

SURPRISE, SURPRISE.



Iseki will have something very special to show you at this year's I.O.G. Show at Windsor. Something that's so exciting, that we dare not reveal too many details until September 20th - suffice to say that the Compact Tractor art becomes state of the art with Iseki on that date, along with a whole host of other exciting developments.

If you can't wait to visit the Iseki Stand No. W 3-12 at I.O.G., fill in the coupon below and we'll send you a sneak preview at the beginning of September, along with a prize draw card, which if you visit the Iseki Stand could win you a valuable prize.

Until then, you'll just have to guess what's in the box!

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ISEKI

FINAL QUALIFIERS CONFIRMED FOR ISEKI GOLF FINAL AT ST. PIERRE

WITH the final three Regional qualifiers now over, 60 of Britains best Golfing Greenkeepers are ready for the Iseki Greenkeepers Golf Final at St. Pierre on 19th August 1988.

The final three qualifiers took place over three very different Courses, but the Regional Secretaries and Players all put on both great organisation and splendid playing to record excellent scoring.

The South Western Event took place at Long Ashton Golf Club near Bristol, one of Britains few hot and summery days so far this year, as Greenkeepers working at the recent Open will know only too well!

In category 1 J. Parr of Exminster in Devon took the prize scoring a nett 63 playing off 7 handicap, with P. Worcester of Cirencester and R. Lamb of Andover taking nett 67 and 69 respectively on a very long and hard Course. Whilst in Category 2 positions were extremely close with J. Walsh scoring a 71 off 17 handicap to beat V. Lewer of Wells in Somerset by one stroke, whilst he was just one stroke ahead of W. Potter of Budleigh Salterton and T. Patchin of Eastleigh. The same close scoring in Category 3 saw A. Torrence and H. Parry tie on grass scores with A. Torrence taking the win with a handicap of 22.

The Midlands Regional Round at Tewkesbury was also played over a testing Course with the dog leg drive at the first causing a few problems for some of the Competitors, whilst the long par 3 - 16th also caused some wayward shots in the breeze. Unfortunately the Division 1 winner J. Teixeira of Bedfordshire, who recorded a brilliant nett score of 68 had clashing holiday commitments with the Final leaving B. Hughes of Mid-Anglia to head the Midlands challenge winning on a tie break over the back 9 from N. Woolfrey of the Midlands.

In Division 2 Andy Boraston took the major award ahead of J. Paine and R. Thomas with Division 3 going to Loughborough's M. Bindley recording a nett 70 to beat M. Billings by a single stroke. Again the field was extremely competitive with some competitors even taking the time to practice the day before.

The final qualifier was held at the prestigious Wentworth Course in Surrey, home of the recent PGA Tournament, the 60 competitors from London and the Home Counties doing battle on the East Course, a Course which looked particularly hard, despite this some remarkable scores were recorded, with J. Borja of Epsom taking the Division 1 prize ahead of N. Baldwin of Northwood and M. Smith of St. Albans. Division 2 going to B. Webster of Watford and Division 3 to J. Chambers of Leatherhead. The competition and excellent play in Division 3 seeing no less than 3 nett 60's posted over what looked to be an extremely tight Course with fast greens and extremely tight pin placements being the order of the day.

With Wentworth now hard at work building the new South Course, thanks must go to Kevin Munt and his Staff for all their hard work in putting the Course together to such a high standard.

All the qualifiers now move to the tough St. Pierre Course at Chepstow on 19th August for what promises to be a very exciting day. In the morning competitors will play 9 holes on the New Course, followed by a further 18 holes on the Old Course in the afternoon, to decide the National Winners. Interest in the field of this inaugural Iseki Greenkeepers Golf Tournament has been phenomenal with a number of competitors looking to at least walk or practice on the Courses whilst Iseki will be taking the opportunity to show a full range of products at Chepstow as well to make August 19th a full and varied day for Competitors and guests alike. If you fancy spectating at the event, St. Pierre is just outside Chepstow and very close to both the M4 and Severn Bridge. We'll have full results for you in the next issue.

Qualifiers for the National Final are as follows:

QUALIFIERS FOR THE NATIONAL FINAL

1. NORTHERN REGION

Category 1:

I. FARRELL
E. WALSH
R. ULLATHORPE
M. HANNAN

HESWALL G.C.
WHITEFIELD G.C.
SCUNTHORPE G.C.
MOORTOWN G.C.

