

Turfland rises to the challenge

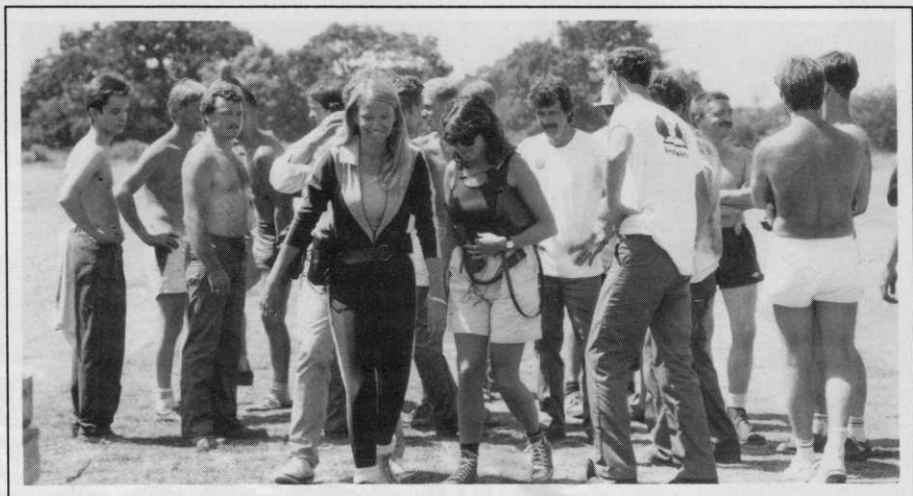
Imagine relaxing in your garden on a hot Sunday afternoon and suddenly being confronted by Anneka Rice, star of the popular BBC1 series, 'Challenge Anneka', together with a host of camera and production crews. Suddenly you are part of a really exciting charity event.

This is what happened to Chris and Janet Watmore, owners of Warrington-based Turfland when, challenged to provide a complete new pitch, showers and changing rooms for Norbury Athletic FC in just 29 hours, Anneka sought out the growers that had risen to the previous challenge of restoring the pitch at Wembley Stadium when it was devastated by the Live Aid concert.

Chris and Janet readily agreed to provide the 8000 sq. yards of 'Sportsman' turf for such a worthy cause. They were also able to advise Anneka on ground preparation and introduce her to Wilmslow based Ned Yates Landscapes for site preparation and laying the turves.

As Anneka zoomed off down the drive, the phone lines were already buzzing at Turfland to 'rally the troops' on a Sunday evening. True to form, the team responded to the call and within the hour, Turfland's two large Brouwer turf harvesters were at work cutting and rolling up pallet after pallet of turf. And as each pallet was deposited by the harvester, it was whipped up by the Hitch-Hiker forklifts to be placed on the waiting trucks for despatch to Stockport.

Meanwhile the site at Stockport was already being ploughed up and prepared by



Ned Yates Landscapes. Work on both sites continued through a beautiful sunset into clear moonlight.

The following day the whole thing came together, thanks to the efforts of very many

willing and charitable people, and it was with tremendous pride that everyone was able to enjoy a truly fabulous event - and a team of keen young footballers to enjoy a new pitch and proper facilities.

Rhone Poulenc acquire giant chemical company

Phone-Poulenc, the international chemicals group, have made two major acquisitions that will enhance the company's position in the speciality chemicals market.

In what represents the largest acquisition in the company's history, Rhone-Poulenc has signed an agreement to purchase the speciality chemicals operations of RTZ Corporation PLC, for £512 million.

RTZ Chemicals, with estimated annual sales of approximately £580 million for 1989, is engaged in the research, development and manufacturing, of a variety of chemicals such as polymers,

epoxy resin and acrylic monomers, water soluble gums, latex, fluorinated organics. The company employs 5,000 people in the United Kingdom and the United States. RTZ Chemicals has three major business areas: performance product, fine inorganic chemicals and basic chemicals.

Phone-Poulenc has also reached an agreement with GAF Corporation to acquire the company's surfactant chemicals business for \$480 million.

Approximately 270 people are employed in the operations being purchased. Projected sales for 1989 are approximately \$190 million.

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Green Industry's international chairman re-appointed

Kenneth Dawson, Managing Director of Rolawn Ltd., Elvington, York has been reappointed Chairman of the International Representative Committee for the American Sod Producers Association, the only world-wide organisation that exists for the advancement of the turf industry.

ASPA represents nearly 800 cultivated turf producers in the U.S., Canada and fifteen countries worldwide. In addition to hosting meetings, it also publishes a variety of technical literature and sponsors research.

Ken Dawson is the only British chairman of any of the committees and this is his fourth year of office.

Rolawn was founded in 1975 when the only turf available in this country was meadow turf or seawashed turf. With Jackie his wife, and his father Leslie Dawson, Ken started on just eight acres of land in Yorkshire.

Fourteen years later he is running the largest company in Europe and Britain's market leader, selling annually around four million square yards of specialist turf.

