

ON THE COURSE

the greenkeeping staff a chance to do all the jobs on the course for variety and experience. Once a man has been properly trained he will have the ability and confidence to work on his own without direct supervision. We have quite a young staff who are enthusiastic and like to talk about the profession. Three of them have the potential to eventually become good head-greenkeepers."

"My club is very progressive and have always been considerate in all their dealings with me. For the past few years we have been running on a tight budgetary system. Last year we did very well from green fees and were able to give the staff an acceptable pay increase as a result."

"Each year I present the committee with a budget for running the course which has to be approved. After this it is virtually up to me to keep strictly to my estimates. The Treasurer's monthly statements tell me whether I am under or over budget but basically my financial forecasts have always worked out quite well."

"I have a good Green Convenor who keeps in touch with me on a regular basis about course matters, I am also in daily contact with the club secretary. The committee leave me to get on with the job of running the course and we don't have too many green committee meetings which is the way things should be."

"I had always been involved with the affairs of SIGGA and at one time held the posts of vice-chairman and chairman of the West Section. When I moved to Ayrshire I eventually became Secretary for this area. Being keen on greenkeeper training and education locally I have been working closely with Harry Diamond in setting up a programme for the technical college and we have had discussions with the managing agents for the YTS. There is always plenty to do and we all have a contribution to make to the success of BIGGA."

"Part of a contented life for any greenkeeper is having a nice area to live and work in and for that I have no complaints. Another consideration is a happy family life with good educational facilities in the vicinity for the children. We are fortunate to have a superb sports complex nearby which is an added bonus. I am contented with my life style so what more could one ask for!"

BIGGA/SUPATURF 1989 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, 4th-6th April, 1989

The programme for the conference will be distributed to members shortly, but in the next few months, THE GOLF COURSE will profile a number of the speakers, commencing in this issue, with Professor J B Beard of Texas A & M University. Members are reminded that places can be secured at this stage by forwarding payment of £15.00 deposit to headquarters office.

DR JAMES B BEARD

Professor Beard was born in Bradford, Ohio and is married with two sons. His academic record includes periods at Ohio State University (B.S. Agronomy), Purdue University (M.S. Turfgrass Ecology and Ph. D. Turfgrass Physiology), and a N.S.F. Post-Doctoral at the University of California - Riverside.

He has held a number of senior positions and since 1975 has been Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas A & M University in which post he provides leadership and co-ordination of the research programme in stress physiology and culture of perennial grasses. Professor Beard has pioneered investigations concerning: turfgrass evapotranspiration, rooting, drought stress, metabolic basis of indirect heat stress, shade adaptation, wear tolerance, and thatch biodegradation. Discovery of the spring root decline phenomenon in C-4 grasses is of particular note. Other research emphases have been on the prevention of winter injury, ecology of grass communities, roadside establishment, and sod production. He is the author of 114 scientific journal papers and 286 popular technical articles.

His teaching activities have included two undergraduate turfgrass courses plus graduate grass ecology and stress physiology courses. He has been active in graduate and undergraduate curriculum development, and currently advises approximately 25 undergraduate students and has served as major professor to 36 graduate students. He was previously involved in extension activities, and lectures widely throughout North America.

He is the author, in collaboration with his wife, Harriet, of four books and a laboratory manual, and had given numerous invitational papers and served as an advisor at international conferences and symposia in the US, Europe, Far East, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. He was instrumental in the initiation and organisation of the First International Turfgrass Research Conference held in Harrogate in 1969. Professor Beard has been Chairman of the departmental Undergraduate Curriculum, Graduate, and Advisory Committees, and has served on many national committees including the Roadside Development Committee of the Highway Research Board, National Research Council, Research Advisory Committee of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Musser Foundation Board of Directors, Southern Regional Task Force on Plants to Enhance Man's Environment, and the CAST Task Force on Chlordane and Heptachlor.

