

of Companies based in Rochdale.

The fact that they are backing me in my career as a golf course architect suggests that the Group is concerned with producing an excellent standard of work in golf course design and construction which would be supported by a qualification from the B.A.G.C.A.

The course syllabus appears to offer a balanced coverage of the wide variety of the expertise that a golf course architect requires. The success of the teaching and running of the course over the next two years will be of interest. It was made clear at the first meeting that the tutors and organisers are specialists in their respective fields of architecture but are not trained as lecturers and for that reason should be allowed some licence to develop that role. I have no doubt that the course will experience some teething problems due to its infancy, but that all concerned, students and staff, will pull together to develop this course for the future and help maintain its development.

Organised by B.A.G.C.A. with support from the R & A and EGU this course is a response to the amount of interest shown by individuals in becoming golf course architects and as a concerted effort by the Association to provide a structure and foundation whereby young architects can be properly trained. Successful completion will give a certificate in golf course architecture and provisional membership. Full membership still requires the design and supervision of six 18 hole courses within a six year period.

This response is encouraging and commendable from the Associations' members who are bound by a moral code of ethics, as are any other members of a professional body. The course hopes to continue the high standards set by past and present members by instilling the same ideals into the new students. This comes at a time when tight control is required to maintain this high quality when there is such an interest in golf.

During a recent discussion, I was asked what the difference was between an 'Architect' and a 'Designer'. My reply was that an Architect would do the job properly.

I hope that having completed this course, there will be a number of good golf course architects who are not led by the mystical attraction of designing courses and can see no further than 'green is good', but who can provide working projects which are successful, aesthetic and testing to all and prove to be creditworthy of the Asso-

ciation.

A current concern is with the amount of so called 'designers' who appear to be playing at the real role with perhaps some knowledge of maybe one of the many facets required by a golf course architect. I am sure that this is of great concern also to the Association and one of the reasons behind structuring the formal course and training. This worry is endorsed by many professionals in the business.

"All too many golfers or developers imagine that the overriding qualification for an architect or designer is that he should be or have been a very good player".

Jim Arthur in his article 'The Way Forward'

It is essential to differentiate between the titles 'architect' and 'designer'. The former must be restricted to members of B.A.G.C.A. 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".
"The Golf Course" October 1989

Surely the production of something akin to green deserts with flat playing surfaces or mounds too steep, impossible carries over ill-constructed water bodies, which the greenkeeper will have to maintain for the future with his normally meager budget for maintenance, will reflect badly on golf course architects as a whole if we are not careful.

I imagine the famous names of the past like Colt, Fowler or MacKenzie (whom we shall be studying) would be turning in their graves if they could see the 'howlers' being produced today which, in the long run, can only cost the client a fortune to rectify in capital outlay and lost revenue during repair works.

The problem must lie with the client sector who seem to lash out millions on courses with no assurances as to the quality of the end product.

It is essential that the client employs someone who is bound by professional ethics and liabilities to ensure that quality and integrity through experience is maintained.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it can be seen that trying to break into a new profession can be fraught with danger, especially when the supply of finance to the leisure sector can fall off dramatically, as has been experience in the past.

With a limited amount of work, there can only be a small group of people to handle that, as was with the original Association where even they relied upon other careers which they could fall back on in times of hardship.

With the current massive interest in golf, it is human nature that certain individuals will want a 'ride' on that wave. If the true ethics of golf and interest in the game for **all** are to be maintained, it is important that the 'new architects' must have the grounding and indeed be steeped in the historical development of the game in order that the original ideas and styles are not lost in the flood of 'Americanisms' and 'spectator friendly golf'.

That is not to say that there is no case for different styles of courses and indeed not a place for 'designers'. There are good and bad in all things. Hopefully the latter content of the article did not antagonise the 'good designers' who have attempted to find out about the background, different styles and techniques of what they are attempting.

If there are no openings to become a golf course architect, then it is perhaps difficult not to fall into the "designer" classification.

With the development of a formal path of training by B.A.G.C.A., this unfortunate situation can now change and by learning from the experience of past professionals the future looks promising. We live in a country with a wealth of excellent golf courses. Let's take steps to protect our heritage in maintaining these high standards for all new developments through good design, good specifications and construction techniques.

The development of this course syllabus is encouraging and shows the responsibility that the B.A.G.C.A. has to golf as a whole. I am please to be part of that and am grateful for the support given to me by the Casey Group of Companies.