Category 2:

M. LEALMAN
M. COULTAS
R. JOHNSON
S. MOON

STRENSALL G.C.
GRANGE PARK G.C.
GANTON G.C.
BIRCHWOOD G.C.

Category 3:

G. BRAMMAH
P. LEIGH
S. HIRD
M. GREGSON

HALLAMSHIRE G.C.
HAZEL GROVE G.C.
SCUNTHORPE G.C.
SHIPLEY NOTHCLIFFE

2. SCOTTISH REGION

Category 1:

(RES)

C. R. KENNEDY
C. WHITE
V. REID
A. WILLIAMSON
S. BALLANTYNE

WEST SECTION
AYR SECTION
AYR SECTION
NORTH SECTION
WEST SECTION

Category 2:

(RES)

J. S. GEDDES
T. PARKER
R. BREWER
D. ROBERTSON
W. WHITFIELD

NORTH SECTION
AYR SECTION
WEST SECTION
NORTH SECTION
CENTRAL SECTION

Category 3:

(RES)

J. GRAY
A. P. WILSON
M. McINNES
S. HARVEY
S. PATERSON

WEST SECTION
NORTH SECTION
NORTH SECTION
WEST SECTION
CENTRAL SECTION

3. SOUTH WEST REGION

Category 1:

J. PARR
P. WORSTER
R. LAMB
D. MYLCHREEST

EXMINSTER
CIRENCESTER
ANDOVER
LLANTWIT MAJOR

Category 2:

J. WALSH
V. LEWER
W. POTTER
T. PATCHIN

BRIDGEND
WELLS
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
EASTLEIGH

Category 3:

A. TORRANCE
H. PARRY
M. NORFOLK
R. KITCHER

BATH
CWMBRAN
BRIDGEND
NEWPORT

4. MIDLANDS REGION

Category 1:

R. HUGHES
N. WOOLFREY
E. EVANS
T. CHEESE

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
TEWKESBURY
WEST MIDLANDS
WEST MIDLANDS

Category 2:

A. BORASTON
J. PAINE
R. THOMAS
S. DONOGHUE

WEST MIDLANDS
ST. ALBANS
WEST MIDLANDS
LEICESTER

Category 3:

M. BINDLEY
M. BILLINGS
G. ARNOLD
S. PALMER

LEICESTER
DERBY
ILKESTON
TAMWORTH

5. LONDON/SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Category 1:

J. BORJA
N. BALDWIN
M. SMITH
B. TURNER

EPSOM
NORTHWOOD
ST. ALBANS
WOKING

Category 2:

B. WEBSTER
I. McMILLAN
P. SNELL
J. CHAMBERS

WATFORD
FARNHAM
BOURDON
LEATHERHEAD

Category 3:

R. PHILLIPS
D. BURDIS
D. COOMBER
G. DEBENHAM

SHENLEY
SHENLEY
HASSOCKS
FARNHAM

OUT ON THE COURSE AT WELWYN GARDEN



THE course at Welwyn Garden City, founded in 1922, is a popular venue for Hertfordshire golfers. This well known club has a modest claim to fame - a former junior member, Nick Faldo, is the former Open Golf Champion.

The course manager, John Wells, 28, is a competent and practical man who possesses those ideal qualities of leadership and enthusiasm to inspire his industrious team of greenkeepers. John said, "I live in the Garden City with my wife Carol and young daughter Amy. I enjoy playing golf, 14 handicap, but my main sport is cricket and this year I captain our local cricket club. I was fond of football, although I've finished playing now after breaking my leg on two occasions!"

John said, "I left school at 16 not quite knowing what I wanted to do. It was purely by chance that I came into greenkeeping. When I was football training one evening a friend said there was a job going at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club - I applied and got the job. While there I attended educational classes at Oatlands Horticultural College. After a

spell I went to work at Dyrham Park as assistant head greenkeeper. Not long afterwards Welwyn Garden City had a vacancy for a course manager which I secured, and I have been here for over eight years now.

Young team

"I have a reasonably young team of five, including a part time handyman. Three of the staff are now at college taking City and Guilds, and the youngest member will be going next year. Peter Simmonds, our assistant course manager, has been in greenkeeping as long as I have - 11 years. He is a very experienced man, trustworthy and utterly reliable.

