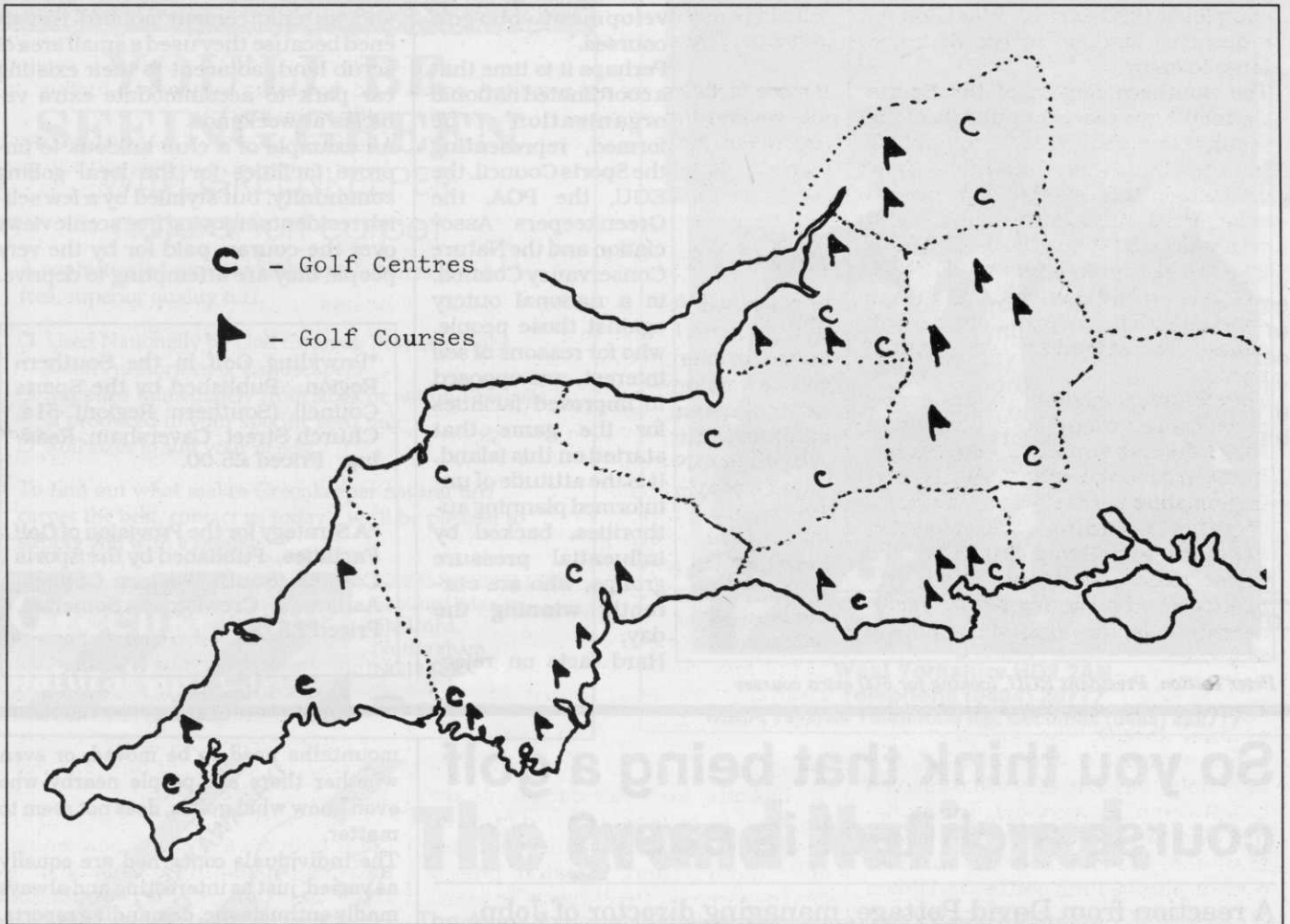


DEVELOPMENT

West, with a total of 64,274, club members, paying an annual average subscription of £156, though this figure is probably now out of date and is significantly affected by a relatively

averaging 76, taking about two years to acquire membership. Somerset would appear to be the easiest county to gain membership at a club, some having no waiting list, others

drawing board stage to planning approval and under construction. It is hoped to maintain the impetus now created to satisfy the wish of many more people to play golf and the



New golf courses and golf centres proposed in the South West

low rate of £117 in Wiltshire.