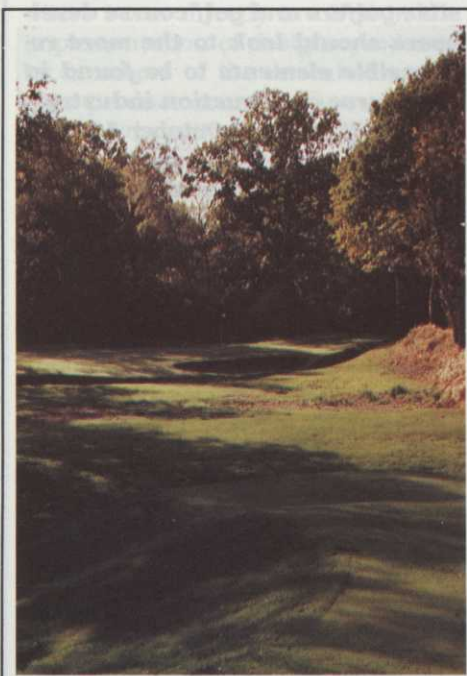
The South Course at Wentworth

As previewed in the 1988 April issue of "the Golf Course" the construction of the South Course at Wentworth has been completed. The course was planned, not as an over-spill from the existing East and West courses but as a tournament venue in its own right. Meticulous planning by Wentworth's managing director Richard Doyle-Davidson, in obtaining permission to build the course, by taking all the interested parties along with him resulted, not only in the prospect of an exciting golfing facility, but as an object lesson in how to deal with red tape and pressure groups in these environmentally sensitive days. This has meant an ongoing interest by the Surrey Wildlife Trust in the management of Wentworth's wet wood which has been a significant factor in the course's progress.

It is interesting to note now, that back in April '88 the owners of the Wentworth estate, AMEC, expected a return on the capital employed in the construction of the new course over a six to seven year period. How must they feel now after having sold the entire Wentworth operation for just under £17 million to see the new owners Chelsfield PLC recoup nearly £54 million by selling off only 40% of the shares.

However, when the contractors Golf Landscapes actually arrived on the

site in the Spring of 1988, they found a very different situation from that for which they had tendered. Tree clearance had indeed taken place and the resulting open space had been de-rooted and rotavated. This work had been carried out according to the original site survey, which was apparently drawn up incorrectly. It meant that some holes, as envisaged by the



The well guarded short 2nd

architects, John Jacobs in consultation with Gary Player and Bernard Gallacher, would just not fit in. Furthermore, with the difficulties experienced in obtaining planning permission in the first place (see "the Golf Course" April 1988) there was no possibility that the owners could take on the conservationists and cut down more trees.

A complete reappraisal of the project had to take place under the direction of the then project manager, the highly experienced Michael Hunter.

