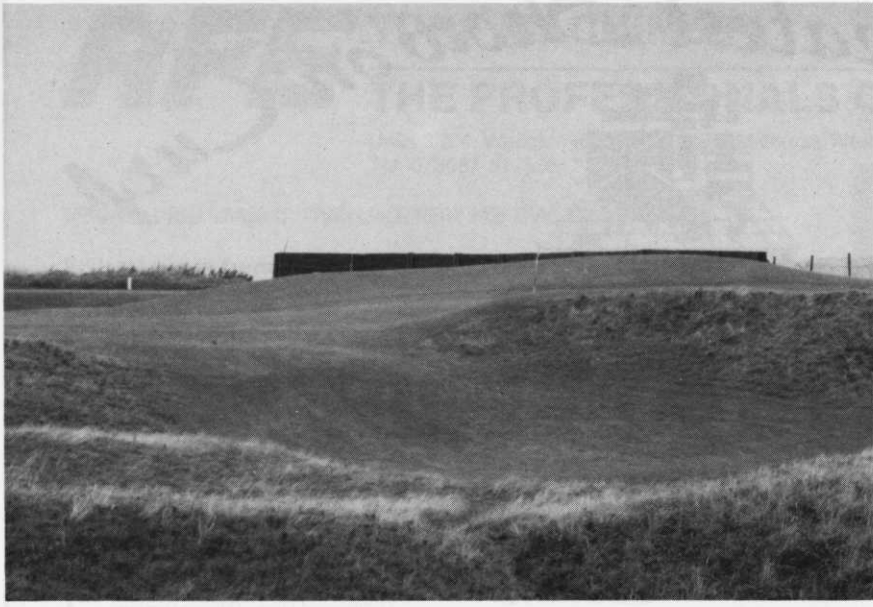


MANAGEMENT



will be using a combination of the new No. 4 (Supergrass) and No. 2 (Moss Killer and conditioner) from the company's newly established Amenity Pro-Series.

He has found that even when spraying in less than ideal conditions the results are still good. The combination of reduced Maxicrop plus 17% Nitrogen and Moss Killer and Conditioner sprayed in December has helped harden the growth while, in summer, high levels of Maxicrop doesn't scorch and, throughout the season it gives good colour," he said. "Even more important, an application immediately after a major tournament when the greens are subjected to intensive mowing, results in very good, strong

recovery."

One problem that beset surrounding courses, yet left Royal Portrush unscathed in the Autumn, was Fusarium Patch and, for this, once more gives the credit to Maxicrop and points out the fact that the saving in terms of time and money through avoiding this disease alone makes its use cost-effective.

The root stimulating properties of seaweed foliar feed together with regular aeration has helped keep the soil healthy and provided a deep-rooted sward with improved shoot density and steady, hardy growth, avoiding the 'sappy' growth or sudden flushes that no Course Manager ever wants to see. His relief is that the natural

bacterial and micro-organisms within the soil also benefit from Maxicrop natural trace elements to help form an even better root environment.

Species that have particularly benefited from this at Royal Portrush are Festuca and Agrostis.

Application has always been easy, quick and simple and, in Sid's view, will be particularly important in respect of the new spraying regulations that came into force in January 1989.

"Certainly its ideal for early Spring or late Autumn dressings but, in my book, weather permitting, it is possible and desirable to spray throughout the winter as well as the other three seasons. Such regular use, without interfering with play, keeps moss at bay and helps maintain a really healthy deep-rooted sward all year long" he concluded.

Sid's other requirement was to encourage plant growth to withstand not just the wind burn from the off-shore winds (the courses are a mere 90 metres from the sea), but the wind blown frosts that occur in winter. Even so, his initial 5-week target of making both courses look 'the best they'd ever looked' in time for the Centenary celebrations, when players from 55 Royal Golf Clubs from around the world were in attendance, was also achieved.

To mark that very special occasion, the players dressed in nineteenth century costume and tackled the ten original holes, thanks to the intimate course knowledge of the club professional, Di Stevenson's, father. 'Stevie' as he is affectionately called was the Club's professional for 50 years before being succeeded by his son and he was able to point to the spot where the original holes would be and were, indeed, found.

