

place, after an excellent dinner. Our MC for the evening was the Northern region administrator, David Golding, who gave a very polished performance. David first of all introduced John Hawkins, managing director of the sponsors, Iseki UK Ltd., who was clearly delighted with the success of the event and hoped that it would be possible for Iseki to sponsor the event next year. He thanked all concerned, especially the regional administrators of the Association, who had done so much in helping to run the competitions; David Jones, the course manager of St. Pierre, for the presentation of the course; and Steve Broad of Broad Spectrum who, with his team, had organised the regional qualifying events and the finals so well. Mr Hawkins applauded the Association's commitment to better education for greenkeepers and pledged his company's support. He then turned to Iseki's new product line which had been displayed for the Press earlier in the day, and hoped that as many greenkeepers as possible would try out the various tractors, mowers and aerators and give him their opinion as reaction from the end-user was of great importance.

Next to speak was the Association's Chairman, Jack McMillan, who as usual apologised for his accent - something he has no need to do as over recent years his brogue has been listened to by more greenkeepers than anyone else in greenkeeping, with no lack of understanding.

Jack was keen to stress that although this was a golfing occasion he refuted the comments made in certain circles that BIGGA was a golfing society pure and simple. With three conferences up and coming at Ayr, Harrogate and Cambridge, the Association's educational programme was

well under way. Jack was particularly proud of the array of international speakers gathered together at Ayr, and the list of speakers for Cambridge could not be more impressive. However he pointed out that as greenkeepers the Association's members served the golfer and he felt that every greenkeeper should play and understand the game, therefore it was only natural that the BIGGA should be strongly involved in golf, for it was only through shared experience that practical help and advice could be meaningful. The Iseki tournament was devised to strengthen ties and identification for the newly formed regions, and in this it had been supremely successful. Jack thanked the sponsors for their foresight in backing the newly formed Association and he was sure that the partnership would be a long a fruitful one. He then turned to

David Jones the course manager of St. Pierre and thanked him on behalf of all the competitors for the excellent job he had done in presenting the Old course in such fine condition and for making everyone so welcome. Finally Jack also paid tribute to Steve Broad for the highly professional way in which he had organised the tournament.

Next it was the turn of the irrepressible Colin Gregory, Sales Director of Iseki, to present the prizes. Colin not only knows every part of his tractors, but he also knows every greenkeeper in the world by his first name!!

Edwin Walsh won with a superb score of 102 net for the 27 holes, playing off a handicap of 6. Edwin, from the Northern section, received a magnificent silver cup and a colour TV as well as a range of Iseki clothing.

His win was greeted with great applause.

#### RESULTS:-

Division 1. Arthur Williamson 108.5 (Graigie Hill GC) Scottish Region, 2. Michael Hannam 110 (Moortown GC) Northern Region, 3. John Parr 111.5 (Exeter GC) South West Region.

Division 2. Rhys Thomas 104 (Envile GC) Midlands Region, 2. Robert Phillips 107.5 (Porters Park GC) South East Region. 3. Jeff Chambers 109.5 (Leatherhead GC) South East Region.

Division 3. 1. Michael Gregson 109 (Shipley Northcliffe GC) Northern Region, 2. Steven Hird 110 (Scunthorpe GC) Northern Region, 3. Mark Bindley 112 (Kirkby Muxlow GC) Midlands Region.

Over 55. Derek Coomber 110.5 (Pyecombe GC) South East Region.

Under 21. Neil Woolfrey 114 (Tewkesbury Park GC) Midlands Region.

Best gross. Charles White 115 (Largs Kelbourn GC) Scottish Region.

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## Out on the course at Ayr Belleisle

THE Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, is considered by many to be one of the finest public golf courses in Scotland. Although close to the coast, it is truly a parkland course. Belleisle was a qualifying course for the European Open in 1979, and staged the British Ladies Championships in 1979 and 1981.

In charge of the golf complex at Ayr Belleisle is Harry Diamond, 57, a highly respected man of long experience in greenkeeping. Harry said, "I started working on the golf course at Western Gailes in 1943, and from there I went to Glasgow Gailes for 11 years.

During this period I did National Service in the Army in Malaya and the Far East. The Glasgow club was generous to me while I was absent and I remember receiving my usual Christmas bonus, which I accidentally dropped into a river in the Malayan jungle! However I managed to recover a soggy cheque for £5, which was most welcome.