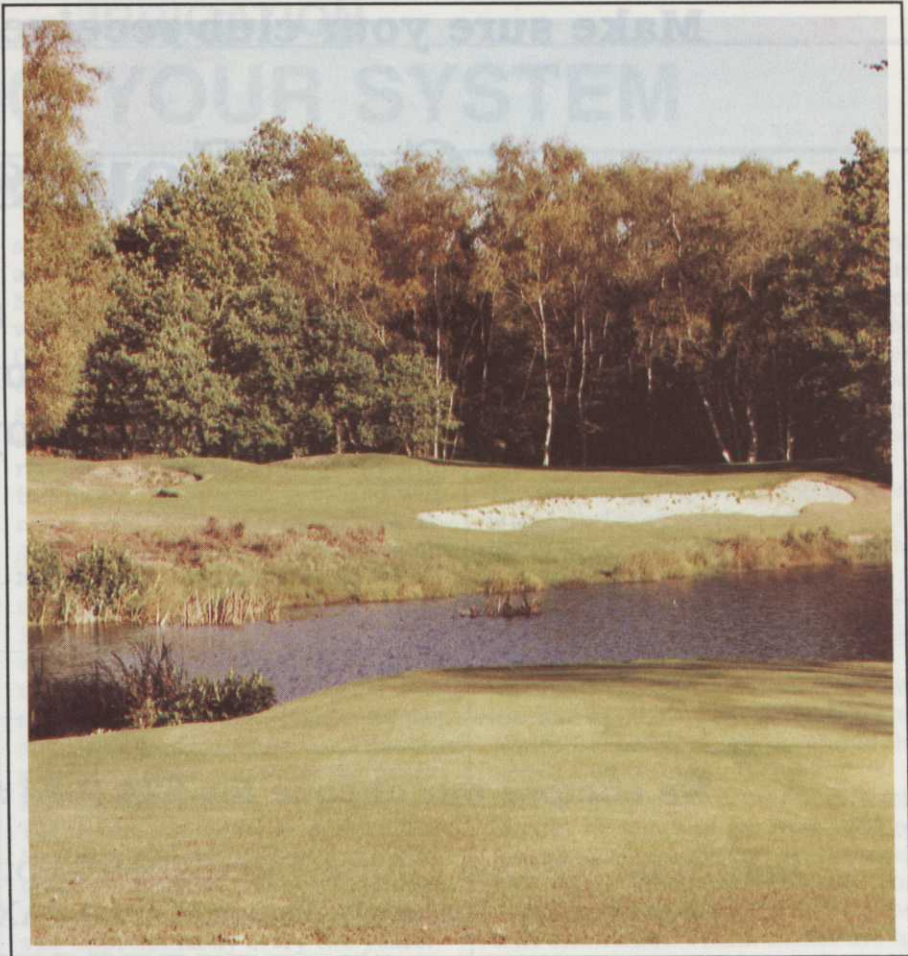
Peter Dunning, Golf Landscapes managing director, had to re-negotiate the contract which was reduced in value in accordance with the reduction in the size of the site. The contractors next problem occurred when it was discovered that there were no drawings for the greens, due to the revised area of site clearance. The contract greens and tee drawings were not compatible with the area that had been cleared. To maintain progress, setting out greens and tees was achieved by day to day approval of the architect. Work on shaping fairways, green and tee construction proceeded satisfactorily, despite the wet winter of 88/89, with sowing taking place in the Autumn of 1988. All the greens and tees were turfed with Inturf SS1 which has taken well, having been grown on a nearly pure sand base to the STRI's

specifications. Hollow tining during the summer, having removed the small amount of soil that was left. One or two greens, particularly the short 4th, which are in shade, have not come on so quickly but a programme of clearance to let in more light is due to be carried out this Winter.

The resulting course that Golf Landscapes has built has smaller greens and little or no space for spectator viewing alongside the fairways and it is questionable whether the PGA European Tour would now view this as a suitable tournament venue. The South course is however, going to provide an enjoyable test for members and visitors alike as there are some spectacular holes, the short 2nd and 17th will undoubtedly become the subject of much discussion in the 19th. But it would have been a poor architect who could have produced anything but a good course from such an exceptional site.

The South Course project has been overseen by the STRI's Dewar Wishart with Dr. Peter Hayes making regular visits. Wentworth's insistence on the construction of sand only greens to a specification drawn up by the STRI will be a point for long discussion in the future, although the head greenkeeper for the South course Graham Mathieson has managed the greens exceptionally well so far.

Golf Landscapes are very pleased with the South Course and they are already working on alterations to the East Course as well as finalizing the par 3 course and driving range. They undertook several additional contracts at Wentworth, with their expertise in drainage being fully utilized in dealing with the problems that they found on the 18th fairway. The 18th fairway and green location, set in a woodland marsh area, was supposed to have been drained prior to commencement of construction work, by the AMEC Group, however, their efforts were not



The short 16th

effective.

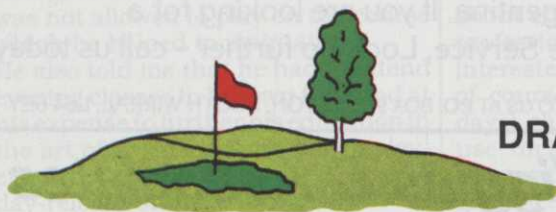
Golf Landscapes Ltd, were given instructions to drain the area, this was achieved by installing a 200mm diameter twin walled PVC pipe, surrounded by 200mm diameter gravel, at depths of 2m to act as a cut-off drain. By the time 150m length had been installed a full bore discharge of water was being obtained.

Within 2 weeks there was a band 20m wide dry enough to be walked on. The above was repeated along the middle and lower side of the fairway, following a reduction in level by major earthworks, 80mm diameter lateral drains

were installed followed by sand banding at 1m centres once the grass sward was established.