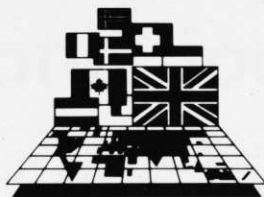
The very next week, the Valley Course, where the Par 3 eighteenth is named 'Stevie', the Causeway Coast Open Competition took place, involving 4 clubs and over 800 participants.

The following week it was the European Quadrangular Championship between Ireland, France, Germany and Sweden on the Dunluce course, in turn followed by the Irish Championships in the third week of August.

Meanwhile, the requirements of over 1200 members including a large contingent of regular member visitors from America (12 from Atlantic City alone) on both courses and on the 3 putting greens could not be overlooked.

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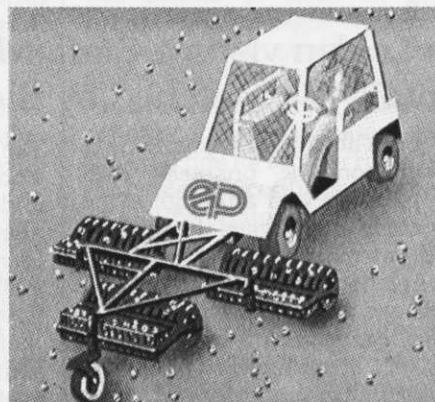
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Enville has a long term improvement plan

John Lelean visits a Staffordshire gem where the hospitality is matched by the surroundings

One of life's great enjoyments is to combine business with pleasure and although some of our readers might insist the labours of a golf journalist are just one long round of pleasure, unfortunately this is not always the case.

There are exceptions and a visit to Enville Golf Club in the West Midlands certainly fell into this category.

My own club at Wetherby, through our past Captain John Fitton, has struck up a rewarding relationship with Enville, where we play a twelve aside team on a home and away basis. We go there in April, they come to us in September, with overnight accommodation of course. There is no way anyone is going to drive home after a surfeit of such extra-ordinary hospitality!

Enville must be one of the best kept secrets in British golf. Mention the name outside a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge and no one has heard of it. We all hope it stays that way.

For your ears only, and I trust greenkeepers will keep the news in the family, it is 36 holes of classic golfing country, carved out of pine forest and developed into a predominately heath land course.

The two courses, inter changeable when necessary for maintenance work, are the Highgate and the Lodge. The Highgate is longer, 6451 yards with a SSS of 72, the Lodge, slightly shorter at 6207 yards, SSS 70, but by general agreement much tighter, with some outstanding holes.

The Head Greenkeeper is John Palmer, who has been on the staff since 1972 and succeeded to the top job some 18 months ago.

He runs the course with eight full time staff. Two of the younger greensmen have completed the first and second year stages of the City & Guilds equivalent at Elmwood College in Scotland, but are continuing a block release for the third year module.

"We have not done a great deal of training in the past, but this is changing", said John Palmer. "During the winter we have had workshop training on our various items of equipment. The Agriculture Training Board sent in a mechanic to train staff on tractor maintenance and a dealer from Derby instructed staff on mower maintenance and the Kohler engines".

"Two have also been away on a chain saw safety course".

"This year we serviced four machines ourselves at a cost of only £250 each and this saved the club a great deal of money".

The club subscribed to the STRI and the Bingley based agronomist, David Stansfield visits regularly to check progress and offer advice.

"We view his recommendations more as a guideline than a tablet of stone", added John. "I don't believe it is practicable to work to a three year programme. There are too many factors to take into consideration such as the weather, the amount of play the courses receive in a year and most essential the money we have avail-

able".

"To achieve what I have set out to do could take two years, three years or even five. If the job is done correctly the courses will come right but in their own time".

Capital expenditure at Enville is now planned five years ahead, based on the assumption that machinery in constant use will last about five years before the cost of spares makes them uneconomic to retain.

