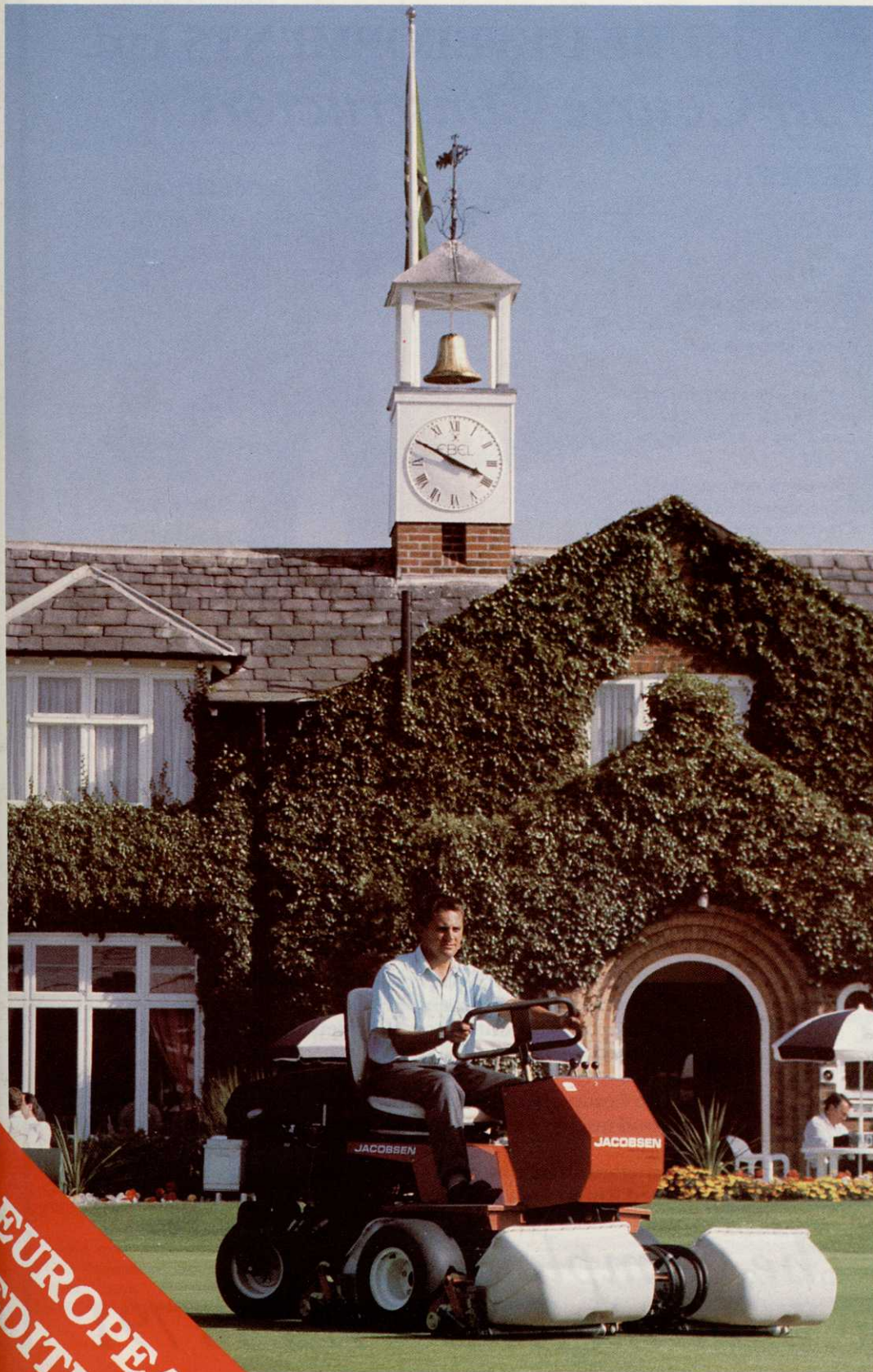


# the Golf Course

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SEPTEMBER 1989



EUROPEAN  
EDITION

## Politics

Jim Arthur looks at some environmental issues facing course managers

## Management

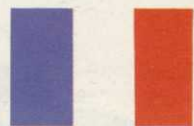
How the Belfry is being prepared in defence of the Ryder Cup

## Development

Minority interests and local planners are blocking golf course development

## Expansion

A report from Somerset on the extension of Windwhistle Golf Club







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# the Golf Course

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# RESUME



## FRENCH

C'est en septembre que les fabricants de produits de maintien du turf présentent leurs nouveaux produits à la plus grande exposition en plein air d'Europe qui, cette année, a lieu à Windsor du 19 au 21 septembre.

Au cours des neufs dernières années, l'Exposition "IOG Sports & Leisure" s'est tenue aux champs de courses de Windsor, le long de la Tamise. C'est un endroit idéal pour les exposants et démonstrateurs mais la congestion des autoroutes a causé des problèmes aux heures de pointe résultant en de longues files de trafic.

En 1990, l'évènement aura lieu dans l'Est de l'Angleterre, au champs de foire de Peterborough dont l'accès aux aéroports principaux est aisé et relié directement à l'une des autoroutes principales allant de Londres au nord du pays.

La rubrique "événements du mois" dans le numéro de septembre décrit certains équipements les plus récents qui seront exhibés à Windsor. C'est un évènement qu'aucun gérant de parcours de golf désireux d'obtenir des conseils professionnels ne peut se permettre de manquer.

Le golf est le sport dont la croissance est la plus dynamique du monde et pour lequel la demande de parcours est insatiable.

La Grande-Bretagne a environ 2,500 parcours de golf mais dans plusieurs clubs, la liste d'attente des futurs membres est si longue qu'on risque de perdre des juniors prometteurs.

Nous étudions les problèmes auxquels les suturs constructeurs de terrain en Grande-Bretagne doivent faire face en particulier les difficultés avec l'administration de l'aménagement qui n'est pas toujours favorable aux projets d'utilisation de terres agricoles non rentables pour des nouveaux parcours de golf.

Jim Arthur, un collaborateur régulier, doute de l'influence des "Verts", les groupes de pression de l'environnement qui, dit-il, ont fort exagéré leur cas.

De nombreux produits qui contrôlaient insectes nuisibles et maladies sur nos terrains de golf ont été interdits donnant lieu à des surdoses massives de produits chimiques autorisés. Il proteste également contre la plantation excessive d'espèces étrangères sur les terrains de golf britanniques aux dépens des arbres indigènes.

Septembre est aussi le mois de la compétition bisannuelle des meilleurs joueurs de golf d'Europe et des Etats-Unis. Cette année, le match aura lieu sur le terrain de Brabazon à Belfry qui a été préparé à la perfection par le responsable, Derek Ganning.



## SPANISH

Septiembre es el mes cuando los fabricantes de productos para el cuidado del césped a nivel mundial introducen sus nuevos productos en la exhibición al aire libre más grande de Europa, la cual se va a realizar este año en Windsor del 19 al 21 de septiembre.

Durante los últimos nueve años, la IOG Sports and Leisure Exhibition se ha llevado a cabo en el Windsor Race Course, a un lado del Támesis. Un sitio ideal para exhibiciones y demostraciones, pero el congestionado sistema de carreteras se ha vuelto difícil a las horas de mayor tráfico, provocando largas colas de vehículos.

En 1990, el evento se mudará al East of England Showground en Peterborough, el cual se encuentra todavía al alcance de los aeropuertos principales, pero con acceso directo mediante una carretera principal desde Londres hacia el norte.

El artículo Out and About en el número de este mes presenta detalles de los últimos equipos que se presentarán en Windsor. Un evento que no deben perderse los gerentes de campos de golf en búsqueda de asesoría profesional.

El golf es uno de los deportes que está creciendo más rápidamente en todo el mundo, creando una demanda de instalaciones de juego que no puede satisfacerse.

Gran Bretaña posee alrededor de 2.500 campos de golf, pero la lista de espera para hacerse miembro en muchos clubes es tan larga que es probable que los jóvenes prometedores no entren al deporte.

Examinamos los problemas con los que se encaran en la actualidad los urbanizadores potenciales en Gran Bretaña, en particular las dificultades con las autoridades locales de planeación las cuales no siempre simpatizan con planes en donde se emplean terrenos agrícolas no productivos para la construcción de nuevos campos de golf.

Un colaborador regular, Jim Arthur, cuestiona la influencia de los "Verdes", los grupos de presión ambiental, los cuales desde su punto de vista exageran bastante el caso.

Muchos de los productos empleados para controlar plagas y enfermedades en nuestros campos de golf se han prohibido, provocando el empleo masivo de las substancias químicas permitidas. También impugna el plantío excesivo de especies extrañas en los campos de golf ingleses a expensas de los árboles nativos.

Septiembre es también el mes de la competencia bialenal entre los golfistas más importantes de Europa y los EEUU. Este año el certamen se realizará en el campo de golf Brabazon en Belfry, preparado a la perfección por el Gerente del Campo, Derek Ganning.



## GERMAN

September ist der Monat, wenn auf der größten Freilandmesse Europas in Windsor vom 19.-21. September neue Rasenpflegeprodukte aus aller Welt vorgestellt werden.

Die IOG Sports & Leisure Exhibition findet schon seit neun Jahren auf dem am Themseufer liegenden Gelände der Pferderennbahn von Windsor statt. Obwohl das Gelände ideal für Veranstaltungen und Vorführungen geeignet ist, ist die Autobahn in der Hauptverkehrszeit oft verstopft, was zu Verkehrsstauungen führt.

Daher wird die Messe im Jahre 1990 nach dem East of England Showground bei Peterborough in Nähe der Hauptflughäfen und mit direkter Verbindung zur Hauptverkehrsstraße von London zum Norden verlegt.

Der Sonderartikel dieses Monats "Out and About" enthält Einzelheiten über einige der aktuellsten Anlagen, die in Windsor zu sehen sind — ein Ereignis, das kein Golfplatz-Manager vermissen darf, wenn er fachmännischen Rat benötigt.

Golf ist der global am schnellsten wachsende Sport, und die dadurch geschaffene Nachfrage nach Golfplätzen kann nicht bewältigt werden.

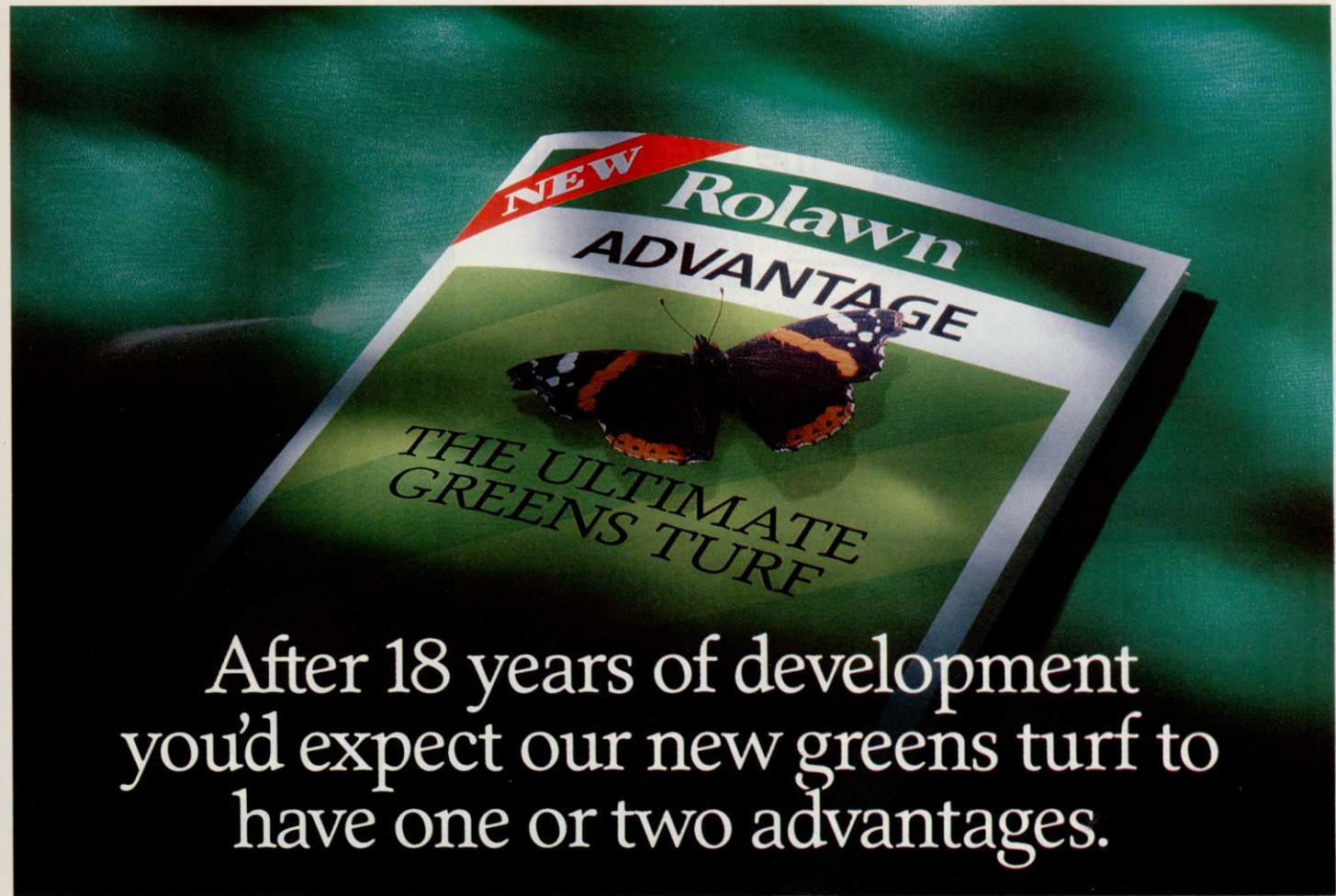
Großbritannien verfügt über rund 2500 Golfplätze, aber die Wartelisten zahlreicher Klubs sind derartig lang, daß diesem Sport wahrscheinlich viele talentierte Junioren verlorengehen.