The Company has successfully completed two 18 hole courses during 1989, one at Graveley near Stevenage, Herts which was designed and constructed by the company, the other for Hawtree and Son at Brampton, Huntingdon, as well as alterations at Kirby Muxdoe Golf Club, Chesterfield, Kent, Moor Park, Walton Heath, and Camberley Heath. The company has a very healthy order book for golf course work, contract maintenance and drainage work during 1990.

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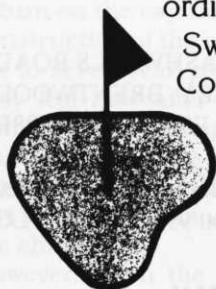
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MAINTAINING YOUR SYSTEM

Watermation's guide to keeping their irrigation system trouble free

Year round maintenance of irrigation system will pay huge dividends at the time when water is needed most. During dry or hot spells, to keep the turf live, healthy and growing. Around the sprinkler heads, keep the grass close trimmed.

Ensure that the turf is level and slightly above the edge of the sprinkler so that the mower will not foul. Build up ground settlement around the sprinkler area.

Avoid running over the sprinkler with tractor wheels, particularly during the first two or three years after installation.

Keep the sprinkler bucket clear of sand, which might tend to accumulate on sprinklers mounted near bunkers and ensure drainage from the sprinkler bucket is maintained.

No maintenance is necessary with the controllers apart from ensuring that the outside of the case and the panel is kept clean. Normally leave the unit running 365 days per year so there will be some heat within the case, avoiding condensation problems.

During severe electrical storms to avoid possible lightning damage, switch off the main supply and put Rain switch to omit. In winter set controller to all

stations one minute and set it to operate during the day once per week. Make sure pump is turned off. This will keep the solenoid valves free.

Clear the Rainstat cup of dead leaves, twigs and other debris. To clean Rainstat, carefully lift out the ceramic wick in the centre of the plastic cup and remove any pieces of dirt gently with the finger. If the wick is coated with algae, wash it carefully in warm detergent and scrub with a small nail brush. Making sure the wick is dry before replacing it in the cup.

Systems fitted with Grundfos - Godwin - British Guinard pumps, no maintenance of the pump unit itself is required. Those with grease nipples should be greased with two shots from a normal grease gun every two years - NOT MORE OFTEN.

The horizontal spindle end suction Monglide type is fitted with a packed gland. This gland will need replacing with new cotton packing of the correct size approximately every two years.

The correct setting of the gland tension allows a slow drip of water into the gland bowl. When adjusting the gland tension nuts, only tighten one flat of the nut on each side at a time and then run the pump to test the

setting. If the gland gets hot, the gland nuts are too tight. The motors require two shots on the grease nipples, once every two years. Check also that all the holding down bolts on the pump and motor feet are tight. If these have become loose then the coupling must be checked for wear and the motor and pump carefully realigned.

The low voltage control cable network is installed at approximately 12" to 15" below the ground along the line of the pipe run. No maintenance of this is necessary but great care must be taken when carrying out any digging operations along the pipe run.

On many up-date systems two wires are laid by mole plough on different routes to the pipes. Be careful of the use of a verti-drain machine.

Once a year the motor starter contacts should be checked for wear and replaced if necessary and all rewirable type fuses should be rewired. This work should be entrusted to a competent electrician. Trunk mains are installed at a depth of approximately 2ft, to minimise frost damage. Where this has not been possible, then suitable drain off points will have been provided. The main point to protect from frost is the pump-house. >>

"The Way Forward" - TORO COMMENT

The recently published R & A document entitled "The Way Forward" is both evocative and timely. Concentrating as it does on the deteriorating condition of many of this country's golf courses, the report slams club green's committee attitudes to the vital area of greenkeeping.

"Disorganised, penny-pinching and arrogant" are stong words indeed but as experience has shown, the playing conditions at many courses are dictated by the whim of Green Committee who, I understand, often make far reaching decisions without even having their club's head greenkeeper present at such deliberations...

I recently met an enthusiastic assistant greenkeeper who told me that he was not allowed to play on the course which he helped to maintain! He also told me that he had to attend evening classes in his own time and at his expense to further his education in the art of greenkeeping - his employers would not allow him the facility for day-release studies.

Accepting that these examples may not be typical, it nevertheless indicates the level of indifference which

can be achieved by club officials in their approach to the all important aspects of greenkeeping.

