

## OUT AND ABOUT

### INTURF WINNERS

A trip for two to Orlando, was the prize won by Mr Larry Westlake of Hertford in a competition sponsored by Inturf. The convention lasts for six days and Larry plans to take this opportunity of a trip to the United States of America to visit Disneyland and enjoy the fabulous facilities Florida has to offer. Larry picked up his entry form to the competition at the Cavendish Hotel in Eastbourne, where Inturf was participating in the Annual Conference of the British Association of Landscape Industries.

Second prize went to Laurence Pithie, Course Manager at Michinhampton Golf Club at Stroud. His trip includes a guided tour around two Turfgrass Breeding Centres and two sportsgrounds in Holland. It also includes a weekend for two enjoying the sights of Amsterdam, plus spending money.



*Inturf winners centre, with Alex Miller - IOG (left) and Derek Edwards, Inturf's managing director*

A day at the races to include entry to the members enclosure, at Newmarket, champagne and £25 stake money went to Colin Jones, the recreation manager with

Welwyn Garden City Council. Inturf supply large quantities of turf from their East Yorkshire headquarters, to golf courses and for other amenity turf requirements.

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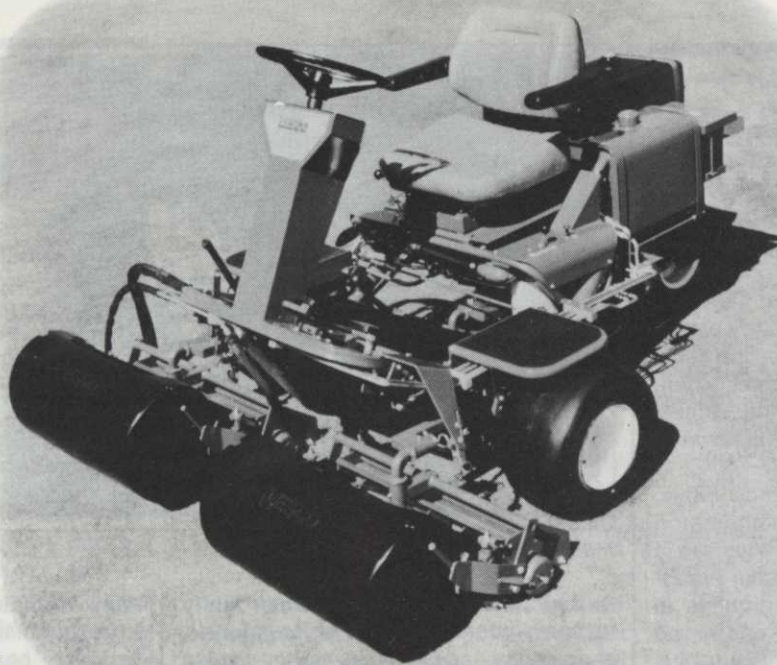
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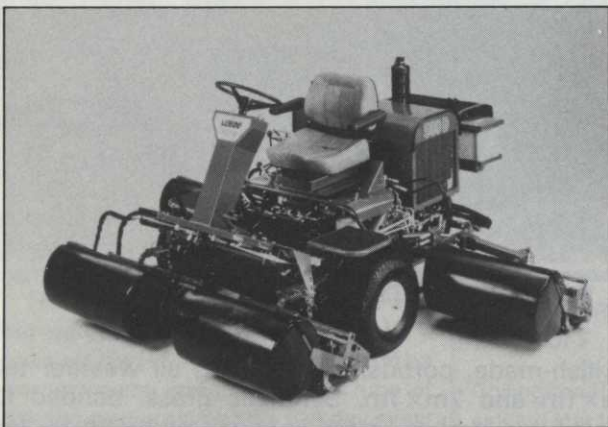
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LESCO 300D GREENS MOWER

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LESCO 500D FAIRWAY MOWER

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## OUT AND ABOUT

### EMPLOYEE BUY-OUT AT TURFMASTER

The staff at grass machinery manufacturers Turfmaster, Lincolnshire, have bought their company from the previous owners, Harlow Agricultural Merchants.

Turfmaster is now an independent company with HAM retaining only a 20% share. HAM, of Bishops Stortford, Essex, were keen to reduce their stake in Turfmaster because the fit with the, "corn, seed and feed" business was poor. Equally Turfmas-

ter's managers and employees felt they were ideally placed to move the company forward into the 1990's.

John deGraft-Johnson, Turfmaster's chairman, says: "Product performance, quality and service are the key issues in the professional market. So employee commitment is paramount.

"In many companies these words are truisms without teeth. But in Turfmaster's case, the employees have backed their words with hard cash. The enthusiasm and dedication is total."