Honour for Fred Hawtree

F.W. Hawtree, the internationally renowned golf course designer, has been honoured by the National Turfgrass Council for his outstanding services to the industry.

At a presentation ceremony at Windsor he was presented with the second NTC Award by the chairman, Howard Swan.

His practice, now in its third generation, is the oldest in the world and has been responsible for over 300 projects. Fred Hawtree's involvement goes back over 60 years and he is a world leader in course architecture.

"He has always taken a keen interest in his profession's association and fostered links with other aspects of golf, particularly greenkeeping," said Mr. Swan. "He is a very worthy recipient of the NTC Award.

His father F.G. Hawtree, founded the Golf Greenkeepers Association in 1912 and F. W. Hawtree has continued to support the Associations through many changes of name and composition.

East Sussex national raises the price!

The cost of the debenture for those invited to become members of East Sussex National Golf Club will be increased to £17,000.

Due to the number of applications that have been received and accepted by the membership committee, this has now filled the "A series" debentures that were issued in Spring of this year.

Brian Turner, Chairman of East Sussex National Golf Club, commented "We are trying to introduce a new concept of club, with relatively high cost for the U.K. enabling the members to enjoy unrivalled playing conditions, and clubhouse services. We felt it would take time for people to come around, but we are being proved wrong. The club situated only 15 miles south of Gatwick Airport has just opened a full 18 holes, and will eventually comprise 36 holes, 3 hole teaching academy, 9 acre practice range, 211 bedroom hotel and members' clubhouse, among its many facilities.

First UK seminar

Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd are to sponsor the first ever seminar to be held in the UK for turf producers.

The seminar, which will be held at Mottram Hall, Cheshire on 17 - 18 November 1989, will include talks on seed and turfgrass cultivars, fertilisation techniques, agro-chemicals and finance, by professionals from both commercial organisations and from independent bodies such as the STRI. "This seminar will help the turf producers by stressing the basics of good husbandry, respect for the environment and correct growing techniques, we hope to build quality throughout the whole of the industry, a quality which will endure," said Janet Watmore, Turfland's Director.

Ransomes cut more staff

The Management of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies announced last month that with regret they have dispensed with 78 of the workforce. This is as a result of ending the contract to manufacture farm machinery for Agrolux Limited and the reduction in the demand for grass machinery that has been evident in the first half of the year. Discussions have commenced with the

trade unions involved, and it is hoped that a large number of the reductions will be voluntarily achieved with the aid of early retirements.

Problems in Poland

The proposed golf course at Pultusk, outside Warsaw, reported in the August issue of the *Golf Course*, has run into difficulties according to our correspondent in Poland, as one of the principal backers has withdrawn. The plans are however still live and the project will go ahead once the financial problems are resolved.

News has come through of another golf course planned for Nadarzyn, also near Warsaw, backed by the Polish airline - LOT and a Swiss industrialist. This course will be designed by a Polish architect, who has already produced draft plans.

Nearer home the proposed course within the grounds of Ridding Park at Harrogate, to be designed by Hawtree & Son, has also fallen foul of the local planners.

The Ridding Park House, now converted into a magnificent hotel and conference centre, faced similar objections when conversion plans were first mooted, but these were overcome. This time the planning officials have gained the support of the English Heritage, who are raising strong opposition to the parkland around the Grade 1 listed building to be used as a golf course.

Their view is that golf courses destroy natural parkland and change the nature of the landscape. Harrogate Councillors however were not opposed to the golf course within the park but objected to the incorporating of 40 acres of land farmed by one of the estate tenants. It is likely that owner Mark Mackaness will appeal.

The Casey Group of companies based in Rochdale have expanded the resources of the division specialising in the design and construction of golf courses and associated developments, with the appointment of Steve Marnoch.

The new head of division is a qualified landscape architect specialising in golf course construction. His experience includes works on the Jubilee Course, St Andrews, and at Portmarnock Golf Club, Dublin, together with a range of other inland and 'links' courses throughout the UK. Projects undertaken in the past by the division include golf courses for F.W. Hawtree & Son and Donald Steel. Steve Marnoch can be contacted on 0706 341121.

Growing Japanese presence in world golf

Investment by Japanese companies in foreign golf courses has been increasing rapidly over the last few years. As those in Britain have seen, Japanese interest in top golf courses has been considerable and there has been several attempts to purchase Wentworth, a well known and recognisable asset in international golf.

According to Japan Golf Report, there are currently some 76 golf courses worldwide that have been purchased by Japanese corporations with at least half of these in North America. It is this growing presence of Japanese investments that has caused some controversy in certain countries.

It would seem there are two main reasons for this Japanese investment in overseas golf courses. First there is the growing value of the Yen and second the cost of land is extremely high in Japan. Apart from the cost, it is becoming more difficult to obtain planning permission to build golf courses in Japan. Because of the investment in the region of 10,000 million Yen (\$77 million), which is much more expensive than the price of buying an overseas property and it doesn't have the same international prestige value. As the Japanese have more free time and a greater spending power, they are becoming increasingly interested in international travel. In many countries however, it is difficult for visiting Japanese to become members of top golf clubs. They therefore appreciate and welcome the opportunity of having a Japanese-owned facility that they can easily join.