"We have a relatively compact parkland course laid out in less than 100 acres which needs frequent mowing to keep it in good shape. I like to keep the greens firm and resilient and prefer fast true putting surfaces that call for the right kind of shot to bite and hold rather than target golf greens.

John continued: "The course is on heavy soil and we do suffer a bit from compaction in confined areas like walkways

Above: Constructing the new putting green at Welwyn Garden City

and bottlenecks, so a lot of aeration needs to be done. For major tracts we use the Sisis DP 48 spiker for autumn and winter aeration on a regular basis when surface conditions permit. We have a brush for the fairways which is used three or four times a year. It helps to raise prostrate stems and allows the gangmowers to do a better job. This improves the quality of the turf and produces better lies for fairway shots.

"I like the Verti-Drain and find it invaluable for relieving compaction on our heavy soil, particularly on the greens, which are quite small. They are old established putting surfaces with very little drainage and need a lot of aeration to keep them permeable enough for rapid moisture penetration. Over the past few years we have lifted several greens and installed pipe drainage. This is part of a yearly improvement programme, whether it be to improve drainage, or re-siting to extend the yardage and adding to the playing strategy", explained John.

"Some tees are smaller than is desirable - the par 3's take quite a pounding. In the last few years we have enlarged many to present more space for all the wear and tear. In confined spots where tees have been extended we used sleeper walls as a means of revetment for the banks.

"Last winter was one of our busiest - we reconstructed the 11th green from scratch. Two tees were extended and three others were re-levelled. Two bunkers were added and two old ones filled in. All that was on top of a tree planting programme. I think most greenkeepers enjoy winter construction jobs: It's creative, the time goes quicker and it is a means of improving the course for the enjoyment of play.



John Wells, Welwyn's Head Greenkeeper

Major projects

"We have tackled major construction projects - about 18 months ago we completely rebuilt a new putting green in front of the clubhouse. Stripping off turf, top soil and re-levelling the subgrade, installing a drainage system with gravel carpet above, a binding layer of course sand, top soil replaced then turf relaid. The area around the green was landscaped with

flower beds and floodlighting to complete the job. This now provides an extremely attractive setting and amenity in front of the clubhouse, particularly when illuminated at night.

"We have invested substantially in the latest machinery to carry out the work economically and speedily," said John. "It gives the staff incentive to know they are all valued as employees. This is reflected in the

conscientious efforts of everybody to give of their best. I think it is important for every club to appreciate those who look after the golf course and we certainly get that support here.

"We are all members of BIGGA and are given time off to attend meetings, lectures and golf days held by the association. We belong to the Mid-Anglia Section, and I have served on the committee for several years and was recently appointed regional representative for the section. It is good to be involved at committee level and know you are making a worthwhile contribution to the affairs of the association."

John continued, "We are all proud to see the association being run professionally and I am optimistic for the future. I hope the membership appreciates just how much voluntary time and effort is made by the various committees to promote our organisation. The lead coming from the top is good. We have to act more professionally in all our affairs, take pride in our jobs, and raise our standards. This is bound to bring higher rewards."

Left: Top Soil laid on the putting green prior to laying turf. Note treading in the foreground before final raking.



Story by John Campbell

TURFGRASS DISEASES IN THE USA

The picture shows
disease detection
kits now available
in the USA

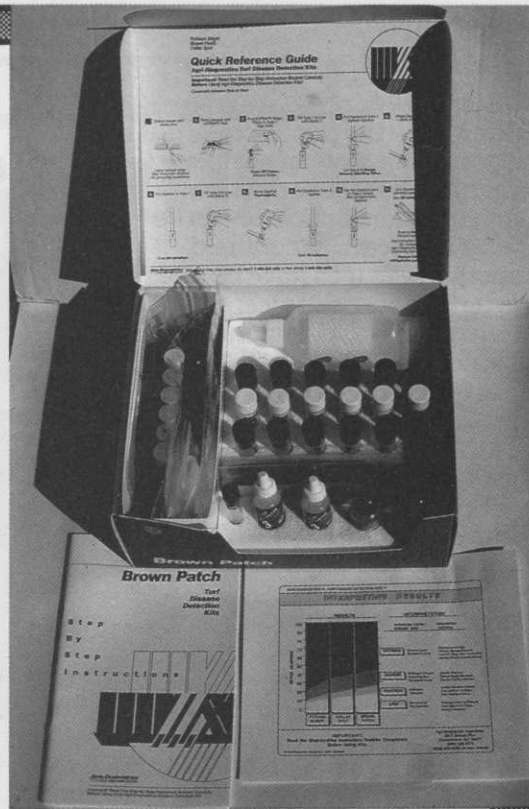
DURING February 1988 I attended the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America's annual conference in Houston, Texas, to catch up on the latest developments on my subject - turfgrass diseases.