What is significant however is the reported non playing membership of golf clubs, which averages at only 14%. It would seem that people no longer join golf clubs purely for the social cache, paid for out of company expenses, members join because they intend to play the game.

This figure is even more important if one accepts that all clubs have a number of long established stalwarts, who although accepting that their playing days are over, keep their membership to enjoy the company of life long friends.

The survey also discovered the average weekday green fee was just over £9.00 and £11.50 at weekends, which leads one to conclude that the annual subscription is far too low, the equivalent of less than 14 rounds per year.

Most counties have a waiting list, with Avon, Devon and Dorset

offering entry within six months.

Commenting on the English Golf Unions efforts to increase the number of golf courses in England, the EGU President Mr Peter Dutton said, "In March '89 the Union's Development Committee under past-president John Goodban made an excellent start when a representative from every golf body attended a meeting in London to identify the problems of providing more golf courses, where they are most needed.

That meeting gave the EGU wholehearted approval for their initiative to co-ordinate all the enquiries.

Through the four regional development officers, each county was invited to appoint a liaison officer and the combined effort has obtained a great deal of co-operation from local planning authorities.

The EGU offices in Leicester, though the counties, will be keeping a record of all projects in England from the

desire by farmers and other developers to make good use of suitable areas of land".

Mr Dutton added that a commendable start has been made.

There is also a hidden factor to be considered concerning membership and that is club policy. Many of the private clubs keep the membership figures below the capacity of the course to maintain a degree of exclusivity. Although this may be annoying to a golfer anxious to join a club, particularly if he has been forced to move because of business reasons, it is nevertheless understandable that existing members do not wish to compete for tee off times at weekends.

The recommendations of the South West Region of the Sports Council include the provisions of 19 new 18 holes courses and 9 commercial golf centres, a concept long established on the North

DEVELOPMENT

American continent, but here mainly in control of local authorities. The survey did not seek to examine the

success rate of current applications in the pipe line from commercial undertakings, but offered advice and technical guidance to those contemplating the development of golf courses.

Perhaps it is time that a coordinated national organisation be formed, representing the Sports Council, the EGU, the PGA, the Greenkeepers Association and the Nature Conservancy Council, in a national outcry against those people, who for reasons of self interest, are opposed to improved facilities for the game that started on this island. It is the attitude of uninformed planning authorities, backed by influential pressure groups, who are currently winning the day.

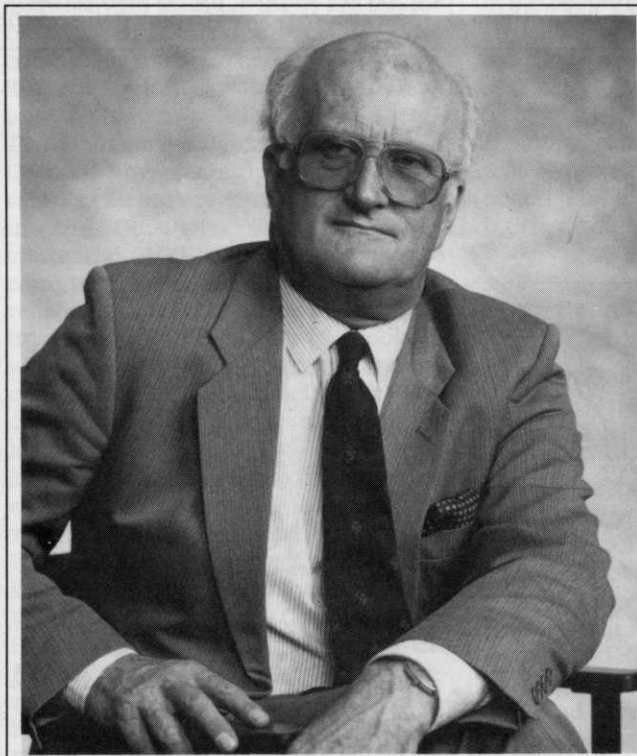
Hard facts on rejec-

tion rates are difficult to obtain. However, it is common knowledge that a well-known Yorkshire club, with a ten year waiting list has had two applications for a new clubhouse rejected and an enforcement noticed threatened because they used a small area of scrub land, adjacent to their existing car park to accommodate extra vehicles at weekends.

An example of a club anxious to improve facilities for the local golfing community, but stymied by a few selfish residents enjoying free scenic views over the course, paid for by the very people they are attempting to deprive.