"After my military service I



returned to Glasgow Gailes, then moved on to Irvine Golf Club as head greenkeeper at the age of 25. Ultimately, I came to look after the two courses, Belleisle and Seafield, in 1970 and have remained here ever since." Harry continued "I have three married daughters and a son, who has not followed me in greenkeeping. My wife is long suffering, like all greenkeepers' wives, I suppose. You try to give

**Top: 8th green with the 6th on the right and 7th in background.**

**Above: The 12th, with the 18th in background.**

**by  
JOHN  
CAMPBELL**

of your best in the job; often there is a lot demanded of you by way of long hours, which can put a strain on family life.

"The Belleisle course was designed by James Braid and opened in 1927. It has always been a popular and very busy course, averaging 60,000 rounds a year. It is quite unique, being a rolling parkland layout with lovely distant views of the sea. The main features are the well established variety of trees, which have been strategically planted to break up the landscape, and the number of bunkers on the course that come into play.

"The holes are all very testing - the aggregate length of the par fours on the course is 240 yards, longer than Augusta where the Masters is played! There are five short holes, four of which are 200 yards or more. Although the greens are generous in size, averaging 800 sq. yds., it takes a good shot to find the putting surface and stay there."

## POTENTIAL

Harry went on, "the Seafield course has all the potential of a links, constructed on sandy soil. It was built as a nine hole course within the perimeter of the old racecourse and opened



in 1904. We are trying to make it more interesting by using the natural elevated points to build tees with commanding views of the surroundings. Up till now it has been classed as a grade three course to accommodate the large number of young people who play golf in Ayrshire.

"Between the two courses, we hope with all the alterations being made on Seafield, that the one will complement the other and give players of all handicaps a really good day's golf.

"We have clays and a lot of

heavy soil to contend with and have installed a fairly extensive drainage system which has proved successful. A strict maintenance programme of cleaning all the drains annually helps to keep them free of tree roots, silt and so on.

"Another problem is the amount of play on the courses, which means careful planning of the work schedule to get all the necessary work done. In the summer, work begins at 6.30 am - if there is a special event it may be earlier. The staff usually have a short break in the middle of the day and work straight through. If important jobs need to be done we carry on

>>

**"The Seafield has all the potential of a links course"**



Above: 6th and 7th greens.

Left: Harry Diamond, John Campbell and Neil Thomas approach the 4th green.



until completion. The strength of our staff is six experienced men, plus two YTS lads," said Harry. "Since Duncan Gray came here as Parks Superintendent, responsible for eight golf courses and five bowling greens in the Kyle and Carrick region, we have been able to implement a fairly intensive training programme for all staff. I have four young men attending college and all our other courses have a similar number of staff coming into this education stream. We have appointed a foreman for each course, which is something new. Ian Campbell, who started his career at Turnberry, is in charge of the Belleisle course and Jim Devlin, who came to me five years ago as an electrical engineer looking for a job in greenkeeping, is now responsible for the Seafield course.

## GOOD TRAINING

"The staff get good training and experience, as we do all our own construction, drainage, building new greens and tees. There is a training college in Ayr which is well attended. Three times a year all the students come to Belleisle and I

generally give them a three hour lecture on bunkers in the morning, then they do practical jobs on bunkers in the afternoon.

"You may wonder how it is possible to talk for three hours on bunkers - I could make it ten! I start by explaining how traps originated, how to construct them, and talk about the many different ways of revetting bunker faces."

Harry explained, "Taking your place in a local authority and dealing with budget expenditure, getting new machinery etc, has been very trying for me. You don't always get what you would like to have. However, since Duncan Gray, our Parks Supervisor, arrived on the scene things have improved immeasurably.

We recently took delivery of a new Jacobsen Triplex Greens mower and a Turf King. This means we have a full set of machinery for each course for the first time, so work can proceed speedily, efficiently and economically.

"We are now concentrating all our efforts to upgrade the Seafield course, which has for long been the poor relation. Lately we have carried out extensive work to improve the facilities, most of which has

**Above: New 18th tee, Seafield.**

been imaginative and designed to add pleasure and interest for all golfers."

## ADVOCATE!

Continued Harry, "I have long been involved in the affairs of greenkeeping in Scotland at committee level and have always been an advocate for proper training and educational facilities for young aspirants coming into greenkeeping. I see BIGGA as the means of helping us to attain our objective of upgrading the status of the greenkeeper, and anything that does that will get my full support and undivided attention!"

"We in Ayrshire look forward to hosting the BIGGA National Tournament and International Conference this month. It is an important occasion and one which will give us the opportunity to extend a warm Scottish welcome to all the delegates and their wives. We are planning an interesting programme of events to make their stay a memorable and enjoyable one."