There is also the international image that the investment brings to the company involved.

Investment in foreign projects also brings jobs. In America for instance Japan Golf Report estimates that 250,000 people have been employed by Japanese-owned golf clubs, Japanese managers tend to have a long-range perspective and are prepared to invest a great amount of time, effort and money to maintain a golf course in tip-top condition. They provide a place where Japanese golfers can play and relax in their own manner and where everyone speaks their language. Those courses are usually of high quality, with great scenic beauty and first class service. By attracting more Japanese tourists to visit the country they also

contribute to an important source of foreign currency revenues. For these reasons there is often support for the Japanese investment at local and state level. Some Japanese companies offer considerable financial aid to local communities and provide opportunities for business and cultural exchange.

On the negative side Japanese investment can lead to soaring land prices and high fees at the golf course, which can cause resentment. In Hawaii, the mayor of Honolulu, Frank Fasi, has urged Japanese speculators to "stop investing vast sums of money in a way that threatens the livelihood of islanders," citing the dramatic increase in the price of homes and higher taxes that accompany increased property values as major problems.

Another source of conflict is the relative slow pace at which the Japanese play their golf which is an inconvenience to other golfers. Finally, there is

the problem of communication since not all staff at Japanese-owned courses are fluent English speakers.

Foreign investment is nothing new but Japan Golf Report feels it has become a controversial issue recently, because it is occurring more frequently and increasing more rapidly than ever before. Japanese investors, with their penchant for the famous and prestigious, tend to make dramatic purchases, which sometimes gives rise to fears that traditions will be lost. At the same time, foreign investment is often welcomed, for the reason given. Therefore it would seem wise for Japanese corporations to seek the "middle way" in their overseas investments, by keeping them non-speculative, carefully considering their effect on local economy and culture, and in the cases of golf courses, preserving the game's traditions and the rights and privileges of club members.

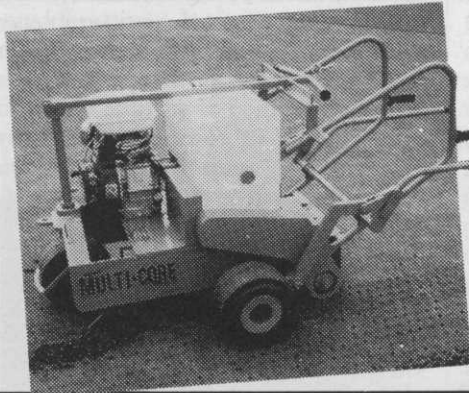
North America

Course	Area	Managing Corporation
Calabases Park CC	California	Nitto Kogyo
Desert Falls CC	California	Aichi
El Rancho Verde CC	California	Nitto Kogyo
Grenclefe Resort	Florida	Sports Promotion
Green River GC	California	Amada
Harrison GC	Vancouver, Canada	Itoman
Hilldale CC	Illinois	Kosaido
Kanoa Hill CC	Arizona	Aichi
La Costa Hotel and Spa	California	Sports Promotion
Malibu Fields CC	California	Tokyo Leisure Development
Mesquito CC	California	Aichi
Metropolitan Club	Georgia	Hyakumata
Mill Creek CC	Washington	Tokyo Express Railways
Monte Seat CC	California	Tsukamoto Sogyo
Palm Valley CC	California	Mitsubishi Jisho
Peacock Gap GCC	California	Nitto Kogyo
Richmond CC	North Carolina	Toko
Riverside C	California	Nitto Kogyo
Riviera CC	California	Marugin Shoji
Snapfinger Woods CC	Georgia	Nitto Kogyo
Sonoma National	California	Fuji Bread

Europe

Course	Area	Managing Corporation
Caesar Park GC	Lisbon, Portugal	Aoki Construction
Golf Int'l Le Bordeaux	Loire, France	Kasaido
Hatfield London CC	London UK	Tokyo Leisure Development
Letham Grange G & CC	Arbroath, Scotland,	Shinko Developments
Lochefole Chisan CC	Ibrine, France	Chisen
Old Thorns GC	Hants, UK	Kosaido
Slancours CC	Vigny, France	Nisshin Shoki
Turnberry Hotel and GC	Ayshire, Scotland	Nitto Kogyo

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The Greenkeeper

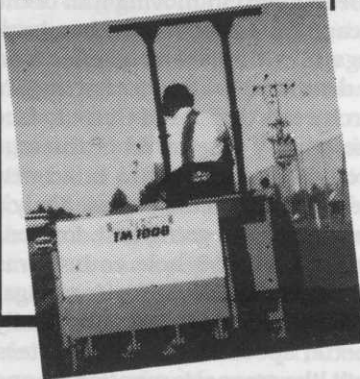
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THE WAY FORWARD

