

## OUT AND ABOUT

### JACOBSEN EXPANDS, IMPROVES TURF GROOMER LINE

Jacobsen Division of Textron recently introduced an improved Turf Groomer (R) greens conditioner and new model for fairway use.

The Turf Groomer has a larger front roller and larger, thicker six-point cutting blades for greater strength and durability. Two blade spacings are available.

The Turf Groomer has a tough 1" drive belt that's protected from debris by a sealed housing. The cover can be removed for inspections and adjustments. A double pin clutch is standard.

The quick up/down blade adjuster can raise or lower the reel up to 3/8" in 1/8" increments to raise the blades to skip grooming. A micro-depth adjustment dial fine tunes cutting heights without tools.

Anti-scalp gauge wheels help prevent the marking of turf.

The patented intersecting action of the Turf Groomer's roller and knives produces a fine quality cut. The roller's grooves have bevelled edges that help lift horizontal grasses on greens and fairways. The knives rotate through the slots in the roller, slicing the grass blades and surface runners before they lie down to the grass stands up for a smoother surface.

### GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS APPOINT NEW OFFICERS

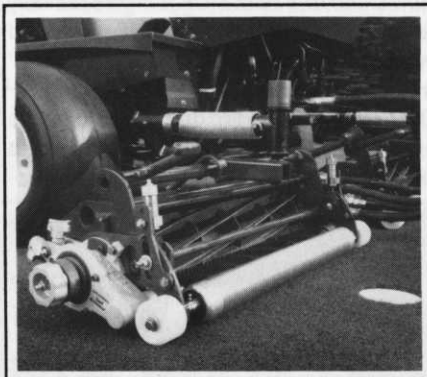
After the resignation of Howard Swan as Secretary and as a member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, a full meeting of the Association took place recently. Brian Pierson has been appointed Chairman, Jim Bull Treasurer, Tim Banks Secretary and David Clarke as meeting co-ordinator.

The Association viewed the 1990s as a period of sustained growth for the golf course construction industry and the Chairman was pleased to note the number of new Constructor members who will be in a position to professionally satisfy a sizable part of the expected demand.

To promote the Association's aims, a new handbook is in the process of production which will illustrate to developers and clubs contemplating altering their existing courses of the need to use experienced and reputable companies in the golf course construction field.

This cutting action promotes a more vertical growth with more leaf surface for better photosynthesis, encouraging deeper roots and improved stress tolerance.

Regular use of the Turf Groomer can increase green speed up to 25 percent and allow the reduction or elimination of certain stressful speed enhancing practices. On both fairways and greens, it helps eliminate grain, and control thatch.



*Jacobsen Turf Groomer (R) Greens/Fairway Conditioner*

### SHOW GROUND BATTLES IN 1990

As the IOG announce record bookings from exhibitors for the Sports and Leisure Exhibition at Peterborough from the 4th - 6th September, the Garden Machinery

Association say they now have 140 companies exhibiting at their show at Kempton Park between 2nd - 4th September.

The GMA promoting Britain's first "International Professional Lawn, Garden and Outdoor Power Equipment Exhibition" (only an ex-civil servant could have dreamed up a title like this) have for reasons best known to themselves, chosen clashing dates with the established IOG.

Although it could be argued that the two events do not necessarily compete, there must, in our broad based industry, be something of an overlap even if it is only in the matters of grass maintenance.

The Peterborough Exhibition, despite earlier mis-givings on moving the venue away from London, looks certain to be a winner. The earlier September date is more likely to provide a settled spell in the weather and the Midland location will attract a large number from the northern part of the country, who have spent more time in traffic jams than walking around the stands.

The GMA meanwhile are pushing ahead with their publicity campaign to make the Kempton Park show a viable proposition. With the possibility of companies wanting to be at both shows, there could well be queues on the A1 northbound, on the first Tuesday in September as exhibitors attempt to be in two places at once.

### NEW JOB FOR JACK

Jack McMillan has resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale Golf Club to take up a post as an international golf course advisor. Jack and his wife Rita have been a part of the Sunningdale scene for most of the last decade and they have been heavily involved in all aspects of greenkeeping through their greenkeeping sons as well as Jack's Chairmanship of two greenkeeping Associations.

Jack has always been willing to exchange views with other head greenkeepers and with advisors such as Jim Arthur and his club's own Secretary, Keith Almond both of whom are members of the R & A's Greenkeeping Panel.