Wir untersuchen die Probleme, mit denen sich die Grundstückerschließer heute in Großbritannien auseinandersetzen müssen, besonders was ihre Schwierigkeiten mit kommunalen Planungsbehörden betrifft, die nicht immer sympathisch auf die geplante Neuanlage von Golfplätzen auf unrentablem Ackerland reagieren. Jim Arthur, unser ständiger Mitarbeiter, befaßt sich mit dem Einfluß der "Grünen", der Umweltinteressenverbände, die seiner Ansicht nach ihre eigene Sache viel zu stark auftragen.

Nachdem viele Pflanzenschutz- und Schädlingsbekämpfungsmittel für Golfplätze verboten worden sind, werden die zugelassenen Chemikalien massiv überdosiert. Weiterhin erhebt er Einwendungen über die übermäßige Bepflanzung der englischen Golfplätze mit ausländischen Gewächsen zum Nachteil einheimischer Bäume.

Außer der Messe findet im September auch die Golf-Biennale zwischen den Topspielern aus Europa und den USA auf dem Brabazon-Golfplatz bei Belfry statt, der unter der meisterlichen Aufsicht von Derek Ganning, des Managers, steht.





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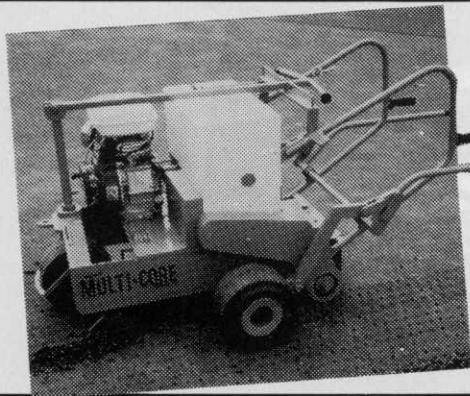
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## The Greenkeeper

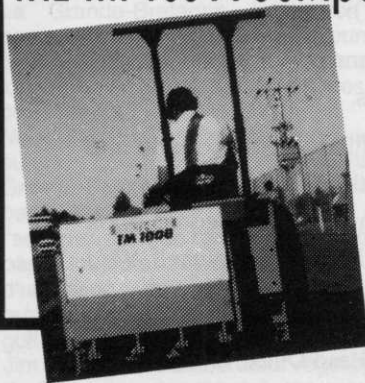
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# GREENSIDE COMMENT

## New Institute formed

A group of leading golf course managers representing a number of Europe's most prestigious golf courses have announced the formation of a professional association to be called the Institute of European Golf Course Managers. The Trustees of the Institute say the aims of the association will not be counter to the objectives of the existing Greenkeepers Association, but the Institute will endeavour to work and liaise with all the official golf bodies in a joint effort to improve standards throughout the golf course industry.

Membership in the initial stages will be granted on application through a selection committee procedure and will be awarded to those with proven ability currently controlling golf courses in Europe.

Members of the new Institute that have a high level of experience will be eligible for election of Fellows and be entitled to use the initials - F. Inst. EGCM.

The annual subscription to the Institute of European Golf Course Managers has been set at £100, which includes certification, a badge and a copy of the Institute's official publication.

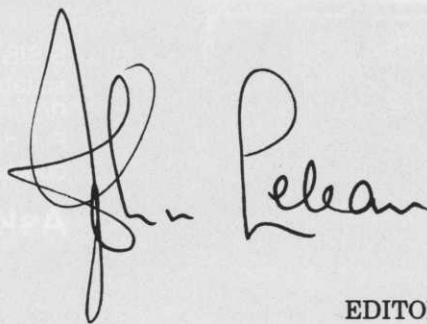
The publishers of this magazine are pleased to announce that The Golf Course has been invited to represent the Institute's interests.

Although many of the course managers on the Continent already enjoy a similar status to their colleagues in North America, those in Britain, despite their undoubted skills, recognised throughout the world as leading authorities on course management, have not achieved similar recognition in this country.

The formation of the Institute of Golf Course Managers will be able to ensure that the highest standards are maintained and play an active part in the future development of leading head greenkeepers and golf course managers. Since the announcement by David Jones, Course Manager at St. Pierre, of the formation of the Institute, there has been a high level of response from leading managers and owners of the most prestigious golf complexes throughout Europe.

Many companies involved in supplying the golf industry have already made contact with the Trustees welcoming the initiative and offering assistance towards the formation of the Institute, which they believe is necessary to project the highly professional standards required in Europe.

For further details of the Institute of European Golf Course Managers contact David Jones at St. Pierre Golf Country Club, Chepstow, Gwent. (0291 625261).



EDITOR



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# CLIPPINGS

## By The Mower

### 'Allo 'allo

Headingley Head Greenkeeper, Peter Blacker has had headlights fitted to his Toro Greensmaster so that the greens can be cut before dawn ahead of the early morning golfing brigade. Night-time activity on the golf course however attracts considerable interest from the local constabulary and the greenstaff member finishing a sweep across the putting surface suddenly found two policemen framed in his headlights. They said they thought it was a couple of louts riding motor cycles around the course.

### More clippings

American greenkeepers have created a problem for themselves which is proving a bit of a headache. What to do with their grass clippings?

Because of the growing practice of using boxes on fairway mowers vast quantities of grass cuttings are generated and there is nowhere to put them.

If dumped on the edge of the rough it is not long before the piles build up and there are complaints about the smell. It would seem that it is not the custom for American greenkeepers to make their own compost as there is no call for compost dressing on sand greens.

### Expensive drinks

Fancy an exotic golfing break? Two brochures dropped on the desk this month, the first from Vodka producers - Smirnoff who are promoting a ten day trip to Zimbabwe in November, visiting five different golf clubs, sightseeing trips to game parks and the Victoria Falls for a mere £1,651! Looking through the itinerary it would seem the Smirnoff cocktails start at Heathrow and continue unabated throughout. There is even an after breakfast visit to a distillery on day three, before 18 holes at the Chapman Golf Club.

Whisky giant, Johnny Walker have also moved into the upmarket amateur golf scene in a big way with a ten day Pro-Am promotion at the 36 hole Dorado Beach Club in Puerto Rico.

This little jaunt will set you back £3,750, but if you don't want to sit with the peasants in the economy part of the aircraft from Heathrow, for just another £1,200 a seat can be reserved in the first class section. If your golfing partner snores (do you know one who does'nt?) then the Hyatt Hotel will provide a room on your own for another £1,200.

The professionals must be jostling for an invitation for this trip. For them it is - free of charge!

### Ryder remembered

Visitors to the 'Open' at Troon may have spotted the shining gold Ryder Cup on display in the tented village, but how many know there is also another?

A replica in silver was given to the Ladies section at Moortown Golf Club by Samuel Ryder in appreciation of their efforts in the organisation of the 1929 staging of the first match on British soil, when George Duncan lead the home side to victory.

It is proudly played for annually by the Moortown Ladies.

### America in the UK

Canadian Course Superintendent, Ken Siems invited 30 Secretaries and Greenkeepers from Sussex to see his new golf course at Horstead Place in East Sussex, but only seven took time out to turn up.

Surprising, considering he has produced a magnificent course sown with Pencross, Penneagle and Pennlinks for greens, tees and fairways and had the place open for play within only seven months of seeding.

The North American bent grasses are immaculate according to a colleague who visited recently. It is in such superb condition the British Team used the course for practice before setting off to Peachtree and regain the Walker Cup. To ensure they were familiar with American conditions.

### Big bid

Ransomes are quietly celebrating their two hundred years in business though they did not become involved with grass cutting until 1832.

Initially a farm machinery manufacturer, Ransomes have now moved out of agriculture completely to concentrate on amenity turf machinery and they have just announced a major acquisition. (see page 14).

### No education in Wales

The Welsh Golf Union have received a rebuff from their member clubs, having generously offered to pay half of the costs of sending greenkeeping staff on training courses at Mold, a college not as yet approved by the Greenkeeper Training Committee, only two clubs responded. No doubt the remainder thought that they could not afford the other half or that they can't spare their staff.



# FROM THE FAIRWAY

## Thoughts on irrigation

I felt that I have to put pen to paper after reading Jim Arthurs latest article on irrigation.

I have known Jim for some years having the benefit of his knowledge in preparing my previous course for the final qualifying rounds for the British Open in 1981 and again in 1985. We also served on the Greenkeeper Training Committee together.

I am a great believer in his common sense approach to greenkeeping, if not always the manner in which it is dispensed.

However, I do not agree with his views on irrigation techniques as so far as golf greens are concerned.

Jim describes infrequent irrigation as a hearsay. To me it is an efficient way to produce firm, fine greens with a good depth of root. As in all things there are extremes, such as suggesting that one whole weeks irrigation be given in one night.

I have never heard, suggested that once per week is the norm, rather at three or even four day intervals, maximum. In practice I have personally used two to three week intervals on the greens of the eighteen hole par 3 course attached to my previous club. The key is, not only an efficient irrigation system, but perhaps more important an efficient drainage system, if you are to avoid the 'water logged bogs' that Jim describes.

In the case of the par-3 course, I used hoses and impact drive sprinklers, which could cover the complete green. These would run for up to two hours. The greens were well aerated and we experienced

very little run off, even on featured greens. Of course this was carried out at nighttime. These greens were and I believe still are, predominantly festuca with some agrostis, but during summer, no poa annua, although it always seemed to appear in the spring. But believe me it could not tolerate the irrigation technique I have described and very soon disappeared when the first dry snap arrived. Even two weeks after irrigation, the rootzone, some six to seven inches down.

Jim, in more than one report stated that in his opinion the main course greens would one day be as good as the short courses were!

There, are to my mind, two main flaws to Jims argument. The first is that poa annua in most cases, tends to be shallow rooting and surely applying 250 gallons per night (not much more than the capacity of the average sprayer) is pandering to just that. That amount of water is not going to soak down to the roots of the finer grasses we wish to encourage and more than once I have heard the term 'make the root system go looking for water' and I take this as downwards, not upwards!

There is also of course, the danger of losing the hydraulic pull if the upper strata is allowed to dry out too much. We all know where this leads. Re-wetting the soil problems and subsequently dry patch. I have always, as far as is possible, tried to work with nature and in the natural run of things. It does not rain for five or six minutes every night!

Ask yourselves a question. You are irrigating during a hot spell and there is a thunderstorm, - What do you do?

Many systems have a 'rainstat' fitted, but

if you don't, in most cases you will turn the system off. When will you put the system back in operation? - When the greens look and feel like they need it - I hear you say. Exactly, and if this is not heavy infrequent irrigation then I don't know what is!

I use the same system to clear bermuda grass fairways of poa annua and in temperatures of up to 40c it does not take long! It is just too hot for it to work on the greens, which are pure sand, sown with Penncross bent. These greens drain too quickly.

The second point concerns timing for this type of management.

This system has been used in the United States with good results and has been featured in the Green Section Record, the quarterly magazine of the U.S.G.A. Green Section.

Before I hear the old cliches concerning American methods, it should be pointed out that many states have climatic conditions similar to the U.K. and this must be borne in mind when it is suggested that their methods are not applicable in Britain. After all who were the first to use 'pop-ups', Cushmans, ride on greens mowers and many other things now in common use this side of the Atlantic.

I have written my thoughts, not to be controversial, but to encourage an exchange of views and ideas.

Experimentation is so important, trying something new does not mean that you have to stick with it.

Lets hear more from the men in the firing line on this type of subject.

Peter A Wisbey  
Area Golf Superintendent  
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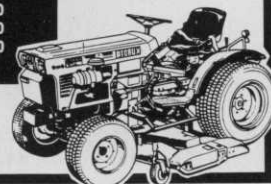
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## FROM THE FAIRWAY

### Jim Arthur reaffirms his views

In replying to Peter Wisbey's arguments against 'little and often' irrigation patterns, I am sure that it would be more rewarding to debate personally, aided by some personal irrigation, as we used to do in the past years!

In writing a short note in general terms on any subject it is difficult not to over-simplify the problem, but it must be said that the arguments advanced for periodic heavy watering are not supported by either logic or results. In passing, I did not describe infrequent irrigation as a hearsay but as a heresy.

It stands beyond argument that greens must never be allowed to dry out completely before starting irrigation and it is equally vital that the capillary connection is never lost - otherwise, whatever watering pattern is adopted, it will result in the water sitting on the top and the roots coming up to meet it, with flooding on the one hand or dry patch on the other. Nevertheless, using those superb if tiny fescue greens on the short course at Peter's old Club as a justification for infrequent heavy watering is an example of correct observation but incorrect deduction, - a breach of the first law of logic.

The reason why these greens (heavily used though they were, thus contradicting those who claim that fine fescue is not hard wearing enough for today's heavy play) were so much better than the greens on the main course - though they improved dramatically under Peter's management - was that for years the small course was regarded as a poor relation, were never given anything like the fertiliser of the other eighteen and above all were watered by

hose or a sprinkler, and that has its own built in restraint. There is of course nothing wrong with pop-ups except that it is fatally easy to over-water with them and this was a very badly designed system, redesigned on our joint insistence.

If we must make comparisons and first assuming that irrigation is a topping up process to make up deficiencies in natural rainfall and that we must never lose the capillary connection, then it must surely be better to enjoy an hour's light rainfall every night (which is equivalent to about 50 gallons per 100 sq. yds), rather than a tremendous thunderstorm at infrequent intervals. In passing, those charged with presenting courses for major events dread more than anything such a sudden torrent which can flood greens, or even if it does not, slows them up drastically and there is nothing that they or anyone else can do about it until they dry up.

Of course we must have very well aerated greens with the associated free drainage, whatever pattern is adopted, if the water is not to stay on the top. Of course one can use drought as an aid to management to kill off annual meadow grass. This practice goes back to the start of greenkeeping - hence the old adage that a good drought gets rid of a deal of rubbish, but it should be remembered that such draconian measures also get rid of good greenkeepers, unless management of the Club is very enlightened and the members educated! What it all boils down to is whether we use the weight of water from heavy infrequent irrigation to push the water down or do we rely on capillary suction to pull it down by topping up little and often, so that that connection is maintained.

What is certain is that over-watering is the

cardinal sin of greenkeeping and water must never be used to make greens soft and holding, or even 'nice and green'. Slow overwatered greens destroy the finer arts of putting even if they do not later become thatchy and have to be 'rested' for weeks if not more in winter.

