

setting was adjusted on each unit, it always seemed to work loose and slip out of alignment to affect the mowing height. To eliminate this we put a bolt right through the complete framework on each unit and now keep them permanently at three quarters of an inch. This was done two years ago and I have found no detriment to the fairways in mowing at this height all the year round".

When I asked Bob Wiles if he has any ideas on how a golf course should be run, he said, "An experienced head greenkeeper should be left to get on with the job. I am very lucky here at the RAC Country Club and it is left to me to run the course as I see fit - I do report to the greens committee once a month, but they never interfere with the day to day running of the course and they expect me to sort out my own problems. Everything I have asked for machinery-wise has always been provided and in return they expect me to keep the courses in first class playing condition.

"Our country club is embarking on a great expansion programme of some £2.5 million. This includes a sports complex consisting of six tennis courts, four squash courts plus an undercover heated swimming pool to be built over the next year" said Bob; "In my opinion the RAC is going to be one of the premier clubs in Europe".

On reflection, after seeing over his operation, I would tend to agree with him!



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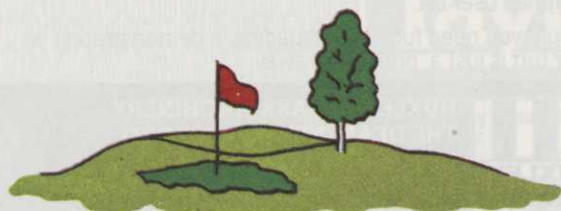
Bob Wiles (extreme left) and his staff at the RAC Country Club.

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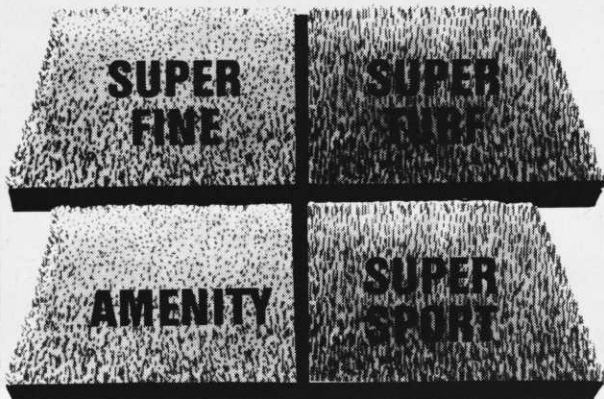
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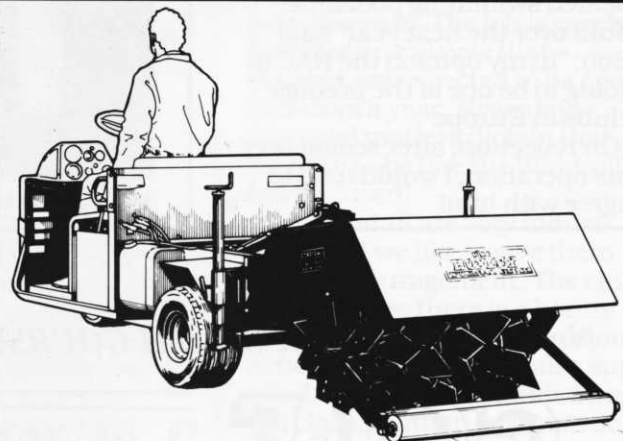
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REGULAR readers of this magazine will know that I have always advocated the attendance at some time by everyone in the golf course industry at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's conference and show. This year, GCSAA held their annual event in Houston, Texas, during February. A sizable party of 'Brits' travelled on a package put together by Richard Frost, public relations officer of the IOG, through Pressplan Travel Ltd. Personally I dislike travelling in groups but the organisation of this trip was excellent. Several of us, including Howard Swan, Peter Wisbey and other of their colleagues from Portugal flew on the Sunday ahead of the main party.

Our flight was a little delayed, due to one of our number believing that the Continental Airlines flight might offer greater comfort and facilities than that of the booked British Caledonian flight! However once he was 'recaptured' we had a most enjoyable passage. The plane being less than a third full, we were able to take advantage of the space and enjoy two particularly violent films after Sunday lunch - and no washing up!

On arrival our group piled into the customary 'van' and made our way to the hotel. Again the arrangements were very good. The "Grand" is situated next to the Galleria, Houston's answer to Knightsbridge or Prince's Street all under one roof - three levels of shops and restaurants surrounding, amongst other things, a full sized ice rink.

We tried to keep going on the Sunday for as long as possible and in this we were helped by the screening of the American Superbowl.