John Palmer, conscious of running costs, plans to replace all the petrol driven machinery with diesel over the next six years and that includes his triplex mowers. He already has one diesel Toro GM with groomer units and says the improvement in the putting surface has been quite remarkable, despite the fact he is no longer cutting at the previous club policy of one eighth throughout the summer season.

"This was too low," said John. "The bents and fescues were struggling and only the poa could survive. Now cutting at 3/16ths or higher the groomer units have increased the green speed considerably".

Similarly, to encourage good growth he has reduced the pH from 7.0 two years ago to about 5.8 by applying nitrogen. This he believes is about the level to maintain otherwise his finer grasses could be adversely effected.

Asked to identify his main problems, John was quite definate; drainage and thatch. He said he was now working to a much stricter slitting programme for the greens, tining down to 6 inches, verti-cutting regularly and hollow tining to one inch centres. The verti-drain used last year broke through the pan and now root growth is down to 9 inches and he is aiming at eleven.

The day we played the course John was hollow tining and had not top dressed, but although there appeared to be more holes than green, no one complained because the putts still ran reasonably true.

When the top dressing is applied it is a 70:30 mix of sand and Fendress on the principle that a little and often is far more beneficial than a once a year heavy dosage. A top dressing of pure sand is used in the Autumn only.

He gives the greens a feed of seaweed extract and liquid iron and has cut out granular feeding completely.

During the winter, in common with most courses he had a couple of outbreaks of fusarium and treated with a Mascot Contact Fungicide. Next year he will probably vary the product, not because it was unsuccessful, but to ring the changes so the disease does



One of Enville's most spectacular holes, the 16th on the Highgate Course

ON THE COURSE

not become immune to a specific treatment.

Mechanical aeration is also the policy for the fairways. John recalled that when he joined Enville in 1972, the fairways were so thin on grass cover they were mown just once a month. Now due to regular winter slitting and verti-cutting the sward has thickened to require cutting weekly during the season.

Although this has created extra work, the finer grasses have become dominant, there is less need to divot and weeds have been almost eliminated. Fairway aeration is also helping his other problem - drainage. There are a number of water catchment areas on the course that come into play and these will need lifting and draining into one of the numerous streams that criss cross the fairways. Because the course was developed out of woodland, rather than agricultural land very few drains were already in existence. Trees soaked up the rain water and the surplus ran off into the ditches. As most greenkeepers now find, the areas laid out for tees at Enville are proving to be far too small for the amount of all year play that his courses receive. To overcome the problems created by excessive wear, last winter

John added length or width to five tees and has ten more planned for increase in the future.

The fashion in the 1960's to have two tier tees, when the backs were only used for weekend competitions has created considerable difficulties with both wasted ground and awkward maintenance. John has already started to level off his tees, but encountered one big snag at his fifth hole when he discovered the elevated layer was built on sandstone and it had to be broken up with a JCB.

He is now aiming to have around 600 square yards of teeing ground for all the short holes, though the course layout causes certain restrictions on some holes. Spreading the wear is the only answer and this is achieved by moving the markers daily.

Bunkers are the least of his worries. He uses Moneystone White from Cheshire, has no mechanical bunker raker, just manual raking on Mondays and Fridays with encouragement to the members to keep them tidy. A neat idea seen at Enville were their moveable bridges. Instead of a fixed bridge across the fairway streams concentrating wear to a focal point, the wooden structure, wide enough to pull a golf cart can be moved by two

men a yard to the left or right on a weekly basis.

They are easy to construct from two base timbers of equal length, tapered at either end with a high point in the middle. Slats are nailed across the two beams to form an attractive humped back design. The structure is strengthened with stretchers and lifting struts at either end.

As to the future? John Palmer sees his primary objective bringing the greens to perfection for all year round golf and that means a continuous programme of slitting, tining, coring and verti-draining.

At some time the irrigation system installed in 1972 will need updating, but this is likely to involve a major capital project.

Meanwhile my club have already made plans to welcome the Captain and his team from Enville in September and we in turn are anticipating our return to the West Midlands in 1990.