Professor Beard has written a number of books including 'Turfgrass: Science and Culture' (1973), and 'Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses' (1983). He is a Past President of the Crop Science Society of America and Past Chairman of the American Society of Agronomy.

BIGGA is delighted to have obtained the services of such a distinguished speaker for the Cambridge Conference and Professor Beard has agreed to give two lectures on

- (i) 'Current Trends in the Maintenance and Science of Golf Course Turfs in the United States' and
- (ii) 'Basic Turfgrass Nutritional Strategies'

We look forward to welcoming him to Cambridge.



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REVIEW

Woodbridge set a fine test for Ransomes Tournament

Ransomes held its 6th International Greenkeepers and Superintendents golf tournament at Woodbridge Golf Club, Suffolk in October. Twelve teams were entered, however Spain had to withdraw at the last minute due to the extensive flooding in the south of their country.

The BIGGA fielded three teams, all equally splendid in their Association colours. Neil Thomas was the team manager for Wales, Jack McMillan for England and Jimmy Neilson for Scotland. As usual the USA and Canada looked very strong in practice, with the West Germans looking like a good each way bet.

Play got under way bright and early on a gorgeous autumn day, with Austria out first, then Canada who made a solid start but by the turn it was England who had their noses in front thanks to some fine play by John Teixeira and Jan Farrall. After the morning round

England led with 46 pts the USA were alongside Scotland on 43 pts with Canada, Sweden and Wales all within striking distance on 41 pts.

England clearly lunched too well as they failed to improve. Canada and the USA played consistently well, as did Wales, but it was Scotland, who brought in Regional Administrator Chris Kennedy for the afternoon round who burnt the course up scoring 4pts a hole on four occasions and with a score of 49pts eventually won by 4pts from England who faded to 41pts in the afternoon with the USA coming third.

In the evening there was a splendid banquet at the Orwell Moat House Hotel attended by team members, managers and various guest of Ransomes. The whole event was most efficiently organised by John Wilson, ably assisted by the Ransomes sales team. During the evening the presentation of the prizes

was made by the Captain of Woodbridge, Brigadier Johnny King - Martin. He, together with John Wilson, made entertaining speeches in which they both paid tribute to the excellence of the Woodbridge course under the supervision of head greenkeeper Lyn Arbon. They can be fewer more taxing events to hold for any greenkeeper than a tournament for ones peers from all over the world.

The Scots were naturally delighted by their success and in his speech of thanks on behalf of all the competitors, Chris Kennedy paid tribute to Ransomes for bringing so many members of the golf course maintenance industry together in such friendly and enjoyable circumstances. He also reminded the audience that Scotland had won the last time the Ransomes International had been held at Woodbridge when the team included Jack McMillan and John Campbell - a happy hunting ground indeed.

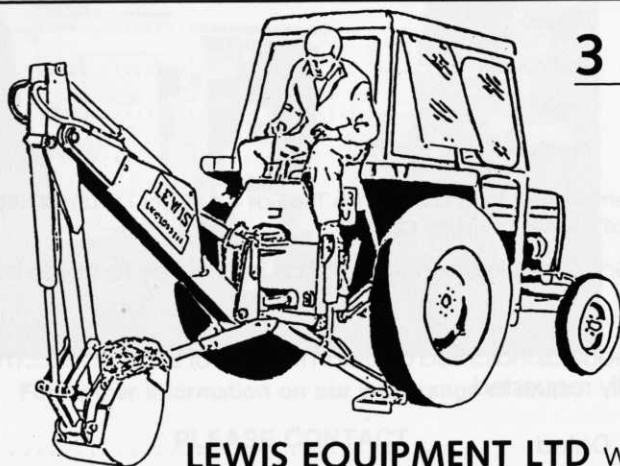
No doubt in three years time the tournament will attract an even larger entry and contribute to even greater friendships and contacts throughout the greenkeeping world.