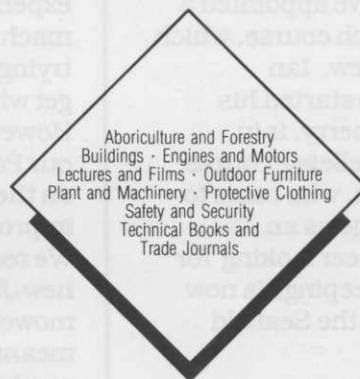
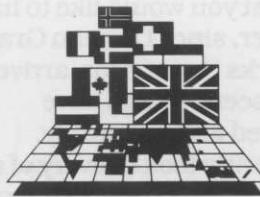
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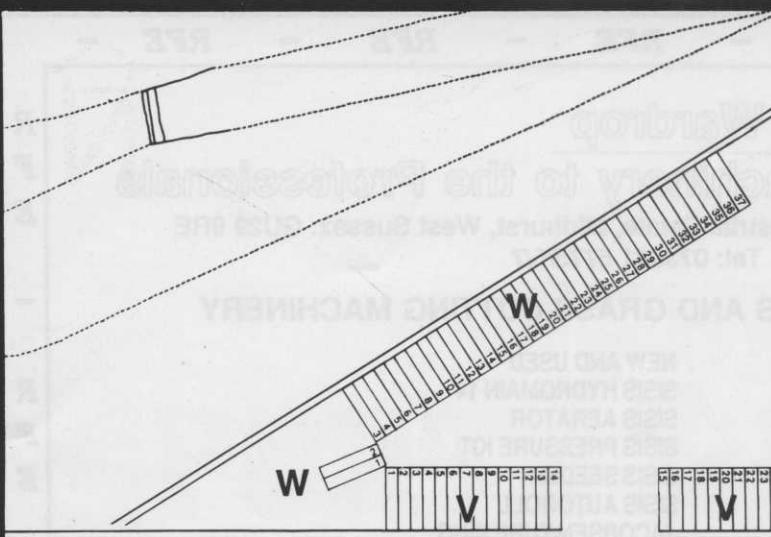
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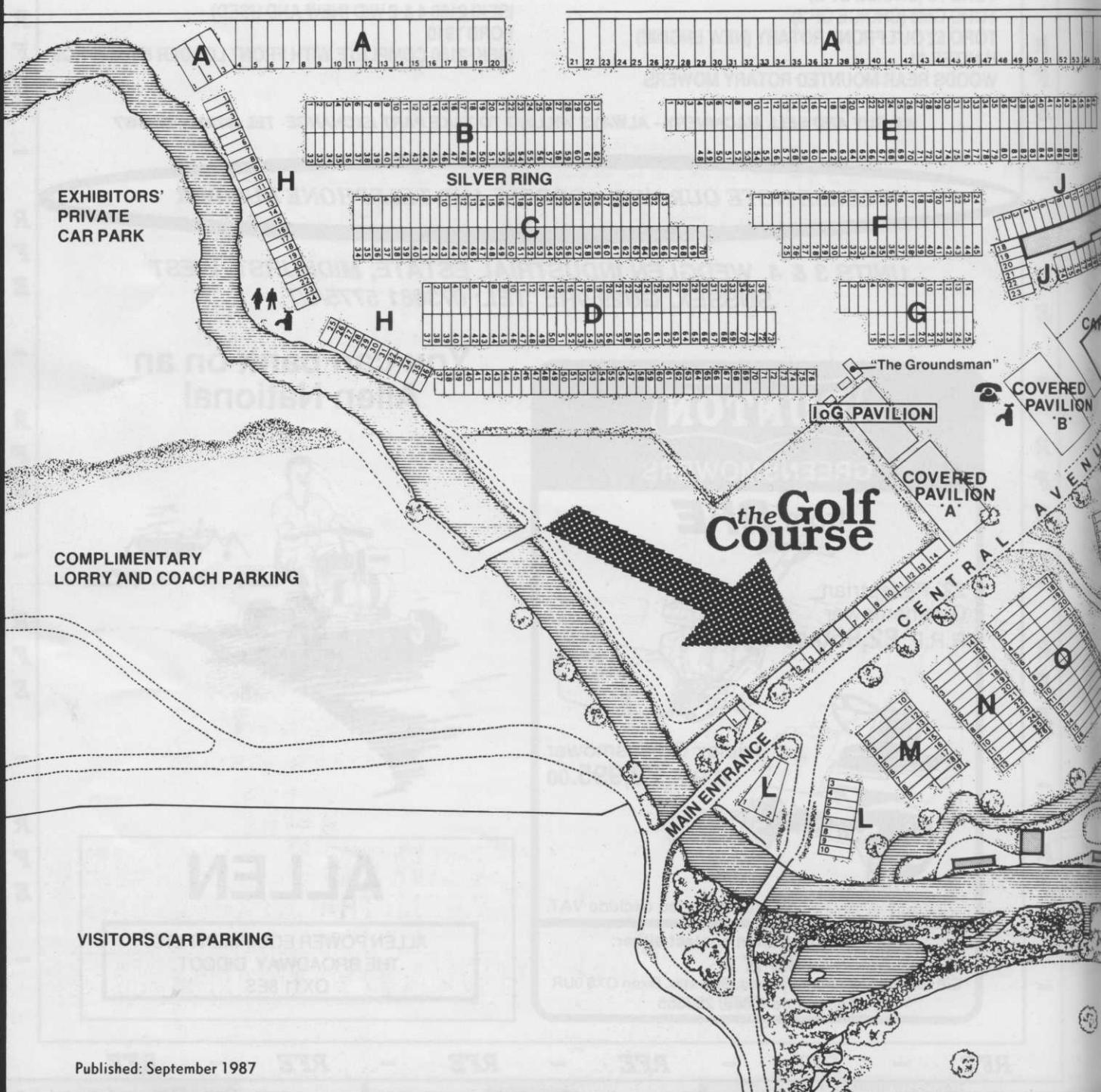
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#### DEMONSTRATION AREA