This article aims to interest the reader by contrasting UK and USA disease problems and describing new disease control techniques that may well be of use here.

In the USA, over 35 grass species are widely grown as turf which, when subjected to the great variations in climate that occur across America, are susceptible to many different diseases. In fact over 60 different turfgrass diseases have been recorded in the USA, far more than the several fungal diseases considered important on our fescue/bent/annual meadow-grass swards. For example, pythium blight causes significant problems in many USA states, but this disease has not been recorded in the UK, probably due to less favourable environmental conditions for disease development existing here.

One major advance in the USA has been in the development of technology that enables a positive identification of disease to be made. Diagnosis based on visual disease symptoms is reliable for familiar problems such as fusarium patch, but distinguishing between, say, dollar spot, red thread and pink patch diseases can often only be accomplished through microscopical examination by an experienced plant pathologist. However, quick and accurate diagnosis for certain diseases is now possible using "Disease Detection Kits", pictured above, that rely on unique biochemical characteristics of the disease causing fungi. These kits are currently under test at the STRI to evaluate their potential under UK conditions.

As most greenkeepers are aware, the prevailing weather conditions play an important role in determining the severity



of turfgrass disease attacks. In the USA compact weather stations are being installed on golf courses that monitor the principal environmental conditions, eg air and soil temperature, rainfall and humidity, which affect both the turf and its associated diseases. Recorded weather data is then analysed by a computer which calculates daily the likelihood of disease attack. This information, combined with the experience of the greenkeeper, is enabling fungicide sprays to be used to their maximum effect.

To combat turfgrass diseases the American greenkeeper may make 20-30 applications of fungicides each year and also may choose from over 20 different fungicides that are available for use on turf. In contrast, fungicides may be used two or three times a year in the UK from a choice of six or so fungicides available here. However the large dependence on fungicides in the USA has led to many highly active fungicides being developed for the turfgrass market and it is hoped that these chemicals may soon be developed for the UK market, giving greenkeepers here a much wider choice of very effective fungicides.

by Neil Baldwin
Plant Pathologist
at the STRI

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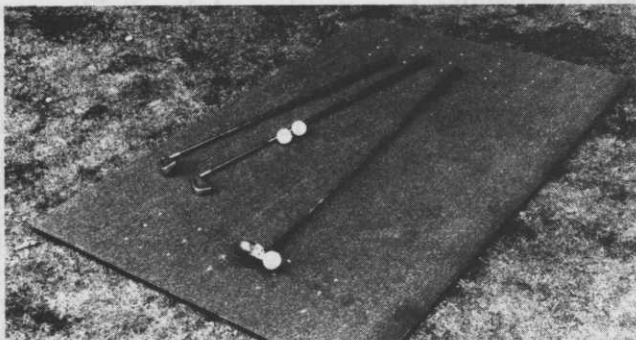
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FACE TO FACE

FROM the first part of the report on my talk with Jeff Perris and David Stansfield it was apparent that the STRI has made a very positive commitment to the sometimes thankless task of advising golf clubs on the best ways to manage their courses. The personnel involved in the new golf unit have a considerable understanding of the problems of those at the sharp end.

Attitudes, whether of greenkeepers, club officials, golfing authorities etc, play an enormous part, and it was my task to explore these matters further.

We started by reviewing the width and extent of the services now offered. The pattern of the annual advisory visit, established in 1930 by Dawson and Hackett, would seem less than adequate to deal with some of the problems stemming from the massive increase in course usage.

David Stansfield was quick to point out that, in the past year, the number of visits he made to individual clubs varied from one to six "depending on whether there was a major problem or not."