I managed to stay awake longer than most, having backed the underdogs. The Washington Redskins triumphed over the Denver Broncos, amidst incredible razamatazz and some of the most dreadfully obvious sporting commentary I have ever heard.

Our advance party had arrived early in order to attend specific seminars, and amongst the topics chosen were "Basic Turf-grass Botany and Physiology"



The advance party

by James B. Beard PhD. "Golf Course Construction and Project Management" by Stephen Harrell, and "USGA Golf Course Rating Systems" by Dean L. Knuth. By common consent everyone learnt something of value.

Peter Wisbey said that he had never experienced any educational event like it, even when EIGGA was at its height. Peter also felt that a modular conference with other bodies, such as the Course Builders, Architects, Turf Managers and the USGA all participating, had enormous benefits. A change in view-point for him, as after "Golf Course '84" at Cambridge, he had been in favour of greenkeepers going it alone as far as conferences and seminars were concerned.

GRACIOUS

During the first three days much had been learnt, friendships renewed with the staff of GCSAA, all of whom are most gracious with visitors, especially Judy Jones and Colleen Pederson for whom nothing appears to be too much trouble. Thursday was to be a rest day ahead of the weekend's trade show, so through an introduction from Christine Langford, former chairman (or should that be 'person') of the WPGA and now one of a growing band of lady club professionals, we visited the Sweetwater Country Club where, on the magnificent estate, the LPGA have their headquarters and "Hall of Fame". On our arrival we were met by a former compatriot, Elaine Scott, a Wentworth member, former writer with *Golf World* and now Media Services Co-ordinator for the LPGA.

Elaine was kind enough to

arrange a tour of the LPGA Hall of Fame, golf at Sweetwater and a tour of the country club and its marvellous facilities. The \$28 million club was officially opened in 1983 and offers three nine hole layouts, designed by Roger B. Packard who sought the assistance, most diplomatically, of several prominent LPGA members.

There are four indoor and six outdoor tennis courts, raquet ball (similar to squash) basketball and volleyball courts, and the most frightening health club - all power and perspiration. Some of these facilities were put to full use, for as Elaine left us to go back to work, we sallied forth. Only four holes later, soaked to the skin and colder than I have ever been, even on the Kent coast in winter, we called it a day.

Sweetwater appeared to be one of the less extravagant American creations, with one particularly memorable short hole being sampled - no pars were recorded! Having come to the conclusion that it was time to stop, getting a buggy back to



Sweetwater Country Club, located in the heart of the Professional Golf Association

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the clubhouse in something approaching a straight line proved to be a challenge and to the driver who met us head on, coming down the wrong side of the estate's dual carriageway in blinding rain - my apologies. After an hour in the steam room, sauna and shower, in a locker room that would have not been out of place in a five star hotel, we collected our freshly pressed clothes and adjourned to the club's restaurant. Over an excellent

was a promotional film splendidly produced by GCSAA's media director Bob Still detailing the work of the superintendent. This film will be shown to BIGGA members later this year and it is something that the Association would do well to immitate.

Friday is the first day of the Trade Show for distributors and trade personnel only. Luckily the press are allowed a preview. Although trade day is pretty hectic there is not a great

Eric Hunter of the Eric Hunter Grinders in Newcastle, Trevor Martin of Vitax who supports the IOG's Young Groundsman and Master Groundsman of the year awards, both of whom make the trip as part of their prize, Rolf Loewgren of the Swedish Golf Federation, Ron Fream the golf course architect who is doing so much work on the continent, Gerry Brouwer of Brouwer Equipment from Canada which is now part of Cushman/Ryan and many,

MICHAEL COFFEY OUT AND ABOUT IN TEXAS

lunch, again of five star standard, Elaine Scott told us a little of the LPGA's history and how thanks to the Galleria's developer Gerald Hines, who owns Sweetwater, their multi million dollar operation has such a luxurious home.

STIRRING

We returned to the George R. Brown convention centre for the opening session hosted by GCSAA's president Donald Hearn. This featured not only a stirring address from Jim Tunney, whose many accomplishments include being an NFL referee, former head teacher and highly professional speaker and motivator, but also a new TV advertisement for GCSAA. Additionally there

volume of traffic, so I managed to get round most of the show while other members of the by now greatly increased UK party went off in other directions to the NASA Johnson Space Centre, New Orleans or even to the golf course.