Results of the 11 teams:

Scotland 43-49-92; **England** 46-41-87; **United States** 43-43-86; **Canada** 41-42-83; **Wales** 41-42-83; **Holland** 39-42-81; **West Germany** 40-41-81; **Republic of Ireland** 40-40-80; **Sweden** 41-39-80; **Northern Ireland** 40-39-79; **Austria** 31-29-60.



Seated on a bunker intimidatingly short of the 16th green at Woodbridge G.C. is Len Arbon's Greenkeeping Team which includes his son Kevin and brother-in-law Philip. Members of the team are (left to right), Allan Turner, Paul Jones, Philip Savage, Len Arbon, Maurice Bäckhouse and Kevin Arbon.



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**British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
1989 Greenkeeper Membership Application Form**

(NB NOT to be completed by 1988 members)

To be returned to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU.
Tel: 0274-560556

Please complete fully in BLOCK CAPITAL letters:

Full name Name of employer
Home address Address
.....
County County
Post code Post code
Telephone Tel:
Date of birth Position held
..... Date of appointment

Professional qualifications

I wish to be affiliated to the *Section (see below)

I hereby apply for membership of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Signed Dated

Subscriptions are not to be sent with this form but will be invoiced separately

Fees payable will be: Full Greenkeeping Member **£28.00**; 18 years of age and under **£14.00**.

Sections

Scottish Region: Ayrshire, Central, East, North, West; **Northern England Region:** North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield; **Midlands and North Wales Region:** East Midland, Midland and North Wales, East of England, Mid Anglia, Berks/Bucks/Oxon; **South East Region:** East Anglia, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London; **South West Region:** South West, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South Wales.

**British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
1989 Associate and Trade Membership Application Form**

(NB NOT to be completed by 1988 members)

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Tel: 0274-560556

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County
Post code
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Categories of Membership: B.1. (Associate member) **£12.50**; B.2. (Associate member including subscription to 'The Golf Course' for 1 year) **£21.50**; C.1. (Trade member) **£15.00**; C.2. (Trade member including subscription to 'The Golf Course' for 1 year) **£24.00**.

I hereby apply for membership of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

I wish to join as a member and enclose my cheque as indicated above in the sum of £..... made payable to BIGGA. A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

Signed Dated

Please note that Trade/Associate membership is on an individual basis

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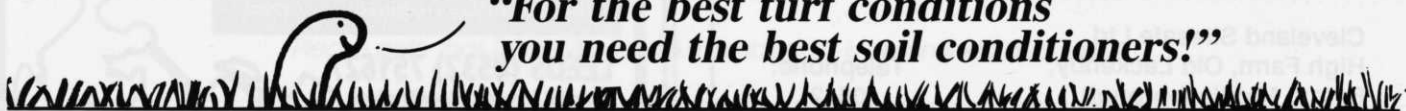
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We love you but can't afford you says Fred Hawtree

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The first signs of the foreign invasion appeared back in the Sixties. Your older but not so wicked Uncle Robert (Trent Jones) attended the Canada Cup in Paris and took Henry Longhurst out to dinner at Maxim's. This was a sound move. Henry's articles on the back page of the Sunday Times were prescribed reading at breakfast or as he said, immediately afterwards. Never at a loss for a word, he was occasionally at a loss for a subject. This one gave him useful material though he was more impressed by the aplomb of his host who, when presented with

the bill, neither blanched, fainted nor asked if they needed any help with the washing up.

Subsequent articles mentioned the Trent Jones staff of forty in his New York office and made us Brits feel deprived. In those days, if we picked up a nice little par 3 job, we were set up for life.

I have never met the great man and still more regrettably, have never dined at Maxim's at his expense. But at least I once managed to touch the hem of his garment. When the committee of the Golf de Bonadues near Lille wanted to build a new golf course, they decided to have 9 Holes British and 9 Holes American. The site was flat as a pancake. Even the land drains were laid dead level.