Jim Arthur reviews the R & A's document on golf course management

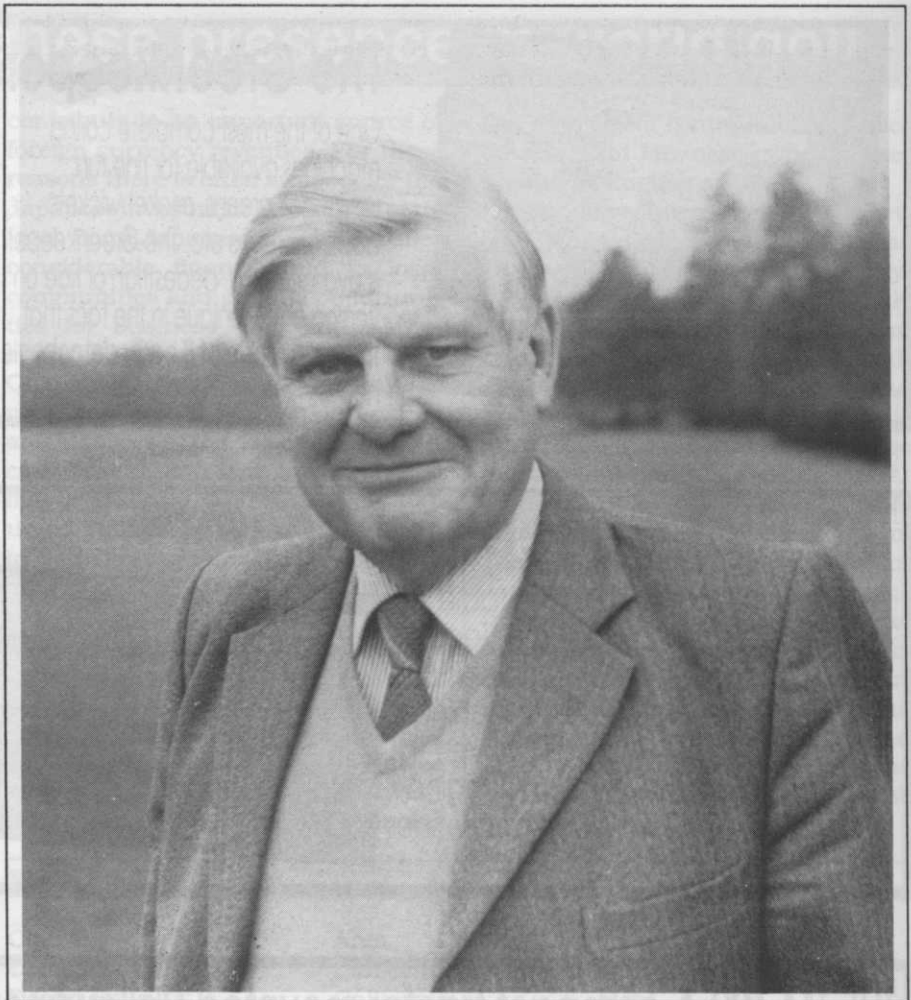
Shortly a discussion document with the above title should be available to any interested golfer through his club.

It has already gone to the Golf Unions, the PGA, etc. This paper represents the opinions of the Greenkeeping Panel of the Royal and Ancient on British Golf Course Management, and it attempts to define the problems, which today affect the game from every angle and which face every organisation which influences each and every facet of this rapidly changing recreation. In this paper observations are made, some critical but constructive, about golfers, their clubs, the golfing unions, architects, professionals, greenkeeping associations, education, the media and even the Royal and Ancient itself.

The aim of this much revised, edited and discussed report is to stimulate constructive examination of stated problems, few if any of which are debatable. Whether they are capable of being resolved is an entirely different matter. However, the General Committee of the Royal and Ancient consider that the maximum benefit will come from the document if the bodies to whom reference is made, including the R&A, are willing to constructively examine the problems which are identified and work together to bring about improvements within their power, both singly and collectively.

This document is issued as a joint and unanimous expression of the opinions of the panel who's members are T. B. Taylor, (Chairman), P. H. Wilson, R. T. Robinson, J. H. Arthur, K. Almond, N. Thomas, Dr. P. Hayes, E. N. Park, W. Woods.

It started life as an article I had prepared in 1987 entitled "Can golf as we knew it survive?". The same worrying factors which led me to the conclusion that it could not, have become greatly



exacerbated in the intervening years. In passing it should be made clear that the function of the greenkeeping panel is to advise, as one of the four committees, the External Funds Commission of the Royal and Ancient, as to the most effective way for the R&A to fund projects for the great and good of golf. The Panel feels however, that it also has the function of urging the R&A to maintain a broader view of golf and greenkeeping than in the past.

The debates, especially where sensitive toes have been trodden on will undoubtedly be loud and long, but we must have some agreement if money is not to be wasted. One good point derived from the revolution which has hit the game in the past two decades, is that money is now available in amounts totally unbelievable, when we were for example, scratching around for pennies to help greenkeeping education in recent years.