There were a number of interesting items, a new ride-on from Jacobsen, the LF100. On the Ransomes stands, of which there were several (a novel approach) were one or two SIS machines which are now being marketed in the USA by Ransomes Inc. Arthur Harrison of SIS was there to obtain first hand reactions. David Jenkins and Phillip Treadgold were helping Verti-Drain's sales along. This machine is really starting to take off in the States.

Many superintendents, having listened to Jack McMillan's talk in Pheonix last year on "deep aeration," have taken the plunge after being reassured that putting surfaces would not be permanently damaged. Chris Smith of Jacobsen was busy on their stand and Gerald Bruce the winner of the Jacobsen Greenkeepers Golf Tournament also got a preview of what was new.

It is a testament to the success of the GCSAA's show how many people you meet from all over the world drawn together for this one event. Len Breakwell of E.T. Breakwell in Birmingham, Mike Eddington of STS in Edinburgh, Stan Ellison of "Turf Management"

many more.

That evening Ransomes Inc. gave a splendid reception at which the whole UK contingent was present. Ransomes chief executive Bob Dodsworth, sales director Keir Wyatt, as well as Brian Mitchell, played hosts and much goodwill was created with customers and friends from around the globe.

STRIKING

Saturday sees the trade show floor opened to the general public. Some 15,000 visit the show over the three days, and most make a dash to claim their Jacobsen's baseball cap - a prized souvenir each year. The most striking stand was Toro's with their entire staff decked out in red, white and blue, to match the convention centre, including white flat caps 'a' la Bobby Locke, red 'knickers' (plus fours to us!), and red, white and blue argyll socks - the equipment took a back seat. Even Peter Roberts of Toro Irrigation, happily recovering from a recent illness, was so attired. Toro also hosted an international reception which included a prize draw. One can only conclude that sales in Japan needed a boost by the number of winners from that country! Graham Dale of Lely, Toro's distributors in the UK, saw to it that the UK party were again well fed and watered especially Messrs Hayes and Baldwin of the STRI. Prawns must be in >



part of First Colony, is the home of the Ladies Golf Club. The club's Clubhouse, Offices and Hall of Fame. The club's largest women players is open to the public from Friday with no admission fees.

ST
NY



< short supply in Bingley, but then they have Harry Ramsden's fish shop down the road!

Sunday is a repeat of Saturday for most, as the trade show is so vast that it takes over 20 minutes to walk round the perimeter without stopping.

At the same time and therefore to a thin audience, the Sports Turf Managers Association programme was under way. The STMA had invited Dr Peter Hayes to speak, as well as Christine Smith of *the Groundsman* and Huw Morgan and Laurence Pithie the Groundsmen of the Year. I had the pleasure of lunching with an old friend, Jim Prusa, the former assistant director of GCSAA who now heads the National Office Machine Distributors Association. Jim was in attendance as a former superintendent, member of GCSAA and member of the USGA rules committee to speak at the USGA session on the Monday. This he did, his theme being the need for superintendents to support the turfgrass research programme to which GCSAA and the USGA amongst others have contributed substantial sums, which have been used by universities country-wide to study a variety of turfgrass problems, such as new varieties for extreme climatic conditions, the effect of reduced watering, thatch and its related diseases.

Clearly as the turfgrass research programme is something of a 'hot potato' currently within GCSAA, both the USGA and the Association felt that an update on progress halfway through was called for. The USGA Green Section director Bill Bengeyfield gave an illustrated report on the programme thus far. One can only hope that this kind of research, irrespective of its actual subject, continues to grow worldwide, not just in America, and that all involved in golf, especially the players, continue to support such programmes.

Reverting to Sunday, GCSAA's president Donald Hearn gave a reception for a few hundred honoured guests, clearly a time for some to start winding down. I had an opportunity to talk to Bob Ochs, GCSAA's

lawyer, who sits at the right hand of the president at the AGM to ensure that the Association's business is carried out to the letter of the law - I hope it never comes to that with the BIGGA! Jacobsen International's dinner followed with at least fifteen countries represented. Our host, Curt Kimpfbeck, was as gracious as ever and he presented a number of awards to the top salesmen for all the Jacobsen range in the International division. This was followed by a presentation to Jacobsen from the IOG, made by Ray Johnson, of an Institute Crest. Finally all the guests were given a gift of a Jacobsen paper knife when leaving.

