

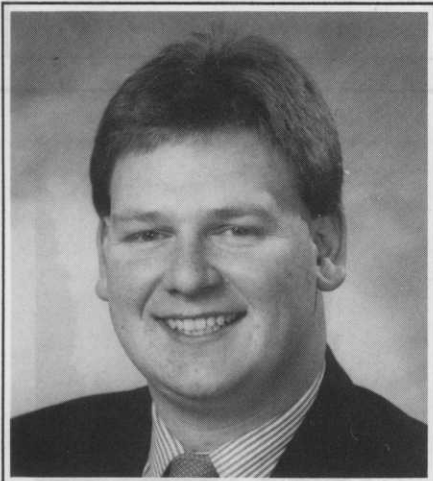
OUT AND ABOUT

AMENITY APPOINTMENT

Joseph Bentley Ltd., of Barrow-on-Humber has appointed an Amenity Sales Manager - John Gregory.

Mr. Gregory joined the sales team at Bentley's in 1987 and has a B.A.S.I.S. qualification, he also holds a national certificate in Horticulture. He will be responsible for all Bentley Sales to local authorities, landscape contractors, sports clubs and public utilities, including the development of 'Growtree' - a tree mulching compost.

John Gregory intends to build on the healthy base of local authorities, landscaping contractors and landscape architects who specify and use the product.



John Gregory



Representatives from dealers attending the first training course on the Huxley 358 Greensmower

TRAINING COURSE ON 358 GREENSMOWER

Engineers from professional horticultural machinery dealers throughout Britain attended a successful first service training course on the Huxley 358 Greensmower, held recently at the company's development and manufacturing centre in New Alresford, Hampshire.

Demonstrations and sales of this British-designed and built precision mower are fast expanding outside the company's direct sales area.

The result has been the establishment of a regular series of practical courses for the company's appointed sales and service dealers both at home and overseas.

The first course for representatives from five British based dealers - George Brown,

Grass Machinery (now a Huxley-owned company) of Edinburgh, H. Ardron & Son of Ulverston, Cumbria; K.F. Kirby (Harborough) Ltd, Leicestershire; Strathmowers Ltd, Dundee, Tayside; and Western Farm Implements Ltd of South Wales, was held in February.

In addition to courses on the 358 Greensmower, Huxleys run regular refresher and new appointments training for dealers' staff on its full range of turf and grounds maintenance machinery. They also offer comprehensive owner and user instruction on site, or at its premises in Hampshire or at George Brown Grass Machinery in Uphall, West Lothian.

IN 1989

FARMURA LAUNCHED
'ZORBIT' THE NEW
TURF WETTING AGENT
FORMULATED
SPECIFICALLY FOR USE
ON FINE TURF

RESULT: GREENKEEPERS VERY PLEASED. COMPETITORS NOT PLEASED AT ALL!

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- Stimulates and maintains deeper rooting

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OUT AND ABOUT

OUT AND ABOUT

EUROPEAN TURFGRASS TREATY

Rolawn of York, the biggest suppliers of cultivated turf in the UK, have signed an agreement with a leading horticultural company in France to expand an increasing demand for their product in Europe. The turf will be grown by Darbonne of Paris and supplied through a new commercial network under the name of Sitoflor. Rolawn will advise on all aspects of production, marketing and distribution. Darbonne grows a limited amount of mature turf at present near Bordeaux and customers include the golf clubs of Monaco, Biarritz the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris and St. Nom La Breteche. Rolawn have trebled their turnover in the last four years by extensive promotion and by the establishment of a network of unique, direct-sell turf depots. Customers include landscapers and gardeners as well as golf clubs including St. Andrews and Muirfield, First Division football clubs and Wimbledon All England Lawn Tennis Club. "Cultivated turf in rolls is still unknown in France, but English lawns and greenkeeping are a by-word for perfection. There is no French word for greenkeeping so they use the English" says Ken Dawson, Managing Director of Rolawn. "Our association with Darbonne gives the French company prestige and the benefit of our experience. It is an opportunity to expand into Europe ahead of 1992.



Rolawn and Darbonne strike up an 'Entente Corchale'

Rolawn Ltd started fifteen years ago with half an acre of land in Scotland and seven acres in the Vale of York the following year. At that time the only turf available in this country was ordinary meadow, or pasture turf and limited amounts of Cumberland sea-washed turf. Cultivated turf is now a multi-million pound industry and Rolawn has nearly 2,000 acres under cultivation.