In joining the International Golfers Club, based in London, he will be bringing to golf course advisory work not only a great deal of first hand experience but an unequalled enthusiasm for golf courses, having visited courses in all parts of Europe and the USA and compared golf course mainte-

nance practices in a variety of climatic zones.



*Jack and Rita McMillan*

Perhaps his greatest greenkeeping achievement was the way Sunningdale Old Course was presented for the Walker Cup and it is to be hoped that he will be able to assist others in his capacity as an advisor to reach such standards of preparation and presentation.

## OUT AND ABOUT



*Paul Davis from Swindon, who complicated the proceedings by asking for a left-handed set.*

### CHARTERHOUSE WINNERS

One often wonders who were the winners prize draws run at the numerous trade shows around the country, or if (heaven forbid) the goodies were ever awarded. Charterhouse Machinery, who exhibited several variations of the verti-drain at Windsor, have now produced their list of winners for the three complete sets of golf clubs and confessed that none of the lucky participants played the game! That is until they won their clubs.

The prizewinners were drawn on each of the three days of the Windsor show.

Paul Davis, of Mordon Nurseries, Swindon, Wiltshire, is an area supervisor with Thamesdown Contractors, a local authority contractor; Mr T. H. Heath of Saunton Harold, Leicestershire, is a ground maintenance contractor; and Mr P Bloomfield of Ipswich, Suffolk, is groundsman for Ipswich School.

Second prizes, of a magnum of champagne, went to Mr D J Wood of Cowden, Kent; the Secretary of Parkstone Golf Club, Poole; and Mr T Huntley of Worcester Park, Surrey.

Third prizewinners, who received bottles of wine, were Mr C P West of Rickmansworth, Mr G Brooks or Horsell Common and Mr J S Potts of Newcastle.

### KUBOTA DEALER SALES PERSONNEL FLY EAST

A ten day trip to Japan and Thailand, was the prize Kubota (UK) Limited provided for 40 of its top dealer UK sales personnel for successful sales of Kubota tractors and ride-on mowers during the 1989.

The party, led by Brian Hurtley, Vice-President-Director, Kubota (UK) Limited recently returned from this trip of a lifetime and everyone agreed the 'Eastern Promise' was very definitely fulfilled.

The first part of the ten day adventure was a visit to the Kubota headquarters in Osaka followed by guided tours of the manufac-

turing plants at Sakai, Rinkai and Tsukuba, where everyone was shown the emphasis Japan's largest tractor manufacturer places on research, development and innovation. After the business was completed the party flew on to Thailand for sightseeing in Bangkok and then relaxation in the Thai 'riviera' resort of Pattaya Beach.

The 10 day trip certainly lived up to its 'Eastern Promise' and Brian Hurtley added, "The trip had been well and truly earned by our dealer sales personnel following a very successful year and an increase in our market share in the UK. Our major problem now is to find an even bigger incentive for next year!"



*Brian Hurtley (third right), Vice President-Director, Kubota (UK) with the Kubota dealer sales personnel party in Thailand during part of their ten day Eastern Promise trip*

### ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT APPOINT PARKERS AS LONDON DISTRIBUTORS

T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd of Worcester Park, Surrey, have been appointed the London Distributors of Allen Power Equipment of Didcot.

The Allen machines involved are the National 68" and 84" Triple Mowers; Brushcutters including the Reciprocator, a revolutionary multi-purpose trimmer/brushcutter, edger, branch clipper and pruner which is exclusive to Allen and incorporates a new safety cutter; and Professional Hover Mowers which have the unique Allen 'Safe-way' Mowing System, the first really safe blade. "We are delighted at our appointment," said Mr Peter Simpson, a Director of Parkers, "it further strengthens our position as one of the leading Turf Care Specialists in the South East of England."

### WEED CONTROL COMPANY JOIN RIGBY TAYLOR

Rigby Taylor have acquired a controlling interest in Complete Weed Control Limited, a specialist spray contracting service to the amenity industry. The Company operates via a network of seventeen regional offices throughout mainland Great Britain and will continue under the direction of Roger Turner and the Sales and Marketing Director, Nick Thain.