INTERNATIONAL

On the Monday after the USGA session we joined a party of Germans, all involved in the golf course industry, at a seminar organised by the Toro company at Woodlands, the Tournament Players course and home of the Houston Open. After lunch Howard Swan and I accompanied by Peter Wisbey, played nine holes, in buggies, in an hour and twenty minutes - being called through by three fourballs and a two ball - surely a record in America! The golf wasn't bad either. The course was, in all honesty, not that great - suffering from an excess of water. Whether natural or man made it was hard to tell.

For me this was the end of another enjoyable trip to the US as I had to return on the Monday night flight.

GCSAA honoured Gene Sarazen with their 'Old Tom Morris' award. Sarazen joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg and Robert Trent Jones Snr as

recipients of the prestigious award for services and commitment to the game of golf. Sarazen was the first man to achieve the professional Grand Slam having won the 1932 Open Championship, the 1935 Masters and won the US Open twice and the USPGA three times.

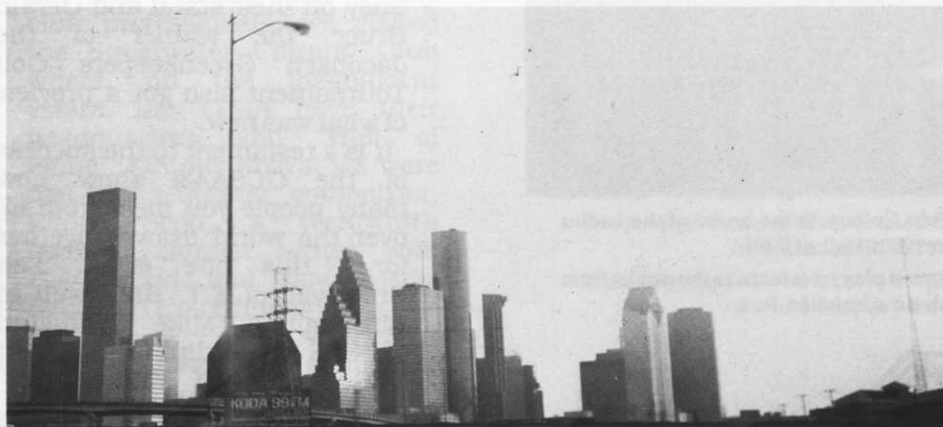
INTERESTING

It was a most interesting trip and one which, as I have said, I would encourage anyone involved in golf to make. One learnt a great deal, not necessarily about American climatic conditions or their huge maintenance budgets, but about the way they organise their Association, the way they project greenkeeping as a profession, the individual's attitude to education, the education of the establishment to reward the better educated superintendent, not to mention sight of new products, machinery and ideas which like automatic irrigation, the ride-on triplex and a host of other new products will, whether we like it or not, arrive in our own country sooner or later.

The cost of the package, plus daily living expenses, shopping and sight-seeing, would probably total between £600 and £750. Certainly not a cheap trip. and for the next two years (Anaheim, California, 1989 and Orlando, Florida, 1990) the cost will be greater than the oil-effected economy of Houston.

But then ask anyone who has been, especially those bright greenkeepers who have attended the educational sessions, and ask them whether they think it is worthwhile. I think their answer would be an emphatic 'yes'.

The Houston skyline



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MANAGING A SURREY HEATHLAND COURSE

IN an earlier article John Harris described the management philosophy that has provided the foundation for course management at Hankley Common. I would like to cover the greenkeeping practices that have been built on this basic management philosophy and used to develop and maintain the unique Surrey heathland that is Hankley Common Golf Club.

The club was established in 1895 as nine holes and redesigned in 1921 as 18 holes by the great James Braid at a cost of £1800. It became an Army training area during the 1939-45 war and was restored post-war by club members, the Tyler brothers. In 1976 a large area of the heath was devastated by fire.

The late Bobby Locke used the course to prepare for the championship and he always described it as the course nearest to an inland links.

In 1972 the late Charles Lawrie described the course as "One of the best inland layouts in Britain, in the worst possible condition".

UNIQUE

Hankley Common is a dry heathland site of 856 acres, which is classified as an area of special scientific interest and with natural characteristics that justify my claim to its uniqueness.

It requires no drainage apart from aeration to relieve compaction. There are several bridle paths that go through the site and cross several fairways, adding to the strategic value of the holes. For example, standing on the 17th tee, golfers are faced with

the option of going for the carry across the bridle path or playing short.

The course's sand soil structures are best illustrated by the photographs with this article showing the various stratas of soil and sand. The grasses are fescue/agrostis indigenous grasses as on other heathland sites, but unfortunately, as on other courses they are no longer the only species to be found on the greens due to the induction of annual meadow grasses for a variety of reasons.