All I have ever aimed at is to make those making decisions think logically so that they can make the correct decisions. So long as we do not over-water - and in all conscience there is still far too much over-watering despite all the debate - then all I can say is that there are more ways of killing a cat than drowning it.

It is not, however, logical to observe conditions which do not relate to our specific problems and certainly even less so to deduce treatments. The Mediterranean zone is not the same as temperate northern Europe. We do not get many Bermuda grass fairways in Britain and Pennecross, bred for just those hot arid conditions and with an ability to stand up to the necessary high irrigation if the grass is to survive, does not long survive in our cold wet winters. My objections to greenkeeping methods and green construction designed for the hot arid States of the USA being adopted over here is that the conditions are totally different and it is this very point that the Green Section agronomists of the USGA stress in relation to their advice for both matters in the temperate States of America - as I have debated with them for some years and have been happy to note their agreement that in such areas austere greenkeeping gives the best playing conditions at much less cost!!

J. H. Arthur B.Sc. (Agric.),  
Budleigh Salterton,  
Devon.

## the Golf Course

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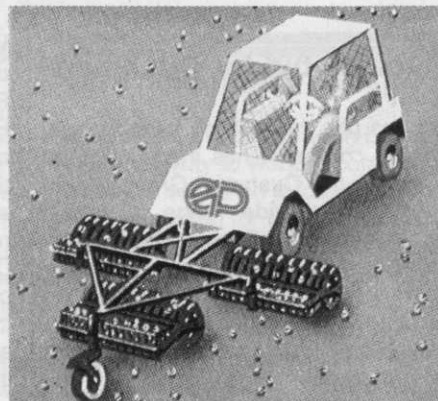
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## Ransomes bid for Cushman

Ransomes plc, the Ipswich based grass machinery company, has made a £95m cash bid for the Cushman Group which manufactures a wide range of grass machinery under the Cushman and Ryan brand labels and also includes the Canadian Brouwer company.

At the same time as the announcement for the Cushman Group, Ransomes also told shareholders they were acquiring the Westwood company for £9m, the largest manufacturers of garden tractors outside the United States.

Shareholders are to be invited to raise £53m towards the purchase of these companies through a proposed 1 for 1 Rights Issue of new Convertible Preference shares, the balance to be provided through bank lending facilities.

Since Ransomes decided to move out of the farm machinery market, company profits have shown a considerable upturn, increasing yet again in the half year to the end of June by 10.3% over the corresponding period in 1988.

Commenting on the bids, Bob Dodsworth, Ransomes Group Chief Executive told The Golf Course.

"The acquisition of the Cushman Group further establishes Ransomes as one of the world's leading manufacturers of grass machinery. It provides Ransomes with a wide range of complementary products and strengthens the Group's existing manufacturing and distribution base in North America, the world's largest market. Westwood, one of the largest garden tractor manufacturers outside the United States, complements Mountfield's range of quality consumer products."

Last year the unaudited operating profit of the Cushman Group rose to \$16.3 million from \$12.2 million, with the successful introduction of a number of new commercial grass machinery products though profitability in the current financial year has declined, largely as a result of a poor performance at Brouwer, where there was a serious strike and the launch of an unsatisfactory new product, which has since been discontinued.

Ransomes has formulated plans aimed at improving the profitability of both Cushman and Brouwer.

Westwood tractors are supplied with a wide range of attachments, which include grass collectors, lawn groomers, garden rollers and dump trucks.

Westwood also manufactures a range of ride-on mowers.

Founded in 1969, Westwood is based in Plymouth where it has a well-equipped manufacturing facility of some 150,000 square feet and a workforce of some 300 employees. Mr. Roy Ashwell, the Director responsible for Ransomes Consumer Division, will assume responsibility for the company management.

It is understood the company have been experiencing difficulties this year due to the long hot summer and a number of employees have been 'laid off'.

Ransomes' growth in the worldwide commercial grass machinery market has been restricted by the fact that, as a foreign entity, its penetration of the United States market has been slower than the Board would have wished. The proposed acquisition of the Cushman Group represents an outstanding opportunity to remedy this. Each of the Cushman, Ryan and Brouwer product ranges has an excellent reputation and provides a complementary fit with the Ransomes product range, which is primarily focused on grass cutting rather than turf and lawn maintenance.

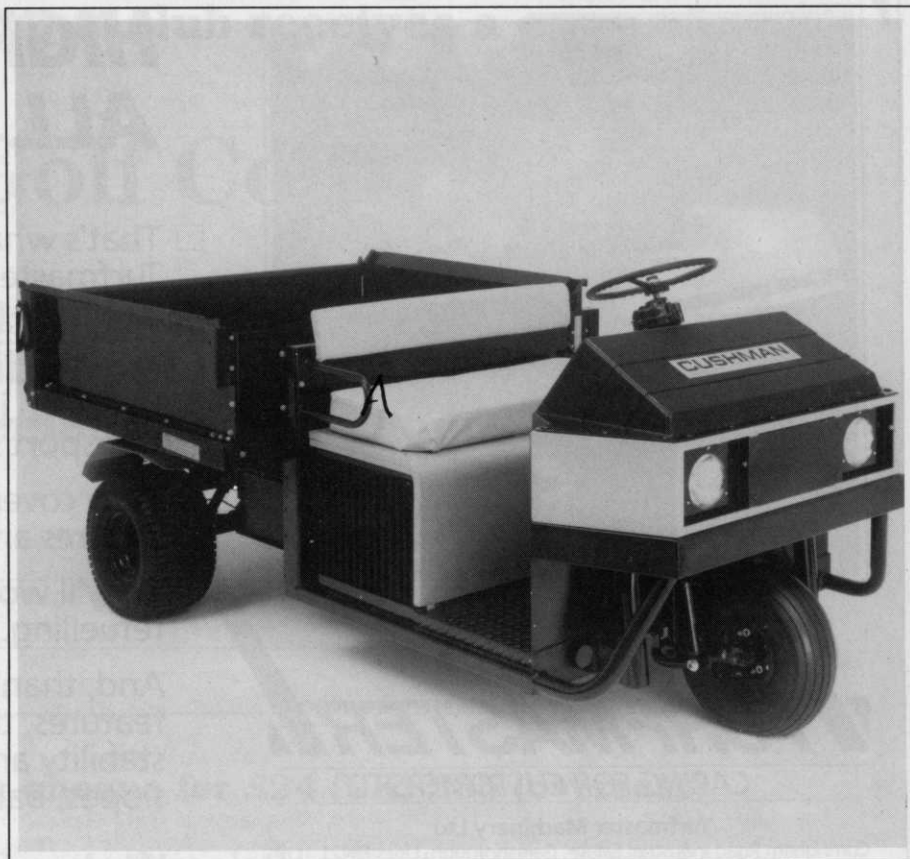
Ransomes believe it will be able to increase the volume of the Cushman Group's exports outside the United States, particularly through its European distribution network, which is well placed to handle the additional products from the Cushman Group.

On the basis of Ransomes' projections of the increase in the number of golf courses in the world, they expect this market to continue to show real growth beyond the end of the century.

Cushman's UK and Southern Ireland distributor, Paul Huxley, told The Golf Course from his New Alresford factory that it was "business as usual", and the company were continuing to service and supply customers and their dealer network.

He said that Cushman had telephoned him from Lincoln, Nebraska to give news of the bid, but to date he had not been in contact with Ransomes.

Huxley's Grass Machinery, not only distributed Cushman products, but also manufacture a range of equipment under the Huxley label, specifically designed to fit the complete Cushman system.



*Cushman's latest truckster could be a money spinner for Ransomes*



## Human factors cause accidents

A survey has revealed that between 80%-90% of accidents at work can be attributed to - Human Factors.

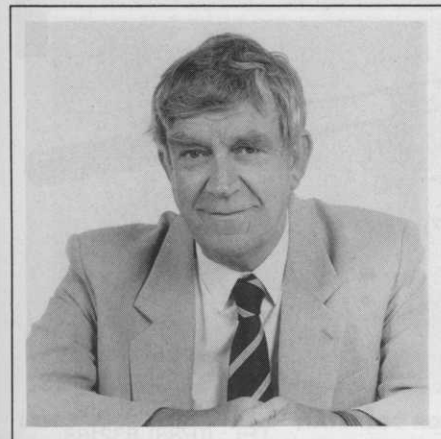
The ten most common items have been identified as:

1. Negligence - Failure to observe work rules, instructions or carry out maintenance.
2. Anger or Temper - Leading to irrational actions.
3. Hasty Decisions - Acting before thinking or taking hazardous shortcuts.
4. Indifference - Lack of attention or day dreaming.
5. Distractions - Interruptions by others or not concentrating on the job in hand.
6. Curiosity - Doing the unknown or experimenting.
7. Inadequate instruction - Poor training methods without safety features.
8. Bad Work Environment - Clutter, dirty conditions unguarded machinery.
9. Over Confidence - Taking matters for granted, becoming too cocksure.
10. Lack of Planning - Depending on others without ensuring what has been agreed has been done.

As a check list for managers, these ten points will ensure the chance of a workplace accident will be substantially reduced, if these human errors are rectified the moment they are spotted.

## Supaturf open new sales office

Supaturf Products Ltd has obtained new premises at Old Fosse Works, Coventry



David Palmer

Road, Narborough and is opening a new sales office.

Supaturf is also setting up a new system of distribution, using selected distributors throughout the country to join the existing distributors in Scotland and Ireland as well as in France, Holland and Belgium for its 'speciality' products such as a range of Supaturf fertilisers, Even-Speed fertiliser distributors, Aqua-gro and other selected products.

Chairman David Palmer says, "This new policy for England and Wales will allow Supaturf to concentrate its efforts on a range of products which our distributors will be selling to the amenity market."

## Courses in Turf Management

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold courses at Bingley in the autumn of 1989 and the spring of 1990 on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last five days (Monday to Friday) and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilizers and machinery. The dates are as follows:-

Autumn 1989 - commencing Monday 16th October (General Course - places still available). Monday 23rd October and Monday 30th October (these weeks are specialising in golf only - very few places still available)

Spring 1990 - commencing Monday 19th February, Monday 26th February and Monday 5th March (initially the week commencing 19th February will be for golf only. Subject to demand the second week may be devoted to golf but the third week will be a general course.

### Club Managers Course

This is a two-day course intended for Club Managers, Chairman of Green and other persons who need to be aware of the problems of turf care and management. The syllabus covers basically the same subjects as above, but in less depth.

The fees are as follows: Autumn 1989 - Members £110, Non-members £135. Spring 1990 - Members £125, Non-members £155. Managers Course £100. All fees are plus VAT and are exclusive of accommodation and meals.

Further details available from The Secretary, The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Telephone Bradford (0274) 565131.

## One man mows for charity

Ian Ireland, 50, of Harlow in Essex aimed to cut his way to world record last month when he set off on a round Britain, fund-raising mission for Leukaemia Research. Ian did not make his marathon trip on foot, he was riding an Iseki SG15 Hydrostatic Diesel Engine Lawnmower and hoped to cover 3,500 miles in 28 days, clipping some 10% off the previous world best.

Ian's five year old son, Stuart, is chronically ill in London's Great Ormond Street Hospital and has been suffering from Leukaemia attacks since he was eight months old. Stuart's heart has been failing fast and he is now being kept alive on a support machine, pending major heart surgery.

Stuart's brave fight for life has been the inspiration for Ian, and big business, industry and commerce rallied round to help the cause.

The Lawnmower, and special clothing and equipment have all been donated by Iseki UK Ltd. A host of celebrities also promised to join Ian on his trip round the UK's major towns and cities including Barry McGuigan, Eric Clapton, Rula Lenska and Ian Botham - the man whose charity walks have done so much to help raise the level of awareness and support for Leukaemia Research. If you want to make a donation to Ian's fund, please send a cheque or postal order to:- Iseki UK Ltd, The UK Compact Tractor Centre, Broadway, Bourn, Cambridge. CB3 7TL. Marking the envelope Leukaemia Research.

## New chief executive at the Institute of Groundsmanship

Keith Williams has been appointed to the new post of Chief Executive at the Institute of Groundsmanship. He will be responsible for the day to day management of the Institute's activities and for recommending and implementing policies to further develop the commercial growth of the Institute through marketing and promotional activity. He has run his own management consultancy company and was Director of Development for the Chartered Institute of Transport before taking up his present appointment.

Keith Williams is a keen sportsman, and has represented Hertfordshire in both soccer and athletics. He has served as a school governor and is actively involved in youth community work.



# OUT AND ABOUT

## New finance deal for Iseki

Low cost finance for Iseki dealers and their customers.. that's the promise from a new finance deal agreed between Iseki UK and Humberclyde.

"It doesn't make economic sense for a business to purchase equipment outright," says David Williams, Iseki finance manager. "It would be difficult for anyone else to offer a better deal than the one we're now promoting."

Iseki Finance provides funding in the form of hire purchase, lease loans and a recently introduced contract hire plan.

"The service we can offer will enable dealers to conclude machinery sales more

quickly and effectively at the same time as ensuring their customers a cost-effective deal," says Colin Gregory, sales director, Iseki UK.

## Two new synthetic tees from Leisure K

"Top Tee" and "Mastertee" are the all-weather, all-the-year-round artificial tees that feel right and look right. With a tightly woven construction and thick resin backing, both have great strength to withstand the turning action from golf shoes as well as impact from a short iron club; and both will not harm club heads.

Standard size is 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 yards - large

enough for the tallest golfer using a driver. This square shape allows the tee to be turned regularly so as to provide play on all 4 sides, thus ensuring even wear underfoot and at club-head. Longer tee-mats can be supplied, cut to the length required. Pile height is 30mm which gives the "feel" of natural turf underfoot. A tee-peg can be placed anywhere in the pile - the short peg is necessary for most players - or the golfer can strike the ball directly off the mat. Colour is all - green, blending in with surrounding turf.

Toptee is equally ideal for the driving range or the practice net, where punishing use demands good wearability as well as the right 'feel' for golfers.