Mr. Turner is the Chairman Elect of the National Association of Agricultural Contractors and has been instrumental in formulating the contracting industry's Code of Practice. Bernard Hedley will act as Chairman of Complete Weed Control Limited with Bob Young, Manager of Rigby Taylor's Weed Control Division, joining the Board.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### JOINT SISIS/BRITISH SEED HOUSES/ ROLAWN FIELD DAYS

Around 330 groundsmen and greenkeepers turned out for three joint SISIS/BHS/ROLAWN field days in Birmingham, Stoke and Southampton at the end of October. In spite of hard ground conditions the SISIS Varicore pto operated aerator performed impressively and the new Hydro-main Twin 25 aroused much interest. Demonstrations of other new and established SISIS aerators, scarifiers, seeders, top dressers and sweepers provided a well-balanced programme of interest to Local Authorities, Golf Clubs, and all types of Sports Clubs.

All those who attended were interested to hear about the production and use of Rolawn cultivated turf from Technical Director, Robert Laycock.

Samples of turf on display attracted much favourable comment and all concerned were impressed by the professionalism of the Rolawn team.

Some of those present had no experience of using turf other than meadow turf and many did not realise there was now a ready supply of cultivated turf direct from Rolawn depots and that it could save them time and money and satisfy their committees and players at the same time.

The selection of grass seed species was the theme behind the British Seed House presenting, taking into account that the

wear tolerance of a grass sward is the main criteria for those engaged in the maintenance of outfields. Similarly tolerance of close mowing of certain grass species is equally important for the upkeep of fine turf areas.

Specific cultivars were later highlighted quoting examples of where they had been successfully sown: Penncross Creeping Bent had been chosen as a monoculture for seeding the greens at the new Johnny Miller Course at Collingtree and light play was possible 8 months after seeding; Hermes, Loretta and Gaton perennial Ryegrasses are consistently specified by Local Authorities for renovation of winter sports pitches and British Seed Houses confirmed that these cultivars are excellent choices with quick establishment and maximum wear tolerance guaranteed.

The possibility of holding similar seminar/demonstration days in 1990, in other parts of the country is being discussed and plans will be announced early next year.

### MOORE TO RECEIVE NEXT OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD

For the first time, the Golf Course Superintendants Association of America (GCSAA) will bestow its highest honour, the Old Tom Morris Award - upon a member superintendent.

Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS, 50-year GCSAA member and past president of the association, will receive the award during the closing banquet of the 61st GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show on Feb. 26 in Orlando, Fla.

Moore was the superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Course in Mamaroneck, N.Y., from 1957-1967. From there, he moved on to become superintendent at Woodway Country Club in Darien, Conn. When Winged Foot was selected to host the first Senior Open in 1980, Moore returned to help get the course in prime condition. In 1984, he left to join The Captains Golf Course in Brewster, Mass. Moore also served as acting agronomist for the USGA Green Section during 1987-88. Recently retired, Moore still continues to work as a consultant at The Captains.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1982 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris, greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, four-times Open Champion, club-maker, ballmaker and golf course architect.

Moore joins the host of golf luminaries who are past Old Tom Morris Award winners: Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gene Sarazen and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

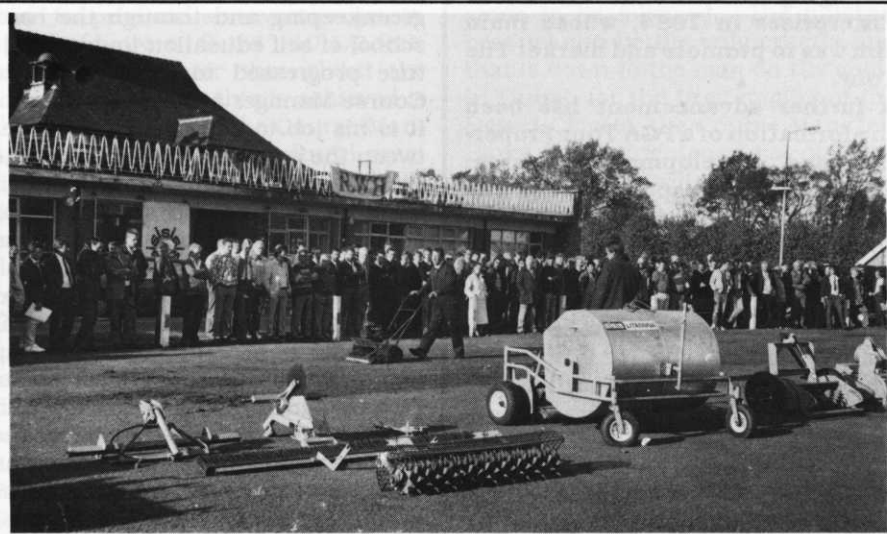
### SECOND SITE FOR STA-BRITE

Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd, the grounds maintenance company, moved into their new warehouse and office complex in Basingstoke during December.