**Providing Golf in the Southern Region. Published by the Sports Council (Southern Region) 51a, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Priced £5.00.*

**A Strategy for the Provision of Golf Facilities. Published by the Sports Council (South Western Council) Ashlands, Crewkerne, Somerset. Priced £5.00*



Peter Dutton, President EGU, looking for 500 extra courses

So you think that being a golf course architect is easy?

A reaction from David Pottage, managing director of John Jacobs Golf Associates Ltd

I don't know how my competitors are coping with the current golf boom. Very well, I am sure. It is, as far as this company is concerned, a wonderful period, filled with many glorious opportunities to provide golf at all levels and for players of all abilities.

It is also a period of great frustration, sometimes because one cannot always see the 'goldmine' to end a struggling farmers nightmare, hoped for with the winning of planning permission. There are also the frustrations of the local authorities, who do not automatically accept that "we know what is best for the land", or that "what is best for our client is automatically best for the community in general". Having spent 20 years in local government myself, I have to admit that I sometimes tend to see their point of view.

The biggest frustration, however, is the length of time one waits trying to go places. Airport lounges, railway stations,

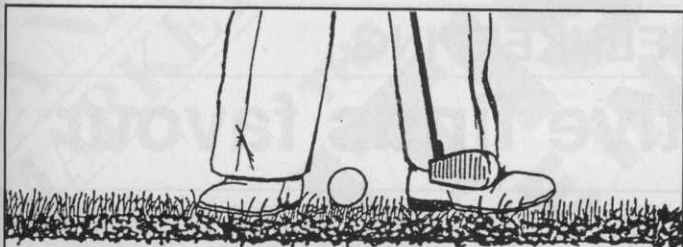
traffic jams in general and especially the M25, that wonderful short-cut, that free car park, that cause of more delayed appointments than perhaps anything in the South of England - it can, however, provide a good excuse of just being plain late! Over the relatively short period since its completion, one has at some time been stationary along almost all of its 120 odd miles!

To balance the frustration is the tremendous variety of site, project and indeed individual who wants to "do a golf course". The projects vary from driving range, through par-3 course, executive golf course to public pay-to-play golf centres. They range from new member's club courses and alterations to existing courses to corporate golf, from nine-hole through eighteen to thirty-six holes, from "to build it myself" projects "to money no object". The combination is endless. The locations are worldwide. Whether or not there is any soil or water, or whether

mountains need to be moved, or even whether there are people nearby who even know what golf is, does not seem to matter.

The individuals concerned are equally as varied, just as interesting and always madly enthusiastic, demanding reports, feasibility studies, plans and meeting, usually yesterday or at the very least, this week sometime! They range from the farmer, who may be finding life increasingly difficult, because of milk quotas or general agricultural policies, to the young professional who sees the driving range as a way of breaking free though every possible combination of individual to the chairman and managing directors of the multi-national companies. Their reasons may be different (superficially at any rate) but their aims are the same. They all want GOLF.

The whole situation is still bubbling along, for how much longer who can say. Government policy and maybe continued European success in the World's golf tournaments will be factors. Future government policy is anybody's guess, I would, however, like to put in a plea to Tony's lads "Please fellows, win the Ryder Cup and help keep the boom going". The actual golf course architecture? - Oh I leave nearly all that to John Jacobs, he is very good at it.



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ALLEN

The natural alternative finds favour

The versatility and cost efficiency of wood and bark based products makes them ideal for golf course applications, with their unusual mix of extensive landscaping and high pedestrian traffic volumes.

Melcourt Industries of Tetbury is among specialist suppliers of these products, which are now finding increasing favour with greenkeepers as an environment friendly alternative to more conventional materials. All Melcourt products, for example, are wholly organic; with no use of chemicals at any stage of their processing or treatment.

It is essentially for their practical performance, however, that wood-based products are enjoying a growing popularity on Britain's golf courses. Starting with the pathways which connect green with tee, it is easy to see why, since traditional options like concrete, tarmac, and gravel will either damage shoe spikes or cause undue wear, while bare earth pathways erode too quickly and are often impossible during the winter months.