I spattered lakes all over the place à l'americaine and the contractors were of that rare breed who actually read the plans and produced what was drawn. This is what one expects of an outfit with a snappy name like "Nederlandseheidema-

atschappij". I saw the other 9 Holes described later as "Trent Jones in one of his milder moods". So the clients probably got what they wanted but the wrong way round.

A similar situation cropped up in Belgium this Spring when my son, Martin, shared 36 holes for the same reason with Bill Amick from Florida. (Bill, when off duty, advocates Modified Golf with the bramble-dot ball that only goes half as far.) The golf course architects were courteously asked if Amick would do a big American eighteen and if Martin would mind tackling the "club" course. Mind? He was delighted. Only Amick was put out. They both knew that the short course (though at 6,400 yards not all that short) would be the charmer, just like the Old Course at Sunningdale compared with the New.

Where was I? Of course, New York and Paris in the Sixties. Those were the palmy days. Not necessarily because there were new courses beginning to appear in Europe (though still ten times less than in the US) but because there were fewer golf course architects and they were in business on their own account. Things are different now. Here is a random selection of six recent US resort courses with their designers:

1984 Grand Cypress, Florida
7,024 yards. 72.

Jack Nicklaus and Bob Cupp.

1985 Horseshoe Bay
(Applerock) 6,990 yards.
72.

Robert Trent Jones and Roger Rulewich.

1981 Francis H I'i Brown G C
(!) Hawaii 6,813 yards.
72.

Ray Cain, Homer Flint and Robin Nelson

1981 Sungiver (North), Oregon
6,863 yards. 72.

Robert Trent Jones and Don Knott

1980 Kapalua (Village),
Hawaii 6,602 yards. 71.

Ed Seay and Arnold Palmer

1976/82 Kingsmill (River)
Williamsburg 6,776
yards. 71.

Peter Dye 1976. Brian Ault and Tom Clark 1982.

OPINION

It is a small sample but already suggests three trends. First, and most ominous, is the role of leading professionals in bringing in the business and staying in it as co-designer.

Second is the listing of the name of the collaborator who probably did all the serious work. This may have occurred because the full list was prepared by Ronald Whitten, co-author with Geoffrey Cornish of "The Golf Course", the only full account so far of the designers of the world's golf courses. He will have been meticulous in allocating the credits.

Bob Cupp, for example, has now stepped out of the shadow of collaboration and stands alone. Jim Wyllie who will be speaking at next April's Cambridge Conference (Queens' College, by the way, not Queen's and not Queens) told me yesterday that Cupp is enjoying a vogue in Ontario re-fashioning out-dated bunkering. He is also designing a new course in Sussex for a Canadian group and already has his own under-collaborator.

Third, many of the names on the list are new or at least unfamiliar. I have certainly heard of Don Knott who married Victoria, the daughter of another golf course architect, Robert Muir Graves. Graves still ploughs his own furrow solo in spite of a long list of courses in America and as far afield as Japan and Malaysia. He started life as a licensed landscape architect in California but gradually concentrated on golf. This is still the best route into golf course architecture though collaboration with an experienced firm is probably safer at the start. Peter Dye for instance, the neo-Impressionist in golf design, has ten young men attached to his office. The policy there is one man, one course, from crackle to champagne. Even Mrs Dye has blossomed into full consultanthood and specialises in design from the forward tees.

I have reservations about collaboration with a big-name pro. They tend to have bizarre ideas amongst the good ones picked up when away from the practice ground. Unless Ronald Whitten is around, they may also get a disproportionate share of the credit.

And the owner of the big name does not pin it on the gate for peanuts. He is cashing in on a valuable



Fred Hawtree

property built single-handed over many years. The customer will not be hornswoggled but had better get his sums right before agreeing to the unlimited budget which is likely to be requested and which, as the old joke insists, will be exceeded.