Leisure K can be contacted at Ingleside, Church Road, Mannings Heath, Horsham RH13 6JE. Telephone: (0403) 68500

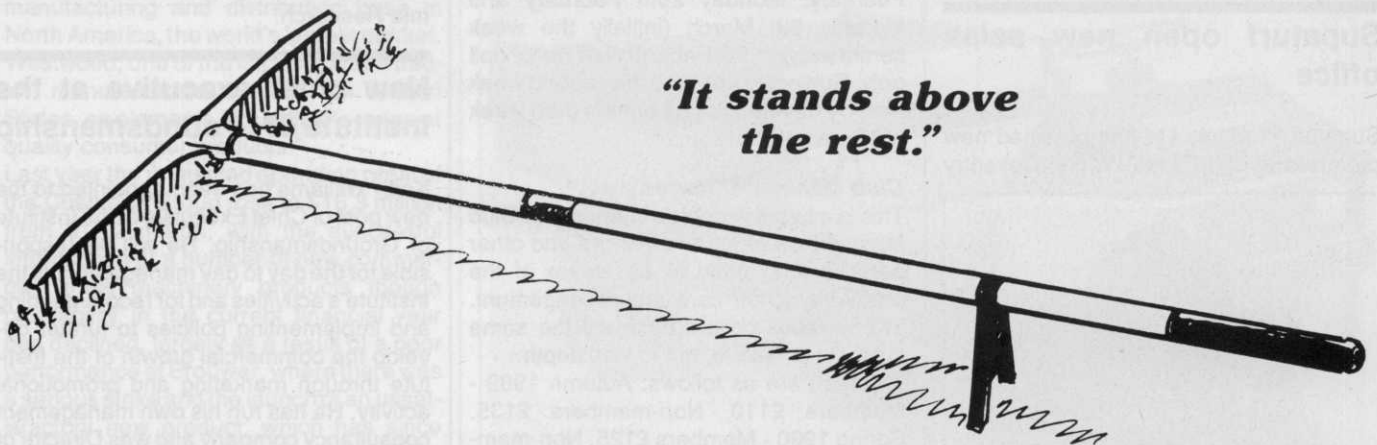
## Appointment at Synchemicals Vitax

Mike Heath, formerly employed by Supaturf Products as a Senior Sales Advisor and Consultant, has joined the Amenity and Commercial Sales Division of Synchemicals Vitax Limited.

Mike Heath will cover Scotland and Northern England and the company see this addition to their sales team as an indication of their commitment to the development and expansion of the commercial range of products into the 1990's.



Colin Gregory (left) Iseki Sales Director signs up the Iseki finance deal with Peter Quigley and David Williams



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## 'Teach' Tallack advice on finance administration and construction of new golf courses.

A British concern that is enjoying considerable success in the burgeoning golf industry is the Leatherhead based Patrick Tallack Golf Course Design and Construction company. Patrick Tallack, a PGA golf professional of 30 years experience is internationally known as 'Teach' Tallack due to a star studded clientele including the Duke & Duchess of Bedford, Bruce Forsyth, Eric Sykes, Shakin' Stevens and currently Michael Aspel.

His background includes many years of being responsible for the viability of the golf courses under his control. One of the reasons for the company's success is this knowledge of all aspects of the subject as clients certainly enjoy the comfort factor knowing they will be recommended whether a course should be private or public; the level of charges for green fees and membership; projected income and expenditure; and most important of all advice in staffing the club and course.

The company has a team of experienced designers and skilled constructors supported by solid administration from a new head office in Leatherhead.

This amalgam of skills 'in-house' allied to Patrick Tallack's background of golf course management means that any project they are involved in has the benefit of sound business experience.

The company's latest project is the new

Paxhill Park Golf Club at Lingfield in Sussex, which is scheduled to be open in August 1990 and they are conducting several feasibility studies in Northern France and Southern England for new clients.

## Sisis seminar and demonstration days

Anyone who would like to know how to choose the best of the modern grass seed cultivators; how to get the best results when buying cultivated turf and how to maintain the finest playing surfaces - should make a note in their diaries now.

Sisis, Rolawn and British Seed Houses are joining forces to present a series of three Seminar/Demonstration Days in Birmingham, Stoke-On-Trent and Southampton on 24th, 25th and 26th Oct 1989. There will be practical demonstrations of the latest Sisis turf maintenance machines including the new Power Force range, demonstrations of the best ways to use the different types of Rolawn turf and advice from British Seed Houses on selecting grass seed and the best methods of seeding. Buffet lunch provided. Admission is free of charge but by invitation only from Lynn Hilton at Sisis (0625) 26363.

## Win for Sonning Secretary

Parkers Golf Club Secretaries' Tournament was again held at Walton Heath Golf Club, on August 7th.

Eighty golf clubs were represented at this popular annual event and competitors included the National Captain of the Asso-

ciation of Golf Club Secretaries, Anthea Wilkinson, and the National Secretary, John Crowther. The weather was superb and competition was as keen as ever with Peter Williams, of Sonning Golf Club eventually winning the Stableford with 42 points, with a better score over the back nine against David Bradney of Betchworth Park Golf Club.

Results: Men -

42pts P. Williams (Sonning GC), D. Bradney (Betchworth Park GC); 41pts P. Pelling (Abridge GC), Roger Stallard (Croham Hurst GC).

Ladies -

43pts S. Scott (Cuddington GC); 34pts K. Pudner (Purley Down GC), A. Wilkinson (Stoneham GC).



Peter Williams receives his trophy from Mrs Parker, wife of the Chairman of Parkers.



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10

# How 'green' is your course?

Jim Arthur believes some of the environmental activists have overstated their case and become anarchists, not conservationists.

**T**he trouble with any good idea is that so often it is in danger of suffering irreparable harm by being adopted by undeducated cranks who with their indisciplined and over-enthusiastic interpretations bring the whole concept into disrepute. Animal Rights activists who seem to rate all animals, even insects, as being more important than the human species, have by their militant actions discredited the entire campaign which has become synonymous with anarchy. I can assure you that what I relate is absolutely true. One such hairy anarchist was all set to put an old building to the torch on some pretext, until it was pointed out to him that the walls would be full of creepy crawlies who had an equal right to live - so he desisted!

Equally the 'Greens' have grossly overstated their case and so sensible-thinking conservationists find it harder to accept it. One example is the acid rain theory, for which no really convincing case can be made for *all* or even most defoliation of trees or loss of aquatic life.

In fact no less an authority than Dr. Philip Ineson of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology is reported as stating, in the roundest possible terms, "there isn't a single tree in the UK of which someone can say, this has died of acid rain".

For one thing, if the U.K. is responsible for arboricultural problems in Scandinavia, does the air borne acidity propel itself against the Easterlies, which prevail for most of the year - and when, even with South Westerlies, the

associated rainfall reduces its travel? Many Swedish lakes have *NEVER* had any aquatic life in recorded times, e.g. from mediaeval maps. Furthermore, we in this country should suffer as much or more than those countries further distant from reputed sources of pollution, and we do not. The problem of acidification is nothing new and on the whole must be considered, but a major cause is the excessive planting of conifers and associated increased acid run-off. This is now admitted by the Forestry Commission who confess they "got it wrong".

New planting at Kielder in Northumberland, England's largest (150,000 acre) man-made forest, will consist of 10% of native hardwoods "to improve the landscape and environment", replacing those solid rectangular plantings of Sitka spruce, marching over the Border hills.

In any case it should be remembered that on heavy land courses at least, we *want* acidity to lock up excessive fertility, which would otherwise produce lush meadows, not fairways. Our best and finest turf grows on the poorest soils.

On one course which I visited recently, great concern was expressed that acid rain was killing their trees. This was incidentally on a heather



March orchids by the fairway at Trevose golf course Cornwall



## POLITICS AND POLICIES

course where fifteen years ago, everything was dressed with basic slag which killed all the heather! The trees, about a score at most, were 40-50 year old birches dying on their feet from old age and a few smothered oaks and pines which were being choked under the canopy of their larger and more aggressive neighbours. If one does not manage forestry and neglects routine thinning to give the survivors room to grow, then nature will do the job itself, - but less tidily.

Our main problem on most courses after traffic, is that there are too many trees - often totally alien and 'unsympathetic' to their environment. That awful invasive alien Sycamore, delightful as a single, majestic mature tree, has just about destroyed much of our unfarmed downland. Many forest trees are planted where they have no room to reach even semi-maturity and soon interfere with play. Seedling birches and even oaks and pines invade our heather courses and turn them into woods. If culled in the seedling stage, this is accepted as correct management, but just let those invaders become established and many members start agonised objections the moment they hear a chain saw.

Sadly, now that the Nature Conservancy can no longer employ cheap Y.T.S. labour (quite correctly, of course) organised scrub clearance has stopped. Birches need no second invitation. Left even for a few years the task of clearing, including stump removal to prevent even worse regeneration, becomes highly expensive. Yet such is the emotive thinking of ignorant 'preservationists' that they managed to put a tree preservation order on felled birch stumps at one golf course extension, to prevent them being grubbed out - and the (temporary!) result was an impenetrable, rubbishy wilderness.

Too many of our old heathland courses in the past 60 years become woodland ones, and this is a very poor alternative to true parkland conditions, where a few isolated mature trees define layout and impose severe penalties for mishit strokes.

There are too many cases where semi-mature trees have been allowed to grow, restricting teeing space or otherwise impeding vision of the full green from every part of the tee. Worse still, instead of grubbing out the offending tree, it is savagely lopped, to become a hideous caricature, and the problem is merely postponed. Everyone planting a tree must have the knowledge to realise what it is going to look like and whether it will have room to develop to



*Broomrape at Trevoze golf course maturity.*

Choice of trees is always important, not just for aesthetic reasons, but because it is reasonable to suppose that the native trees suit the soil and environment and vice versa. Yet a short distance from where I write, quick growing and totally alien Leylandii conifers are being planted on a golf course - and quite apart from looking totally out of character, they will of course, blow over when they get taller, being so shallow rooting.

Conservation - true conservation not preservation - has many facets but clearly golf courses, in common with motorway verges, are becoming some of our best wildlife sanctuaries as they suffer far less from the unwelcome incursions and disturbances of that dangerous predator - man.

Many golf courses have established unofficial - and in some cases official - reserves to protect a 'speciality; from rare orchids to sand lizards; from a rare if inconspicuous flora to natterjack toads. Sensibly, we should always enlist the support of those professional conservationists, the Nature Conservancy officials and the trained employed staff of County Wildlife Trusts, who themselves suffer severely at the hands of their over-enthusiastic but ignorant and emotive dear lady members who believe every scare-mongering report they read.

We also suffer in greenkeeping from the influence of 'greens' in our efforts to grow healthy grass. Our mainstay insecticides, fungicides and herbicides are progressively being banned. The reason for the ban is often, that they are persistent - yet a moments thought will show that to deal with persistent pests we need long lasting control. Otherwise we will be constantly dosing our courses with short lived and ineffective control products, which is not only needlessly expensive, but

could create as many problems as it resolves.

Research has very belatedly attempted to find answers to this serious problem. Of course there were careless and ignorant users of mildly toxic products - mainly farmers who could more afford the high costs of massive overdosage, - but enlightened education would produce better as well as safer results.

I was astounded during my visit to a number of American courses to discover the way they had found round a ban on worm killers was to apply a ten fold overdose of a permitted fungicide, which killed everything grass and worms alike, and they then reseeded!

Meanwhile, all we can do is to attempt to prevent such problems occurring. It is all very well saying that proper management, a low fertiliser regime (and especially the avoidance of one slow release source of nitrogen which has become synonymous with *Fusarium* patch disease and thatch), and the clearance of shading trees will avoid disease. However what do we do when foolish greenkeeping, perhaps twenty years ago has left a legacy of problems, e.g. earth worm casting from stupid liming (advised "because the soil is acid") or disease attacking susceptible annual meadow grass turf caused by gross over-feeding with NPK in earlier years?

Money should be expended on researching these urgent priorities and not wasted on irrelevancies to prove what we already know - even if this may dissuade those building sand-only greens from repeating predictable disasters. What price pure sand greens when there is a total ban and using water on golf courses!

Education, as in all walks of life, is the key to correct assessment of all problems - and if only the 'Greens' would educate themselves better, they would make fools of themselves less frequently.

One gets so sick of hearing that some event is the "worst disaster since Chernobyl". In fact Chernobyl, bad though it was and caused by gross incompetence, killed directly about 30 people and the official estimated world wide lethal after-effect is much less of a risk than my being knocked down by a London double decker bus in Budeleigh Salterton High Street! How is it that we, so unfairly labelled the dirty men of Europe, have suffered some contamination of North Western Moorland from Russia and in the same breath are accused of polluting countries to the East of us with wind-borne acidity?