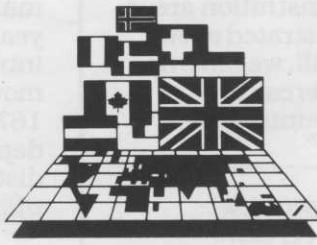
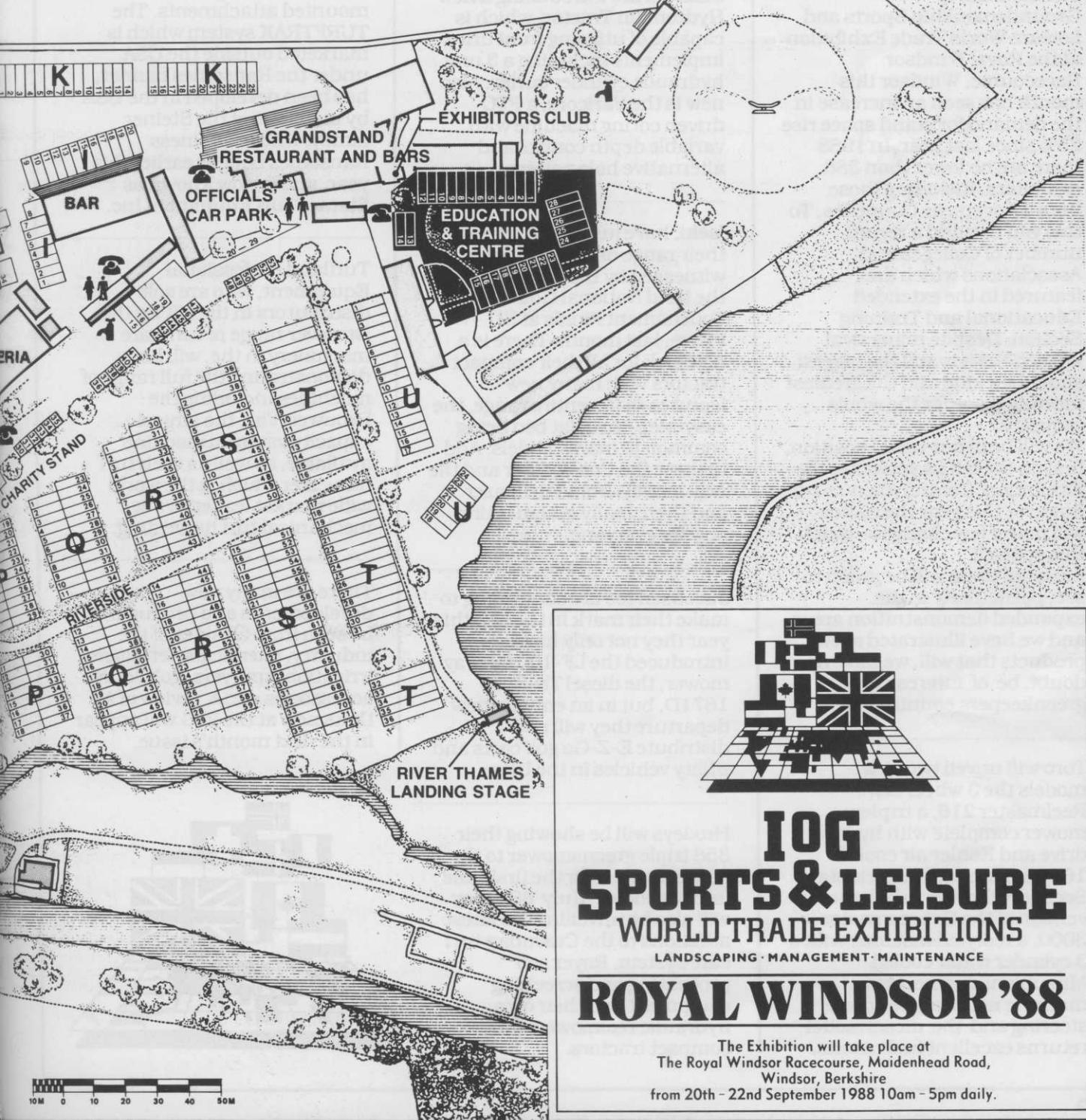
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# IOG SPORTS & LEISURE WORLD TRADE EXHIBITIONS