That milestone on top of the other one, the advisory fee, will grind the client pretty small unless he has recourse to building or resort development. Those possibilities

are scarce in these small islands and getting scarcer as the planners and conservationists close ranks. Even the general public who prefer their present outlook to what is being offered now tag along to the Public Enquiry and register their protests about disturbance, traffic, dust, water table and excessive use of land by an élite group.

I blame all this on the amount of expensive hot air necessary to blow up the balloon. Each development has to be grander, bigger and more star-spangled than the last. These requirements determine where the golf course will be built - not the suitability of the site itself. The qualities of the site are relatively unimportant because it is simply converted into a standard 72 par product exactly like all the others apart from a few local eccentricities likely to ensure that the maintenance bill will be astronomical for ever after. The greenkeeper ends up with the headache - trying to maintain a monster which should not have been there in the first place. We grumble about inflation going up from 4.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent. Where is it going in the golfing world? It is not going down, that is for sure. And it is not steady. So there is only one other way. And, present trends look set to push it higher still.

Now, before you put in for a rise, sharpen your pencils.

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a) £50,000 b) £100,000 c) £350,000 d) £500,000
- B. A popular but not outstanding North American club has an 8-year waiting list. What is the entrance fee?
a) \$10,000 b) \$20,000 c) \$30,000 d) \$50,000
- C. You decide to play a round at Pebble Beach. What dollar bills should you offer?
a) \$20 b) \$50 c) \$100 d) \$500
- D. Which of the above is the best value?
A. B. C.

If you got three C's and a C go to the top of the class. If not, there is still hope if you continue reading THE GOLF COURSE.

Programmed flag positions give variety to the play

John Lelean suggests ways for making courses more interesting for club members

Who decides the daily tee marker and green cup positions on your golf course?

Usually it is left to the greenstaff to move the markers and cut new hole positions whenever they consider it necessary.

Some clubs consider this to be a daily maintenance task, others select new positions less frequently, but regardless of how often, is there any planned programme of positioning or is it just a mere whim of the man who sets forth armed with the hole cutting equipment?

There is a direct correlation between the siting of the tee markers and the pin position on the green. Both influence the degree of difficulty when playing the hole.

The third factor to be considered is the prevailing weather conditions on the day, fine and sunny, cold and wet, a gentle breeze or a howling gale that can turn a difficult par four into an equally difficult par five.

Golf is a game that should be fair to the medal player and for match play. If the standard scratch for the course is 72, it should be laid out to play to that score, equally, to the handicapped golfer as well as the scratch player.

