the application rate will provide.

IBDU releases nitrogen slowly, over an extended period of time. If it is not present in sufficient volume when spread, its N release will be at too low a level to derive any visible, sustained response. In other words, your time and money will have been wasted.

Statements of IBDU percentage in fine turf fertilizers, whilst a valuable step towards fair trades description, must not in themselves be taken as a product endorsement. For example, fifty percent of not very much released over several weeks does not contribute any discernible improvement to a playing surface.

A hypothetical example of 8:0:0 formulation with 50% as IBDU, for instance, is definitely inadequate - providing only four units of slow release nitrogen over the long release period.

Our trials and experience show that at a standard application of 35g fertilizer per square yard, at least 10 units of IBDU are required in the product formulation to achieve truly extended turf growth and colour response. We have also found that the fraction needs to be complemented with an equal proportion of more rapidly released nitrogen to start the process close to the time of application.

This research went into the formulation of Fisons Greenmaster Super-N, a 24:0:0 + 2% Fe fine turf fertilizer of which 50% of the N is derived from IBDU.



The Dynajet high pressure water cleaner in action

A NEW 200-page Master Service and Repair Manual, covering Jacobsen's Greens King IV and TF-60 triplex mowers, is now available from Jacobsen's Turf Distributors. All models and major accessories for both machines are covered in the manual.

Trouble-shooting instructions, test equipment procedures, service and repair instructions, adjustments, and proper disassembly and reassembly procedures are covered with

step-by-step instructions and complete, easy-to-follow diagrams.

BRIAN HURTLEY, previously director of marketing, has been appointed vice-president and director, Kubota UK Ltd.

John Woodward, previously national sales manager, (construction machinery) has been appointed to the main board as construction machinery sales director.

Fulford's greens voted the best

THE greens at Fulford Golf Club, near York, are the best of all the courses on the European circuit, according to a poll of the tournament players. The club itself gives much of the credit for the award to the continuous programme of drainage maintenance and renovation which it carries out.

Ever since 1971, Fulford has been the venue for the Benson and Hedges Championship, the longest running tournament at the same venue in Europe. Last year, asked to assess the courses on which the official European Tour events were held, the professionals gave Fulford's greens top marks in a field which included such names as Muirfield, Wentworth and Royal Birkdale.

Fulford was opened in 1935, having been reclaimed from heathland and scrub. Clay tiles were mainly used for drainage, with ash as backfill, although in some places ash was used on its own. In both cases, the drains were often only one foot



Fulford Golf Club, York

deep. This system is constantly being renovated by the club in order to maintain optimum playing conditions.

Like any golf club, Fulford has to have a drainage system which removes surface water as quickly as possible. To meet this need the club now uses clay pipes at a depth of at least 2ft, back-filled with a minimum of 12 in of hard stone, and with

falls wherever possible of around 1:20. Trenches are hand-dug by the greenkeeping staff. For laterals, 3in. pipes are used feeding into 4in. or 6in. mains.

"We need a very free-draining system to get rid of surface water", explained club secretary John Gledhill. "Clay is a natural material - there is nothing like it for absorbing water and drawing it out of the ground."

Kawasaki's good news!

OVER the last few months, Kawasaki have been embarrassed by their KLF 185 ATV - or rather by their lack of stock. For this well-proven work-horse has proved such excellent value for money that they had completely sold out, while still waiting for the replacement model.

The good news is that the new model not only still provides superb value for money (it retails for £1,899 plus VAT), but also incorporates many worthwhile advantages.

Designated the KLF220, this gives an indication to the most obvious change: the enlarged engine capacity gives a worthwhile boost in torque to this reliable four stroke engine, which retains both electric and recoil start systems. Next



major update concerns suspension: the KLF220 retains independent swingarms with dual shock absorbers for the front suspension, but at the rear there is now Kawasaki's refined Quad-Link system that offers a progressive, rising-rate action. Previously, stopping was via a single rear drum brake, now this is supplemented by drum brakes for each of the front wheels.

The new styling is practical as

well as attractive: twin headlamps provide a wider spread of light than the original single unit, while being located under the front carrying rack means that loads do not obscure night time vision.