MAJOR ATTRACTION

A major attraction is the ling and bell heathers, of which there is an abundance, whilst moss, algae and lichen can be a problem and crop up on compacted and thin areas of the fairways.

The ingenious trees are rowan, scrub oak, silver birch and some pine. A point worth noting is that there is virtually no molinia grass other than in the rough on the 3rd, which is very close to the water table.

Wildlife on the heath includes a combination of pests and endangered species: namely - rabbits, foxes, deer, badgers, sand lizards, snakes (adder, smooth and grass), Natterjack toad, rare birds (Dartford Warbler, hawks, Yellow Hammer etc) and crows and magpies.

Imported characteristics include past ryegrass overseeding imported by 1970's divoting and in the use of alien turf in past construction programmes. Fairway overseeding in the 1970's after the leatherjacket devastation imported annual



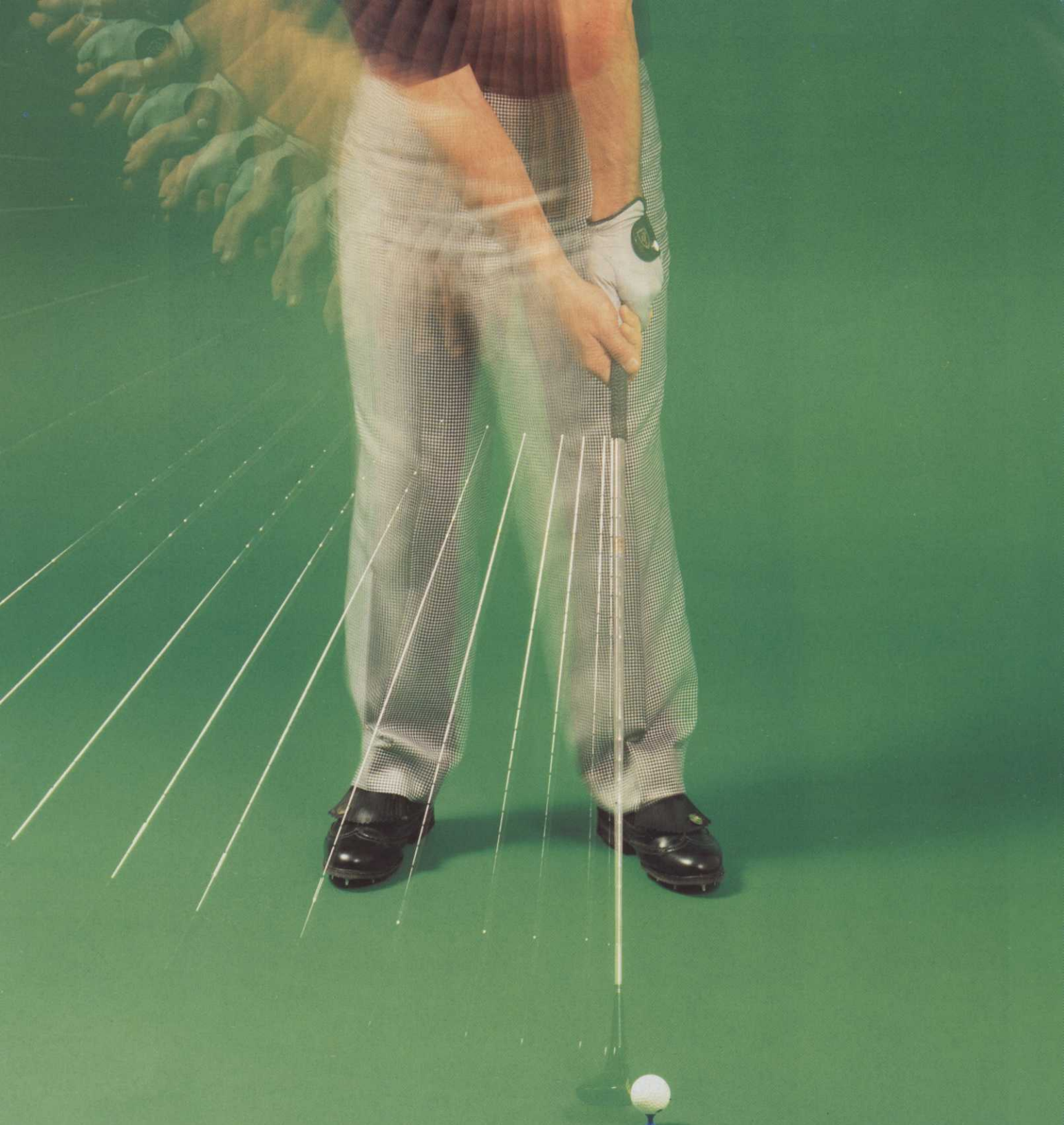
Ian McMillan
Course Manager
Hankley Common G. C.

meadow and other "farmers" grasses. Compaction, over-watering and misuse of fertilizers has also contributed to the colonisation by the enemy of all professional greenkeepers, *poa annua*. Its only virtue is its ability to fill in any wound or opening in the turf, giving coverage for a short period of time.