SA Darbonne a family company set up over a hundred years ago, is the world leader in the production of culinary herbs, with over 3,200 acres under cultivation at Milly-la-Forêt, south of Paris and at Le Barp near Bordeaux. It is also a world leader for the

production of strawberry and asparagus plants, researching new varieties every year. It is run by brothers Luc and Hubert Darbonne, grandsons of the founder. The turf is grown on a sandy soil and is purpose-grown using special seed mixes to suit its end use, with different grades for lawns, landscaped areas, sports pitches and golf and bowling greens. Freshly harvested in long, square yard or square metre rolls, it is mature, weed-free and ready to lay for an instant finish. In three years the two companies plan to have a total of 4,000 acres under production which rolled out is enough turf to circumvent the world!

1990
Environmental

IN 1990

FARMURA WILL MAKE THE NEW 'FLO-GRO' LIQUID FERTILIZERS AVAILABLE TO THE TURF INDUSTRY

FLO-GRO
LIQUID FERTILISER

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● Encourages more even application through spraying, providing even grass growth response

● Stimulates a healthy green colour without undesirable flushes of growth

● Eliminates unsightly powder and granular residues and mower 'pick-up' on fine turf

20 LITRE plastic drum

RESULT: GREAT NEWS FOR GREENKEEPERS. BAD NEWS FOR COMPETITORS

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McMILLAN TEAM TRIO

Three members of one family, whose name is synonymous with excellence in greenkeeping, have united to form a company offering a specialist support service to golf courses and golf course construction companies.

Founded by brothers, Cameron and Stewart McMillan, and now joined by father, Jack, McMillan Golf undertakes, or coordinates and oversees, the fine work needed on golf courses, specialising in greens and their approaches, surrounds, tees, bunkers, general hazards and drainage. The team has already undertaken, contracts in Berkshire, Surrey and Kent and members of it were recently involved in the successful completion of a prestigious project in West Germany.

By combining the McMillans' golf course construction skill and experience with the consultancy and golf club operation expertise of two additional board members, Michael Latham and Roy Betts, McMillan Golf offers a service that is unique in its field. "Our ability to construct to a very high standard is complemented by a full understanding of the practical impact of that construction on a golf club's future operation," said Cameron McMillan, operations director.

Cameron McMillan, having gained his greenkeeping qualifications at Elmwood, the UK's leading college, where he was his year's top student, spent several years at Sunningdale Golf Club. He was involved in course alteration, the construction of greens, tees and bunkers and in the preparation of the course for numerous amateur and professional tournaments, before joining Liphook Golf Club as course manager, a position he held for two years.

Stewart McMillan has more than 15 years experience at senior level greenkeeping and is currently course director at Leatherhead, where he is responsible for the redevelopment of its 90 year old course. Jack McMillan, a head greenkeeper for over 30 years, the last nine at Sunningdale, has a lifetime's experience of remodelling and altering golf courses and preparing them for major events. His advice on turf management is regularly sought at home and abroad.

McMillan Golf is based at Leatherhead Golf Club, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 0DP. Tel: 0372 843966.

AMENITY MOVE FOR TESTERS

Testers have been Ford New Holland dealers for almost 29 years as well as holding other leading manufacturers franchises at Edenbridge, a Kent beauty spot, on the border of Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

In 1981 they were appointed Land Rover Agents and now have a Land Rover Centre employing 20 staff. In 1986 their Fuel Oil Distribution business became involved in bulk liquid propane gas distribution and now they are the main Shellgas operation for the South East stretching from Chichester to Dover and on up to the Thames.

Testers have used their experience in dealing with sales and service of agricultural machinery to develop a fast growing professional turf equipment business; they were already selling the Ford Compact tractor range and have added Jacobsen, Hayter, Beaver, Modus T, Turfmaster, Lewis and Wessex.

The Professional Turf Division started 2 years ago and operates within a 25 mile radius of the depot. Bill Hammond, the Sales Manager together with his representatives - Jack Bloomfield, Robert Lewis, Robert Timms and George Woodcock - recognise the growing potential in the professional equipment market, the need for more mechanised methods of cutting grass and conditioning the ground and are supported by the Parts Division managed by Colin Kentish.

Marketing Director, Nigel Young, has visited the U.S.A. twice in the last 12 months, firstly to help the management of Lingfield Park Racecourse research requirements for the grooming of their all weather race track. His second trip was with Jacobsen to their factory and the GCSAA Conference and Exhibition.

Managing director, Paul Kentish said "We have the Kent County Council contract to supply Hayters for 1990 and are supplying Southern Water Authority with a fleet of Ford tractors fitted with Lawrence Edward loaders, but we are not just in it for the big contracts, all our customers are important. Our company has been built on service to farming so if we can't look after the Greenkeepers and Sports Groundmen's needs, I'll be very surprised.