The premises will be racked out for palletised goods, including an ample chemicals store built on a modular design and capable of being extended to contain up to 13 tons of herbicides and pesticides.

Innovative mechanical handling should make the warehousing operation extremely efficient and the excellent level of service provided to customers at present is set to improve still further.

The telephone number for sales is (0256) 811811



*The Sisis Varicore at the joint Sisis/Rolawn/British Seed House Field Day at the Mitchell & Butler Sports Ground, Birmingham*

# Europe's leading Greenkeepers meet in Portugal

*The PGA Europe Tour, sponsored by Volvo, will be playing for £16m in prize money in 1990, three times the sum on offer just five years ago.*

*Golf, both professional and amateur has moved from being a weekend pursuit in little more than a decade to become one of the fastest growing business ventures throughout the world, and now, not before time some might say, the contribution to the game by the professional greenkeeper is at last receiving recognition.*

*John Lelean, joined the PGA European Tour Greenkeepers at their first conference at the Penina Hotel in Portugal.*

The Volvo European tour now extends from the Highlands of Scotland to the Persian Gulf, played on golf courses as varied as the traditional links at St. Andrews, through the heathlands of Surrey, the parklands at Woburn, the semi-tropical scrub lands of Spain and Portugal to the latest addition, the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai. Ask any of the players what they re-

quire from a tour venue and they will say - "Firm fast greens, flat teeing areas, tight lies on the fairways, well defined differences between semi-rough and rough, uniform sand in the bunkers and consistency from one course to the next".

A very tall order in a climate where the temperatures can range from 100 degrees to little above freezing on one

of Britain's bad days.

In the week before the start of the festive season, the PGA European Tour Management brought together on the Algarve Europe's leading greenkeepers, and golf directors. The dedicated professionals, whose skills in golf course preparation and presentation are an essential element to the Tour's success.

Although there have been previous meetings between the PGA European Tour Management and Golf Course Managers, this was the first fully structured conference where uninhibited discussion was given unbridled rein, overcoming with apparent ease the barriers of nationality and language. It could be said, greenkeepers speak with the same tongue when discussing their favourite subject - growing grass and maintaining golf courses. The three day conference at the Penina Hotel, was an outstanding success, despite a spell of the most inclement Algarve weather.

Course preparation is high on the priority list of the PGA European Tour. In 1989, Bruce Jamieson, previously a Tournament Administrator was appointed the Director of Agronomy, a position he is well qualified to hold. The son of the club professional at Turnberry, he developed an interest in greenkeeping and through the hard school of self education in grass culture progressed to the position of Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl. It is his job to act as the liaison between the greenkeeping staff and the Tour Manager, offering advice when required, setting the standards for course preparation and on occasions offering a shoulder to cry on.

He works in cooperation with Tournament Directors and Tour Administrators, who handle the course set-up and two consultant greenkeepers. Richard and Roger Stillwell, who spend most of the season travelling the Continent, visiting courses months ahead of a Tour event. A course preparation document has been in existence for man years. It is part of Bruce Jamieson's role to revise it.

Those involved with a tour event used

## European Tour Director opens Penina conference

The growth of the European Tour, has now provided sufficient funds to bring greenkeepers together for the first of what is hoped to be a regular gathering of those responsible for preparing golf courses for tournament events, the Director of Tour Policy, Tony Gray, told delegates at Penina.

In 1936, the Daily Mail sponsored the first PGA event at Sunningdale with a prize fund of £2,000, which has now grown to £16m, the amount to be played for in 1990.

Overall sponsorship increased from £1.5m in 1979 to £30m last year, increasing still further for the coming year to £50m, which thanks to the involvement of Volvo, has been a significant breakthrough.

Outlining the development of the European Tour, Mr Gray told the forty delegates at the opening session at the conference, that in 1971

John Jacobs was appointed to the position of Tour Director General, whose main objective was to increase the sponsorship prize fund. He was succeeded in 1975 by Ken Schofield.

Although the PGA European Tour is now a separate organisation from the PGA, the charter remains almost unchanged. At one time their headquarters occupied cramped office space at the Oval Cricket Ground, now they are established in their own premises within the complex of the Wentworth Club at Virginia Water.