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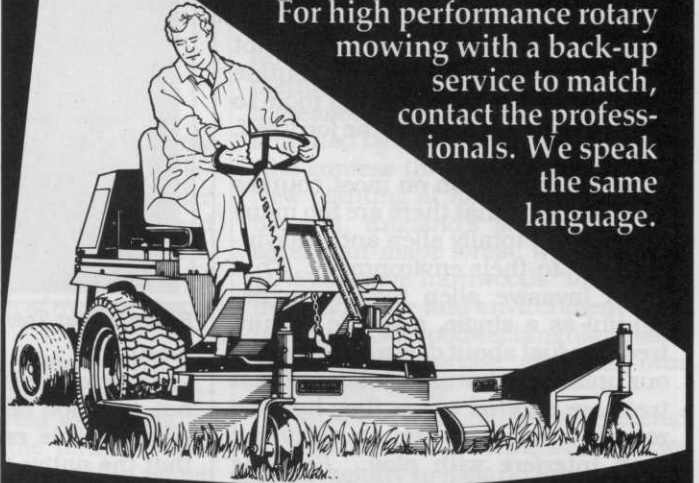
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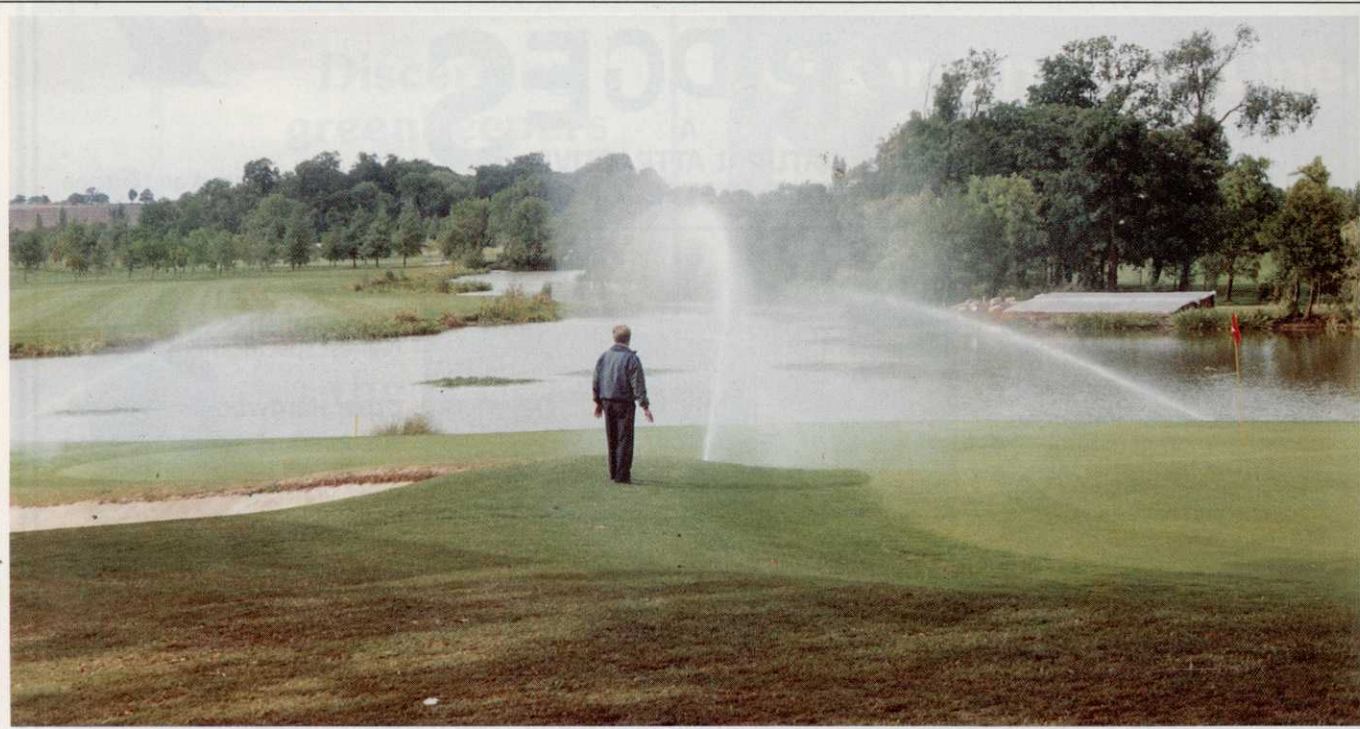
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## ON THE COURSE



Testing the irrigation at the 18th green

# The Belfry prepares to defend the Ryder Cup

John Lelean takes a look at the Belfry just days before the match of the year

**W**hen the Ryder Cup teams return to The Belfry this month they will find a few changes since the Cup was last played for over the Brabazon Course in 1985. Not so much with the course, though more about that later, but the hotel and leisure complex is far grander, more luxurious and certainly more expensive. Two new residential blocks have been constructed, fitting in with the existing complex as if they had been there for years and this, complemented by a complete upgrading and refurbishing of all the facilities of the Belfry will provide the perfect setting for what is expected to be the most exciting contest since Samuel Ryder donated his trophy 62 years ago.

The interest in this year's matchplay contest, simmering for months, is now approaching the boil on both the European and American continents. It has been said that the Americans, so used to winning all before them, lose interest in international events until they are beaten. With that thought in mind it is worth noting that the three major golf team trophies, the Ryder Cup, the Walker Cup and the Curtis Cup are all on this side of the Atlantic. Add to that Nick Faldo's Masters' title won at August earlier this year and it is not difficult to appreciate that Ray-

mond Floyd's team are out for revenge.

Back in 1985, Derek Ganning, was the Head Greenkeeper-Superintendent, a fairly apt Americanised title, considering his greens were sown on pure sand with Pencross. Four years on he is known as the Course Manager with Sam Hagen as his working Head Greenkeeper.

What he has achieved is quite phenomenal when considering the past lashings the Belfry courses received from the critics. Comments such as "a featureless soggy farmland" and a "treeless barren wilderness" were two of the more charitable that can be recalled to mind.

The Alliss and Thomas design has taken more than its fair share of "stick" by those who have played badly looking for the excuse, but also from others who should have been constructive with their criticism rather than damning the Belfry for the sheer hell of it.

Twelve years later, plus the injection of a vast amount of money by Greenall Whitley, the Belfry has matured into a magnificent golf course, a view confirmed by PGA Tournament Director Tony Gray, who told Derek just days before the match, that the Brabazon was "the best presented course

he had seen in Europe this year".

Back in June, the English Open was played over the Brabazon, a tournament which the Belfry could have well done without. Only those managing a tournament course can appreciate the disturbance and interruption caused by the preparation of spectator facilities and their removal after the event. Competitor Tony Jacklin, putting on his captain's hat was quoted as saying - "The fairways were too fast and the greens were too slow. We may have had a dry spring and summer, but that is now excuse".

Whether Derek Ganning made an answering comment to that remark is not on record, but most of our readers would hole in one in any contest to predict his reply.

Although there has been some minor changes to the layout in the past four years, the course will be virtually the same as in 1985. A new fourth tee to the right of the existing tee has been constructed specifically for this match, forcing more of a draw over the edge of a recently constructed irrigation lake. Hit the water and the golfer will not only lose the ball, but incur the wrath of Derek Ganning for disturbing his colony of rainbow trout!

There is an additional water hazard also to the right of the short 7th where



## ON THE COURSE

an existing drainage stream has been cleared, widened and a number of dead trees removed from an overgrown copse. A flock of Canada geese are more than happy with the new arrangements.

One other change has been the removal of a mature chestnut at the edge of the 18th fairway, blown down in the gales. In some way this is a blessing in disguise for both spectators and players as it opens up the view from the tee making it easier to see the well hit shot.

When Head Greenkeeper Sam Hagan was asked what special maintenance has been completed in preparation for the Ryder Cup, he said the Belfry courses receive intensive maintenance all the time. However, as this event is the peak of the golfing year, all their efforts have been geared to prepare the Brabazon to perfection for mid September.

Tees and greens have been scarified,



Derek stands beside the commemorative tree to mark the 1985 Ryder Cup



Head Greenkeeper Sam Hagan with the two Sisis Autorakes used to scarify the greens

top dressed and would be receiving a "Ganning Secret Feed" three weeks before the event. The bunkers have been edged and replenished with Moneystone White and last year the irrigation system was upgraded with the Toro 3000 system.

One of the principle purchases this year has been the Australian made Coremaster, complete with sets of quadra tines, half inch tines and three quarter inch slit tines. "This machine was an excellent buy", said Derek Ganning. He also purchased a John Deere Compact tractor which has proved to be "beautiful machine".

He also has a Jacobsen Diesel Greens King, complete with verti-cut reels and grooming units, which is currently used to cut the sand greens prior to the start of the contest. Once the matches start the greens will be cut twice a day by hand with his three Loyds Paladin machines.

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matches, though Derek was reluctant to be drawn on the height of the cut or the stimpmeter speed to be achieved. What is certain, if the opposition are expecting similar speeds to those at Augusta, they are likely to be disappointed!

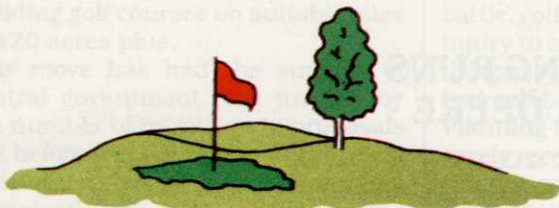
Staffing levels of around forty or fifty were reported at Muirfield Village, plus casuals during the match. Just for the record, the two Belfry courses are maintained by Derek and Sam in a supervisory capacity, six greenkeepers, one full-time mechanic, one man spending most of his time on the irrigation system and two YTS trainees, who are following the block release City & Guild syllabus.

As for the bunker raking and divoting, local pensioners will be on hand, happy to do the job for a monogrammed sweater plus a couple of rounds of golf. Just one more point - There is a special message for Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles from The Belfry staff: "Watch for our colourful announcement under the score board at the 18th!"

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## Golf course expansion bunkered by bureaucracy

Despite a known need for 500 more courses in Britain, John Lelean finds that minority self interest and local planners are blocking development

**T**he "set-aside" scheme offered to British farmers which grants aids taking land out of food production, has led to a number of land-owners examining the viability of building golf courses on suitable sites of 120 acres plus.

This move has had the support of central government, but judging by the number of rejections to proposals put before local planning authorities, often supported by vociferous and well organised adjacent residents, the policy is not receiving endorsement at local level.

A land owner at Scarborough raised a storm of protest when he applied to construct an 18 hole golf course within

the boundaries of the holiday resort, including opposition from an adjacent farmer.

The reasons put forward for objection included; golfers would frighten the cattle, golf balls hit off line could cause injury to stock and there was also the danger of cattle inadvertently eating lost golf balls with the grass!

Planning applications for golf courses rarely receive consent without opposition from one source or another. Whether it is from local residents who adopt the attitude "not in my backyard", highway authorities saying the access will be dangerous or the roads unsuitable for increased traffic, desecration of areas of natural beauty

or visual intrusion by the construction of a club house and car park facilities.

If these objections are overcome then there is always the fallback ploy of "creating pressure for further development."

**B**ecause golf courses require a large area of open agricultural or park land, nearby existing residential development is invariably up market, extensive and expensive. The owners regard any new development as a gross intrusion on their privacy and are prepared to seek every

*Continued on page 29*



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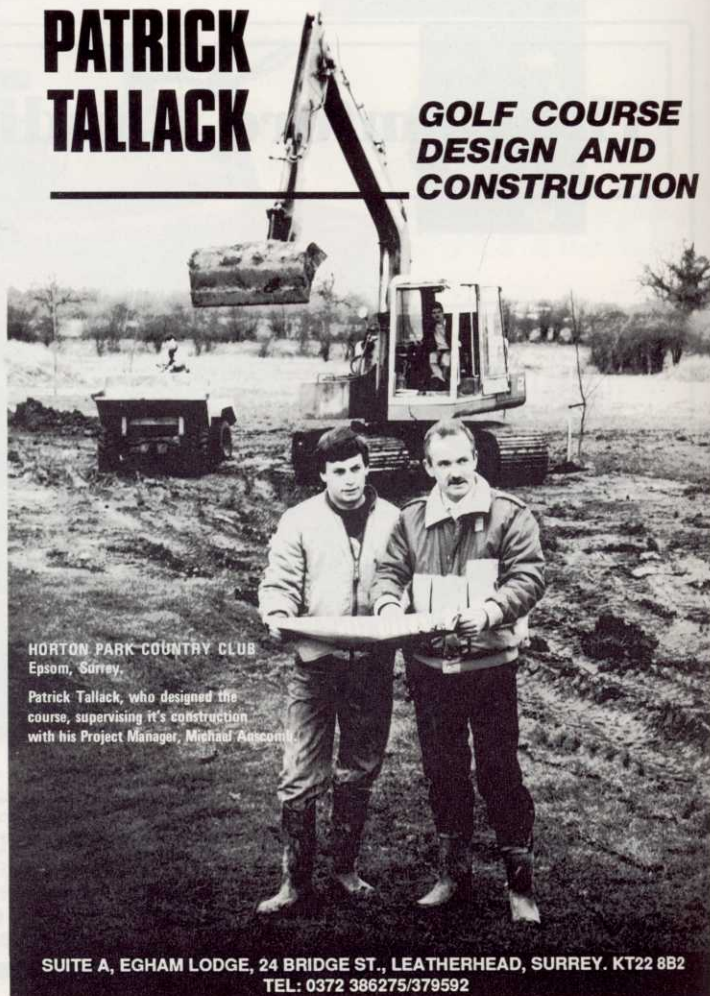
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## DEVELOPMENT

means at their disposal to resist replacing a couple of hundred grazing sheep with a similar number of visiting golfers. If the viability of course construction is dependent on raising finance from house building similar to their own, then the outcry can be heard to the twon hall steps.

Hard information on planning application for proposed golf course developments is difficult to obtain, because planning officials at local level do not have to notify central government of either plans submitted, approved or rejected.

The only time the Secretary of State for the Environment becomes involved is when an applicant appeals against a rejection by the local planning authority.

The appeal can be made in one of two ways. The first is by means of a public inquiry when an inspector is appointed by the Secretary of State to consider the written and oral representations from the potential developer and hear the counter objections of the area planning authority, as well as other interested parties such as parish councils, local residents preservation societies or amenity groups.

This is potentially expensive, as both sides with much at stake, bring out the "big guns" by way of eloquent counsel, incurring legal costs sometimes running into thousands of pounds.

The second method and by far the cheaper is to proceed by a written submissions at a "closed appeal", where an inspector considers the evidence from both sides, visits the site, may ask questions, but is not available to listen to arguments either for or against. He makes his recommendation purely on the facts as he

sees them.

Earlier this year Mr Peter Dutton, the President of the English Golf Union called for the building of 500 new courses in Britain just to keep pace with demand. He also announced the setting up of a four man Golf Development Committee to study ways and means of expanding golf in England. They also find information hard to come by, as planning officers are under no obligation to tell the EGU or the Sports Council of plans submitted, accepted or rejected. They obtain most of their information from farmers and developers looking for official backing or help and so far this year there have been 127 individual inquiries, directed toward the English Golf Union.

### *Not behind my garden says greenbelt residents*

Until the EGU set up the Golf Development Committee there has been no co-ordinating body since the Golf Development Council was closed down some years ago. It is possible that a sympathetic authority could grant permission for several courses within a small area, none of which when built, could be financially viable in the face of local competition.