The R & A document was more to the point. The average club committee's technical knowledge is "non-existent or at best woefully primitive!" it says. In contrast, I doff my hat to the many clubs who paid the travelling expenses of young assistants competing in the finals of the 'Toro Young Greenkeeper of the Year' competition or those who not only allowed their senior greenkeeping staff time to attend one of the pre-Christmas four 5-day, residential training courses run by the Greenkeepers Association, at Aldwark Manor, but actually paid fees involved. In essence "The Way Forward" is all about education - from the megastar professionals who, it is alleged, are not interested in the long term condition of courses, (apart from tournament days) club officials - many of whom use their authority to influence the preparation of greens - to the poor greenkeeper who is caught between using his experience to maintain the course or having his proposals countermanded or ignored!

The report was, interestingly, more critical about the 2p club member levy paid towards greenkeeping training. "Totally inadequate" was how the document described it. It is recommended that the sum be increased to 50p and ultimately, one pound.

Equally important is the recommendation that 'green committees' should be pruned drastically and comprise of just three members; the chairman of the management committee, club secretary and head greenkeeper. That would be progress!

All in all, 'The Way Forward' has I hear, caused much comment in greenkeeping circles. If nothing else, it offers individual greenkeepers a platform and the opportunity to make their personal views known publicly - and collectively, lobby for more technical education, enhanced professional status - and the financial rewards which should follow.

The last words are left to those contained within the document. "If the game is to survive in the form we know and cherish, failure to tackle greenkeeping problems cannot be contemplated."

Peter Roberts, General Manager, Toro Irrigation Ltd.

IRRIGATION

<< 1. Close the stop cock on the incoming water main.

2. Open the small drain valve at the bottom of the galvanised steel riser pipe on to which is mounted the ball valve.

3. Discharge water from the storage tank, through a hydrant on the course or on to the greens as required. Pump at least 1ft level down in the tank so that the ball valve is in the open position. Some clients prefer to completely drain the storage tank.

4. Close the suction sluice valve on the pump.

5. Remove the drain plug at the bottom of the pump and leave it out.

6. Open all drain taps visible in the pump house. Leave the delivery sluice valve open.

7. Cover over the pump gate valve and its pipework down to floor level with some sacking.

Spring Commissioning

1. Close all drain valves

2. Open up incoming main and allow tank to fill.

3. Close the pump suction valve

4. Open the pump suction valve.

5. Prime the pump and start up. Open delivery valve one turn only. Allow the pump to run from about fifteen minutes and then gently open the delivery valve and let the pump run until the

delivery pressure gauge indicates the normal closed valve pressure.

7. Set the controller to a short watering period, and check the complete course. There will probably be quite a lot of air expelled through the sprinklers, particularly if the main has been drained.

Troubleshooting

Sprinklers will sometimes not turn because of over pressure. The answer is either to adjust the regulator or to slightly increase the spring tension by pulling approximately 1/8" of spring through the retaining hole and bend with a pair of narrow pliers or adjust the spring tension by the device fitted to GN2/3/4. NEVER oil sprinklers.

Quick Coupler Valves

If the valve leaks it is usually because dirt has entered into the body and jammed under the seat. Try clearing by rotating the coupler key two or three times quickly.

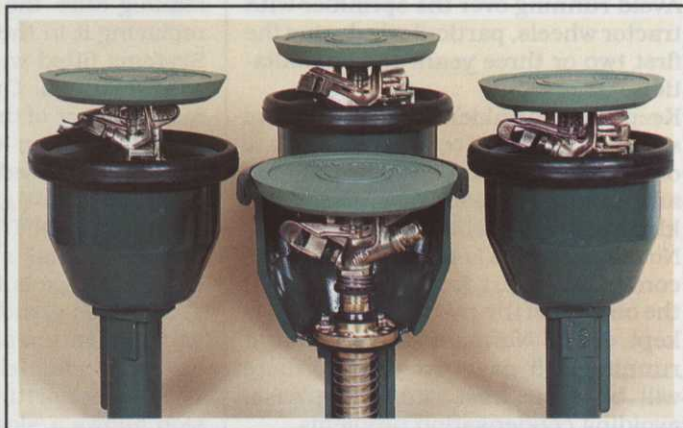
Pumps

If the pump is turning but not delivering water, this

will be due to the loss of prime. Make sure that there is enough water in the tank and that the suction sluice valve is open. Sometimes vertical pumps become air locked. Switch off, then clear the air by removing the top plug. If pumps will not start electrically, check that the isolating switch is closed, check that the selector switch is correctly positioned, check that the fuses are not blown. If the pressure is low, check for correct rotation and/or leaks on the system.