The European Tour organisation had become so complex that it was necessary to set up various divisions and George O'Grady became the Managing Director of PGA Tour Enterprises in 1984, whose main aim was to promote and market The Tour.

A further advancement has been the formation of a PGA Tour Properties and Development Division, which will be responsible for the construction of their own golf courses along similar lines to the USPGA Tour. These courses built to tournament specifications will also be available for the benefit of the golfing public.

The European Tour has still a long way to go, added Tony Gray. From the first tournament in France in 1970, the French Open, 25 of the tour events are now held on continental courses and last year they added Dubai to the list for the Desert Classic.



Tony Gray

## Setting up the course for a tour event

Mike Tate is one of the European Tour's Administrators responsible for setting up a course for a tournament. It is his job to ensure that everything will be right for the start, reducing complaints and rules queries to the absolute minimum.

Mike and the other nine members of the travelling staff will be out on the course with the larks at first light on a Monday morning armed with a spray gun to check for possible worn areas which could be deemed "ground under repair", though if the course has been prepared with meticulous efficiency these areas will be hard to find.

High on the priority list will be the out of bounds markers, ensuring the stakes are clearly visible, there is a clear line from one stake to the next and the adjacent area has been strimmed to avoid doubtful decisions.

Water hazards are checked and marker posts are sited well back from the edge.

Bunkers, often a source of complaint are checked for sand coverage, both for equality of depth and the consistency. No golfer, amateur or professional can control a bunker shot if the ball is plugged in the sand. The leading golfers can all manipulate the ball out of the bunker, but if it is below the level of their feet, no one has control on the fly to the pin.

Ideally the sand should be lightly hand watered to provide a stable surface.

Rakes are checked to ensure there is one for every bunker and instructions given that these are to be sited

in the bunker itself. A somewhat controversial point with the average club, who use a variety of methods from spiked heads to hollow pipes to keep the rakes out of the sand.

Tees are regarded as too small by most professionals, particularly on the short holes where a three day event can cause considerable wear from iron play.

To counter this the rule of thumb is to put the markers at the back of the tees for the practice rounds, or the now usual preliminary pro-am event and move them forward daily as the tournament proceeds. Greenstaff are often advised to cover a small tee area, prior to a tournament to keep the golfers off.

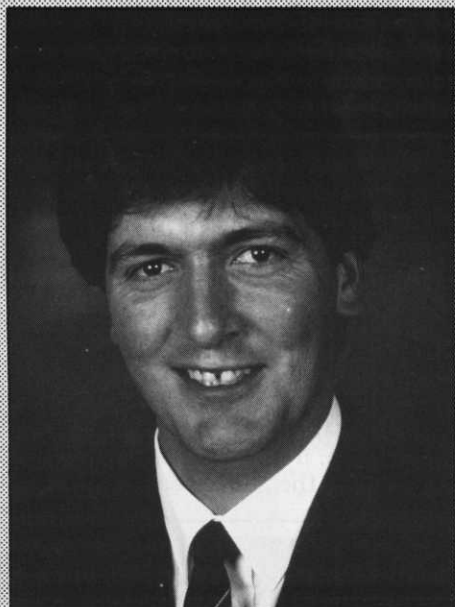
A beady eye is also kept on possible obstructions to the line of play, so surplus golf course furniture, seats, rubbish bins, signs and all other tee markers are removed, except when the pro-am is in progress and on these days the amateurs and professionals have separate tee positions. By the time the tournament commences, the officials will have toured the course several times. All are in direct radio communication throughout the set-up and through the event and this radio link also includes the course manager and the duty greenstaff.

Although the tour organisers direct the pin positions, this is done in liaison with the greenkeeper. They are not set in the impossible positions that some host clubs would like, accordingly to Mike Tate's colleague, David Garland. Understandably, the club, looking ahead

to the return of their course for member's play are anxious to preserve the best positions on the green. The set-up presentation raised some lively discussion and points for consideration came from Chris Kennedy at Wentworth, who suggested that the size of the hole can vary according to the weather conditions.

George Brown, course manager at Turnberry said he would like to see some standardisation of paint for the insides of the cup. Should it be gloss oil-bound paint, emulsion or perhaps there is something better that could be uniformly used.

Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patino, President of Valderrama said he has the cups painted weeks ahead of the tournament so the staff have adequate practice.