War is being waged with every method known to us.

The sward on the greens is generally agrostis, isolated but multiplying patches of fescue on some greens, with the balance which I would estimate at 25% being *poa annua*. The fescue is a rare sight on inland greens and only time will tell if this will return in the percentage that we would like. I have reservations about this because I am not convinced that it will flourish cut below 3/16th".

The past use of downland turf has also brought with it the additional problems of worms and non indigenous weeds such as daisies, buttercups, and buckshorn plaitain. The latter may have also been introduced in imported soils and by the use of sludge (sewage) as a fairway fertilizer. Scots



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TEES AND SURROUNDS



Marquis Range

The Marquis range is ideal for high quality maintenance of fine turf areas such as tees and surrounds. Now available in three cutting widths, 45, 51 and 61 cm, they have durable high-speed, all-welded cutting cylinders and height of cut adjustment from 6–27mm. Power is provided by a quiet running, air-cooled petrol engine with simple controls. The Marquis gives a thoroughly reliable and efficient performance and a well-groomed finish.



Motor 180

For fast, accurate and versatile mowing of tees and surrounds, Ransomes Motor 180 ride-on triple takes some beating. Powered by a robust 11hp petrol engine with electric start and with a choice of 7-knife floating head cutting units or 5-knife fixed head units, the Motor 180 will give the best finish to your turf. Exceptional manoeuvrability is provided by the instant forward and reverse hydrostatic drive and single rear wheel steering. The wide front drive wheels and low centre of gravity allow excellent traction and stability on steep slopes, with minimum turf compaction. Large capacity grasscatchers are available to ensure a tidy finish.

FAIRWAYS



Motor 350D

Ransomes Motor 350D is tailor-made for cost-effective fairway maintenance, it offers fast mowing and simplicity of operation plus real savings in running costs. The 3.5m cutting width combined with the powerful 38hp diesel engine adds up to an exceptionally high work rate. Mowing efficiency comes from the choice of Sportcutter floating head units or large diameter, fixed head Magna cutting units. All hydraulic drive and lift, instant forward and reverse, and



power steering, provide outstanding manoeuvrability and ease of handling making the Motor 350D a leader in cost-effective fairway maintenance.



Hydraulic 5/7 Sportcutter

The Hydraulic 5/7 Sportcutter, fitted with 8-knife floating head cutting units giving a 4.65m cutting width, produces a finer finish on fairways. Hydraulic drive and lift to each cutting unit allow any combination to be used to vary the width of cut, and easy folding for transport. High work rate, versatility and ease of operation make the Hydraulic 5/7 one of the most popular compact gang mowers of its type.



Mounted Hydraulic 5

The Mounted Hydraulic 5 is a fully-mounted, fine-cutting gang mower that's particularly effective on fairways where undulations can make mowing difficult. The five floating head, 6-knife cutting units produce a fine ground-following cut of 3.43m width. Finger-tip control hydraulically raises the mower and folds the outer units for easy transport.

GREENS

The new Ransomes GT is a revolutionary all-hydraulic greens triple mower incorporating many unique features that give precise control over all mowing operations. The three, 9-knife hydraulically driven cutting units give consistent precise mowing to a width of 1.68m. Height of cut can be adjusted from 3 to 19mm and units can be changed in seconds without tools. Hydraulic control raises the cutting units and push-buttons locks any combination out of work. Hydrostatic power steering, the rugged 2-cylinder, water-cooled diesel engine and variable speed with instant forward and reverse create a machine that's a pleasure to operate and exceptionally manoeuvrable. Quiet, fast, and super-efficient, the Ransomes GT is the ultimate greens machine.



Super Certes

The new Super Certes is designed to produce an immaculate finish on greens with ease and precision. Available in 51 and 61 cm cutting widths, the high-speed, 10-knife cutting cylinder gives 140 cuts per metre with height of cut adjustment from 3 to 13mm. Features include an easy-start, single cylinder petrol engine, a separate cutting cylinder clutch and a pawl box differential which ensures easy turning without marking the green. Power driven wheels can be fitted for transport between greens.