Features that remain unchanged include the five speed gearbox with automatic clutch and reverse gear, shaft final drive, and the use of a vibration-reducing balance shaft in the well proven engine.

NOTEBOOK...

Simon awarded Cup for best performance

SIMON LAWSON of Nettelham, Lincoln was awarded the Spartsholt Woman's Institute Cup for the best performance on the certificate course in horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground Management) at the Sparsholt College Hampshire.

Simon, who was awarded his certificate with distinction, also received a prize for his outstanding project. Simon was a former pupil of William Farr School, Welton, Lincoln and was a student at the Riseholme College of Agriculture & Horticulture before coming to Sparsholt.

Prior to the course Simon worked at the Fourseason's Hotel golf course at Dunholme, near Lincoln.

Following his success at

Sparsholt, his course tutor, Bob Young, said "Simon has progressed extraordinarily well and I am delighted that he has been accepted on the National Diploma course at the Lancashire College".



Appointments

MAXWELL HART have announced the appointment of two executives to their southern recreation and amenities sales team.

Paul Harper joins the company as regional sales director responsible for business development in the South of England and heads up Maxwell Hart's field sales force. Paul previously spent over eight years with Sinclair Horticulture.

In addition, **Alan Roach** is the new Hart sales representative for the Eastern Home Counties region and will be servicing the needs of existing and new customers in Sussex, Kent and Essex. Alan joins from Fisons, where he was a horticultural sales representative.

THE DRIVING

The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases – whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.

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ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk
Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.

NOTEBOOK...

BSH grass is half cut!

BRITISH Seed Houses claim that their new A22 amenity grass mixture needs cutting only half as much as other grasses.

Independent trials at the Long Ashton Research Station have proved that the A22 mixture required only 50% of the mowing requirement when compared with other ordinary grasses in order to maintain a 3" height.

Copies of the Long Ashton trials report will be available on the British Seed Houses stand at the IOG show at Windsor. The theme of this year's stand is 'Save cash with grass' and particular emphasis will be placed on their successful low maintenance grass seed mixture A22. A22 contains the slow growing Lorina Perennial Ryegrass and Logro Creeping Red Fescue

which requires 50% less cutting than standard ryegrass mixtures.

A22 could have quite a significant impact on future grass maintenance costs. Estimates put the total annual bill for mowing amenity areas in the UK at something in excess of £300 million. So in cash terms the savings could be substantial.

In the long term savings could well continue to rise. The Long Ashton report states that in addition to the rapid recoup of initial outlay due to lower maintenance costs, A22 was significantly shorter, required less mowing and produced less yield.

For more information please contact Jonathan Franks, British Seed Houses Ltd., 37 Five Mile Drive, Oxford. OX2 8HT.

Video Collection recaptures classic golf

THE golfing season has so far provided some of the most memorable golf ever (and in the UK, the wettest weather too!). Three of the world's four major tournaments have now taken place and each has produced classic golf and nail-biting finishes.

International Sport Showcase has already released a video of Sandy Lyle's unforgettable triumph in the US Masters and on August 19th delivers two more essential items for golf fans - the 1988 British Open and the 1988 US Open.

Both titles will retail for just £9.99 and The Video Collection is confident that they will continue the amazing sales of golf videos to the public.

NG RANGE.

TORNADO* Based on carbaryl, Tornado gives economical, effective and long-lasting control of casting worms. Because it works by contact and ingestion it gives quick results and good residual activity. The special liquid formulation is easy to mix and simple to apply. After application it leaves no unpleasant odour - so as soon as the grass is dry, play can continue.

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DIY top dressings much cheaper

REGULAR and even top dressing is considered by many greenkeepers and groundsmen to be one of the most important factors in promoting and maintaining fine turf surfaces in optimum condition.

With the help of Royer soil processing equipment, supplied by UK distributor, Huxleys Grass Machinery, Stewart McMillan, head greenkeeper at Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey and his team of four assistants produce all of the top dressings used on the course. So, instead of paying for ready-prepared material at a cost in excess of £30 a tonne, the club is able to buy-in their own raw materials at one-third, or less, of that price and make their own dressing in the quantities and at a time to suit course requirements and workloads.