For many, the answer now lays in something like Melcourt's Woodfibre, laid to a depth of around 100mm over an adequate drainage base - perhaps with a geotextile separator for more permanent installations. The material offers excellent drainage characteristic, will not damage spikes or studs, and prevents mud from splashing over trolley wheels or being trampled into the club house. Most importantly, Woodfibre pathways also blend in beautifully with natural surroundings, often adding to the appearance of courses (unlike concrete or tarmac!). They are also easy to lay, with minimal maintenance demands, and they can always be lifted and re-sited should the need arise.

Mulches too

When the material's long working life as a pathway is finally exhausted, it can also double as a cheap but highly effective mulch for flower borders and shrub beds. Not surprisingly, Melcourt also offers a wide range of more specialised mulches, such as Ornamental Bark Mulch for sites where - as the product's name implies - appearance is of the first importance.

For larger scale planting areas, the company produces Forest Biomulch, an economical surface mulch with a high organic content designed both to enrich soil humus and reduce the application of costly chemical-based fertilisers.

Finally, Melcourt also offers a range of top dressings and soil conditioners, which again answer many of the greenkeeper's



problems. These include Adheart, a new soil conditioner which should be dug well in to improve structure, enhance drainage and add humus content without stimulating thatch. By reducing the effects of leaching and promoting nutrient supplies, the conditioner also encourages the microbiological activity essential to healthy greens.

As with all Melcourt products, Adheart

is distributed nationally and is available in both bagged and bulk form, with 'walking floor' trailers for difficult sites or where storage space is at a premium (the trailers will semi-pile their loads if required). For trade prices and more detailed product information, contact the company direct at Three Cups House, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8JG Tel: 0666 503919/502711.

WINDWHISTLE EXTENSION

Green light for Somerset course

Windwhistle Golf, Squash and Country Club's planning application to add an 18-hole extension to the course has been given the go-ahead by South Somerset District Council's planning committee, according to a report in the Chard and Ilminster News.

The extension, when complete, will mean Windwhistle will become the longest championship course in the West country at 7,047 yards. The medal length will be 6,260 yards with a standard scratch score of 70.

And there is every prospect, with the co-operation of all concerned and reasonable weather, that play will take place on the new course in 1991.

The plan was approved at a recent meeting of the council's west area planning sub-committee, which received a report from the officers which stated: "It is considered that a basis for agreement has been reached which will result in a very attractive golf course which has very positive benefits for wildlife and the landscape and these details should be formally agreed within the framework of a section 52 agreement.

Audrey Buchanan (Chard South East) commented: "I congratulate both the applicants and the officers on their pres-

entation of the plans. It is now a totally satisfactory scheme."

