

# CLIPPINGS

## By The Mower

### **"Fozy" stalks his pride and joy**

Moortown golf course was in truly magnificent condition for the visit of over 60 northern greenkeepers to support Bill Mountain's sponsored tournament event.

New holes have recently been opened, cut through the birch woods, after injunctions were threatened by local residents as a result of golfers peppering their houses from one of the par threes.

They have unwittingly done the club a favour as the two new holes at six and seven, a par 4 followed by a par 5 are both excellent. The first is a dog leg right uphill, the next requires a well drawn tee shot left, to line up for the raised green through two mature oaks.

Head Greenkeeper Bill Fox, suffering from back problems, decided to dispense with his clubs for the day, leaving the competing to staff greenkeeper, Mick Hannam, but he walked his course with justified pride, encouraging colleagues and receiving their unstinted praise.

### **Yorkshire Tournament moves to Cornwall**

Whilst in Yorkshire it is worth mentioning that Benson & Hedges have done golf supporters no favours by giving way to BBC television pressure to take the event to St Mellion next year.

The Fulford event in August has always attracted a huge attendance to a well presented course. The transfer of the tournament now leaves Yorkshire without any major European Tour fixture, though we hear something is in the pipeline for 1991 if a suitable sponsor emerges.

### **Open Championship**

There could be two greenkeepers competing in the Open Championship at Troon this month. If Trevor Foster, Accrington's Head Greenkeeper can qualify again he is likely to be joined by Alan Tait, a member at Bogside.

Alan will be able to claim far more than course advantage if he makes the line-up at Royal Troon as he has been employed here as a part time member of Norman Fergusson's staff for the past eight months.

As one of the twelve greenkeepers involved in grooming, greens, tees and fairways for Troon's staging of their sixth Championship, Alan will know intimately, every blade of grass on the course.

A full Scottish international he spent two years at the Paris Junior College on a golf scholarship where he did a degree in journalism. He has one further advantage over the army of hopefuls competing for a coveted spot. His qualifying round will be played at his home club, Bogside.

### **"Wizz Kid"**

Nottingham based Henton & Chattell, pride themselves on a "quick parts service" at least that is the sign painted on the side of their van.

One of their drivers was more than trying to keep up the firm's reputation when he was seen, weaving in and out of the busy traffic on the A38 heading towards Derby at over 80mph, just before 5.00 pm on Friday 9th June.

He nearly clipped the "Mower" as he overtook on the inside lane of the dual carriageway. Our advice to this keen young driver is to keep a wary eye open for the motorway patrol, otherwise he might find himself working in the warehouse for a few months.

### **Ganning plans to "one-up" rivals**

The Belfry Course Manager, Derek Ganning has a singular objective this year, the presentation of the Brabazon course to perfection for the staging of the Ryder Cup in September.

He has put in two lakes, rebuilt tournament tees and has "secret" plans to create certain visual effects, which he says will have Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles, "green with envy".

We understand there is a degree of friendly rivalry between the managers of the leading championship courses, which all who know Derek, realise is combined with a degree of "leg-pulling".

From what we hear there is to be no free admission for greenkeepers to the Ryder Cup, they will have to pay the going rate of £15 a day or £45 for the whole event.