### GRASS COSY

A revolutionary cover which speeds up the re-seeding process in the summer and protects the grass from frost in the winter, has been launched by Bristol-based international netting company Kerrypak Limited.

An ideal groundsman's aid and particularly valuable for use on greens and tees, the Tildenet Grass Cover is made of lightweight 85% high density knitted polyethylene, making it simple to move around and store when not required. It speeds up the germination process by retaining warmth and moisture, and protects the area from frost in winter.

Made of netting, the cover encourages uniform grass growth, and allows the grass to breathe. It also protects re-seeding areas from the wind, and pests such as birds and rabbits.

### IMPROVEMENT TO JACOBSEN GREENS KING IV

The Jacobsen Greens King IV now comes with newly designed, easy on/off grass catchers as well as easier steering. The Greens King IV gives greens a smooth, beautiful finish. Its cylinders 'float' to follow ground contours. The patented steering action of the units virtually eliminates marking during turns. Cylinders lift with a convenient foot pedal, and stay level while raising and lowering to prevent scuffing. A 62-inch cutting width means 18 average-sized greens can be mowed in under four hours.

The Greens King IV (below) is the only triplex available with the patented Turf Groomer (R) greens conditioner, to make greens healthier and faster.



Linette Carter, Turfmaster's youngest employee, receiving from John deGraft-Johnson, Turfmaster's chairman, the certificate for the shares she has bought in the company

### REDS GO GREEN IN MOSCOW

Following the success of Ferrosol Liquid Iron from Farmura in the European turf markets the Kent company have supplied 40 litres of Ferrosol to the organisers of a large Pop Festival in the USSR.

The Ferrosol was used in the Lufhniki Stadium, Moscow following a pop festival in August, televised worldwide.

The organisers were asked to ensure that the stadium's grassed areas looked healthy and green after the event. Several large areas of the turf were covered for some time and it was expected that discolouration would occur.

The Ferrosol Iron was used for greening the grassed areas applied through a Walkover sprayer which was also purchased for the event and sent to Moscow with the Ferrosol.

### ICI APPOINT TWO NEW DISTRIBUTORS

ICI Professional Products have completed negotiations with two major companies to join their national network of specialist distributors. In the South East T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd., Surrey provide increased representation and sales of ICI Professional Products.

Edinburgh based, Sports Turf Services at Newbridge, will provide added commercial expertise and increased impetus to ICI Product sales in Scotland and Northern England.

David Siddon, Sales Manager for ICI Professional Products told 'the Golf Course' "The appointment of Parkers and STS to our national network of distributors is part of our strategy of ensuring we have the best companies in the market distributing ICI Products to the end-customer, particularly golf greenkeepers."



## OUT AND ABOUT

### QUALITY PROMOTION

Charterhouse Turf Machinery, the company who introduced the Verti-Drain to Britain, have now complimented this revolutionary aeration equipment by expanding their range of turf culture equipment to include top dressing machinery, with the Bulk Dresser, a Green Dress and a unique Easy Spread.

Last month Charterhouse, launched their 1990 promotion campaign with an eight page full colour announcement in the *Golf Course*.

Asked why the *Golf Course* was THE magazine chosen to head the Charterhouse advertising thrust, Managing Director, David Jenkins said a great deal of market research and thought had gone into planning the largest promotion campaign ever initiated by the Surrey based company.

"We knew precisely the people who would be interested in our enlarged range of turf maintenance machinery, which is why after careful investigation into the magazine readership market, we decided to open the campaign with the *Golf Course*."

"We needed to reach the Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and those that make equipment decisions on golf courses, and your readers fall precisely into that category".

"Reaching the broader based market, sports fields, football pitches, race courses and similar intensively used amenity turf

## THE MULTI-PURPOSE SPIKER. ONE UNIQUE MACHINE THAT DOES THE WORK OF THREE.



areas, pointed us in one direction for an overall coverage of this multi-million pound industry and that was to Turf Management, the most widely read publication among those responsible for maintaining leisure turf".

The Verti-Drain must be the most extensively used piece of aeration equipment on Britain's golf courses. There can be few that have not reaped the benefits of its unique method of relieving compaction, improving draining and increasing stronger

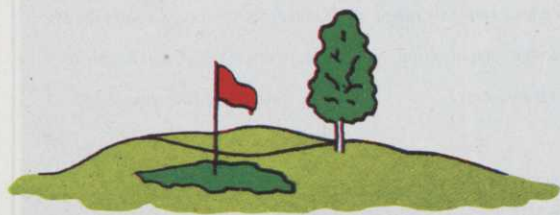
and healthier root growth.

Although the smaller clubs have in the past hired the Verti-Drain, Charterhouse Turf Machinery, through the introduction of the Pedestrian model, have now put this essential item of turf cultural equipment well within the capital budget of any golf course in the country.