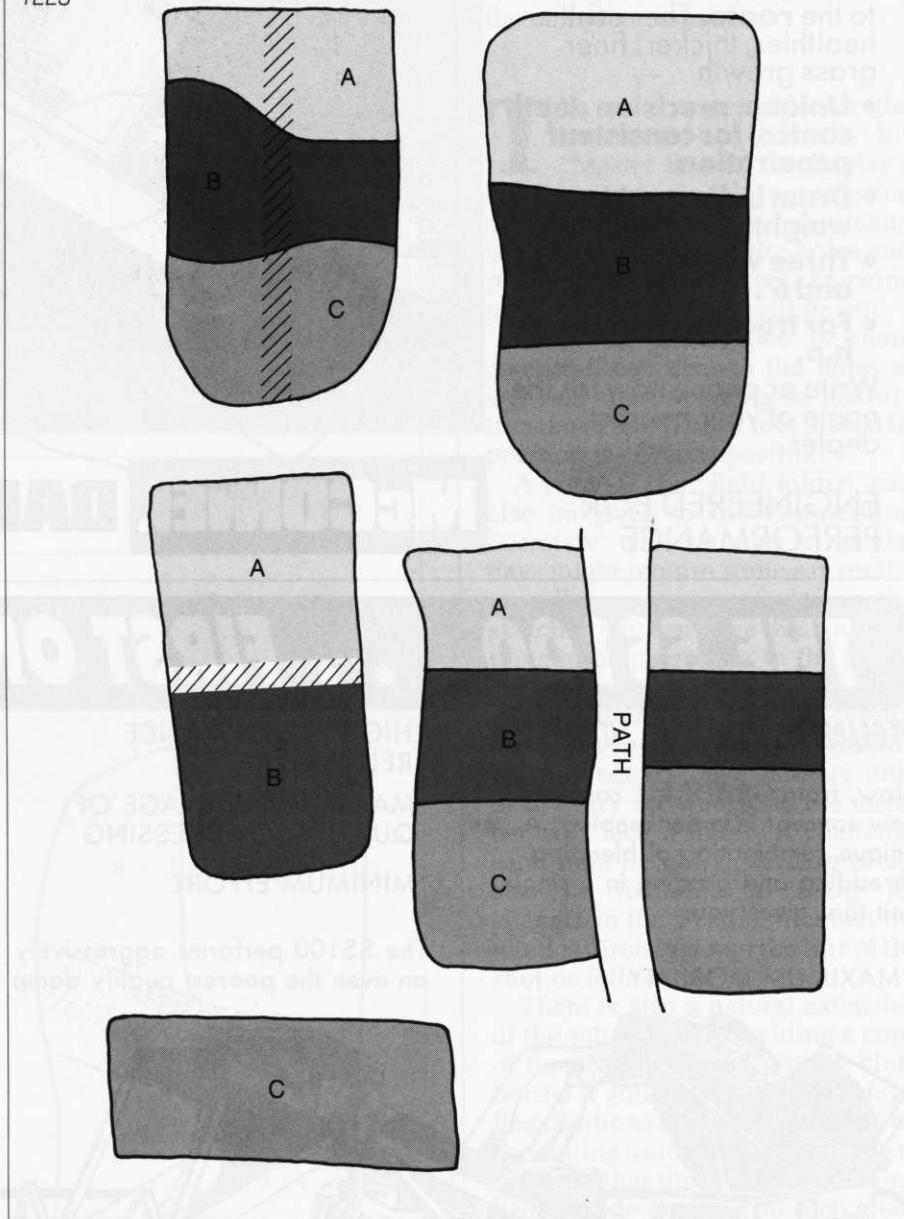
There is no point in extending the course by putting the pin at the back of the green, shielded by a bunker from the approach shot and moving the tee boxes alongside the distance markers if the golfer has to play into the teeth of a gusting north easterly.

In match play the stroke index for each hole is designed to reflect the degree of difficulty. To artificially alter the index by stretching the hole on days of adverse conditions or for that matter reducing it when the weather is perfect will not make the greenstaff many friends among the members.

There is also a fourth dimension that should be considered and that is the player. Few golfers hit every shot down the middle, they are either hookers or slicers.

All too often the course is set up to cater for one type of golfer, and this

FIGURE 1
TEES



particularly applies to pin positioning where the cups are regularly cut on one side of the green, giving for instance the right to left player a considerable advantage over the left to right hitter.

Some simple pre-planning will not only solve these problems, but give a great deal of

variety to playing the course as well. It will also curb the moans from the golfer who plays on a set day of the week, such as a Sunday, only to find that the flag on the green is always in the same place.

The first step to introduce variety, involves drawing rough sketches of all eighteen tees. The tees are then surveyed to choose marker position areas ranging from the most difficult

Tired turf needs the slice of life!