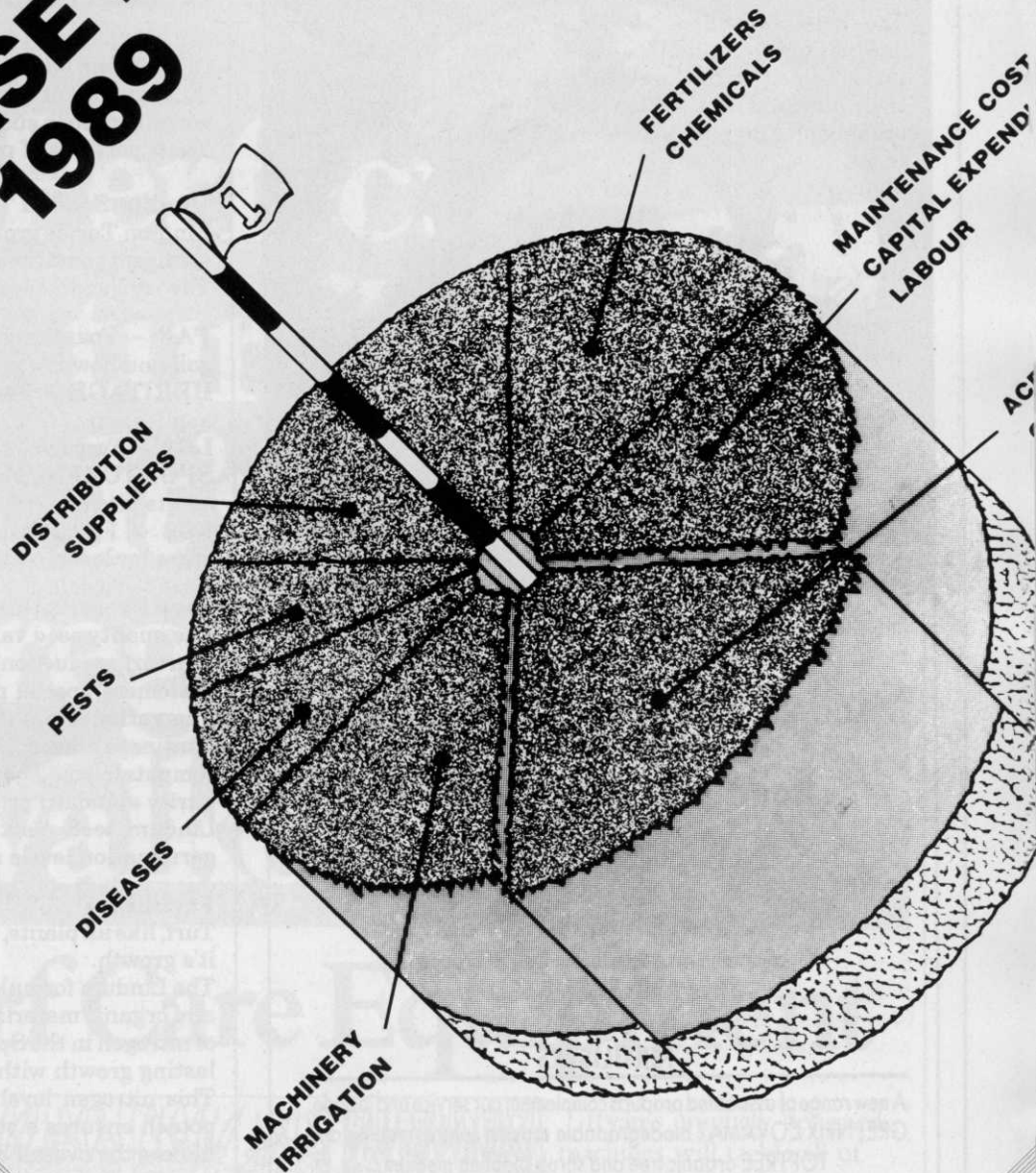
Club and former county president Leonard Fisher, who rescued Windwhistle from extinction after the Second World War, welcomed the news at the weekend.

He said: "The club's proposals, when completed, will provide the most important addition to the West golfing scene since St Mellion, West of the Famar, and St. Pierre, north of the Bristol Channel. "Tournament golf could, in the future, be accommodated at Windwhistle, which would enable South Somerset to play a major part in the European golfing programme."

Mr Fisher said that the new 27-hole complex would reduce wear and tear on the course and allow essential maintenance work to be carried out at the proper time rather than the opportune time. And with the extra space available, a natural informality would be introduced into the tree and shrub planting replacement programme on the existing course. There would also be an increasing provision, freedom and sanctuary for the natural local wildlife and flora - a policy adopted by the club over 35 years ago and pursued ever since.

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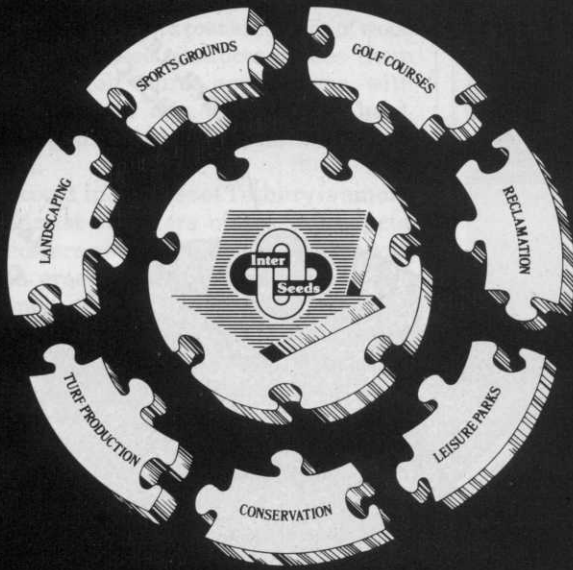
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COMPANY DATA FILE

Lindum expands portfolio to include products and services

Lindum who have established a reputation for the high quality of their seeded turf are now offering some of the secrets of their success to provide the complete turf service. Their portfolio of products for perfect turf includes:

Quality Seeded Turf

Lindum Turf is grown from top STRI varieties, under the most stringent conditions and subject to a rigorous care programme. The range includes:

PAF – Poa Annuua Free, Fescue/bent mixture for finest golf and bowling greens.

HERITAGE – Fescue/bent for luxury lawns and prestigious applications.

