

Sewer Blow-up Closes Seaside Golf Course

An explosion in a seaside pumping station between the 14th and 15th fairways at Southport Municipal Golf Course, showered lumps of brick and concrete for over 300 yards across the course.

Petrol, believed to have leaked from a service station into the flood water drains running between the fairways ignited when the automatic switch in the pumping station came on.

Head Greenkeeper John Wright, well known in the North West Section for his marathon running, told The Golf Course it was very fortunate no one was injured as the explosion happened alongside the temporary green at a peak playing time on Saturday afternoon.

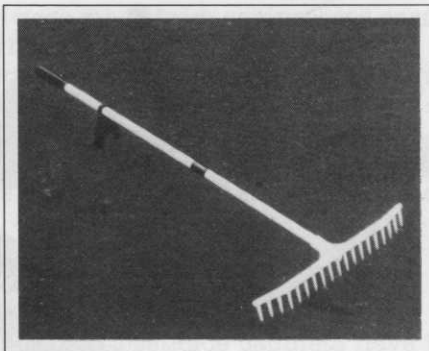
He said the pumping station is checked every day, but on Saturdays the maintenance crew have stopped visiting. Golfers playing the course during the morning reported a strong smell of petrol when they played their round.

The course is now closed for repairs to the sewer and pumping station.

From John's point of view that is no bad thing as the mild winter has produced so many golfers the course has been overplayed and it will give him a chance to improve the drainage and attend to essential maintenance.

Standeasy bunker rake

Tacit has once again added something unique to its range of golf course equip-



Standeasy bunker rake

ment. The latest being the players 'Standeasy' bunker rake. Its unique feature from the players point of view being a small bracket which is attached to the rake handle, keeping the handle above the wet grass or sand, thereby allowing players to keep their gloves and hands clean and dry.

Light enough to use with one hand, the rot proof handle will take the maximum amount of abuse.

Mini Excavators for Golf Courses

CompAir Holman has launched a range of mini excavators in the UK that are proving ideal for the requirements of golf course and sports ground management.

The company sees the latest addition to its product range as being particularly suitable for golf courses.

The rubber tyred excavators cause minimal damage to turf and because of

their size, can progress along footpaths and tracks. Yet the tiny, lightweight machines have the power and scope to carry out most excavation requirements.

There are four models in the range: The RD 2000, a 1.3 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2m and has a maximum dump height of 2.2m; The RD 2100, a 1.5 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.3m with



The RD 2000 at work

a maximum dump height of 2.1m; The RD 2500, a 1.6 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.5m and has a dump height of 2.7m. The RD 2700, a 2 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.5m and has a maximum dump height of 2.7m.

All the machines have a fully automatic hydraulic oil temperature control system, and a simple joystick control system. They are powered by a choice of water or air cooled engines.

The RD 2700 has a unique levelling system which ensures that the operator is kept level even when the machine is on a slope. This model also has adjustable track width.

FROM THE FAIRWAY

Praise from a 'Yank'

I continue to enjoy your publication.

I've just returned from my annual pilgrimage to your island and discovered some remarkable playing conditions that should not go unnoticed.

Many of the courses were as I expected them to be; very playable. Dornoch, Ashdown Forest, Walton Heath, Muirfield, Berwick, and Panmure would neatly fit here.

Obviously work is still being done at Carnoustie but it continues to be bad. I'm surprised it is not closed for six to

eight weeks for a concentrated uninterrupted effort.

But four of this year's courses were superb by anyones definition: Gullane #1 (the best greens of all), St. Andrews (Walter had the course perfect the week prior to the Dunhill), Sunningdale (the week after the European), and Nairn was wonderful.

I had occasion to converse with Mr. Carson, the greenkeeper at Nairn, after the round. His philosophy of unseen maintenance should entitle him to be the head platform speaker

at our Superintendent's Annual meeting; and with a crew of six! His daily care of hand mowing each green, weekly topdressing, and all prior to member play, should be the standard not the exception.

Please relay my good wishes to your readers. Hopefully you greenkeepers will realize that some of the visiting "Yanks" note more than "single malts."

Joe Luigs
USGA

1988 Green Section Committee