A full maintenance advice guide can be obtained from Watermation, Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey or any of their European offices.

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OVERWATERING

If you have read the 'small print' contained within the pages of the R & A's new publication, 'The Way Forward', you will doubtless have noted the comment - nay, criticism that "Over watering has been a major cause - greater perhaps than that of increased play - of the deterioration of British greens over the last two decades".

Obviously linked to the high increase in the use of automatic watering systems which we have witnessed on our golf courses, this critical view needs to be qualified. Far from being an attack on the principles of automatic watering systems, it is, in my opinion, a telling comment about the manner in which systems are designed and used. The truth is this. Any automatic watering system should be looked at as a management tool. Assuming the design is right and it is used intelligently, it will provide all the 'instant' benefits which greenkeepers seek to assist their task of course maintenance.

Used without thought, (or poorly designed) an automatic watering system will put on too much (or too little) water - with the obvious long term consequences...

Having said that, we then enter the murky waters of comparing competitive irrigation systems. Without doubt, the quality of a system's design, its component parts, standard of installation, operation and equally important, regular maintenance all contribute to the system's (and operator's) ability to control the amounts of moisture used relative to the weather and local conditions.

For years, Toro Technical Sales Engineers have been trying to get this vital message across to club's only interested in buying an irrigation system - at the lowest possible price. Entitled "The Thinking Man's Guide to Golf Course Watering", Toro even produced a booklet on the subject, aimed primarily at educating green commit-

tees. It stressed the long term sense of purchasing a system designed not just to supplement average rainfall, (as many do) but to be capable of not only providing maximum coverage but stepping-up its performance overnight to meet the sudden demands of long, dry periods - such as last summer. Such a system usually costs more money up-front but, unlike systems designed down to a price - and only capable of providing supplemental watering - the more expensive system provides ultimate flexibility of performance as and when the need arises.

Cedric Johns says systems are designed as a management tool. Used correctly overwatering problems can be eliminated.

Such a system also substantially reduces the risk of over watering and because it is properly 'balanced', its ability to provide consistent coverage all around the golf course is enhanced. Add the sophistication of 'Single head control' - which enables the selective use of groups or single sprinklers to be switched 'on' or 'off' around the course and greenkeeping staff can really 'play tunes' on the system! These refinements not only save water and energy costs, they demand a higher premium at the point of purchase. In the longer term however, additional money is not subsequently wasted by clubs pushed into improving the inferior performance of a system purchased on the lower price principle.

An irrigation system should be regarded as an efficient management tool - providing clubs are prepared to invest in a good quality design plus high standards of installation - and maintenance. Get that right and then put the system in the hands of greenkeeping staff who know how to use it correctly then the danger of over watering is virtually eliminated.

Remember, like most other "systems" in daily use in business or industry, the effective end product is in the hands of the people who design, install and operate it. So apart from insisting that your club's system meet your course's requirements (not someone else's) make sure that all the other vitally important factors are fulfilled. If you or your greens staff are not totally certain how to obtain optimum results ask your nearest Distributor to arrange further training.

No doubt many of you are aware that a rain gauge - electronically linked to an irrigation system's controller, will, if the amount of rainfall detected exceeds the column of water already planned for distribution via sprinklers, cancel the set programme.

That's one way of safeguarding against over watering - especially if the heavens open up during the night...

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2. Infestation of annual meadow grass will be reduced..
3. Greens will be firmer, more resilient and less prone to disease..
4. Water wastage is controlled, reducing costs.
5. It reduces pumping requirements - and the cost of running the pumps..
6. The Soil Sensor Kit provides even tighter control of watering programmes.

The sensor can be wired up to any existing electro-mechanical or solid state controller. Cost? Around £425 plus VAT plus installation charge.