Little and often has been the key to the success of the top dressing applications to the greens at Leatherhead Golf Club, explained Mr McMillan.

The old-fashioned method had been to put on heavy dressings just a few times a year. Now, by applying the mix in small quantities at much greater frequency, the greens respond to the treatment much faster and the disturbance to golfers is minimal, with all greens playable again in just a few hours.

Application rates are varied to suit the specific requirements of the surfaces and the season, with approximately 120 tonnes in total applied as a top dressing during a year. Extra is prepared for course repairs and tee rebuilding, with all preparation taking place during quieter periods or poor weather.

Mr McMillan explained that he purchases both fine sand and loam in bulk from local sources ready for processing by his Royer equipment.

Provided the bought-in soil is absolutely dry, the first step



Bulk mixed soil and sand is loaded into the Royer 112. The shredder mixes, cleans and aerates the material before 'firing' it into a trailer ready for spreading. The club also uses a Royer Model 30 Powerscreen when grading or pre-cleaning is required.

is to pass all the soil through the club's Royer Model 30 powerscreen. This machine comprises a vibrating screen (1/4in mesh size) mounted above an elevator-conveyor which simultaneously sieves the soil, removing unwanted and oversize material, before carrying the graded soil away to the storage area.

Having produced a clean, evenly-sized product, the sand and soil are then bulk mixed together at the required ratio before being put through the Royer 112 soil shredder. This machine mixes, cleans and aerates the soil and sand by the continuous raking and tumbling action produced by its high-speed revolving inclined cleated belt.

Processed material is ejected from the Royer shredder beneath spring-loaded steel fingers at the top of the belt

while oversize and unwanted product tumbles back for further processing or rejection at the foot of the shredder.

In the case of Leatherhead Golf Club, the processed sand and soil mix is discharged directly into a trailer ready for loading into the top dressing spreader.

Mr McMillan said that the Royer equipment not only helped to reduce the cost of obtaining good, clean and consistent top dressings, but it allowed him to produce the material that he wants, when he want.

"It's not too labour intensive either" said Mr McMillan. "If necessary, all top dressing production could be carried out by one man. Provided the basic materials are dry, we can put up to 20 cubic yards through the machines in a couple of hours".

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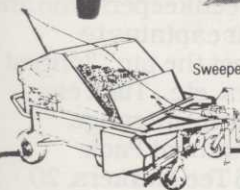
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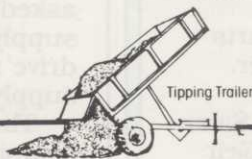


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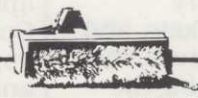
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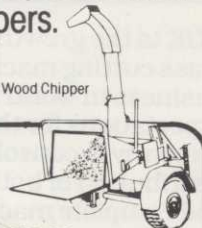
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WESSEX

NOTEBOOK...



Bill Robertson, head greenkeeper at Gullane, takes charge of the new Gradeall SS100

GRADEALL A HIT AT GULLANE

GULLANE Golf Club have just acquired a new Gradeall SS100, the revolutionary soil processor which is saving golf clubs labour time and maintaining turf excellence. The new portable unit stormed the soil processing market throughout the world and has recently expanded into the aspect of soil processing for golf clubs.

Many golf clubs such as Gullane have found the unit's innovative system to shred and grade topsoil as a worthy investment. The club is currently using the machine for preparing topsoil for use on fairways and greens and also extracting shells from the sand used in bunkers.

The Gradeall, SS100, known for its versatility, is loaded by a front end tractor bucket. It rejects the 3 1/2" plus material

such as stones and wood. The 3 1/2" minus material falls onto a variable feed belt which is controlled to feed the soil through a robust set of shredders. From here the material falls onto the main belt which takes it to an advanced two deck high frequency screen that sizes the material into the three sizes, ready for use.

Bill Robertson, head greenkeeper of Gullane, has tried several types of soil processors in the past. He believes the Gradeall SS100 is a great benefit to the club.

As well as the unit being so robust, the quality of the processed material is more than satisfactory. There is no doubt that the portable unit is saving the club time and helping maintain the quality of its course.