'The number of topics has increased'

"The number of topics which now require discussion during a visit has increased enormously. We now have to look carefully at subjects other than standard greenkeeping - social issues, messing facilities, health and safety, provision of adequate machinery and implement sheds, efficiency of both shed facilities and machinery and conservation issues to name

but a few. Conservation is a subject which has become of major importance - especially in the south east of England, and this is spreading to other areas of the country. With all these subjects, if we do not know all the answers, at least we can point the club in the right direction to find the requisite expertise, be it an irrigation engineer or conservation expert."

'We are extending our services'

Jeff Perris said: "We are extending our services to golf right across the board, beginning with more feasibility studies at the planning stage and an increasing involvement in construction."

A new, and welcome, departure is for the STRI to be involved in club membership meetings, with the opportunity to explain the problems, and their solutions, to golfers. Such meetings give a chance for the incorrect beliefs of lay membership to be nailed with scientific information. It is a common observation that the really awkward club member rarely attends a site visit; in his heart of hearts he isn't sufficiently sure of his ground, but he can do great damage at the bar. At a full club meeting he has to put up or shut up.

"At one course" said Jeff, "I had been doing advisory visits for years and years, imploring the club to follow certain advice and yet progress was poor. Matters came to a head within the club and I was invited to address the members. The clubhouse was packed, they were hanging from the rafters

PART II OF EDDIE PARK'S INTERVIEW

and we achieved more in a couple of hours than in sixteen years of annual visits. The membership is now emphatic that, whoever sits on their committee, they must implement the professional advice rather than the whim of an individual committee."

"We have to make sure that clubs are aware of the potential of THEIR course and that they realise that some courses do not have as high a potential as others - perhaps due to unfavourable soil characteristics or poor initial construction. We try to encourage clubs to produce a proper policy document as a means of introducing some continuity into the system. We do try to stop the situation where we are seeing changes of committee and of direction each time we visit the club. It is really essential to try to stop the club that "yo-yos" in its policy." Continued Jeff: "I can think of one club where I can guarantee that the chairman of the green will be one of two local professional men. Mr A favours the links type of course with firm fescue greens.

'Water and fertiliser mad'

After two years of this regime the members begin to think they want the opposite and install Mr B, who is water and fertiliser mad, only to find after a further two years that they really preferred links after all. This has now gone on, believe it or not, for twelve years, but at last we have managed to have an agreed policy document put in place.

"We try to establish a policy

**WITH
JEFF PERRIS
AND
DAVID
STANSFIELD**

which clearly spells out all the objectives and which can be taken to an AGM and voted on as official club policy. There is then an obligation on committees to implement it for five, seven or ten years, or whatever period has been decided. The greenkeeper does not then have to worry that a maverick incoming captain will be able to reverse things.

"Of course we have to think of our professional reputation, and when we find ourselves advising a club which is not implementing that advice we have to think fairly hard about our position. No one will gain in this situation - not ourselves and certainly not the club. There may well be a case for being dogmatic and saying that there is obviously no point in continuing to come to that club. Circumstances vary and much depends on whether we can see any hope for an improvement in attitudes."

I questioned what would happen in the situation, not all that uncommon, where a greenkeeper agrees with a policy, but unwittingly is not achieving results because of some misunderstanding of methods. Both advisers reckoned they could spot enough clues to be able to tell what was happening. David put it this way "If you co-ordinate what you see, both on and under the ground, with what you see in the sheds, you often don't even need to ask what is being done."

'Standards have risen vastly'

There was total agreement that standards of greenkeeping have risen vastly, coupled with

a desire that BIGGA will go from strength to strength. There was concern, however, that education and training is still "rarely valuable because greenkeepers tend to go to college to learn HOW to do something, when they should be learning WHY they are doing it. They expressed the hope also that there will be a greater emphasis on management, and in this respect the course at Elmwood received praise.

Current problems? The most intractable seem to be overplay and resultant wear, especially on walk-on and walk-off areas of greens.

'The greatest need is to look ahead'

The greatest need for many clubs is for them to look ahead, but this is actively discouraged by their constitutions with short-lived committees. I suspect that the pressures on clubs which result in someone wanting to play in every hour of daylight, winter and summer, are now out of control. There is now a sober warning from knowledgeable men that this may not be able to continue.