Mike Tate

to be advised to cut putting surfaces to 1/8". This is now recognized as sometimes impracticable. The aim is now to produce an average greenspeed of between 9 1/2 - 10 1/2 feet, on the stimpmeter throughout the tournament. How this is achieved is the responsibility of the Course Manager, whether it be by cultural practice, the latest technology such as groomer units, fine cutting or a combination of all these elements, is the decision of the man in charge of the course.

The European Tour, starts in Portugal, moves to the United Arab Emirates, then progresses northwards through the season, until in June they reach their most northerly event in Stockholm for the Scandinavian Open. Within a little over four months, the Tour have played courses as far apart as Alaska to Mexico!

The variation in climatic conditions is

vast, the techniques involved in bringing a course to its peak so different. No document can lay down a tablet of stone to be followed. The finished product can be the only criteria and that is down to the man on the spot. In Dubai, for the first staging of the Desert Classic, the Course Manager, Barry Carter frightened not only the players, but himself when he achieved a greenspeed of 13 feet, so fast that if the wind had blown in from the Gulf, the ball would not have held on the putting surface. These surfaces, faster even than Augusta, were only possible by putting the grass under extreme stress and cutting to 1.25mm.

A cut in cool season climates at this height would put such stress on the grass it could not recover.

Jean Pierre Leboucher, from the French Golf Federation, summed up course preparation admirably - "Grass is a living thing. It needs cossetting,

feeding, encouraging, nurturing. Preparation grass for a tournament is like training an Olympic athlete. It must be fit, healthy, well fed and strong. Brought to its peak before it is put under stress and cut to a competitive length".

A presentation of the building of the Emirates Club by Golf Director, Terry Duffy and its subsequent maintenance programme, fascinated all at the conference. A detailed report will be published in a future issue of The Golf Course, but it can be recorded that the course hosted a Tour Event in less than three years of the arrival of the first bull-dozer on the barren desert sands.

By harnessing surplus water from the nearby de-salination plant, which in turn was powered from energy created from an industrial smelting plant, grass was growing on greens and fairways within days of planting. Two huge fish

filled lakes act as reservoirs, to supply up to 2 million gallons a day through the irrigation system. All this for less than £2 and half million pounds, half the cost of the clubhouse!

Course management and maintenance on any course with a high through put of golfers, and this applies to all the courses used by the European Tour, requires a sound, well organised work programme over 12 months of the year.

Course Manager, Derek Ganning in charge of The Belfry, had two tournaments in 1989, the English Open in June, followed by the Ryder Cup in September. He told the conference how the greenstaff's work plan has to dovetail with the host of other supporting bodies from TV, Tented Village, Hospitality Units, Telephones and even the refuse and toilets.

His philosophy is to be firm yet friendly, knowing where structures are to be sited and who is responsible. Minimum course damage is the main consideration.

Bruce Jamieson sees the main aim is to provide a fair competitive arena for the player. Providing equal consistent conditions on the day, for those with a late tee off as far those who play earlier.

He is looking for commitment from the course managers, something he is certain to obtain from such a highly dedicated band of greensmen who are proud to put their hallowed acres under examination, if only for a few days at the height of the golf season.

## Are our greens approaching the end of a lifespan?

As the majority of golf courses in Britain approach their centenary, the greens could be reaching the end of their natural life, Jack McMillan told the Greenkeepers Conference at Penina.

Jack, the Course Manager at Sunningdale, host club to the European Open next September, suggested that increased play over many of Britain's courses built around the turn of the century has created so much compaction on impervious greens, it has created almost insurmountable maintenance problems. Only by continuing costly aeration programmes was it possible to keep greens in play.

He believed that the time was fast approaching when some courses

should give serious consideration to an 18-hole green re-building programme to the USGA specification, which proved to be the best method of green construction, which should guarantee, with correct upkeep a 100 year lifespan.

Popular courses now experience something in the region of 50,000 rounds of golf a year and the wear is further increased if every member of a four-ball has a caddy.

A bent/poa mix produced the best putting surface at his course, according to Jack McMillan. Talk of bent/fescue mixes were somewhat of a myth, he added, as fescues cannot stand up to heavy traffic and only at St Andrews or some links and downland courses had he seen the fescues in real abundance.