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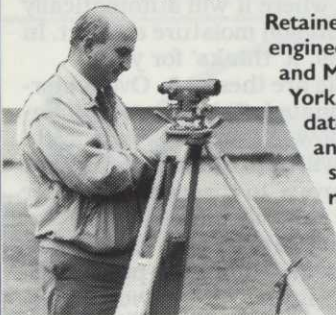
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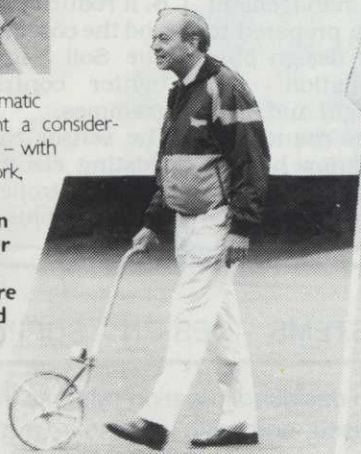


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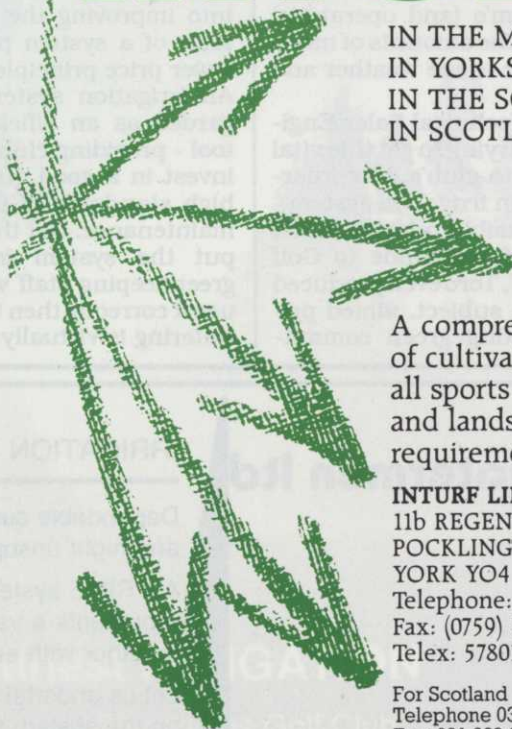
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Blakedown... Great Oaks from... Little Acorns

...Blakedown began life in 1968 as an offshoot of a successful wholesale nursery stock producer. Twenty-one years later, with a turnover approaching ten million pounds the company has a wide range of sportsground and golf course contracts throughout the United Kingdom.

Based in Hartlebury, Worcestershire, Blakedown Landscapes, the parent company, has specifically sited offices throughout the country and over 300 employees. The management team have years of experience in landscaping and leisure industries and are able to bring a high degree of expertise and efficient management to every contract.

Blakedown Landscapes was a founder member of the British Association of Landscape Industries and is a member of the British Association of Golf



18th green and lake constructed at Botley Golf and Country Club

the existing course and the work was carried out during the summer months with a minimum of disturbance to play. The club appreciated the lack of

acres of land to improve the layout of the course and practice ground facilities. Blakedown constructed three new greens and tee complexes and fairways to a design and specification agreed between the company and the club. The club then had further alterations to tees made during the contract.

Blakedown have recently completed the construction of an 18 hole course at Botley, near Southampton to a design by Cedric Lisney and Partners of Bath for Mecca leisure. The work involved all the usual aspects of construction greens tees, fairways, bunkers, tree planting and also included the formation of lakes, bridges and stream re-alignment, as well as the installation of an irrigation system. The course is due to open for play in June 1990.

Peter Jenkins confirms that Blakedown Sports is uniquely placed with its spread of regional offices and considerable experience, to play its full part in satisfying the boom in golf course construction that is foreseen for the 1990s.



One of the new greens at Vicars Cross

Course Constructors.

Blakedown undertakes the construction of all types of sports facilities from Tennis Courts to complete golf courses, including the drainage and earthworks and the finished surfaces either natural or artificial. Blakedown Sports was founded in 1988 in response to the demand for all-weather playing surfaces, and as the focus for all the sports orientated activities of the group has become one of the fastest growing areas of the business. Based in Middlewich, Cheshire and headed by Peter Jenkins the company designs and builds natural and synthetic pitches for a variety of sporting needs.

They are very active in golf course construction and recent contracts have included the building of an additional six greens, tee, and fairways to a design by Hawtree & Sons at Bedale Golf Club, North Yorkshire. 2 of the new greens and tees were within

inconvenience and extended the contract to include further alterations and additional tee work within the contract period.

Vicars Cross Golf Club, near Chester, an established 18 hole parkland course, purchased an additional 15



Tee and fairway construction at Botley Golf and Country Club