We at the *Golf Course* are proud to have been nominated by Charterhouse as the No. 1 Golf Course Manager's magazine. We wish them every success in 1990.

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Aerial view of the 1st and 11th holes including lake and feed ditch at the recently completed Graveley Golf Course near Stevenage

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE TURF SYSTEM

A NATURAL system with outstanding wear properties has been developed by BritAg Industries Ltd, a subsidiary of ICI.

The system, called Tecturf, is an important new product as golf courses everywhere face increasingly heavy usage.

Tecturf consists of a sand and fertiliser growing medium which is reinforced by small pieces of plastic mesh. The mesh is mixed within growing medium and forms an interlocking matrix through which the grass roots can grow. This growing medium - 100mm thick for golf courses - is laid on a well drained nutrient holding base. It is then turfed or seeded as required.

The design of the Tecturf system brings improvements in three ways: better drainage, greater resistance to damage in the root zone, and almost nil compaction. This results in stronger root growth and a top surface which recovers from heavy wear far more quickly than conventional turf. For example, divot marks are smaller and show a 80 per cent recovery without divot replacement within eight days.

Once installed, Tecturf requires minimal maintenance, no spiking, verti-cutting or sanding, just normal mowing and top dressing.

The structural properties of Tecturf are

particularly suitable for constructing spectator banking. An angle of repose up to 72 degrees can be achieved with complete stability - there will be no slumping or erosion.

Tecturf is based on patents originally conceived for civil engineering purposes by Netlon Ltd, a plastics technology company. ICI has used its own extensive expertise to develop appropriate grass varieties and fertiliser regimes to develop the system for the leisure industry.

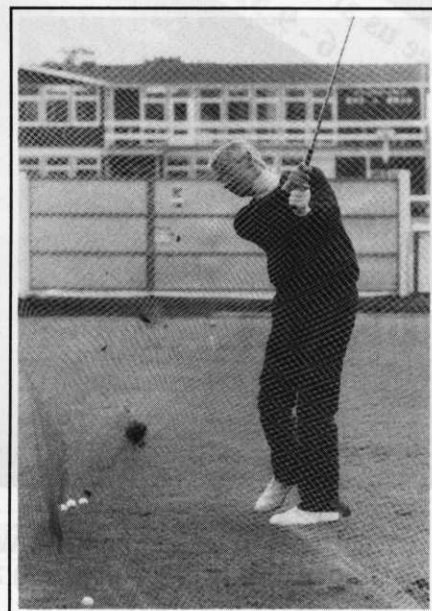
Special machines have been developed to mix the mesh, sand and other materials together and then lay the mixture on the sub-base. Variable proportions of these components are used, depending on the application involved. The thickness of this composite layer is also designed to meet the requirements of each project.

The top layer of the Tecturf system is high-quality grass selected from ICI's extensive list of varieties to suit customers' requirements.

Costs depend on the type of contract involved and the condition of the proposed site. An all-in contract would normally cost about £25 per m<sup>2</sup> - cheaper than most artificial tees and far more attractive.

A major new development planned for Weston Hall, Crewe, will be the first new golf course in the world to be designed with Tecturf surfaces.

The new course is to be developed by Watco Ltd., a consortium comprising the



*Ex-Ryder Cup golfer Brian Waite plays off the Grand Ring at the Royal Show Ground, which has been surfaced with Tecturf, at the Golf 2000 event organised by BritAg Industries*

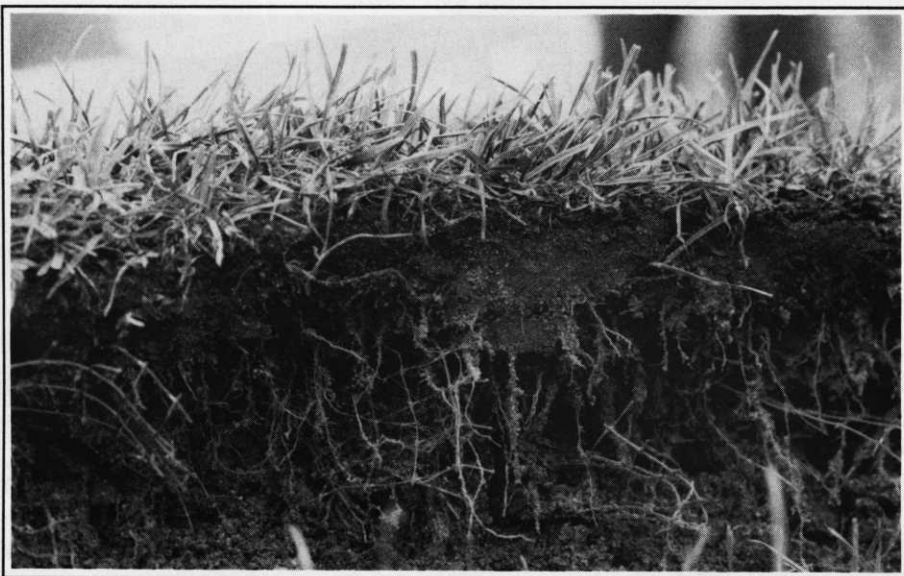
CWS (which owns the land at Weston Hall), Alfred McAlpine Management and the European PGA Tour, and is the first of a series of major new golf courses planned by the consortium for the UK.