LANDSCAPING · MANAGEMENT · MAINTENANCE

## ROYAL WINDSOR '88

The Institute of Groundsmanship Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at the Royal Windsor Racecourse, Windsor this month has seen an increase in the demand for stand space rise 25% since last year. In 1988 there are no fewer than 388 exhibitors, including those from 27 overseas Countries. To this you can add a record number of Colleges and Associations which are featured in the extended Educational and Training Section. Despite many rival attractions it is still the biggest show of its kind and the greatest meeting place for the whole industry.

We will be in our usual position, first on the left as you enter the Exhibition, Central Avenue 1-2, however this year the visitor will note a few changes - watch this space!!!

As usual there will be much to see, particularly in the expanded demonstration areas and we have illustrated a few products that will, we have no doubt, be of interest to greenkeepers countrywide.

Toro will unveil two new models the 3 wheel drive Reelmaster 216, a triplex mower complete with hydraulic drive and Kohler air cooled 16hp engine with electric start. Secondly there is to be a diesel version of the Greensmaster 3000, a restyled machine with a 3 cylinder water cooled Mitsubishi engine, this machine now features power steering and the diesel model returns excellent fuel results.

Sisis too are introducing a new Hydromain Tractor, which is capable of utilising front drive implements including a 3 unit hydraulic cylinder cutter. Also new is the Varicore, a PTO driven coring machine with variable depth control and alternative hole pattern.

Iseki, have just about turned their range on its head, as was witnessed by the competitors at the Iseki National Golf Tournament Finals at St. Pierre, last month. There is a new look for all their compact tractors with many new features in the entire range, the easy-step-thru flat bed being common to many models. Add to these the Coremaster and the new models from Turfblazer and there really is something new for everyone.

Jacobsen too are continuing to make their mark in the UK, this year they not only have introduced the LF-100 fairway mower, the diesel Tri-King 1671D, but in an entirely new departure they will now distribute E-Z-Go golf carts and utility vehicles in the UK.

Huxleys will be showing their 358 triple greensmower to the general public for the first time (see Notebook - July '88), they will also be unveiling the latest additions to the Cushman turf care system, Royer soil processing and screening equipment and their own hydraulic reelmowers for compact tractors.

John Deere, who came into the market with their grounds care system as recently as 1986, have introduced additional items to their UK range this year (see Notebook - June '88), details will also be announced at the IOG of a new professional turf mower which is currently being evaluated in the UK.

Ransomes always come up with something new for the IOG, and this year is no exception, they are introducing the TURFTRAK system, which incorporates 2 and 4 wheel drive power units, with a wide range of front mounted attachments. The TURFTRAK system which is marketed outside the USA under the Ransomes banner, has been developed in the USA by members of the Steiner family, whose business Ransomes bought earlier this year, and is now known as Steiner Turf Equipment Inc.

Turfland Professional Equipment, who are sole distributors in the UK for the Brouwer range of turf-care machinery in the, will be demonstrating the full range of machines including the Brouwer-Vac, the largest capacity vacuum machine available, as well as their turf harvester which is the world wide market leader in mechanical turf harvesting.

There are many new developments and products to be seen from all sides of the industry, chemicals, fertilisers, irrigation, sprayers, golf course accessories etc. A review of all that's new at the IOG will appear in the next month's issue.