**N**ew courses involve a massive capital outlay without the opportunity to recouped any investment within three years, this is why developers are seeking to tie residential housing, hotels and a sports

complex into the overall scheme. Collingtree Park at Northampton is a case in point as is Titherington Links near Macclesfield, both developing into fine golf courses with the finance raised from sales of property.

Although central government have offered grants to farmers for the development of other leisure enterprises on surplus land, golf was ruled out from the start. So without a capital sum from the likes of Wimpey, Barrett or Ideal Homes, a pure golf course developer is looking for at least £1m up front without any opportunity to produce any income for at least three years.

It hardly needs the use of a pocket calculator to estimate if the capital has to be borrowed, the sum required is more realistically £1.5m.

Once the course and club house are open, financial costs, repayments, staff and maintenance costs, could amount to £.25m a year. What is left could be called profit. There must be easier ways of making a good living!

It is right that all development schemes should be examined in detail, but too often local authorities are attempting to maintain the status quo without any justification.

It cannot be on grounds of conservation as golf courses are probably the most protected areas for wild life, where a balance of nature can live virtually threat free.

The Golf Course Wildlife trust, set up in 1987, is a body that promotes nature conservancy and is willing and able to give impartial advice to both planners, owners and those who maintain golf courses.

On all new courses trees are planted in large numbers, streams and ponds maintained for fish and water birds,

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## DEVELOPMENT

the grass is cut neater than most people's private lawn, areas of rough support wild fauna, fringes are left for birds, animals and insects to exist completely undisturbed. What is more it opens up land for the population at large to enjoy.

The Southern Region of the Sports Council have recently published the results of a survey \*Providing For Golf in the Southern Region. They contacted 103 established private commercial and municipal courses and received an 81% response. The findings are set out in a 28 page booklet, which is essential reading for anyone contemplating constructing a golf course or extending an existing layout.

They found membership in the private clubs ranged from 350 to over 1,000 where the club supported two courses. In the area of the survey, from Buckinghamshire in the north to the Isle of Wight, including Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire 59 of the private clubs out of the 70 who responded had a waiting list for membership, extending from six months to ten years.

Few were able to provide accurate figures of the number of rounds per annum, though the pay and play courses reported from 24,000 on a nine hole course to over 64,000 on a 18 + 9 complex. Although firm statistics were not available it was obvious that the combination of member rounds plus visiting parties and green fee casuals put considerable pressure on course maintenance.

The survey also discovered thirty-two of the courses planned additional facilities either by clubhouse improvements or course extensions, but did not discover whether such proposed expansion had encountered opposition.

**T**he main conclusions drawn from the survey by the Southern Region of the Sports Council are as follows:-

*The demand for golf in the region is not being met by the existing facilities.*

*Many more commercial pay and play and municipal courses are required to cater for the beginners at golf and more clubs are needed to accommodate those who have developed a proficiency at the sport.*

*One of the major obstacles facing those who wish to build new courses or extend existing ones comes from local planning authorities.*

*The necessary initial financial outlay by developers, could lead to cut backs in the essentials of drainage and infrastructure and landowners intending building a golf course should obtain the services of qualified consultants.*

*If more facilities are not provided, golf will remain the preserve of the privileged few, fortunate to be members of a private club.*

The South Western Council for Sport and Recreation have also published the results of an even more extensive survey in a \*Strategy Document, conducted during 1987, covering all counties west of Wiltshire, where the total population is over 4.5 million, and expecting to rise by a further .25 million, by 1991.

The 1987 survey estimates there were 108 courses with 18 holes and 26 nine hole courses throughout the South

### EGU regional officers report

**R**ay Baldwin from the Midland Region reports that he has received 54 enquiries for either new golf course developments or extensions to existing layouts, but to his knowledge only four are actually under construction, others are awaiting planning permission or at the feasibility study stage. The courses under construction are all on farm land, where the farmers have decided to diversify.

Among the proposals within the Midland area 31 are for 18-hole courses, two of 27-holes and four golf complexes. He has given advice for a putting green for a retired persons leisure complex.

**I**n the South West, John Goodban has also received some 50 enquiries, but few have yet come to fruition, though he knows of two new courses at Clovelly and Libbaton plus a driving range in the Ilfracombe area. A new course has been approved in Cornwall and is about to commence construction outside Lostwithiel, to be called the Restormel Golf and Country Club.

However, planning approval for the rebuilding of a golf course at Lynton has twice been rejected.

**I**n the 14 countries of the South East, which includes the Channel Islands, Guy Shenstone says he has replied to over 40 enquiries from potential developers, the majority, farmers, looking to take land out of food production, by building 'rough' pay as you play, 9-hole and some 18-hole courses. He believes professional developers, within the hotel industry are seeking advice elsewhere and others who should be contacting the EGU are going ahead without realising the value of available assistance at their disposal.

**B**ill Murray in the northern section of the country also reports a number of active enquiries, eighteen

he has inspected personally.

He believes local planning officers without experience of golf course development are not aware of the nature conservancy benefits that can be safeguarded from the construction of golf courses and they also are not coming to the English Golf Union for what is in effect free advice.

He said he knows of a potential three course development near Billingham on the borders of Durham and Cleveland where the master mind behind the Gateshead Metro Centre has some 6,000 acres of land at his disposal.

Bill also pointed out that farmers who intend obtaining the grant under the set-aside scheme should be aware that the £80 an acre grant only applies to grade 2 or better land.

"We can offer a great deal of help and point both developers of new courses and clubs exploring expansion in the right direction, if they would only contact us", added Bill Murray.

This would seem to be sound advice as all new courses will eventually seek affiliation to their county association. It is better to ensure the layouts and yardages are correct from the outset, rather than become involved in expensive alterations later.

#### English Golf Union Development Committee:

**South West** - J. W. D. Goodban O.B.E. (Chairman) Applegarth, Hills View, East Hill, Braunton, North Devon. EX33 2LE Tel: 0271 814405

**South East** - G. G. Shenstone, 25 Kings Court, Kings Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. SSO8LL Tel: 0702 352722

**North** - W.P. Murray, Highnam Lodge, Park Mews, Hartlepool TS26 ODX Tel: 0429 273185

**Midland** - R.J.W. Baldwin, Chantry Cottage, Friar Street, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8EQ Tel: 0905 778560

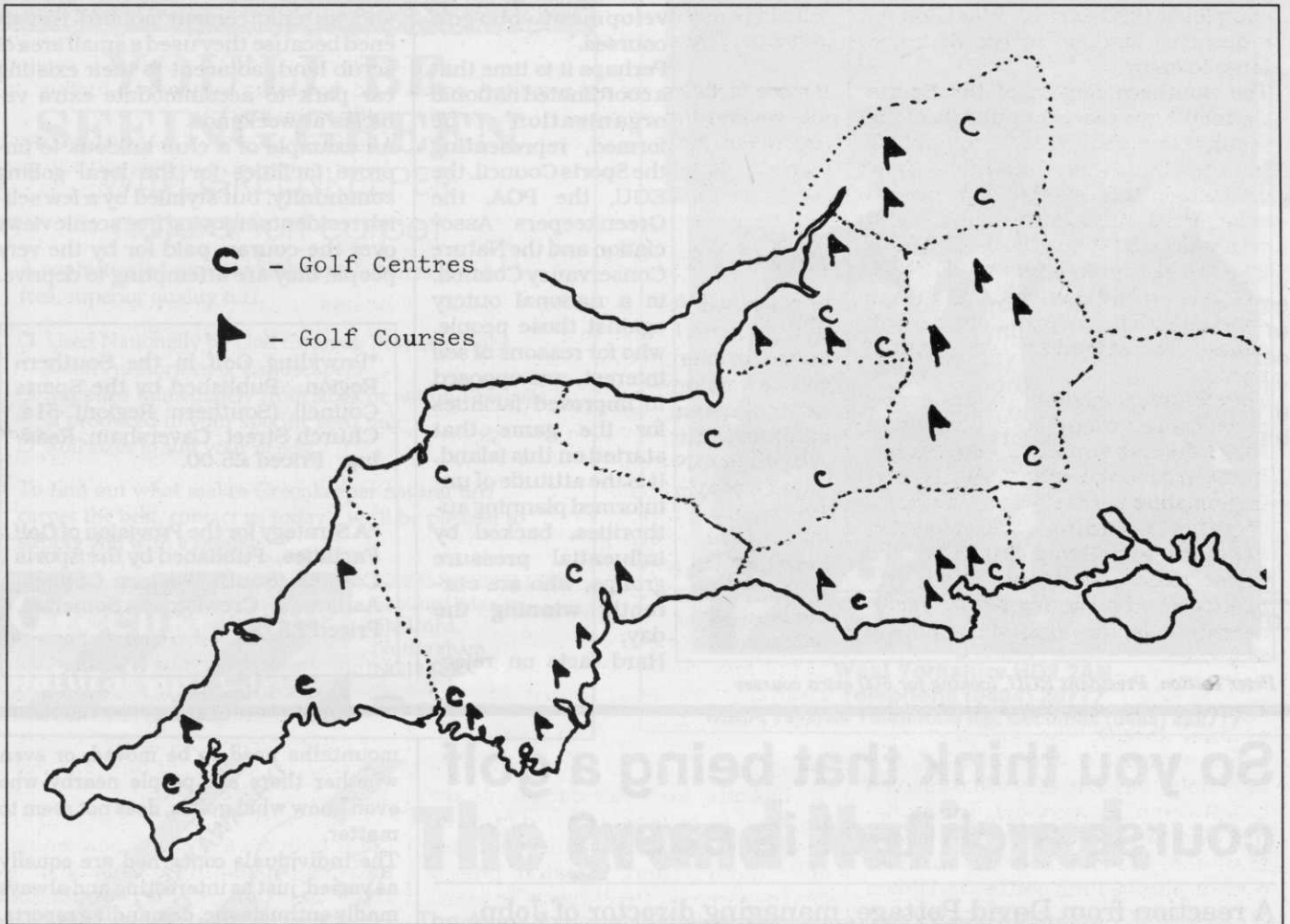


## DEVELOPMENT

West, with a total of 64,274, club members, paying an annual average subscription of £156, though this figure is probably now out of date and is significantly affected by a relatively

averaging 76, taking about two years to acquire membership. Somerset would appear to be the easiest county to gain membership at a club, some having no waiting list, others

drawing board stage to planning approval and under construction. It is hoped to maintain the impetus now created to satisfy the wish of many more people to play golf and the



*New golf courses and golf centres proposed in the South West*

low rate of £117 in Wiltshire.

What is significant however is the reported non playing membership of golf clubs, which averages at only 14%. It would seem that people no longer join golf clubs purely for the social cache, paid for out of company expenses, members join because they intend to play the game.

This figure is even more important if one accepts that all clubs have a number of long established stalwarts, who although accepting that their playing days are over, keep their membership to enjoy the company of life long friends.

The survey also discovered the average weekday green fee was just over £9.00 and £11.50 at weekends, which leads one to conclude that the annual subscription is far too low, the equivalent of less than 14 rounds per year.

Most counties have a waiting list, with Avon, Devon and Dorset

offering entry within six months.

Commenting on the English Golf Unions efforts to increase the number of golf courses in England, the EGU President Mr Peter Dutton said, "In March '89 the Union's Development Committee under past-president John Goodban made an excellent start when a representative from every golf body attended a meeting in London to identify the problems of providing more golf courses, where they are most needed.

That meeting gave the EGU wholehearted approval for their initiative to co-ordinate all the enquiries.

Through the four regional development officers, each county was invited to appoint a liaison officer and the combined effort has obtained a great deal of co-operation from local planning authorities.

The EGU offices in Leicester, though the counties, will be keeping a record of all projects in England from the

desire by farmers and other developers to make good use of suitable areas of land".

Mr Dutton added that a commendable start has been made.

**T**here is also a hidden factor to be considered concerning membership and that is club policy. Many of the private clubs keep the membership figures below the capacity of the course to maintain a degree of exclusivity. Although this may be annoying to a golfer anxious to join a club, particularly if he has been forced to move because of business reasons, it is nevertheless understandable that existing members do not wish to compete for tee off times at weekends.

The recommendations of the South West Region of the Sports Council include the provisions of 19 new 18 holes courses and 9 commercial golf centres, a concept long established on the North



## DEVELOPMENT

American continent, but here mainly in control of local authorities. The survey did not seek to examine the

success rate of current applications in the pipe line from commercial undertakings, but offered advice and technical guidance to those contemplating the development of golf courses.

Perhaps it is time that a coordinated national organisation be formed, representing the Sports Council, the EGU, the PGA, the Greenkeepers Association and the Nature Conservancy Council, in a national outcry against those people, who for reasons of self interest, are opposed to improved facilities for the game that started on this island. It is the attitude of uninformed planning authorities, backed by influential pressure groups, who are currently winning the day.

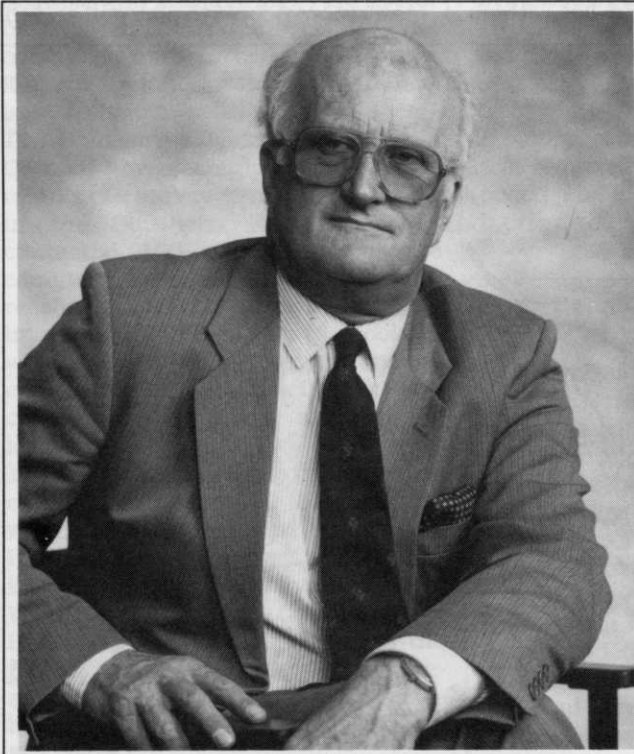
Hard facts on rejec-

tion rates are difficult to obtain. However, it is common knowledge that a well-known Yorkshire club, with a ten year waiting list has had two applications for a new clubhouse rejected and an enforcement noticed threatened because they used a small area of scrub land, adjacent to their existing car park to accommodate extra vehicles at weekends.