In passing, a fringe benefit from the (to me) appalling expenditure on "American Style", multi million pound courses (where most of the money seems to

have been spent in moving half of the landscape from A to B and then back to A again, with disastrous effects on basic drainage) is that constructors and architects do not now have to face the incredulity when told of the true costs of clients wanting to build new courses for unrealistic prices. Only a few years ago the going rate for constructing a new 18 hole course was well under £200,000 including irrigation. Now when £600,000 (admittedly for a better specification in which tees are built like greens) is mentioned, one sometimes gets a reaction more akin to "what, only £600,000", rather than the usual "you must be joking".

To support constructive discussion it may be helpful to itemise the main areas of concern. Hopefully this may stimulate correspondence, as only by the acceptance that we have problems, can they be resolved. "The Way Forward" deals with the following topics, as forces acting on the management of British golf courses', viz. the authorities, clubs, greenkeepers, agronomists and architects, professionals, commerce, the media and non

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golfing community and environmental considerations. It is not my intention to go into detail at this stage on all that is set out, as the debate will continue for many months to come, however, I will make reference to some of the more important items.

First the Governing authority which controls golf in this country, the Royal and Ancient has three stated functions; first as a Private Club, secondly as the Governing Authority for the Rules of Golf and Amateur Status and thirdly as the body responsible for organising and running Championships and Internationals Matches. As a Private Club the R&A has an interest in greenkeeping namely the maintenance of the links at St. Andrews, through its representatives on the Links Management Committee, and in this role they have set an enviably higher standard. Secondly as a governing authority on the rules the R&A has the power to influence balls and implements used to play the game. It is evident that considerable research is needed to get these items right, in order that traditional golf can be maintained and such research is already being undertaken by the STRI and funded by the Royal and Ancient. Thirdly the Championship Committee has a responsibility to choose courses which will present a test of golf commensurate with the status of the Championship in question. Alas, far too often they are not. Many championship courses have unacceptable levels of annual meadow grass in their greens. Few would agree that the influence of television has been totally beneficial. Undoubtedly it has made golf one of the fastest growing and most popular of all participatory and spectator sports, but this in itself has produced problems. It is, in fact, now "show biz", attracting vast numbers of new entrants into the game, with little understanding of, and even less desire to learn about, rules, let alone traditions. Those struggling to maintain tolerable all year round playing conditions, are faced on the one hand, with impossible demands by players and promoters alike, to have everything "right for the night". Never mind what that causes in subsequent deterioration, to the course, by the apathy or ignorance of those in charge. One such top official, requested by one of our most experienced course managers to veto a proposal to put

more fertilizer and water on one of our famous links, which would encourage annual meadow grass to take over, responded with the remark "but what's wrong with annual meadow grass. It produces good putting surfaces." The continued acceptance of Poa Annua as a golfing grass is undoubtedly a point of major concern for the Greenkeeping Panel. What is worrying is the number of championship courses, where those in charge should be guarding our traditional fast fine links turf, which have succumbed to the argument and influences of the touring professionals, who never play competitive golf in this country in the winter, anyway. The role of the National and County Unions in greenkeeping has always been somewhat distant, although, there is considerable activity now taking place with the English Golf Union taking the lead with sub-committees on golf course management and golf course development. Likewise the STRI must be properly funded through golfers and golf clubs rather than to have to rely on funding from the R&A. Any steps taken by the R&A in trying to improve the state of British courses must be matched by a spirit of co-operation with other interested bodies.

Clubs and their members are clearly the main target for education, to know what is both acceptable to ensure all year round playing conditions, and that which is economically viable. Golfing manners, it seems to me, have deteriorated in reverse proportion to the increase in membership. A true and recent story from a respected club of no great distance from where I write, illustrates an all too common problem. A visitor took an almighty divot under the nose of a man in overalls working on the course. He was asked politely to replace it and responded by telling the "greenkeeper" in Anglo-Saxon terms where he could go. He was then asked to call in at the secretary's office to be told that he had just insulted the captain (who as an extremely busy and good landscaper was helping out the green staff in an emergency). When the truth dawned, abject apologies were offered but refused, primarily because the offender thought it perfectly in order to swear at a member of the greenkeeping staff, if not at (incognito) Captains. How much longer before captain's and sec-

retaries are threatened with physical as well as verbal abuse from such jobs, (refer to my article in the Nov/Dec 1986 issue of **Greenkeeper**).

So far as course maintenance is concerned, few of those at the practical end will disagree that there has been a serious decline in manners in recent years. But this concern is not necessarily believed by those at the top, many of whom lead sheltered lives as members of our older respected clubs, where standards have been maintained and traditions cherished. Already many of those managing the lovely old courses, where I, until recently, used to advise on greenkeeping and other matters, report attacks by newcomers who want something quite different and will stop at nothing to achieve it. Greenkeeping as I have often said, suffers from cyclical patterns of disaster and recovery. The trouble is that we do not, generally, even seem to take two steps forward and one back, but at best go back to square one and start all over again. If the rush of newcomers has produced some with no wish to respect either traditional all year round conditions, it also has produced two more major problems.