The result at Crewe will be an exceptionally 'green' golf course which can cope with all the heavy demands imposed by a major tournament and thousands of spectators, hospitality units and television crews.

One of the first applications for Tecturf in British golf was at Woburn where it was used to build a new tee for the 17th hole in time for last year's Dunhill British Masters. This was necessary in order to extend the 18th hole but would have been a lengthy business using normal turfing methods. With Tecturf the job was completed in one month, about 12 weeks before the event.

During the tournament nearly 600 iron shots were played from the tee and at the end of the week, the surface had suffered very little divoting and recovered its green within a week.

BritAg Industries has also installed Tecturf tees for some of the short holes at Wilmslow Golf Club, Cheshire, with similar success. Tecturf is a registered trademark of ICI plc.



*The Tecturf growing medium of sand and fertilizer reinforced with plastic mesh*

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### HELLIDON LAKES - A GOLFING NATURE RESERVE IN THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE

Electronics expert, Stuart Nicoll and his attractive wife Jackie are both dog lovers. A mere glance at their two fine retrievers, Sam and Sally and one can see why.

A year or so ago a semi-wild wooded valley, within a mile or so of their elegant house in the village of Priors Marston came on to the market and the Nicolls thought it an ideal place for secluded country walks with the dogs, never thinking at the time of its potential as a golf course.

But now, under the direction of David Snell, a former tournament professional and later club professional at Lindrick, this secluded nature reserve has been transformed into a ten lake, 6676 yard golf course.

Hellidon Lakes as it has been named is within eight miles of Daventry, reached by a minor road off the A361 to Banbury. It promises to be one of the best courses in the Warwickshire area when it opens for play in 1991.

Greens, tees and fairways are already laid out to a design by David Snell, the golf director at Hellidon Lakes. The construction of the course and day to day maintenance is in the hands of Les Shaw previously at Ullesthorpe Court, near Lutterworth.

All the greens have been built on a six inch deep base of 40mm gravel covered by two inches of quarter gravel and finished with a ten inch sand/soil mix, with a drainage system running into one of the lakes. The irrigation for tees and greens was installed by Cameron.

The whole course was seeded to a specification from the STRI, using a Chewings bent/fescue mix for the greens, fescue/ryegrass/with a touch of smooth stalk annual meadow grass and bent for the tees, with a similar mixture but slightly different formula for the fairways.

Les Shaw has bought a set of Beaver gangs for the fairways but is making do with a second hand Hahn for his greens until he feels the time is right to purchase a new triplex. During the next few months he will let the course grow in, aerating when necessary and employing the usual cultural techniques.

"It is our intention to have a golf course



Stuart Nicoll (right) and golf director David Snell

playable for the full twelve months of the year", said David Snell. "We will play off the tees not mats, to the regular greens. I am not a subscriber to the shortened course to temporary pin positions in the winter months. The course has been set up to test and reward all classes of player, from a choice of tee position. Most holes offer a challenging and dangerous line of approach or an alternative safer route.

For example a generous sponsor has put up a Cartier watch for the first lady to drive the green at the last. It is a par-4 of 470 yards, but there is a short tempting route over the largest lake on the course."

The clubhouse, yet to be built, will overlook the 18th green with a two tiered members bar giving views over the splendid Hellidon Lakes. As well as a restaurant, conference room and professionals shop, the clubhouse complex will

incorporate 20 ensuite bedrooms, for overnight guests.

"Hellidon Lakes will be a members club, limited to a ceiling of 500, plus 50 junior members, said owner Stuart Nicoll." The subscription has been set at £500, with a joining fee of £2,000 for a member and their partner. Although we have only just opened the lists, around a hundred have already applied, most being established golfers."

To launch the new course, on a fine clear sunny day in February, ex-England footballer, Bobby Charlton flew in by helicopter to plant the first of thousands of new trees and christen the course by hitting golf balls into the major lake.

It was no surprise that he chose the right day to perform the opening ceremony, Bobby's girl is none other than BBC weather forecaster, Suzanne Charlton!



Bobby Charlton and Stuart Nicoll with dogs Sam and Sally