An example of a club anxious to improve facilities for the local golfing community, but stymied by a few selfish residents enjoying free scenic views over the course, paid for by the very people they are attempting to deprive.

*\*Providing Golf in the Southern Region. Published by the Sports Council (Southern Region) 51a, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Priced £5.00.*

*\*A Strategy for the Provision of Golf Facilities. Published by the Sports Council (South Western Council) Ashlands, Crewkerne, Somerset. Priced £5.00*



Peter Dutton, President EGU, looking for 500 extra courses

## So you think that being a golf course architect is easy?

A reaction from David Pottage, managing director of John Jacobs Golf Associates Ltd

I don't know how my competitors are coping with the current golf boom. Very well, I am sure. It is, as far as this company is concerned, a wonderful period, filled with many glorious opportunities to provide golf at all levels and for players of all abilities.

It is also a period of great frustration, sometimes because one cannot always see the 'goldmine' to end a struggling farmers nightmare, hoped for with the winning of planning permission. There are also the frustrations of the local authorities, who do not automatically accept that "we know what is best for the land", or that "what is best for our client is automatically best for the community in general". Having spent 20 years in local government myself, I have to admit that I sometimes tend to see their point of view.

The biggest frustration, however, is the length of time one waits trying to go places. Airport lounges, railway stations,

traffic jams in general and especially the M25, that wonderful short-cut, that free car park, that cause of more delayed appointments than perhaps anything in the South of England - it can, however, provide a good excuse of just being plain late! Over the relatively short period since its completion, one has at some time been stationary along almost all of its 120 odd miles!

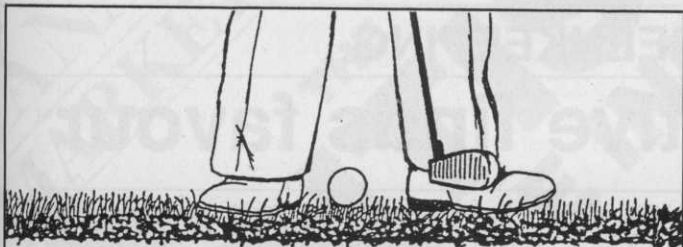
To balance the frustration is the tremendous variety of site, project and indeed individual who wants to "do a golf course". The projects vary from driving range, through par-3 course, executive golf course to public pay-to-play golf centres. They range from new member's club courses and alterations to existing courses to corporate golf, from nine-hole through eighteen to thirty-six holes, from "to build it myself" projects "to money no object". The combination is endless. The locations are worldwide. Whether or not there is any soil or water, or whether

mountains need to be moved, or even whether there are people nearby who even know what golf is, does not seem to matter.

The individuals concerned are equally as varied, just as interesting and always madly enthusiastic, demanding reports, feasibility studies, plans and meeting, usually yesterday or at the very least, this week sometime! They range from the farmer, who may be finding life increasingly difficult, because of milk quotas or general agricultural policies, to the young professional who sees the driving range as a way of breaking free though every possible combination of individual to the chairman and managing directors of the multi-national companies. Their reasons may be different (superficially at any rate) but their aims are the same. They all want GOLF.

The whole situation is still bubbling along, for how much longer who can say. Government policy and maybe continued European success in the World's golf tournaments will be factors. Future government policy is anybody's guess, I would, however, like to put in a plea to Tony's lads "Please fellows, win the Ryder Cup and help keep the boom going". The actual golf course architecture? - Oh I leave nearly all that to John Jacobs, he is very good at it.





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# ALLEN



# The natural alternative finds favour

The versatility and cost efficiency of wood and bark based products makes them ideal for golf course applications, with their unusual mix of extensive landscaping and high pedestrian traffic volumes.

Melcourt Industries of Tetbury is among specialist suppliers of these products, which are now finding increasing favour with greenkeepers as an environment friendly alternative to more conventional materials. All Melcourt products, for example, are wholly organic; with no use of chemicals at any stage of their processing or treatment.

It is essentially for their practical performance, however, that wood-based products are enjoying a growing popularity on Britain's golf courses. Starting with the pathways which connect green with tee, it is easy to see why, since traditional options like concrete, tarmac, and gravel will either damage shoe spikes or cause undue wear, while bare earth pathways erode too quickly and are often impossible during the winter months.

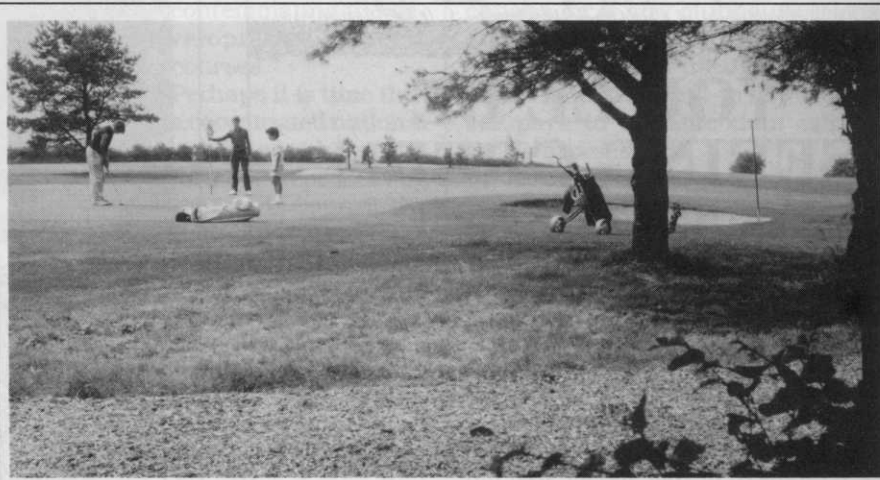
For many, the answer now lays in something like Melcourt's Woodfibre, laid to a depth of around 100mm over an adequate drainage base - perhaps with a geotextile separator for more permanent installations. The material offers excellent drainage characteristic, will not damage spikes or studs, and prevents mud from splashing over trolley wheels or being trampled into the club house. Most importantly, Woodfibre pathways also blend in beautifully with natural surroundings, often adding to the appearance of courses (unlike concrete or tarmac!). They are also easy to lay, with minimal maintenance demands, and they can always be lifted and re-sited should the need arise.

## Mulches too

When the material's long working life as a pathway is finally exhausted, it can also double as a cheap but highly effective mulch for flower borders and shrub beds. Not surprisingly, Melcourt also offers a wide range of more specialised mulches, such as Ornamental Bark Mulch for sites where - as the product's name implies - appearance is of the first importance.

For larger scale planting areas, the company produces Forest Biomulch, an economical surface mulch with a high organic content designed both to enrich soil humus and reduce the application of costly chemical-based fertilisers.

Finally, Melcourt also offers a range of top dressings and soil conditioners, which again answer many of the greenkeeper's



problems. These include Adheart, a new soil conditioner which should be dug well in to improve structure, enhance drainage and add humus content without stimulating thatch. By reducing the effects of leaching and promoting nutrient supplies, the conditioner also encourages the microbiological activity essential to healthy greens.

As with all Melcourt products, Adheart

is distributed nationally and is available in both bagged and bulk form, with 'walking floor' trailers for difficult sites or where storage space is at a premium (the trailers will semi-pile their loads if required). For trade prices and more detailed product information, contact the company direct at Three Cups House, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8JG Tel: 0666 503919/502711.

## WINDWHISTLE EXTENSION

### Green light for Somerset course

Windwhistle Golf, Squash and Country Club's planning application to add an 18-hole extension to the course has been given the go-ahead by South Somerset District Council's planning committee, according to a report in the Chard and Ilminster News.

The extension, when complete, will mean Windwhistle will become the longest championship course in the West country at 7,047 yards. The medal length will be 6,260 yards with a standard scratch score of 70.

And there is every prospect, with the co-operation of all concerned and reasonable weather, that play will take place on the new course in 1991.

The plan was approved at a recent meeting of the council's west area planning sub-committee, which received a report from the officers which stated: "It is considered that a basis for agreement has been reached which will result in a very attractive golf course which has very positive benefits for wildlife and the landscape and these details should be formally agreed within the framework of a section 52 agreement.

Audrey Buchanan (Chard South East) commented: "I congratulate both the applicants and the officers on their pres-

entation of the plans. It is now a totally satisfactory scheme."

Club and former county president Leonard Fisher, who rescued Windwhistle from extinction after the Second World War, welcomed the news at the weekend.

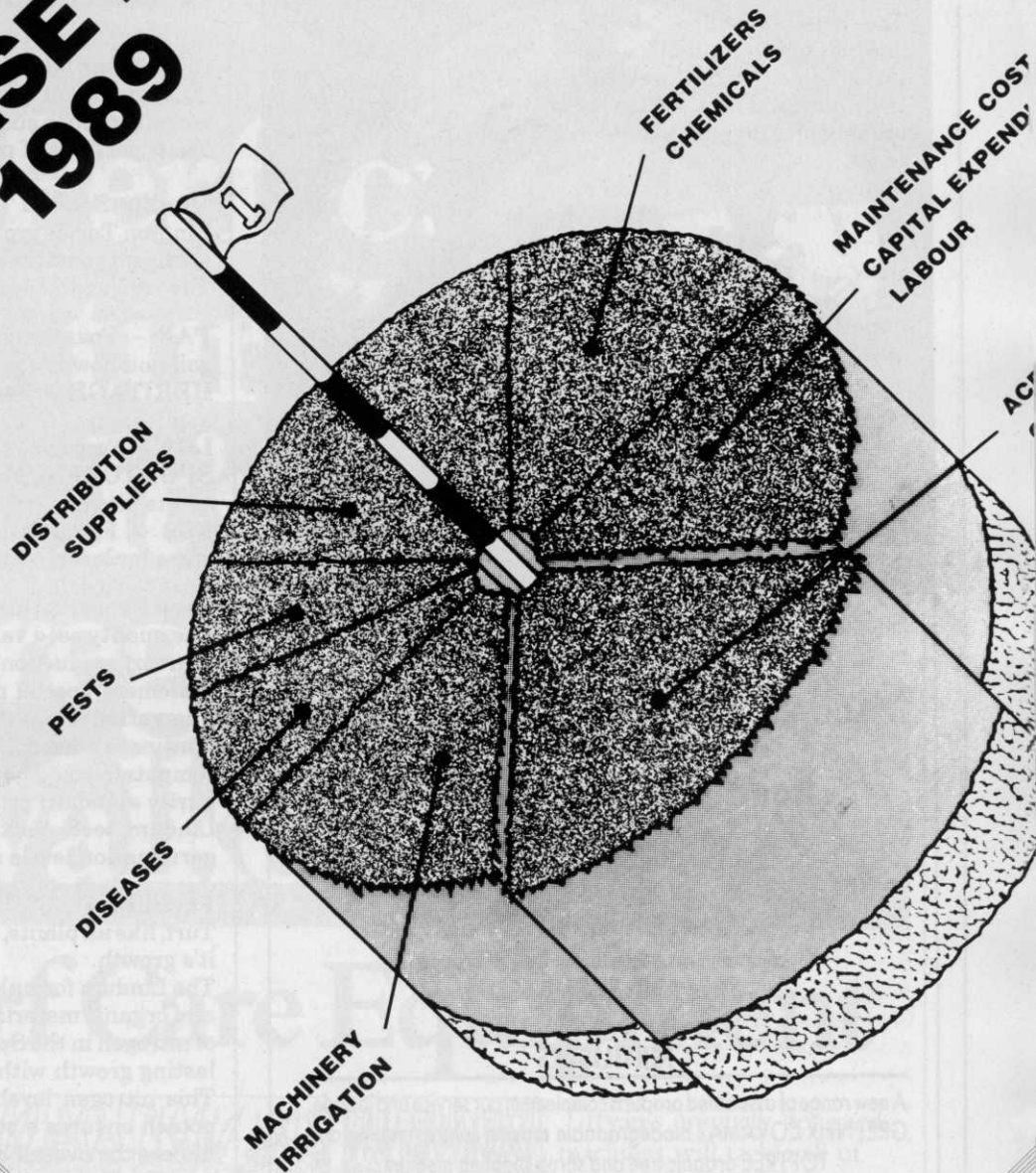
He said: "The club's proposals, when completed, will provide the most important addition to the West golfing scene since St Mellion, West of the Famar, and St. Pierre, north of the Bristol Channel. "Tournament golf could, in the future, be accommodated at Windwhistle, which would enable South Somerset to play a major part in the European golfing programme."

Mr Fisher said that the new 27-hole complex would reduce wear and tear on the course and allow essential maintenance work to be carried out at the proper time rather than the opportune time. And with the extra space available, a natural informality would be introduced into the tree and shrub planting replacement programme on the existing course. There would also be an increasing provision, freedom and sanctuary for the natural local wildlife and flora - a policy adopted by the club over 35 years ago and pursued ever since.



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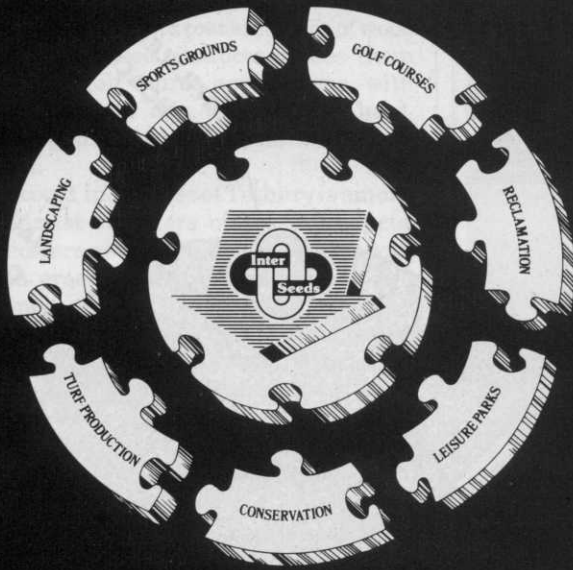
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## COMPANY DATA FILE

### Lindum expands portfolio to include products and services

Lindum who have established a reputation for the high quality of their seeded turf are now offering some of the secrets of their success to provide the complete turf service. Their portfolio of products for perfect turf includes:

#### Quality Seeded Turf

Lindum Turf is grown from top STRI varieties, under the most stringent conditions and subject to a rigorous care programme. The range includes:

**PAF** – Poa Annuua Free, Fescue/bent mixture for finest golf and bowling greens.

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**LG1** – Fescue/bent. Four top STRI varieties for golf tees.