The first is traffic, and frankly many of our courses can stand no more, witness the R&A's decision not to hold the 1990 Spring Meeting over the Old Course. Even if repair budgets can be boosted by massive injections from green fees this is no solution as it also has an effect on members enjoyment of their own clubs.

The extra revenue is by no means a gift and much if not all of it must be spent on extra maintenance, let alone providing improved facilities for players, so that members are faced with either increased crowding to the detriment of their enjoyment or increased subscriptions to pay for the higher standards which today are regarded as obligatory.

The other factor created by increased numbers is the demand for new courses. Sadly few of these will be private member clubs, because of the enormous costs involved, and yet one more controlling factor on behaviour will have gone. Developments, hotel courses and pay as you play (through the nose) will be the rule. One is reliably informed, without undue surprise, that there are now more golfers outside clubs than those who are members. One factor regarding new courses that really does worry me is

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the poor, or indeed absence of any control exerted on the specifications for new ventures. We are told that several hundred new courses (up to 500) are needed by the year 2000. Although it is statistically obvious that the demand exists, many of the courses that will be built will go bankrupt as golfers will vote with their feet when faced with poor conditions. Furthermore, much of this development is very vulnerable to any possible economic recession.

Sadly, too many of those putting up the money for new ventures, be they hoteliers, property developers, local authorities or just plain farmers trying to exchange the managing of four legged stock for two legged ones (which answer back) have not the least concept of what is technically involved. This is where the authorities must intervene and offer sound advice and assistance.

Greenkeeper training and the improvement in working conditions is another area that the document covers. It is perhaps too early to judge the greenkeeping associations success, although funding from the R&A has been essential in getting a unified body off the ground. With regard to training, the greenkeeper training committee has to a certain extent lost its way and needs to be re-vitalised with more stringent controls on the number of colleges approved and close scrutiny of the courses they offer. The Home Unions are to be applauded for assisting with funding but the 2p levy per member is really derisory if authorities and golfers alike are to treat greenkeeping and thus golf course maintenance seriously. It is important that the sum's raised should go to improving, through training skills and not to support the association itself, which should be self financing through member's subscription and monies raised from elsewhere, without bowing to trade influence.

I have already mentioned the role of the STRI and advice in general but it seems to me that there are two areas for urgent attention. There are too few staff to deal with the certain extra demands for advice, both because of the increase in courses and also because there will be more need for advice as pressures mount. Furthermore, research must be not only more related to current problems but even preliminary results must be

widely disseminated so that mistakes can be avoided. For example research has already shown that specifications designed for hot arid climates and thus requiring intensive irrigation have no validity in Northern temperate zones.

One of the greater contrasts in the game is the comparison between golf architects and greenkeepers. Both are intimately involved with course management, but one group is held in awe by golfers whilst the other struggles to gain recognition.

Yet, as with greenkeeping, to set up as a golf architect requires no formal qualification although the British Association of Golf Course Architects has started to instigate examinations. All too many golfers or developers imagine that the overriding qualification for the architect or designer is that he should be or have been a very good player.

It is essential to differentiate between the titles "architect" and "designer". The former must be restricted to members of the BAGCA and their American counterparts. They are governed by specific conditions, terms of engagement and scale of fees. Currently, virtually all members are qualified in a relevant science and have passed a probationary period.

In contrast, the "designers" have no formal qualifications and are quite often golf professionals seeking to widen their interests in the game and provide a new source of income once their playing career has ended.

It is perhaps unrealistic to expect any change of attitude among the many unqualified persons who dabble in so called course architecture. Therefore, in the future, sensible golfers and golf course developers should look to the more responsible elements to be found in the course construction industry.

There is no doubt that professional golfers have a historic link with golf course management, as many of their earlier number doubled as keeper of the green. However, since those times they have split into two groups, club and tournament professionals. As good golfers, many club professionals have opinions on how to manage their golf course. The temptation to assume that the function could be tacked onto their existing job specification is an obvious one. Yet in reality they probably have little more knowledge of the

subject than the average member.

The impact of tournament professionals on course management is a different matter altogether. The enormous front page, banner headlined, press coverage of the Ryder Cup, gives a clear indication that golf is becoming dominated in thought and motives by the tournament professionals, each with his own vociferous fan club. Money has entered into the soul of what used to be an individual game. Looked at superficially, the requirements of tournament professionals are reasonable. They want "consistent conditions in order to eliminate luck." In Britain and Ireland, this is an impossibility. Our climate just does not allow turf to be presented with the same characteristics each week. Greenkeepers are consistently put under pressure to try and achieve false conditions which can only do long term lasting damage. The PGA European Tour have been guilty in the past of playing their tournaments on courses totally ill suited in order to satisfy their sponsors demands. With the advent of their own courses it is to be hoped that their position becomes more realistic.

The trade (or sections of it) are seizing what they see as a boom in the golf market, little appreciating or being unwilling to admit that many of their products are used very little if at all on our best courses. The poorer elements have always had undue influence and equally some greenkeepers have encouraged some unhealthy practices. It is clear that the authorities through the STRI must ultimately lay down guidelines to cover all products and services that good course management needs.