LG1 – Fescue/bent. Four top STRI varieties for golf tees.

SPORTURF – Fescue/bent/dwarf ryegrass and specials for sports pitches.

LG2 – Fescue/bent/dwarf ryegrass/smooth stalked meadow grass for low maintenance amenity areas.

Seed Prescriptions

The quality seed varieties which are used by Lindum for their own turf production, are available in prescriptions designed for customers' special needs.

The varieties are chosen for their disease resistance, winter hardiness, drought tolerance, growth pattern, colour and compatability. The vigour-proven seed is cleaned to a high purity standard prior to prescription mixing.

Lindum seed meet Ministry and EEC standards and high germination levels are assured.

Fertilisers

Turf, like all plants, requires the mineral elements essential for it's growth.

The Lindum formulates are based on a combination of mineral and organic materials to provide various stages of availability of nitrogen in the Spring and Summer. Compounds to give long lasting growth with a healthy colour.

This nitrogen level combined with adequate phosphate and potash ensures a steady development of root growth and enhances the overall disease and drought resistance of the cultivars.

The inclusion of sulphate of iron helps reduce weed and worm invasion on acidic or light sand soil. The inclusion of trace elements (magnesium and sulphate of iron) will assist leaf colour and help with the distribution of both phosphates and potassium.

'Sodnet' Netting

This American-made netting product, for which Lindum are the sole UK distributors, is designed to prevent soil/seed bed erosion; it acts as a mulch, reduces moisture loss, works as a holding medium for the root mat and enables early lifting for turf growers.

Grass seeding of land reclamation areas will benefit by the use of 'Sodnet' to stabilize the soil surface, particular on sloping sites.

Preparation and after care service

Lindum provide advice on the preparation of new sites and offer their expertise in both machinery and material supply sector. The company will carry out a soil analysis and offer an agronomy advisory service.

Lindum Seeded Turf, Church House, Horkstow, Barton-on-Humber, South Humberside. DN18 6BG Tel: 065 261 329/564 Fax: 065 261 447

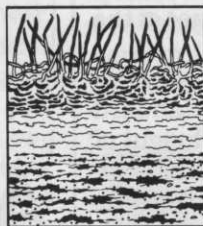
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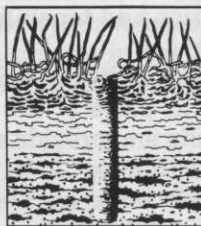
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EXHIBITION

IoG says farewell to Windsor

This year's exhibition will be the last to be staged at Windsor Race Course

The 45th staging of the IOG Sports & Leisure World Trade Exhibition at Windsor will be the last to be held on the race course site.

There are still a few people around who were present at the first exhibition in the grounds of the Hurlingham Club in 1938, when most of the leading manufacturers and two seed firms displayed their wares, but compared to today's event it was unrecognisable.

Outdoor leisure is a multi-million pound business and this is reflected by the growth out only of equipment to maintain natural and synthetic surfaces, but of the number of companies who have entered the market.

Hurlingham became too small in 1966, which necessitated the move to Motspur Park and now Windsor Race Course has outgrown its usefulness forcing the Exhibition to take to the road once more, this time to a purpose built show ground at Peterborough in 1990.

The decision was hardly received with universal favour, not because the site was other than ideal, but from a feeling among the exhibitors, that London with its adjacent airports and vast range of hotels offered more to the visitor than a corner of East Anglia.

There still exists a belief by the uninited "southerner" that everything north of Watford is a barren uncivilised wasteland and they may continue to hold that view as next year they drive northwards on a duel carriageway past open fields and dense woodland, but the journey should not take more than an



Huxleys new 358 Greensmower with optional hydraulics third wheel drive

hour, about equal to the time spent queuing in traffic jams on the approach to Windsor.

There are many who are looking forward to Peterborough 1990 and believe it is a positive step by the IOG to cement the foundations for an even better trade show over the next ten years.

Following a highly successful first year for the all British golf greens mower, Huxleys Grass Machinery have introduced four optional attachments to enhance the operation and capabilities of the machine:

Four-bladed utility mowing units, which fit in place of the standard greens units and provide a height of cut from 3/16 in to 3/4 in. They are suitable for work on tees, greens approaches and other fine turf areas requiring a longer finish than that produced by the eight-bladed greens units;

Hydraulic third-wheel drive option to enhance grip and climbing ability, particularly useful on two-tier greens;

Turf Combs to help produce faster, truer putting surfaces without any alterations to the height of cut;

Powered verti-reel units for the removal of lateral growth within the turf surface.