**SPORTURF** – Fescue/bent/dwarf ryegrass and specials for sports pitches.

**LG2** – Fescue/bent/dwarf ryegrass/smooth stalked meadow grass for low maintenance amenity areas.

#### Seed Prescriptions

The quality seed varieties which are used by Lindum for their own turf production, are available in prescriptions designed for customers' special needs.

The varieties are chosen for their disease resistance, winter hardiness, drought tolerance, growth pattern, colour and compatability. The vigour-proven seed is cleaned to a high purity standard prior to prescription mixing.

Lindum seed meet Ministry and EEC standards and high germination levels are assured.

#### Fertilisers

Turf, like all plants, requires the mineral elements essential for it's growth.

The Lindum formulates are based on a combination of mineral and organic materials to provide various stages of availability of nitrogen in the Spring and Summer. Compounds to give long lasting growth with a healthy colour.

This nitrogen level combined with adequate phosphate and potash ensures a steady development of root growth and enhances the overall disease and drought resistance of the cultivars.

The inclusion of sulphate of iron helps reduce weed and worm invasion on acidic or light sand soil. The inclusion of trace elements (magnesium and sulphate of iron) will assist leaf colour and help with the distribution of both phosphates and potassium.

#### 'Sodnet' Netting

This American-made netting product, for which Lindum are the sole UK distributors, is designed to prevent soil/seed bed erosion; it acts as a mulch, reduces moisture loss, works as a holding medium for the root mat and enables early lifting for turf growers.

Grass seeding of land reclamation areas will benefit by the use of 'Sodnet' to stabilize the soil surface, particular on sloping sites.

#### Preparation and after care service

Lindum provide advice on the preparation of new sites and offer their expertise in both machinery and material supply sector. The company will carry out a soil analysis and offer an agronomy advisory service.

Lindum Seeded Turf, Church House, Horkstow, Barton-on-Humber, South Humberside. DN18 6BG Tel: 065 261 329/564 Fax: 065 261 447



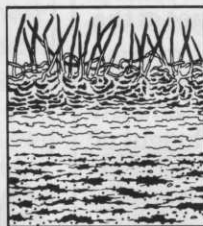
# Perfect turf? It's a regular walkover.

## Ryan Turf Care Equipment

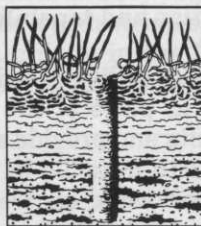
Continuous use can make your ground as tough as old boots.

Thatch and compaction are the result. As you know, scarification and aeration can reduce it.

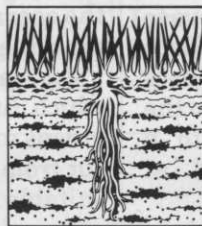
Ryan can cure it. And that's not cobblers!



Poor turf with thatch and compaction.



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## EXHIBITION

# IoG says farewell to Windsor

This year's exhibition will be the last to be staged at Windsor Race Course

**T**he 45th staging of the IOG Sports & Leisure World Trade Exhibition at Windsor will be the last to be held on the race course site.

There are still a few people around who were present at the first exhibition in the grounds of the Hurlingham Club in 1938, when most of the leading manufacturers and two seed firms displayed their wares, but compared to today's event it was unrecognisable.

Outdoor leisure is a multi-million pound business and this is reflected by the growth out only of equipment to maintain natural and synthetic surfaces, but of the number of companies who have entered the market.

Hurlingham became too small in 1966, which necessitated the move to Motspur Park and now Windsor Race Course has outgrown its usefulness forcing the Exhibition to take to the road once more, this time to a purpose built show ground at Peterborough in 1990.

The decision was hardly received with universal favour, not because the site was other than ideal, but from a feeling among the exhibitors, that London with its adjacent airports and vast range of hotels offered more to the visitor than a corner of East Anglia.

There still exists a belief by the uninited "southerner" that everything north of Watford is a barren uncivilised wasteland and they may continue to hold that view as next year they drive northwards on a duel carriageway past open fields and dense woodland, but the journey should not take more than an



*Huxleys new 358 Greensmower with optional hydraulics third wheel drive*

hour, about equal to the time spent queuing in traffic jams on the approach to Windsor.

There are many who are looking forward to Peterborough 1990 and believe it is a positive step by the IOG to cement the foundations for an even better trade show over the next ten years.

**F**ollowing a highly successful first year for the all British golf greens mower, Huxleys Grass Machinery have introduced four optional attachments to enhance the operation and capabilities of the machine:

Four-bladed utility mowing units, which fit in place of the standard greens units and provide a height of cut from 3/16 in to 3/4 in. They are suitable for work on tees, greens approaches and other fine turf areas requiring a longer finish than that produced by the eight-bladed greens units;

Hydraulic third-wheel drive option to enhance grip and climbing ability, particularly useful on two-tier greens;

Turf Combs to help produce faster, truer putting surfaces without any alterations to the height of cut;

Powered verti-reel units for the removal of lateral growth within the turf surface.

Huxleys also has a new Cushman with a diesel engine available in three or four wheeled versions.



*Toro Super 700 series sprinklers*

**A** number of new irrigation products from Toro will make their UK debut at this year's IOG exhibition.

Sprinklers - the sharp end of any irrigation system - will be highlighted by the introduction of the redesigned Toro 700 series range comprising Standard, Commercial, Shrub and Hi-pop models offering an almost instant nozzle change facility. To change from one nozzle size to another the user simply releases one holding screw and 'clicks' the replacement nozzle into position.

Completely new, the Toro 740 pop-up sprinkler reduces pumping power costs. Operating at low pressures, the 740's innovative rotating crown-



## EXHIBITION

head provides maximum throw plus even water distribution in the mid-range and close-in to the operating position.

The Toro VT-12 Solid-state Controller displayed at Windsor will be just one of a comprehensive range of hi-tech. controllers on view. The VT-12 provides up to eleven starts per day (or night) working to a 7-day schedule. Designed to compliment the Toro Vari-time 4000 and Vari-time II, the VT-12 is ideally suited for controlling watering programmes on athletic sports field, parkland or golf course greens, tees and fairway schemes.

All Toro products will be exhibited on Stand F7-10 at Windsor '89.

**A**F. Trenchers will be displaying a full range of trenchers manufactured by AFT at Colchester, on their stands 18-21 at Windsor.

The types now include self winching and wheel driven, pedestrian, track laying and tractor mounted types. Of particular interest for sportsfield drainage are the Wizz Wheel High speed tractor mounted trencher complete with soil collection system and high level discharge soil elevator and dual use hopper for backfilling both sand and shingle.

**N**ew products distributed in the UK by Claymore; include the new Green's Caretaker mounted hydraulic cylinder mower. Joining the existing range of Green's pedestrian cylinder and trailed gang mowers.

The Bolens range now includes two ride-on mowers, six lawn tractors, four estate tractors and a wide and comprehensive selection of attachments.

The Sabo-Roberine range of self propelled fully hydraulic multi-unit cylinder mowers now include the lightweight K600-3D triple mower - a remarkably efficient and economical machine - and the new 5-gang golf course version of the successful K1602 - diesel.

**T**urf Machinery Hire are the United Kingdom distributors for Turfco self-propelled and tractor operated top dressing machines, turfcutters & self-propelled edgers.

Following the introduction at the British Landscape Exhibition in June, Turf Machinery are showing a Cushman turf vehicle fitted with a brand new engine conversion. The engine has many advantages over the original, a terrific saving on price, it also has a better power to weight ratio, solid state ignition and many more up to date features, environmental friendly - runs on lead free petrol. The company also provide a range of specialist machinery for hire including Vertidrain, Ryan Greensaires - GA30, Core Collector.

Turf Machinery Spares are the United Kingdom distributors for the R & R products company of Arizona, who manufacture top quality replacement parts suitable for most imported turf & grass machinery. Prices reflect considerable equal to, or better than the original. Stand no: C Ave 07& 08.

**T**he range of Multicore Turf Aerators has achieved significant success throughout the world and in the UK where it is now being successfully marketed by Lawnmower Specialists Ltd, Blackburn, Lancashire. There are three competitively priced models in the range The Multicore Greenkeeper which is one of the most complete coring machines available for golf greens and tees, cricket wickets and bowling greens, available as a pedestrian or ride on version is unique in the fact that there are a range of 8 easily detach-



*The Multicore Aerator with mini-tines hollow cores a badly thatched green*

able heads which include: 2 types of slitting head, seeding head, soil tining heads with various sizes of solid tines 3/8", 1/2" and 5/8" jumbo coring head giving spacing of 1" and 5/8" centre with the tines providing 49 holes per square foot or 7/8" centre with the mini tine head providing 98 holes per square foot.

Adjustable depth setting and the variety of the heads gives multicore all year around application.

For faster deeper aerating the Multicore Contractor is for coarse turf work including outfields, Tees and fairways.

A pedestrian self propelled machine (a sulky seat is available to convert to a ride on) is powered by 8hp engine and will core 21,250 square feet per hour.

The latest edition to the range is the TM100 compact tractor mounted, suitable for all purposes. Lawnmower Specialist Ltd, Sandy Lane, Lower Darwen, Blackburn, Lancashire. Tel: (0254) 672424 for details and demonstration.



*Claymore's Green's Caretaker*



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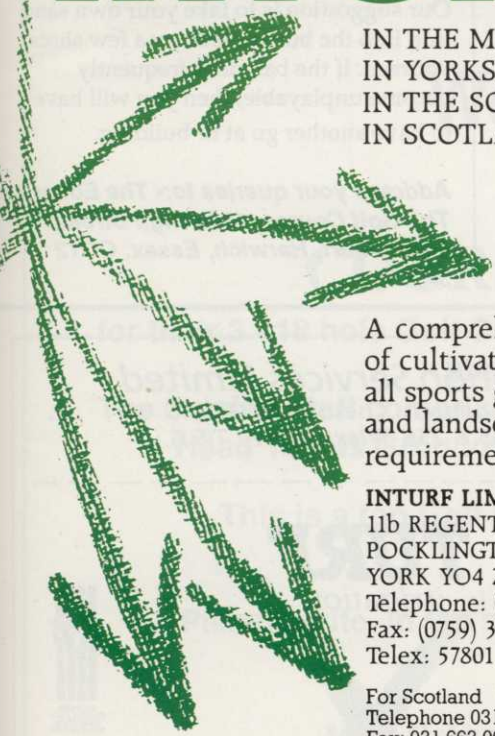
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# TOPICAL TURF TIPS

The Golf Course problem page, gives expert advice to management problems

## QUESTION

*I have been told by one of our members that it is illegal for any of the greenstaff to spray chemicals unless they have been on a course and obtained a certificate. The staff member who does most of the chemical spraying is over 60 years of age and has refused point blank to go on a course. He says he is "not going back to school at his age and in any case knows more about how to apply chemicals than any college lecturer!"*

## ANSWER

From January this year all greenstaff under 24 years of age, who use chemicals, MUST have attended a recognised training course for pesticide usage and obtained a certificate of competence. The training starts with the basic foundation module - PA1 and covers general information on pesticides, such as labelling, storing, environmental effects, keeping records etc. Once this certificate is obtained, there are further specialist modules covering tractor mounted spraying and knap-sack spraying. Your mature member of staff CAN continue spraying under what is known as the "grandfather clause", but he has to be supervised by a certificate holder, which means you have to take the appropriate courses as his supervisor or one of the other certified staff must take charge. Contact your local college for training course details. The cost is around £30 for each module. Money well spent if the club are to keep within the law and avoid expensive accidents.

## QUESTION

*I am getting an earful from my green committee, who say in the best summer we have had in years, the greens are in a dreadful state, despite an expensive irrigation system. I must accept that brown patches have developed on some greens, mainly poa annua, going from a brighter green to loss of grass cover virtually overnight. I am using the greenside sprinklers but sparingly, so as not to encourage thatch. The "expensive irrigation scheme" is a joke. They seem to forget it was put in on the cheap 23 years ago and wants completely updating.*

## ANSWER

It sounds as if you gave dry patch or thatch fungi, most likely a combination of both. Get spiking as quickly as possible followed by a wetting agent such as Turftex. If the sprinkler system is not coping with high spots or giving sufficient green cover then hand water. Keep a constant check on the thatch layer and aerate with both solid and chisel tines to keep the growing medium open. Contact your local servicing agent or dealer for the irrigation scheme and get them to give you a quote for an update. You will then have the facts and figures at your finger-tips and be able to make out a case with authority.

## QUESTION

*I have recently rebuilt a bunker to the right hand side of an elevated green to one of the par threes. On the left is a load of trouble with thick undergrowth so the golfer*

*invariably aims right and if he doesn't make the putting surface he is in the sand. This bunker claims more shots than any other on the course and is a constant source of complaint. Since it was reconstructed they now say the ball landing at the foot of what is quite a steep face is unplayable and unfair. What can I do about it?*

## ANSWER

Bunkers are hazards and are incorporated into the design of a golf course to penalise a bad or poor shot. Nevertheless they must be fair, giving the golfer an opportunity to redeem the situation and still make par with a well executed sand iron. If a golf shot strikes the top of the bunker and rolls into the sand, the design of the bunker should be such that it throws the ball into a playable position. We all know there are famous bunkers such as the Road Hole at St Andrews, but most members golf clubs are not laid out for championship events, but as a test of skill for the average amateur and the hazards should be designed to cater for his or her level of ability. Our suggestion is to take your own sand iron into the bunker and try a few shots yourself. If the ball does frequently become unplayable, then you will have to have another go at re-building.

**Address your queries to:- The Editor, The Golf Course, 129a High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. CO12 3AX**



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