Even assuming that greenkeepers can get on the course to undertake suitable treatment on areas of high usage, there could arise the necessity for two very unpleasant measures: The need to constrain play to manageable proportions and, on some courses, there may be no alternative to the reconstruction of badly constructed greens.

The hope is that, for most clubs, both these measures are in the future and that most clubs will, in the meantime,

FACE TO FACE

realise the need for expert advice and leadership. The golfing authorities were thought "Not to be sufficiently positive and very similar to club committeemen who are at best part-time and not in a position to take an overview of the whole situation."

Jeff Perris went on the remark that "In all sports, the STRI run into difficulties with the structure of ruling authorities and this makes it difficult to get a message through. The added difficulty in golf is the large number of clubs, all of whom regard themselves as independent republics, answerable only to their members."

Talking to Jeff and David, who have such a wealth of experience behind them, and realising that there is little difference between any of the professional agronomists on basic principles, I really began to feel that this would be good time for those who believe that THEY don't need advisors to think again. Some are just being stubborn, but others are perfectly sincere.

'Excellent presentation, hard work, but...'

Again and again, though, I find the same picture on their courses.

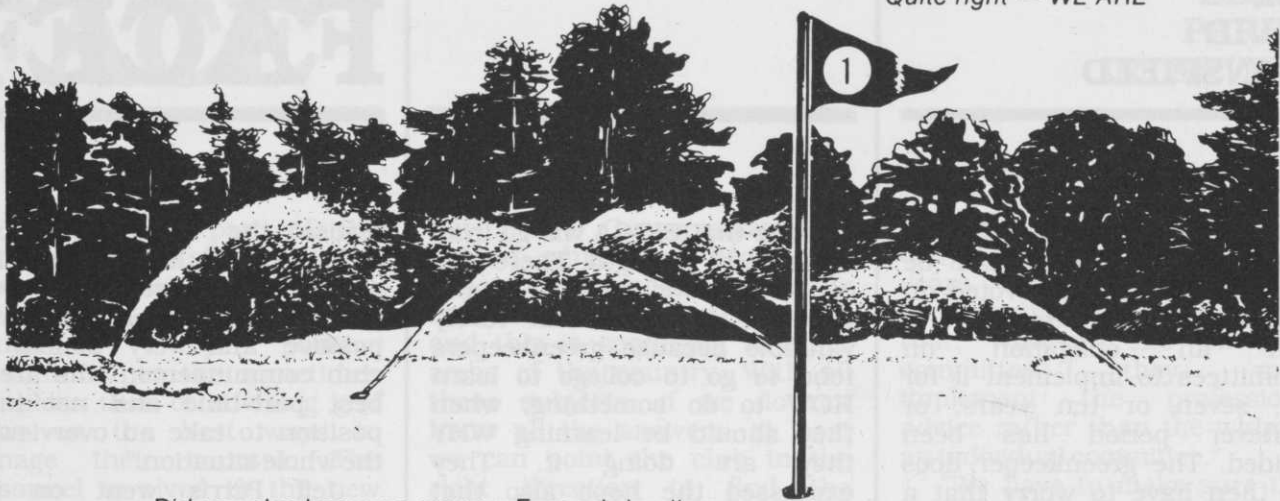
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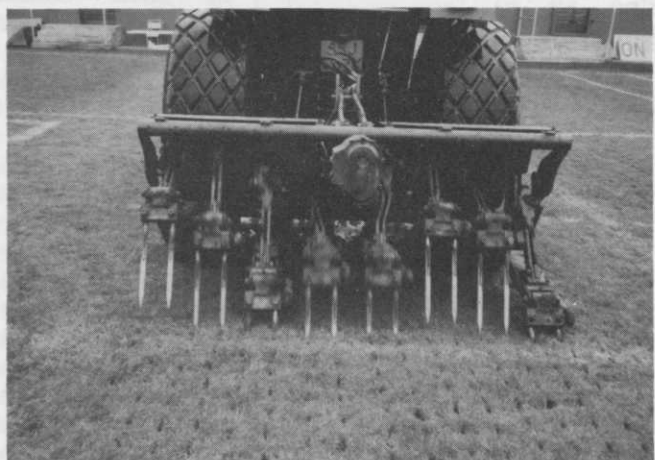
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