For further information on purchase or hire, contact the sales department, Gradeall International Ltd., 9 Farclough Road, Dungannon BT71 4DT, N.I. Telephone 08687 40484.



FOR those greenkeepers who are asked by their captains to supply 'nearest the pin', 'longest drive' markers, etc., Tacit can supply the complete range.

The Tournament Pack comprises 36 Tee Markers, 20 Flags, Longest Drive/Nearest the pin set. All items can be purchased separately.

Ring Tacit - 0788 832 166 for further information.

Ransomes' great expectations

DUE to the growth of Ransomes grass cutting machinery business in world markets, and expectations for the future, the company is consolidating the distribution of both spare parts and complete machines into a senior management function. This has led to the appointment

of Stephen Drewery as Parts and Distribution Manager. Commenting on the new appointment, Ransomes Sales and Marketing Director, Keir Wyatt said "Stephen Drewery brings to the company 14 years valuable experience gained in after sales service support.

NOTEBOOK...

New aerators from Ryan

TWO new Ryan aerators are now available in the UK from the sole distributor, Victa (UK) Limited.

The GA30 is Ryan's first ride-on aerator designed for use on golf courses. It offers the unique facility of variable core spacing combined with the precision vertical action of the Ryan crank and return mechanism.

Greens and fairways can be aerated in one operation without leaving the seat. A coring depth to a maximum of 3 3/4 inches is provided.

For tight patterns on greens, the 2 1/2" x 1" coring pattern yields over 57 holes per square foot up to 5,625 square feet per hour. For broader patterns on fairways, the 2 1/2" x 5" pattern yields more than 11 holes per square foot at over 28,000 square feet per hour.

Any other spacing between can be set, simply by moving the adjustment control. The rate of travel automatically adjusts to the pattern selected. The six mph transport speed of the GA30 is claimed by Ryan to be faster than any other aerator on the market.

The new Lawnaire 28 is a self propelled, walk-behind aerator specifically designed for lawn care maintenance. With reciprocating, crankshaft-mounted tine arms, it features a vertical coring action similar to the larger Ryan golf course aerators.

It has an aerating swath of 28 inches and can cover up to 24,000 square feet per hour. Coring depth is 2 1/2 inches with 3/4" diameter tines and a core pattern of 3 1/2" x 5". The unit is only 35 inches wide overall.

An easy-to-use dog clutch releases the ground drive so that the machine can be pulled backwards and, with its tricycle front wheel and unique tine linkage, provides exceptional manoeuvrability.



Golf show at Alexandra Palace

THE fourth International Golf Show moves back to London for 1989, taking place at the Alexandra Palace exhibition centre, next February 10-12. Trade Public Exhibitions Ltd, a subsidiary of a major international business and communications group, are organising the show with co-operation from Golf Shows Ltd., the PGA European Tour and the PGA.

The International Golf Show has enjoyed regular growth over the last three years, and has become an annual event that the viewing public, and both existing and potential players, look forward to. The visitors

experience a 'value for money' day out, participating in many of the special events and activities.

The show will cover manufacturers of equipment, clothing and course furniture as well as travel, golfing holidays, course technology and maintenance. Popular features to provide visitor participation are also planned: putting and driving competitions, golf antiques 'road show', putting with show-business personalities arranged by the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund, golf clothes fashion shows and free golf clinics with PGA members.

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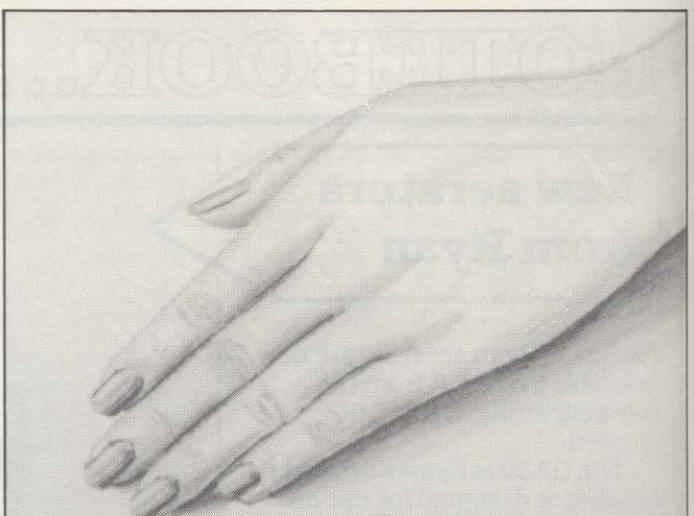
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Accommodation available.