The creeping bent grasses produce the best putting surfaces, but he had some misgivings on how well they will withstand long term wear in a climate with a seven month long dormant period. Experience of creeping bent in Britain has so far not been good as it has quickly succumb to the incursion of annual meadow grass. Managing creeping bent is a technique still very much experimental.

At his course 700 tons of top dressing is used annually, spread lightly and often. To produce his green speeds the Sunningdale policy is to take the grass out not off, by verticutting and grooming.



Jack McMillan



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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### ANOTHER PUBLIC 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE IN SUSSEX

Leatherhead based company, Golflines International Limited have taken over the defunct 9 hole Public Golf Course at Berni Inn's Gatwick Manor Motel/Restaurant/Bar complex. The complex near Gatwick Airport in Sussex, which is part of the Grand Metropolitan Group is to be revamped by PGA Professional Patrick Tallack for Golflines International Limited and is due to open for play on 1st May 1990.

### NEW DESERT GOLF COURSE FOR TUNISIA

The development of golf facilities in Tunisia has taken a jump forward with the news that agreement has been reached for the construction of an international, 18 hole course at Tozeur, in the south west corner of the country.

Agreement was reached last month with the Tunisian authorities for a French/Tunisian company, Compagnie des Golf Internationaux de Tunisie, to start construction of the new desert course in January 1990 to open within two years. Plans were also approved for the construction of an adjacent four star de luxe hotel to be constructed and opened concurrently.

The new course, overlooking the Sahara desert and the oasis of Tozeur, will be situated less than three miles from the international airport of Tozeur/Nefta and is served by domestic scheduled services operated by Tunis Air from Tunis & Djerba. The Director of the Tunisian National Tourist office in London, Kader Chelbi said: "This is an exciting addition to our already announced plans to construct new courses at Hammamet, Djerba, Taberka and North Tunis. Already the new course at Monastir is open and Hammamet will be ready for play by next spring.

"The opening of our first "desert" golf course will be a major construction to our objective to greatly expand our desert tourism which will, in turn, increase our winter business. Winter temperatures in Tozeur average 70 degrees, an ideal climate for golf," he said.

Meanwhile Tunisia's two current courses

at Port el Kantaoui and Monastir have announced their rates for the Winter season. Individual rates at Port el Kantaoui, where the Tunisian Open was staged in the PGA Tour for several years, will be £14 per round in December, January and February, rising to £15.50 in November and March. Groups of 15 or more get a reduction per round of £1.50. At the newly opened 18 hole course at Monastir, the individual price per day will be a standard £18 from November to April or £100 for unlimited play over six days. Both courses, the 27 holes at Port el Kantaoui and the 18 at Monastir, were designed by the Californian architect Ronald Fream.

### GOLF CLUB CONGLOMERATE BRANCHES OUT INTO COURSES

Amer Group's subsidiary Amer Golf Properties Inc. has signed a letter of intent to acquire an interest in the large Central European golf property corporation IGA (International Golf Associates SA). Amer Golf Properties Inc. was established last summer after Amer Group had acquired Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Amer also holds the majority of the shares in McGregor Golf Company, USA. Amer Golf Properties Inc. is a development corporation primarily involved in golf-related real estate development. The company is based in Chicago, USA. IGA is a developer of golfing, leisure and

hotel centres, mainly in Central and Southern Europe where it is presently participating in seven projects at different stages of development. The first will be completed in Italy in 1992.

Mr Kari Sipila, Executive Vice President of Amer Golf Properties, will be appointed Executive Vice President of IGA from the date of signing the deal. The President of Amer Golf Properties Inc. is Mr Kai Luotenen, Amer Group's Group Vice President, Business Development.

### WAVENDON GOLF CENTRE OPENS

The new Wavendon Golf Centre at Lower End Road, Wavendon near Milton Keynes opened to the public on November 18.

After months of preparation the 35-acre golfing complex will comprise a 26-bay floodlit driving range and a 7,100 sq ft clubhouse, a well stocked golf shop, changing facilities, bar, lounge and restaurant. An exacting par three golf course is due to open at the site next summer. The Centre, including the clubhouse, will be open to the general public without restriction.

The development is the brainchild of three local businessmen, golf professional Nick Elmer, surveyor John Drake and farmer Philip Menday.

"It's a unique facility locally," explained Nick Elmer. "A lot of research went into the planning of the project and we are confident that it will be a popular venue with golfers and non-golfers alike."