QUAD TRENCHER IMPROVED

A new trencher to Britain the JI Case trencher, known as the 760 'QUAD', has improved trenching technology and versatility.

This unique and highly manoeuvrable machine is the first of its type to be delivered to a UK contractor and is equipped with four different attachments so it performs varied tasks in the narrow trenching field. The need to hire-in single or double attachment machines to perform separate trenching functions is now no longer necessary.

Based on a standard 760 trencher, the QUAD takes its name from its ability to handle four attachments at the same time including a chain cutter and vibratory mole plough fitted to the rear with a backhoe and backfill blade attached to the front.

L. D. Bourgein (Oxford) limited, one of Case's UK trencher dealers, supplied the 760 'Quad' to Turf Irrigation Services to work on the Royal Birkdale golf course, near Southport, scheduled to host the British Open Championship next year, to lay several thousand metres of 50mm and 38mm diameter UPVC water pipe to a depth of 600mm - feeding sprinklers on each fairway.

As Turf Irrigation's workload mainly involves pipe and cable laying on golf courses, the mole plough will be the attachment mostly in use. The company believes the backhoe, trencher and backfill, blade will also be fully utilized which means that there will be no need to hire-in additional machines to carry out these functions.



With four different attachments on the Case 760 'Quad' there is no need to hire-in additional machines for separate trenching functions.

OUT AND ABOUT

JACKLIN TO HOST CONFERENCE

Tony Jacklin and the organisers of the BBC Radio Show and the Daily Mail Ski Show have got together to create a 2 day conference "The Demand for Golf" to be held in Montreux Switzerland, January 24th and 25th 1991.

Aimed at the European growth market the visitors will include developers, architects, financial investors, and service companies as well as the private landowner.

The object is to provide an information and advisory service on the business of golf, in particular the intelligent and profitable use of land in the creation of courses and related facilities. Speakers will come from those concerned with golf holidays, travel companies, event sponsorship, hotel chains and local authorities.

The conference sessions will be on the financial commitment, design development and marketing of new golf resources and there will be an associated exhibition with an opportunity for individual discussions. It will be of particular interest to developers seeking finance as well as information on design, construction and management.

Held in Montreux Palace Hotel, Montreux, Switzerland the event begins with a welcoming supper on Tuesday 23rd January 1991. The conference proper being held on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th



January, with a closing dinner on Thursday 25th January. Departure will be Friday AM 26th January.

The cost per delegate, to include hotel room, meals and the conference is SFR 3500. For companies requiring exhibition

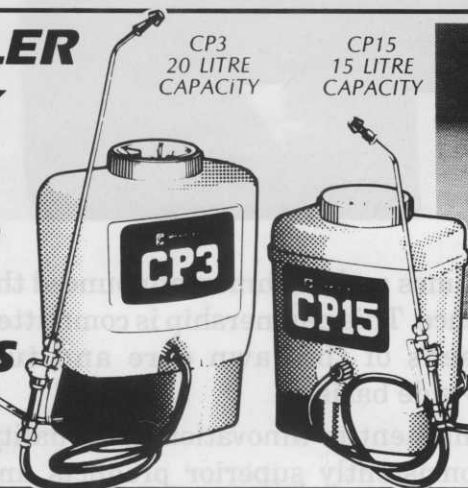
space the cost will be SFR 310 per square metre for space only. (Exhibition space is limited and therefore available only to delegates and their companies).

Further details from: Peter Anslow on 0634 660852.

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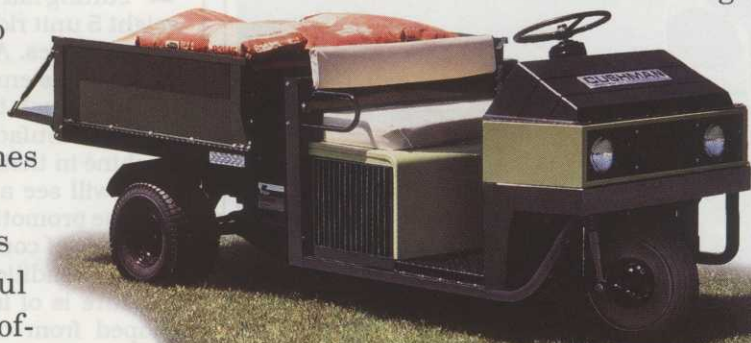
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ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES FAIRWAY MOWING

by Richard Bishop

The mowing of fairways up to around 20 years ago was almost invariably carried out by trailed gangs. The trailed gang still performs this function on many fairways both in the UK and in the rest of the world and, to their credit, in most cases give an acceptable finish. However, since the introduction of powered gang mowers in the early 1970s, and more recently the introduction of self propelled ride-on gang mowers, the Course Manager can provide much more than just an "acceptable" finish. He can provide, with the help of modern equipment, fairways which are maintained to a very high standard and evenly cut no matter what the terrain, as well as

the front cutting units before the driving wheels rolled the grass down.

