

# CLIPPINGS

## By The Mower

### **Ton-up at Tunbridge**

Tunbridge Wells Golf Club will be celebrating their centenary with eleven days of club, invitation and an open event during June.

Little is known of the club's origins, but it would seem that an enthusiastic Scot, homesick for the game he had left north of the border, laid out a few holes in the grounds of the Spa Hotel, mainly for his own amusement and that of the hotel guests.

For almost 87 years the tree lined parkland course remained in the ownership of the Spa Hotel until bought by the club members in 1976. A bargain buy with hindsight, though no doubt the Committee had difficulty at the time persuading the members to part with their money.

### **Scottish stone for Japan**

The golf mad Japanese have not only adopted much of Scotland's golf course designs, but are now building a prestige club house in Scottish sandstone.

But it will only be an appearance of the real thing as the stone blocks have been cut down to a mere 65mm, two thirds of the width of a putting cup, which proves the point that even Scottish beauty is only skin deep.

Because the club house is in the midst of an earthquake belt, the building has to be constructed in reinforced concrete and the stone will be used as facing.

### **Getting help from golfers**

Last year's joint campaign by the American PGA and the Golf Course Superintendents to make golfers more aware of course etiquette through a poster campaign, was voted a great success.

Tom Watson was featured asking golfers to rake bunkers, repair divots and attend to pitch marks.

This year Nancy Lopez and Curtis Strange have agreed to be the featured professionals on a new theme entitled "Practice Your Follow Through". The message will be the same, getting golfers to be more aware of their responsibilities to keep the course in good condition.

### **European golf course exhibition**

The growth of golf on the Continent has prompted yet another exhibition and conference aimed at the specialist golf course maintenance industry.

Golf Course Europe will take place between 4th-6th October in Wiesbaden, West Germany concentrating on golf course design, construction, maintenance and management.

Twenty-five speakers have been engaged and translations will be in French, German and English. It is estimated that in addition to the lectures between 100 and 150 companies will be exhibiting.

### **NTC conference in Arnheim**

The NTC are also looking ahead to the single European Market in 1992 by taking their Biennial Conference to Arnheim in Holland.

Scheduled for the 17th to 19th October, EUROTURF '89 is seen as an opportunity to fly the Union Jack by NTC Chairman Howard Swan. He said "We have great expertise in the turfgrass industry which is eminently exportable".

As well as a series of papers by speakers from several countries, technical visits are being arranged. The cost of the two day event is likely to be around £190 including travel and hotel accommodation. Details from NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, West Yorks BD16 1HZ.

### **Kubota support Amateur Team Championships**

Kubota (UK) Ltd have moved into the sponsorship of Amateur Golf in a big way. Following on from their sponsorship of the Golf Foundation where they offered a Kubota G1900S mower worth over £5000 as a prize in a golf club free draw for any club donating more

than £200 to the Foundation, they are now putting up £30,000 to support the European Amateur Team Championships.

The 16th Annual European Event to be played over the links at Royal Porthcawl from 28th June to 2nd July is expected to attract entries from twenty countries including Czechoslovakia.

Welsh viewers will be able to see the championships live on BBC TV.

### **Pesticide certificates**

Clubs who have not sent their greenstaff on training courses to obtain certificates of competence to apply pesticides are likely to find themselves in trouble with the Health and Safety Executive.

As from 1st January this year all greenstaff under 25 years of age, using chemicals must have obtained a certificate.

Those born after 31st December 1964 can still use pesticides under what is known as the 'Grandfather Clause', but they cannot supervise others. In effect this means the Head Greenkeeper must obtain a certificate himself before sending out the 'lads' to spray.

All pesticides must also be stored in approved fire resistant, lockable, leakproof cabinets or a purpose built building, dependant on the quantity kept on the course.

There are also strict rules where pesticides can be kept. They are not to be stored in a staff room, office, food areas or a dwelling house, or in a room with direct access to a dwelling house.

Greenkeepers must also keep a log book record of quantities and types stored and used out on the course.

A check on the first aid kit in the sheds is also advisable to ensure the right eye-washes and antidotes are available.

### **Thirst for knowledge in Japan**

Two research seminars held by the Kansai Green Research Institute in Japan last year attracted over 920 greenkeepers. By comparison BIGGA's own conference in Cambridge this month struggled to get 60 greenkeepers in attendance.

### **Martin leaves Vitax**

News has just reached me that Trevor Martin one of the industry's entrepreneurs is to leave Vitax, a company he helped to create and then sold the majority shareholding to Synchemicals last year.

Trevor is to take over as joint managing director with Frank Garvey of Rufford Top-Dress Supplies Ltd where I understand he will have special responsibility for the development of the Rufford range.

### **Honour for Yorkshire greenkeeper**

Roger Bielby, Hornsea's Head Greenkeeper has been elected President of the East Riding Union of Golf Clubs at the annual meeting at Beverley.

A single figure golfer, Roger has captained the East Riding Team for three years and represented the Union in their matches since 1976.

He has competed in the Yorkshire Amateur Championship on many occasions and three years ago reached the quarter finals at Alwoodley.

### **Sign of the times for TIS**

Turf Irrigation Services Ltd of Sandbach, Cheshire has now moved into the big league. From being primarily a North Western operation it has established itself as a nationwide designer and distributor of irrigation systems.

So director Robin Hume decided it was time to show this publicly by shedding the regional image and adopting a suitable company symbol.

In briefing his advertising agency, Ashley Griffiths Associates of Crewe, three aims were agreed. The company mark must reflect the company's true status in the irrigation industry. It must be visually eye-catching and memorable. And it must distinguish the company's title from any similar names.

The agency has created the logo-style, using the pattern of a sprinkler's jets to form the shape of a strongly affirmative tick. This mark has already been applied to Turf Irrigation Services documents and advertising. Within 1989 it will go onto everything else, from servicemen's overalls to service vehicles and the company premises themselves.