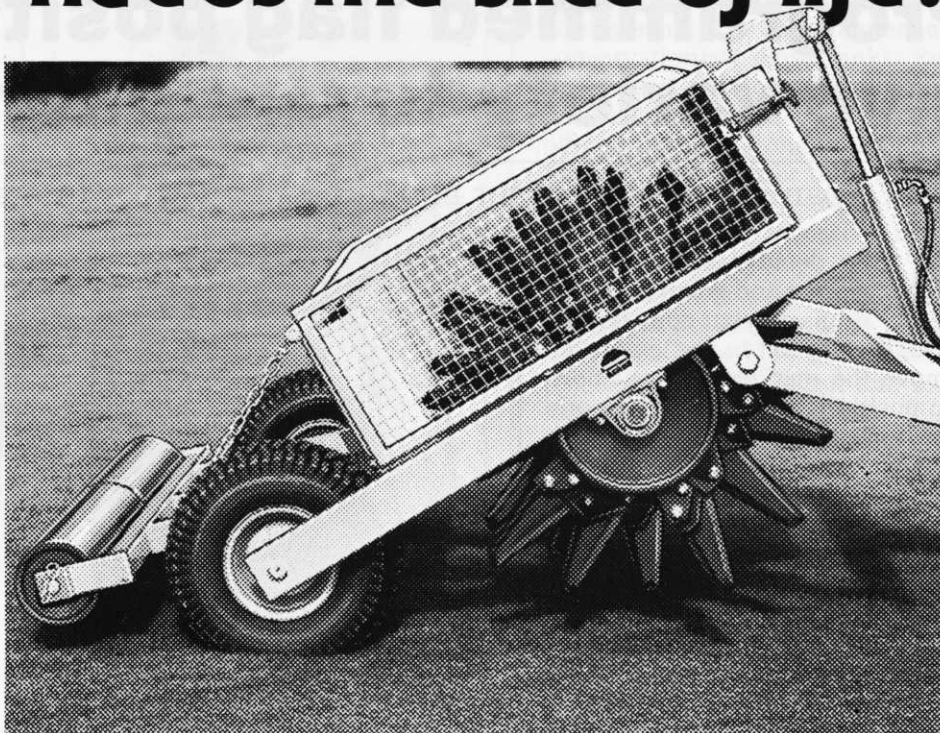
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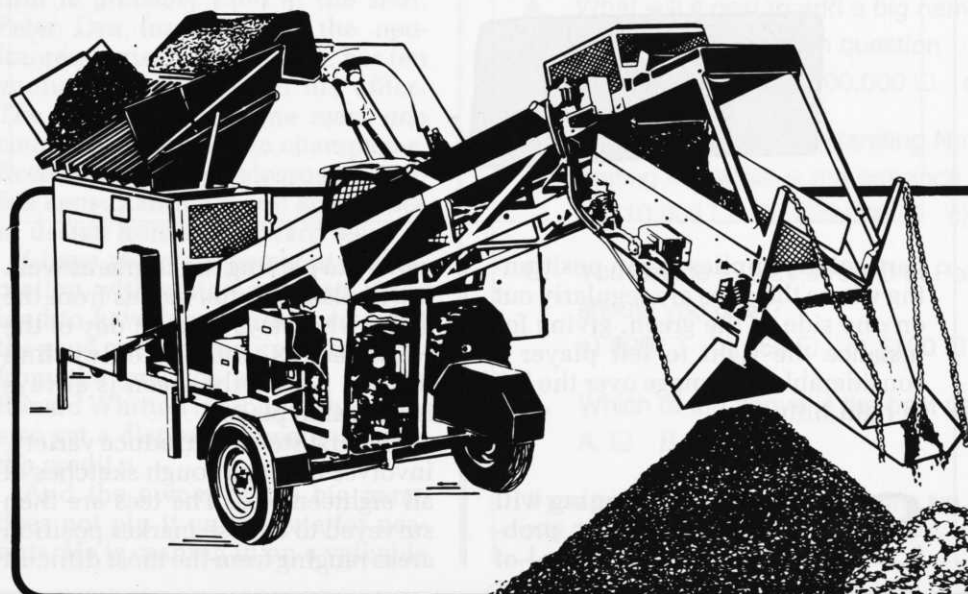
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soil with stones, shrubs and sods producing high quality loose and manageable soil. In fact, the SS100 turns tough, lumpy organic humus into pure, workable compost.

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