The media, with a few honourable exceptions are self admittedly not interested in course presentation and standards, but only in personalities and their performance. It is essential that the three main groups, TV, press and golfing magazines, are educated as to what is achievable and desirable in our climate. Once this is achieved if indeed it is possible, the biggest hurdle will have been overcome, as it is all too obvious how much power the consumer media have over the average golfer. Likewise, the authorities must be more prepared to advise the golfing end user of what is happening and why both in terms of legislation and equipment. Also the STRI and the Greenkeeping Associa-

tion must be more aware of the need for self publicity within the golfing community.

So the message is obvious. What is known, proven by research and confirmed by practical experience, must be blazoned from the roof tops and supported by every possible authority and influence. We have no brief and less ability to stop fools from being parted from their money by rogues, but we do have a responsibility to see that the information to prevent it is widely available. Remember that, otherwise we are going to be increasingly clobbered by deteriorating disasters, which perhaps would be better, sooner rather than later, converted to safari parks.

What is really worrying is that all the problems are freely recognised by many in authority, who have ducked their responsibilities in the past by saying it was not part of their brief, or that the opposing view has some validity, or that there are extenuating circumstances, particularly in the choice of venues.

Failure to stand up and be counted will inevitably result in all the hard won ground over the past 20 years in which there has been some progress back to traditional course standards

and all year play will be lost, as faulty remedies are advocated to correct the results of faulty management, wrong construction methods and undue emphasis on ephemeral presentation for televised events. Those peaking courses should always remember that peaks are preceded and followed by troughs. My fear is that the troughs will be measured in months and the peaks in days.

Thus, it seems that the R & A - as the senior body in the game - has a definite role to play in co-ordinating action between all interested parties. A role which perhaps extends beyond the original function envisaged for the Greenkeeping Panel. However, this role should only be a short term need, until the results of co-ordinated actions start to be seen. By then, the R & A will have effectively demonstrated again its capacity for showing a lead in golfing matters when the need arises.

My remarks concerning "The Way Forward" are only a re-iteration of what I have preached over the years and it has given me no satisfaction to be proved right by events. All I hope is that thought will be stimulated and constructive discussion ensue to ensure an appreciation of all the better things in golf.

Do not dismiss my comments as the sentimental ramblings of a geriatric yearning for the past, but as a sincere attempt to influence a change of course. If this article and the document generates sufficient interest I might later return to discuss in more detail the subjects covered, for I am well aware that there are many involved who are implementing sane policies and who fear as much as I do for the healthy future of our Royal and Ancient game.

F R O M T H E F A I R W A Y

'Never to old to learn' - says Sid Arrowsmith

I read your September issue of the Golf Course with great interest and have been prompted to put pen to paper after reading the new feature entitled "Topical Turf Tips"

One of the many reasons why the art of greenkeeping has not improved sufficiently over the years is due to greenkeepers like the 60 year old man who was refusing to "go back to school" (his words) to study chemical applications. He also said he believed he knew more than any College Lecturer on this very technical subject. How wrong can a man be!

I have recently completed the courses

and one examination, so let me put all minds at rest. These courses are very, very good. Not too technical, lots of practical information well presented and with the growing interest in the environmental situation, absolutely vital for those of us involved in the industry. Not only did I learn much regarding actual spraying techniques, but the necessary safety aspects including storage requirements, handling products and the essential recording procedures.

So much so that I can now boast probably the best chemical container in greenkeeping, to a design with MAFF guidance.

My recording systems, for both bulk storage of chemicals and applications,

the safety clothing storage, washing facilities, etc, all came about from attending the Greenmount College in Antrim where we were instructed by a qualified farmer, whose lecture technique was second to none.

So a plea to my colleagues - please go out and search for training and guidance. To do otherwise is to let down our wonderful profession as well as breaking the law. If we are to be treated as professionals in our industry we must act in a professional manner.

Sidney Arrowsmith,
Head Greenkeeper,
Royal Portrush Golf Club,
Northern Ireland.

NEW PRODUCTS

Windsor's sunbaked swan song

Windsor's final IOG Exhibition was blessed with three days of glorious sunshine, in contrast to many of the previous mud clinging September shows. This time the essential green "wellies" remained firmly locked in the boot of the car. Once again the race course show ground hosted a growing number of exhibitors much broader based than the first Windsor Show as evidenced by the number of stands competing in the play ground industry and general sports ground maintenance. Next year the IOG will be taking the exhibition to the East of England Show Ground adjacent to the A1 outside Peterborough and although there was initially a degree of opposition to the plan, it now seems to be generally accepted and most of those who have supported the Windsor venue have agreed to continue supporting the event.

The Lely (UK) company, distributors of Toro Machinery, lifted the gold award for the best large stand, putting an extra broad smile on the face of Sales Manager, Graham Dale, particularly satisfying as Toro International Chief Executive, Ram Kumar, had flown in from the USA to support the Lely team. H. Pattison & Son, suppliers of a variety of golf course equipment were also rewarded with a Bronze award for their airy walk around display, which broke with the traditional method of displaying a vast amount of items in front of the mobile sales office.