Applications in writing (or during postal strike tel: 01 654 1143),

with references and C.V. to:-

**The Secretary/Manager,
Shirley Park Golf Club,
194 Addiscombe Road,
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CRO 7LB**

GREENKEEPER wanted

36 holes - championship golf course to be built 1989, 20 minutes south of Vienna, Austria.

Applicant should be experienced in greenkeeping and management of greenkeeping staff, preferably with basic knowledge of German and willing to move to Austria. For further information, please send your application to:-


**Colony Club,
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Schubertring 6/1,
A-1010 Vienna,
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(Tel: 0043 - 222 - 524710).**

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The Links & Slimflex can be supplied in two colours i.e. Black/White, Red/White or Yellow/Black. Add £1.00 extra per flagpole. 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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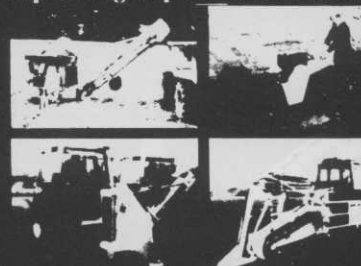
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NOTEBOOK...

Colourful brochure from the STRI

A NEW, attractive, highly informative prestige folder detailing the activities, resources and facilities of the Sports Turf Research Institute is now available.

This colourful folder describes in text and pictures the varied activities undertaken by the STRI in their headquarters at Bingley and their team of qualified advisor agronomists operating in the field.

In addition to describing STRI's work in research, education, advisory activity and trials, the folder details the increasingly important area of construction consultancy. This latter activity is seen by STRI as a major growth opportunity and to that end the Institute has developed its own "Sand Pitch Profile" system specially for sand based sports pitches.

Applications in writing for a copy of the STRI folder should be made to the Secretary, STRI, Bingley, West Yorks, BD16 1AU or telephone (0274) 565131.



Derek wins greenkeeper's tournament

A FIELD of 58 greenkeepers turned out for the Parker Golf Greenkeepers Tournament staged at Cuddington Golf Club.

The competition was fierce and the winner was Derek Gould who is pictured receiving the Parker Rose Bowl presented by Maggie Parker, wife of Parker's managing director.

DUE to the continuing demand for their Chemical Application Record Book, ICI Professional Products are having to reprint a further 3,000 copies. New books now include an extra column to include windspeed and a comprehensive guide to correct information recording. Over 2000 applications can be noted.

It is now a legal requirement to keep adequate records of pesticides applications.

Copies of the book can be obtained by sending a cheque or postal order for £1.50 each (incl. P & P) to ICI Professional Products, Dept. Carb, PO Box 85, Farnham, Surrey. GU9 7UB.

ICI announce new distributorship

ICI Professional Products have announced the appointment of John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf as a main distributor of their range of sports and amenity turf pesticides and industrial weed

and grass growth control products in Northern Ireland.

John Lindsay is a very well respected figure in Northern Ireland and his company is based at 40B Charlestown Road, Portadown, Armagh.

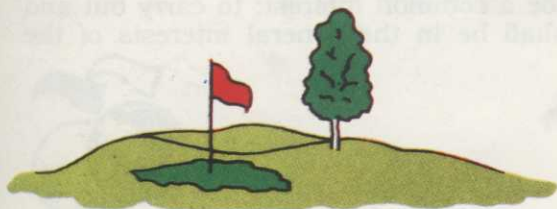
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RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGES SCALE

In response to many requests, the Association has formulated a recommended minimum salary/wages scale for 1988, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the golf club and greenkeeping staff. The quoted rates apply to 18 hole golf courses.