BUNKERS

The all-hydraulic, ride-on Super Rake is tailor made for cost-effective maintenance of bunkers. The 16hp engine with electric start, ensures fast inter-bunker transport and efficient operation of the 3-section rake and finishers and weeder attachment. The wide tyres and rear wheel traction, together with a low centre of gravity, ensure optimum efficiency and operator confidence. A Motor Rake with mechanical drive is also available.



Super Rake and Motor Rake

COURSE MAINTENANCE

The TM80 Aerifier overcomes the problem of ground compaction. It improves soil texture and promotes healthy turf growth, thatch control, and wear resistance. The fixed axle allows deeper penetration of 'high spots' on undulating ground, creating a level surface. Smooth action of discs enables faster working speeds without vibration. With a working width of 1.65m, the 80 aerifier spoons will cultivate to a depth of 127mm allowing stronger root formation.



TM80 Aerifier

It's the most effective method of maintaining your playing surfaces in top condition.



Verticut 214

Ransomes Verticut 214 controls the lateral surface growth of turf on fairways by verticutting, thereby preventing the build-up of thatch. New growth is encouraged and surfaces are maintained in peak condition. The floating head action of the 18-disc verticut units follows undulations, preventing damage to the turf. A single lever movement puts the hydraulically-driven units into drive, neutral or reverse. Quick attachment to the tractor and narrow transport width make the Verticut 214 the most practical, cost-effective course maintenance machine.



TMV20

Whatever the maintenance job around the course, you'll find the Ransomes TMV20 invaluable. Its 23hp petrol engine and hydrostatic drive makes operation simple and gives low running and maintenance costs. In addition to the hydraulically tipped, standard dumpbox, there's a host of optional attachments available from other suppliers: aerator, roller, seeder, sweeper, turf-cutter, and more. It's the most versatile turf maintenance vehicle available today.

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Cross section of sand pit.

pine has been introduced in quantity by the planting of post war years. These plantations account for the most major change in the character of the heath.

CONSERVATION

The club has had a policy of conservation for the last four years and as John Harris said in his article, the club has a policy to retain the natural heathland characteristics for future generations. The programmes to achieve this goal include heather re-planting/seeding, heather revetting, indigenous grass encouragement, birch and pine culling, culled tree root control, preservation of rowan and scrub oak, re-routing foot and vehicle traffic and educating golfers.

Communication to members plays an important role in these activities because, like all golf clubs, we have members who confuse conservation with preservation. The heathland is by nature an open environment and to conserve this, control of the silver birch weed and the imported Scots pine is very necessary".

Unfortunately until four years ago the trees had been allowed to reproduce themselves profusely. The chainsaw has a most important role to play at Hankley Common in the programme of conservation of the heath. Trees are culled and the roots are then treated with the mixture of diesel oil and Garlon.

The heather at Hankley Common is quite spectacular, if not always appreciated by the wayward golfer. The heather is always allowed to flower and seed before being cut

and extensive transplanting of heather has a place in many of our construction programmes. I am investigating means of collecting heather seeds for seeding purposes, and if this proves successful it will provide a less labour intensive means of propagation.

Routine maintenance programmes include mowing, verticutting, top dressing, fertilizing, aeration, spraying, bunkers, irrigation reviewing hole and tee positions and course presentation.

Vigour in growth on our course is very slow and therefore it is necessary to provide stimulation, especially on the fairways, in order to cope with the ever increasing wear and tear by traffic and golfers' divots. All rhizomes and stoloniferous growth are removed with every divot and due to dryness, lack of fibre, removal by birds and sweeping of fairways for presentation purposes, the take rate for divot re-generation is extremely low. Divoting takes place on a regular monthly basis and prior to major competitions.

IMPROVEMENTS

It is hoped that our programmes will create the necessary improvements so that the divoting is reduced and reclamation is achieved by means of rhizomes and stolons.

Growth is encouraged by the use of nitrogenous and organic fertilisers. Sulphate of iron is applied to control moss, algae and lichen and produce colour for presentation purposes. Nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia is applied in an attempt to keep

annual meadow grass at bay. The fairways are cut weekly with a hydraulic 5. This is a testimony to the gradual improvement that is being made - in quite recent years I understand that cutting only took place about four times a year.