I might then be tempted to give you an update on how John Palmer is getting on, though this is dependent on whether I make the team. If the improvement in my game matches the promises given by our professional when he sold me my new clubs, then read these columns next year!



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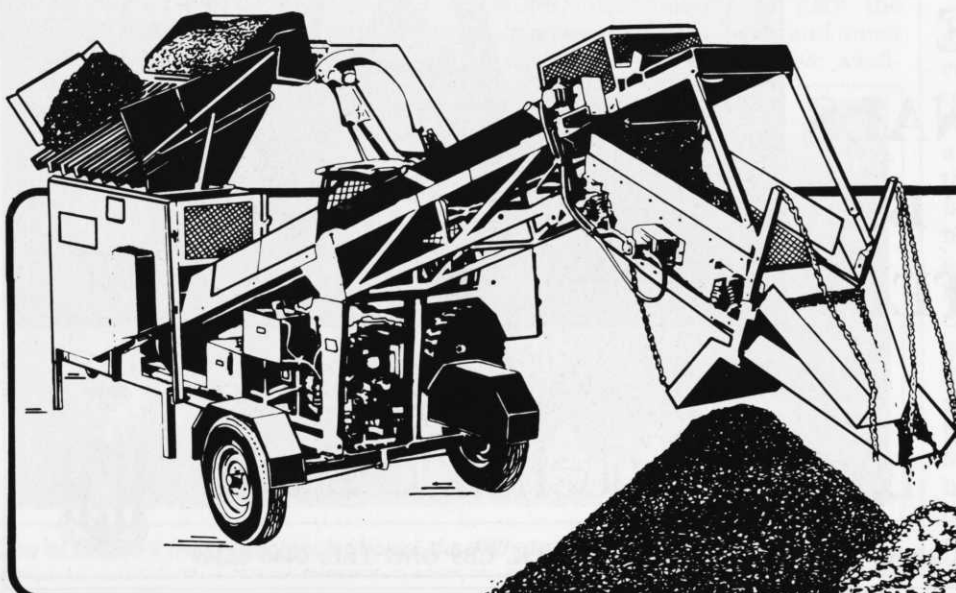
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Scots aiming at better practical training

From September Elmwood hopes to start one year full-time courses for greenkeepers

Since greenkeeper training started at Elmwood College of Agriculture at Cupar, Fife in 1973, facilities have steadily improved to give young trainee greenstaff every opportunity to develop their knowledge of golf course maintenance.

At present they have 180 students on the College role drawn from not only Scottish golf courses, but from Northern Ireland, Eire and even the South of England.

Four full size greens and a putting green have been built in the extensive grounds for students to develop practical skills, which dual as a four hole course for recreational golf.

The college which has residential facilities for 80 students runs its modular SCOTVEC course on a

modular programme basis, mainly on block release.

Basic practical tasks such as hole cutting, top dressing and turf lifting are taught in the first year, backed by the necessary theory, so not only do students understand how jobs are done, but why and when. This combination of outside activity on site combined with class learning continues throughout the three year course, so by the time students reach the third year stage, young greenstaff are tackling construction projects for greens and tees.

The merits of raft, carpet and sealed systems are examined and working in teams they are given the opportunity to put the theory to work.

Last year students were involved in a

raft green construction with a root zone layer consisting of 80% sand with 20% loam over a synthetic filtration membrane. Bunker construction is also included with practical exercises in building and renovating bunkers suitable for parkland, heathland and links courses.

Grass identification is an essential part of the Elmwood College syllabus. Knowing the correct cultivars to use and encourage on greens, tees and fairways and how each species reacts to various mowing regimes and soil conditions.

Further practical knowledge is obtained by visiting some of the best known golf courses in Scotland where the Head Greenkeepers at St. Andrews, Gleneagles, Carnoustie, Ladybank,



Rebuilding a greenside bunker the traditional way

EDUCATION



Carnoustie's head greenkeeper Mr J. Philips shows students the identification of grass species.