The introduction of the Hydraulic 5/7 was a major step forward, but there were problems associated with cutting fairways; the unit had been designed primarily for local authority and contractor use. In short the standard offered was not high enough for the typical golf course fairway.

The breakthrough came in the mid-1970s with the introduction of the floating headed unit. Development of this started mainly because of the problems that George Brown (now course manager at Turnberry) had at

Since those days development has continued and there is now a wide choice of fairway mowers with powered cylinders for the Course Manager to choose from. Most units are hydraulically powered but there are also some with mechanically driven units, frequently belt-driven. There have also been machines with cutting units driven electrically, but for a number of reasons that idea never did catch on. The choice of equipment has been widened in the last few years with the introduction of ride-on self propelled machinery. Whether these machines are triples originally developed for tees and surround work, or the larger purpose-built 5 unit machines, they do have the advantage of being very much more maneuverable. In most cases they also have the option of grass collection; a feature which is becoming increasingly necessary with the continual improvement in the standard of fairways.

The most up-to-date method of cutting fairways is with the lightweight 5 unit ride-ons developed from greens triples. As is so often the case the idea has emanated from the USA and has much to commend it. All the major manufacturers have such a machine in their range and this year I know will see a great deal of activity with the promotion of these machines. They are, of course, particularly suitable for conditions where low ground pressure is of importance. Being developed from triple greens mowers, they also have the ability to give a very high standard of cut which can be improved even further with the addition of Verti-Groom reel. Verticutting units can also be fitted where appropriate, although this is not a new idea as many of the current machines have the ability to change from conventional cylinder units to verticut heads. So, the last 20 years has seen a dramatic change in the methods of cutting fairways, and I would hazard a guess that change will continue to occur at what could be described as an alarming rate. There is one thing for certain, and that is that any person involved in the purchase of fairway mowing equipment has a very wide range of types of products and manufacturers to choose from. Whether trailed gangs, mounted gangs, triple machines, 5 unit ride-ons or the very latest lightweight 5 unit machines are preferred, there are machines available to suit each and every application.



Pictured cutting a fairway is a Ransomes Hydraulic 340TG trailed gang mower with 8-knife floating head cutting units

aesthetically pleasing. Perhaps the last point regarding aesthetics is not one at the top of the Course Manager's priorities but, with the increasing interest in golf as a spectator sport, particularly on television, aesthetics does have a part to play.

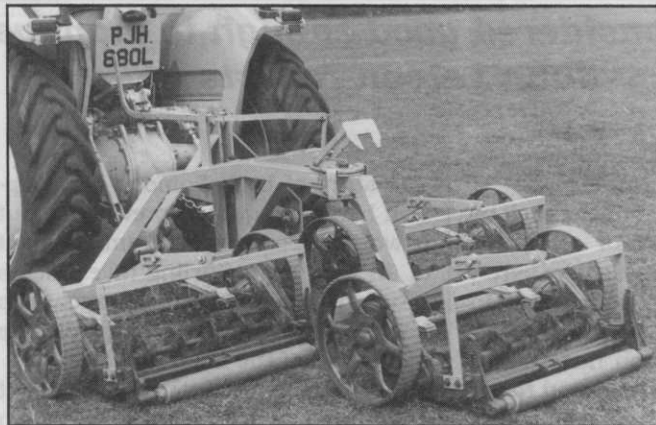
Changes in fairway mowing, particularly in the UK started with the introduction of the Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7. This unit, still in production today in a modified form, was mounted on the 3 point linkage, had cutting units positioned in front of the driving wheels and had the benefit of hydraulic drive to the cutting units and hydraulic lifting and lowering of the cutting units. For the first time, cutting could be carried out no matter what the forward speed of the tractor because the cutting ratio or cuts per yard was infinitely variable by use of the engine speed and gears. Another important feature was that grass could be cut by

Princes Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent with his Hydraulic 5/7. Anybody who knows Princes Golf Club will understand that the severe undulations on the fairways were impossible to cut without either "scalping" on the ridges or leaving long grass in the hollows. The problem was that the cutting units, although being able to articulate around the pivot point from side to side, could not articulate up and down around the pivot point to enable the unit to follow ground contours. The result was, as previously said, long grass being left in the hollows and ridges being "scalped". To overcome these problems Ransomes development engineers worked closely with George and came up with the floating head unit. The floating head concept these days is not out of the ordinary, but 15 years ago it was very much ahead of its time as far as fairway mowing was concerned.