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£12,650 per annum*
Deputy Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£ 9,100 per annum*
First Assistant	£150.96 per week *
Assistant Greenkeeper	£141.54 per week *
Apprentice 50% of Assistant Greenkeeper rate i.e. and to increase annually by 12.5%	£ 70.77 per week *

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 £9,100 per annum should apply.

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

* Basic conditions of employment should include:-

- (1) where accommodation is provided by the Club it should be rent and rates free with heating/lighting costs borne by the club.
- (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.



APPOINTMENTS

COURSE MANAGER

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**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,
Durham Park Golf and Country Club,
Galley Lane,
Barnet,
Herts. ON5 4LA**

CENTRAL SOUTHERN FRANCE HEAD GREENKEEPER

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for new British designed 36 hole prestige golf course. Applicants must be able to converse in French and be qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping. Salary negotiable, accommodation available. Initial interviews to be held in England, please send full C.V. in strictest confidence.

**Box No. 45,
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HEAD GREENKEEPER

It is proposed to further develop the considerable potential of the course and an experienced and ambitious Head Greenkeeper is required who would accept the challenge.

Salary negotiable - Accommodation provided. Please apply giving brief details of experience to:-

**The Secretary, Dale Hill Golf Club,
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Wadhurst,
East Sussex.
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or telephone 0580 200112**

OAKLANDS GOLF CLUB

Course Construction Manager/Head Greenkeeper

A highly experienced greenkeeper is required to supervise the construction and subsequent maintenance on a new 18 hole course at Tarporley, Cheshire. The task will involve all aspects of course construction including tree clearance and planting tee and green drainage and formation grading of fairways, equipment selection and supervision etc. It is intended to commence shortly and to open the course in spring 1990 at which time the appointed person will assume the duties of head greenkeeper.

A top salary will be payable, commensurate with demonstrable experience and proven ability. Application in writing with full C.V. to:-

**Andrew Richardson,
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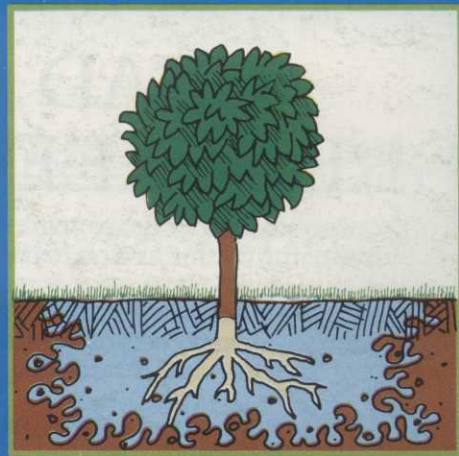
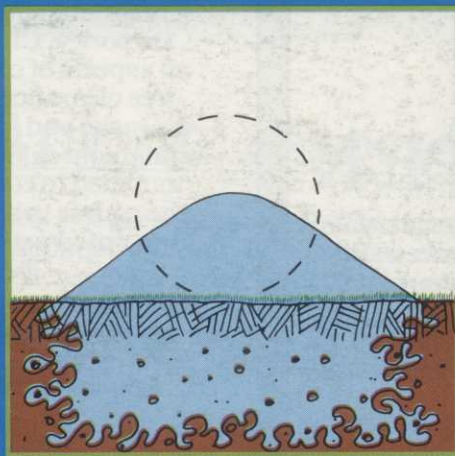
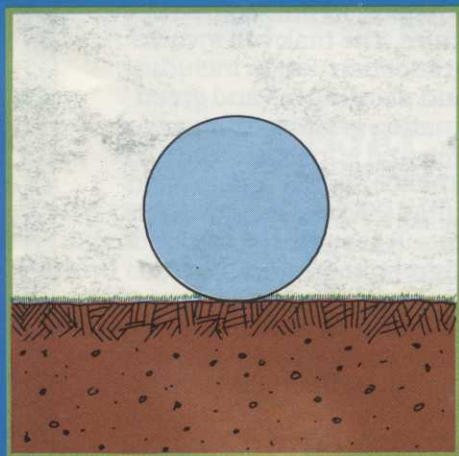
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Supaturf Products
Unit 104B
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