Workshop maintenance is part of Elmwood's syllabus.

Thornton and Balbirnie Park to name a few are extremely cooperative in passing on a lifetime's practical experience to help those setting off on a greenkeeping career.

Machine maintenance is also included in the syllabus.

Through inter-departmental cooperation with the engineering section,

students obtain workshop experience on a wide range of pedestrian and ride-on mowers, top dressers and aeration equipment.

A staged practical drainage project and the installation of an irrigation scheme is planned for one of the greens this year and in September 1989 the college hope to start a one year

fulltime course for greenkeepers. This will include a period of industrial training on local golf courses.

For further information contact:-
The Principal, Elmwood Agricultural and Technical College, Cupar, FIFE.
KY15 4JB Tel. 0334/52781

Scientific Congress of Golf

The world's first congress organised on golf is to take place in Scotland next year.

A scientific congress of golf is planned to take place at St Andrews University next year from 9th - 14th July. The congress has the sponsorship of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and is aimed at bringing together scientists from different disciplines whose research is related to golf.

Announcing the congress to THE GOLF COURSE'S sister magazine Turf Management, Dr Martin Farrally said that a meeting of golf researchers or a forum for an exchange of information between researchers and coaches, teachers and players.

It seemed to the Department of Physical Education where there are students studying sport and exercise science at undergraduate and postgraduate level, that 1990 offered a wonderful opportunity to initiate a world congress which it was hoped would become a regular feature since the 1990 Open Championship will be played there.

The congress will take place in the week prior to the Open, at the same time as the Bell's Scottish Open at Gleneagles. The initial response to circulating the preliminary announcement to the P.G.A.'s and N.G.A.'s worldwide is most encouraging, and indicates that the sorts of people attending will be a complete cross-section of golf - equipment, manufacturers, golf turf and green researchers, university academics, international team and individual coaches and so on from around the world.

The congress has already received support from professional and golfing academic bodies such as the British Association of Sports Sciences and the Professional Golfing Association. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club have provided a substantial grant, their views on the congress being expressed by Michael Bonallack: "Golf is now played in practically all the developed countries in the world and the forecast growth to the year 2000 indicates an expansion equal to or greater than that of any other sport.

It would now, therefore, seem an appropriate time to hold the First World Scientific Congress of Golf, and where could be a better venue than St Andrews where golf has been played for over 500 years and which will be hosting the Open Championship in 1990 for the twenty-fourth time.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club are delighted to support this venture".

Further information on the First World Scientific Congress of Golf can be obtained from Dr M.R. Farrally, Department of Physical Education, University of St Andrews, The Sports Centre, St Leonards Road, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland.



Floral centre pieces for the Ryder Cup

Nearly 30,000 blooms are being prepared for planting at The Belfry to make a colourful display

Former regular Army Physical training instructor Derek Ganning, course manager at The Belfry, is a man with flowers on his mind. Not simply birthday or anniversary bouquets, or even those which his wife Anne tastefully arranges to win prizes at exhibitions in the Midlands.

The blooms he has on his mind at the moment number nearly 30,000 and at this stage they are being nurtured in greenhouses over a hundred miles from his base.

But when they are moved from Warrington in Cheshire to The Belfry

in Sutton Coldfield early next September, they will be admired by thousands of people. They will become centerpieces on the Brabazon course, scene of the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup, the blue riband of golf, in which the European side aim for a record third successive and historic win over the American giants of professional world golf.

The begonias, marigolds and lobelias have been carefully chosen. They will provide a splash of red, white and blue in rockeries and flower beds all over the golf course and will be seen not only by the 27,000 golf fans who will

visit the Ryder Cup each day - attendances are being restricted and it has become an all-ticket event - but also by millions of television viewers throughout the world and particularly in Europe and America where the event will be screened live.

"We spent a lot of time planning the types of flowers we would use and exactly where we want to display them. At the moment they are being grown in Warrington before being transported here", he said. The Belfry, one of Europe's top golf and leisure complexes, is owned by Greenall Whitley, the Warrington based brewers, and