Huxleys also has a new Cushman with a diesel engine available in three or four wheeled versions.



Toro Super 700 series sprinklers

A number of new irrigation products from Toro will make their UK debut at this year's IOG exhibition.

Sprinklers - the sharp end of any irrigation system - will be highlighted by the introduction of the redesigned Toro 700 series range comprising Standard, Commercial, Shrub and Hi-pop models offering an almost instant nozzle change facility. To change from one nozzle size to another the user simply releases one holding screw and 'clicks' the replacement nozzle into position.

Completely new, the Toro 740 pop-up sprinkler reduces pumping power costs. Operating at low pressures, the 740's innovative rotating crown-

EXHIBITION

head provides maximum throw plus even water distribution in the mid-range and close-in to the operating position.

The Toro VT-12 Solid-state Controller displayed at Windsor will be just one of a comprehensive range of hi-tech. controllers on view. The VT-12 provides up to eleven starts per day (or night) working to a 7-day schedule. Designed to compliment the Toro Vari-time 4000 and Vari-time II, the VT-12 is ideally suited for controlling watering programmes on athletic sports field, parkland or golf course greens, tees and fairway schemes.

All Toro products will be exhibited on Stand F7-10 at Windsor '89.

AF. Trenchers will be displaying a full range of trenchers manufactured by AFT at Colchester, on their stands 18-21 at Windsor.

The types now include self winching and wheel driven, pedestrian, track laying and tractor mounted types. Of particular interest for sportsfield drainage are the Wizz Wheel High speed tractor mounted trencher complete with soil collection system and high level discharge soil elevator and dual use hopper for backfilling both sand and shingle.

New products distributed in the UK by Claymore; include the new Green's Caretaker mounted hydraulic cylinder mower. Joining the existing range of Green's pedestrian cylinder and trailed gang mowers.

The Bolens range now includes two ride-on mowers, six lawn tractors, four estate tractors and a wide and comprehensive selection of attachments.

The Sabo-Roberine range of self propelled fully hydraulic multi-unit cylinder mowers now include the lightweight K600-3D triple mower - a remarkably efficient and economical machine - and the new 5-gang golf course version of the successful K1602 - diesel.

Turf Machinery Hire are the United Kingdom distributors for Turfco self-propelled and tractor operated top dressing machines, turfcutters & self-propelled edgers.

Following the introduction at the British Landscape Exhibition in June, Turf Machinery are showing a Cushman turf vehicle fitted with a brand new engine conversion. The engine has many advantages over the original, a terrific saving on price, it also has a better power to weight ratio, solid state ignition and many more up to date features, environmental friendly - runs on lead free petrol. The company also provide a range of specialist machinery for hire including Vertidrain, Ryan Greensaires - GA30, Core Collector.

Turf Machinery Spares are the United Kingdom distributors for the R & R products company of Arizona, who manufacture top quality replacement parts suitable for most imported turf & grass machinery. Prices reflect considerable equal to, or better than the original. Stand no: C Ave 07& 08.

The range of Multicore Turf Aerators has achieved significant success throughout the world and in the UK where it is now being successfully marketed by Lawnmower Specialists Ltd, Blackburn, Lancashire. There are three competitively priced models in the range The Multicore Greenkeeper which is one of the most complete coring machines available for golf greens and tees, cricket wickets and bowling greens, available as a pedestrian or ride on version is unique in the fact that there are a range of 8 easily detach-



The Multicore Aerator with mini-tines hollow cores a badly thatched green

able heads which include: 2 types of slitting head, seeding head, soil tining heads with various sizes of solid tines 3/8", 1/2" and 5/8" jumbo coring head giving spacing of 1" and 5/8" centre with the tines providing 49 holes per square foot or 7/8" centre with the mini tine head providing 98 holes per square foot.

Adjustable depth setting and the variety of the heads gives multicore all year around application.

For faster deeper aerating the Multicore Contractor is for coarse turf work including outfields, Tees and fairways.

A pedestrian self propelled machine (a sulky seat is available to convert to a ride on) is powered by 8hp engine and will core 21,250 square feet per hour.

The latest edition to the range is the TM100 compact tractor mounted, suitable for all purposes.

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