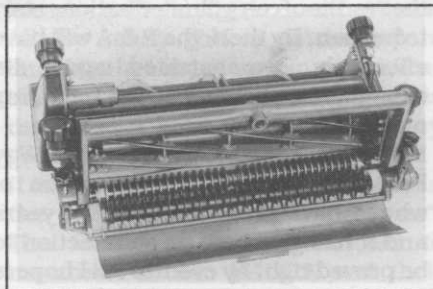
Rhone-Poulenc, still known by their customers as May & Baker, scooped the best literature of the show award for their comprehensive illustrated catalogue, which gave considerable attention to health and safety matters, presented a complex subject in an easy to read style, making it a valuable pocket reference book.

In addition to the usual tried and tested products and machinery on view a number of companies chose the event to launch their new ranges. Ransomes, who recently announced the acquisition of the Cushman organisation, which includes Ryan and

Brouwer, introduced a new hydraulically operated Verti-Groom units which collected up to three times the amount of material after cutting a green, picking up moss and thatch, which has produced a noticeable increase in putting speeds.

Because the Verti-Groom is mounted ahead of the front disc roll it does not throw top dressing into the cutting cylinder as it floats independently. Adjustments for height of cut and cylinder to bottom blade are simplified by hand operation. The depth control can be set and locked in position before the operator sets out to cut the greens.

A similar Verti-Groom unit is also available for the Ransome's Super-Certes.



Ransomes new Verti-Groom cutting unit

Pride of place on the Jacobsen stand was a superb four-wheel drive version of the fairway mower, the LF-100, to give the finest control to the professional, who wants the best out of his machine.

The new Jacobsen Lightweight Fairway Mower is unique in this country for its light compaction, extreme manoeuvrability and very easy servicing access. It is a durable machine for

the greenkeeper who wants a full return for his investment.

The LF-100 four-wheel drive has been on trial for the past six months at the new East Sussex National Golf Club, where the Golf Course Grounds Manager, Ken Siems, who has been responsible for developing the course, says "There has never been a better machine on the market. Compaction-wise it is good, it cuts well and it is more durable than any of the others".

The greenkeeper can now skillfully cut with the new facility by changing to and from 4-wheel drive, while in motion, by one simple movement, allowing him to keep a perfect cutting level whatever the terrain.

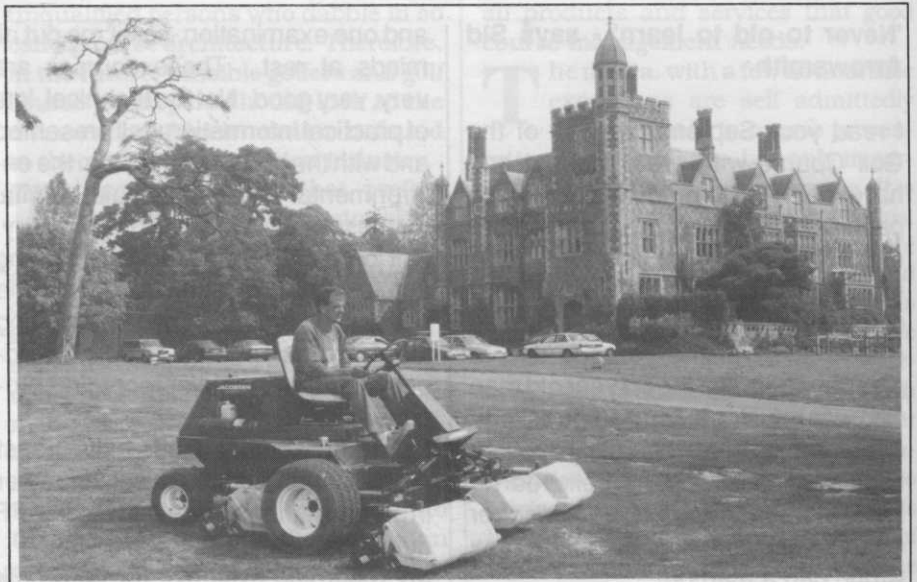
Jacobsen's LF-100 is a 5-gang out-front mower with a 100" cutting width and 5 mph mowing speed which gives it higher productivity and more economical lightweight mowing.

Its low set design and wide front tyres give the LF-100 the lowest ground pressure of any out-front 5-gang at 6-7psi which means less compaction and healthier turf.

The five 22" seven bladed cutting heads of hardened, high manganese, carbon steel, are Jacobsen's own design and are fully floating and steerable, making striping easier.

The 3-cylinder diesel engine saves up to 50% in fuel costs, while the use of diesel fuel is a contributory factor in longer engine life and reduced maintenance.

With a network of backup Service Agents for servicing the machines and a fully comprehensive range of spare parts at their King's Lynn Headquarters, Jacobsen say they provide a customer service second to none.



The LF-100 four-wheel drive on trial at the East Sussex National Golf Club