

CLIPPINGS

By The Mower

Ex-Minister appointed Director of golf course company

Former Sports Minister Richard Tracey, has joined the Board of the Patrick Tallack Golf Course Design and Construction Company.

The Leatherhead based group is currently building the Paxhill Park Golf Course near Haywards Heath in Sussex, and conducting feasibility reports on several sites in the UK and Northern France.

Caught Short!

A letter to the Scottish Daily Record from a golfer anxious to answer a call from nature at Ranfurly Castle Golf Club, Bridge of Weir, bemoans the fact that he could not find a toilet on the course and asked what the greenkeepers did. He was told that this one hundred year old club did not have any greenkeeper's facilities, they went in the bushes!

Our correspondent said it could only happen in Scotland - the home of golf. If he brought his clubs south, he would no doubt find a similar lack of "penny houses", both for golfers and greenkeepers.

New Head Greenkeeper at Wetherby

Among the job changes announced for 1990 is the appointment of David Hannam as Head Greenkeeper at the parkland course at Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

David succeeds John Scott, who is taking early retirement after 22 years at the club.

John, is one of the generation of greenkeepers now fairly unique as he was previously the greenkeeper/professional at Doncaster Town Moor, the golf course in the centre of the famous northern race course. David Hannam, previously at Baildon Golf Club, is the current Northern Administrator for the Greenkeepers Association.

Woosh

What do you do when gale force winds blow in from the Irish Sea and deposit a two foot depth of sand on your greens?

George Brown, Course Manager at Turnberry, faced with this problem had a novel and successful answer. He found someone with a helicopter to hover over the green and blow it all away!

Algarve Golf

The Greenkeepers Tournament in Portugal was almost a wash-out, saved by Peter Wisbey, Truste House Forte's Course Manager. He organised the course at San Lourenco for a reduced holes match, won by St Andrews Links Superintendent Walter Woods with Derek Ganning from The Belfry in runner-up position. Talk is that Walter will have to play to scratch next time.

Caddy's Comments

Dave Musgrove, Sandy Lyle's regular caddy since he stood at the side of the putting green at Fulford unemployed in 1980, now leads a jet setting life as bag carrier, confident and friend to his highly successful boss.

In a new book entitled "Life with Lyle", Musgrove, a one time draughtsman with Rolls Royce details a year of his life in diary form. It is a recommended read for greenkeepers. Not only does it give an indepth insight into the complex job of a top-flight caddy, detailing the methods of measurement to within inches, but drops little snippets such as Musgrove's acquaintance with Walter Woods at St Andrews.

It appears they played golf together during Walter's Hollinwell days. Only one guess who won!

Greenkeepers Rally to Charity Call

Bearded David Webb, Golf Director at St Mellion let slip that the hairy face he was sporting in Portugal was grown to raise money for Meningitis Research.

A whip round in secret during the closing banquet at Penina, produced a mixture of escudos, pesetas and sterling totalling £120. David told "The Mower" he has now raised £1,500 through the generosity of his friends and the members and staff at St Mellion and he still has the beard!

President's warning

Tony Hill the new President of the English Golf Union warned of two dangers to golf, in a speech at a lunch in London recently. The first is the threat posed by continental clubs who are poaching our best greenkeepers and the second is the over play to which our courses are being subjected. It is graefying to note that 'The Way Forward' has such a staunch supporter: No doubt a great deal more could be done if the EGU could persuade all golfers to part with £1 each instead of the miserly 60p they currently pay.