Fertilization and weed control programmes must be very carefully timed with minimal rates of application at any one time. If you get it wrong on this heath the damage can be long lasting. As the late Bobby Locke said, the fairways at Hankley are most definitely the closest in character to the seaside links that can be found on any inland course in Britain. Our intention is to improve their condition whilst retaining their character.

FERTILIZERS

Greens are dressed at least once per month, and more often early in the season, and in preparation for important club competitions. Nitrogenous fertilizers are used in several forms, such as sulphate of ammonia, dried blood and hoof & horn. Sulphate of iron is applied in liquid and solid form through autumn, winter and spring to keep disease at bay, harden plants and provide colour. We avoid using sulphate of iron and sulphate of ammonia during the summer because this is known to cause dry patch. We rely totally on the natural colour of the high percentage of bent grasses for the whole of the summer period.

Another indigenous grass that is found on the greens is the light coloured heathrush that gives a speckled appearance. This species is common to dry heathland sites as opposed to most other rushes, which are found on wet sites.

Irrigation is monitored most carefully and is applied in relation to the prevailing climatic conditions and soil moisture content. Artificial holding conditions are not created at Hankley Common. Localised hand-watering is used because even with maximum aeration and the use of wetting agents, surface run-

The 16th hole

off is inevitable on closely mown surfaces - especially during periods of drought.

The greens are cut on a daily basis during the growing season and weekly during the dormant period, using both pedestrian and triplex mowers as appropriate. Verticutting is less of a requirement here because the greens are naturally less vigorous. It is done only during lush growing periods and to keep thatch at bay. Similar practices are applied to surrounds, approaches and tees.

Holes are changed twice weekly and on all competition days. Tees are checked daily and moved if necessary to spread wear.

CONSISTENT

There is an on-going programme of course presentation to offer members consistent playing conditions with extra time and effort allocated for the club's major golfing days. All staff take an active role in course presentation and have an input at discussions to facilitate further improvements. Overall durability and the consistent all-the-year-round quality of the course is not sacrificed for presentation purposes.

The golfer is always kept in mind when planning work programmes and the practices employed in greenkeeper/ golfer relations are:-

- Early starts
 - Work programmes 18th to 1st
 - No major work on competition days
 - Evening programmes at height of season
 - Afternoon course closure before major competitions
- Construction is carried mostly during the period November through to April. During the past four years, construction has been carried in relation to:-

- Tees
- Bunkers
- 2nd green re-build
- Heather turfing
- Roadways and paths
- Fences
- Carparks



The purchase of a back hoe has proved an important investment in relation to these major construction programmes.

To preserve the natural characteristics of the heathland/ woodland, management programmes are an essential part of the greenkeeper's year. A major part of each winter's programme is devoted to woodland control by:-

- Thinning of pines
- Culling of birch
- Culling of pines
- Burning gorse

Heathland management is a vital consideration in preserving the unique golfing environment of Hankley Common. It is the stated aim of the club to preserve the natural heathland for future generations of golfers.

The heather is cut February/ March and extensive heather re-planting has formed a part of the winter programme for the last four years. Heather is allowed to seed before cutting and the use of heather in the construction of tees and bunkers is the common practice.

The practice ground also provides the heather turf nursery of ling dwarfed by many years of annual cutting and gives a priceless supply of turfs.

Indigenous grasses are allowed to seed and indigenous grass species are used for all re seeding.

PESTS

There are a number of rodents and pests which are common to our heath. We control crows and magpies by shooting and rabbits by shooting and ferreting. Leatherjackets and

chafer grubs are controlled by spraying and the control of these grubs in turn controls badger and bird activity.

There are three irrigation systems in active use. There is an old mains water supply which proves its worth in periods of drought to provide hand-watering to all greens. This system proves invaluable in watering dry areas, proud areas and areas not covered by our early Watermation system. This is proving extremely problematical because spare parts are no longer available and each repair requires a complete new unit to be installed. In addition, a very useful piece of plant is a Molex tanker which is used to irrigate tees and some areas of fairways. It also has an important role to play in the event of heath fires.

FACILITIES

Working facilities currently leave much to be desired and they consist of a poorly equipped workshop. A residential caravan exists for staff and office facilities, and we have rotting greenhouses that leak and are not large enough to house the club's expanding inventory of plant and equipment.

On the plus side there is a recently constructed substantial concrete mixing yard with adequate storage facility for dressings. The really good news is that the club have just received planning permission for new propose-built facilities which are planned for this year and will include greenhouses, chemical and fertilizer stores and full staff facilities. Health and Safety regulations will be