An artists impression of the Wavendon Golf Centre. It features a multi-purpose clubhouse and driving range and will be followed next summer by an exacting 9-hole par 3 course



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# "The chances of becoming a golf course architect were about equal to that of being struck by lightning"

Michael John Hurdzan President A.S.G.C.A. 1984

*With very few professional golf course architects and no formal training to become one, the new two year course planned by the British Association of Golf Course Architects may well alter 'the State of the Art'. Steve Marnoch illustrates the problems of embarking upon a career as a golf course architect.*

## **Opportunities in golf course architecture at present are nil".**

**F. W. Hawtree, B.A.G.C.A. March 1982**

As a young man who had his heart set on becoming a golf course architect, this reply from an eminent member of the B.A.G.C.A. was not an easy one to receive although it served to give an accurate illustration of the work opportunities at that time.

I had developed an interest in art and design and had played golf for my club for a number of years. My father Peter Marnoch was, and still is incidentally, head greenkeeper at Coventry Hear-sall Golf Club so it would appear I had as good a grounding as any for a future career in golf course architecture.

For guidance, I contacted B.A.G.C.A. and U.S.G.C.A. and was informed that the number of enquiries for the development of golf courses far outweighed the number actually being designed and constructed. I was advised to pursue a career which was closely related. A career as a landscape architect seemed suitable and one which could lead me nearer to my goal.

Following the completion of my degree, I again pursued opportunities to specialise or move solely into golf course architecture. Unfortunately, despite having the qualifications and experience to match, there were still no openings into the profession.

**"It is doubtful if there are any vacancies in golf course architecture at present".**

**J. Hamilton Stutt B.A.G.C.A. 1982**

Nothing had changed!

Suddenly, the opportunity arose to work with the construction team on the re-development of the Jubilee

Course at St Andrews designed by Donald Steel. Considering the past years of struggling, I decided that if I was to succeed as a golf course architect, it would be essential that I gained some 'on-site' experience in the techniques of course construction.

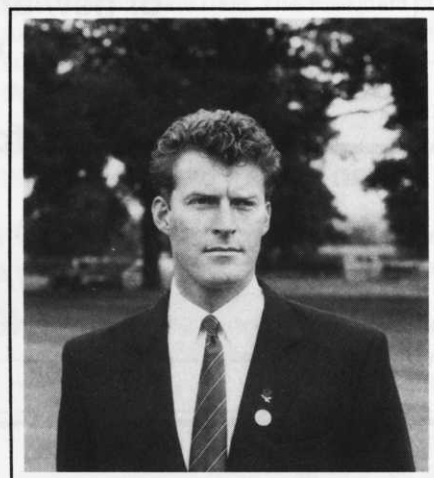
It was a great privilege to work at the 'Home of Golf'. During my time there I felt I was in a strong position to be noticed by an architect and perhaps secure an appointment. This, unfortunately, was not to be and sadly, after six months I decided that to continue in this line of work on the construction team may prove detrimental to my long term career, therefore I decided to progress into architecture or perhaps getting a chance to join with a full member of B.A.G.C.A.

What followed was more experience in the specialist field of construction where I was directly involved in the implementation of designs produced by members of the Association and even produce some of my own work which did receive acclaim from both greenstaffs and committees concerned. However, I was still attempting to become involved in golf course *architecture* rather than 'design' but there were no formal paths of training to achieve recognition, this was impossible.

It is with some relief that this position has now changed following a recent statement of B.A.G.C.A.

**"At the B.A.G.C.A. Committee meeting held on the 4th July 1989 it was decided that the Association had an obligation to educate its future members and a syllabus and reading list covering a two-year programme was formulated".**

**M. G. Hawtree, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, B.A.G.C.A.**



The course has been planned to include a series of study essays, a wide reading list and finally the production of a full 18-hole course design with working drawings, specification and bill of quants. It is a part-time course with attendance at residential workshops twice yearly. Primarily it consists of the participant producing a number of assignments which are accessed by a personal tutor who is a full member of B.A.G.C.A. and assigned to each course member at the beginning of the course.

The content of the course includes discussions ranging from golf course layout in Europe and America since 1900 and evaluations of terms including 'penal', strategic and heroic when considering hole design. A number of study modules have been set which cover subjects varying from planning for Sports and Leisure through Grass and Botany to History of Landscape. This is the first course of its kind in this country and began, suitably, at the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley in October 1989. I have been sponsored to attend the course by my present employers, the Casey Group