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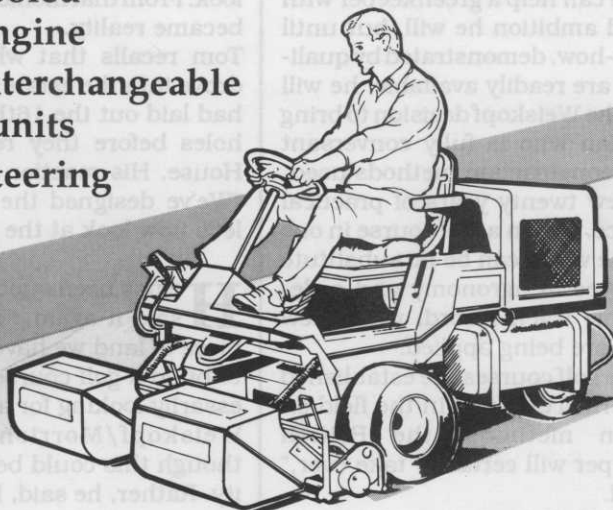
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THE YANKS ARE COMING TO THE BONNY, BONNY BANKS OF LOCH LOMOND

Why a Scottish Greenkeeper is not considered good enough to manage Scotland's latest golf complex John Lelean reports

An historical peninsula of tree scaped parkland in the ownership of one of Scotland's principal lairds, is about to suffer the ultimate indignity in the eyes of the Scottish traditionalists.

By 1992 it will be transformed into a golf course, designed, bulldozed and sculptured by an American professional golfer and his compatriot architect partner.

This first Scottish course where total American design has been introduced by the Weiskopf/Morrish partnership is not for the plebeian golfer from Clydebank Municipal or even the Bearsden or Helensburgh club member, the £52m development is aimed strictly at the company corporate market with an annual fee at present set at £25,000 or £10,000 for individual international membership.

That does not only mean to say this figure will not give value for money to those taking up the offer, undoubtedly the eventual two golf courses, the High Road and the Low Road on the Rossdhu Estate, plus the luxurious infrastructure will provide the ultimate in golfing excellence. The High Road course is anticipated by many of the game's sages to become a sparkling jewel in the crown, of the home of golf.

What is likely to add to the controversy at Loch Lomond, will be the decision to appoint an American Superintendent to take charge of the course. Although the supremo has not been named it would appear to be a foregone conclusion that the position will go to someone from the other side of the Atlantic.

Why Scotland's newest course should be given to an American to maintain is explained by Tom Weiskopf. "First and foremost they have qualifications and know how to manage golf courses. From my experience there is a reluctance in this country for greenkeepers to carry out intensive aeration programmes, use fertilizers and regularly

top dress."

"It could be that they are held back by their club committees or restricted budgets, but that won't happen here". The issue has been well aired by all in charge of the Loch Lomond project. Developer David Brench has sought the best advice and is prepared to act on it. As a member of Woburn, he had the ear of Alex Hay, who acts as a consultant to David.

Hay has strong views on course management. A green committee of one - him; and no budgets. What needs to be spent at Woburn will be found without cutting any corners.

It has been a policy that cannot be faulted at the Duke of Bedford's courses, because it has proved to be very successful, though that does not mean to say he does not listen to the suggestions of his greenstaff.

Alex Hay is an ardent supporter of greenkeeper education and training, though he fervently believes it is 20 years behind the times in Britain. Where he can help a greenkeeper with drive and ambition he will, but until the know-how, demonstrated by qualifications are readily available, he will support the Weiskopf decision to bring in the man who is fully conversant with the construction methods used. In his view twenty years of practical experience, say on a golf course in one part of the world can be no substitute for a degree in agronomy and a demonstrable track record, when new methods are being applied.

"Once the golf courses are established and experience gained in the field on American methods, the British greenkeeper will certainly take over," he added.

Hay said that he is confident that there will be stepping up of the greenkeeper's education programme in this area and the benefits of American construction methods going on in many parts of the UK will provide the classroom for our young trainee greenkeepers.

The story of Loch Lomond's conception has been quoted previously, but is worth repeating. It all emerged out of an idea from Stirling Investments property developer, David Brench, who had been involved in a project at the south end of the Loch.

The scheme was not feasible, but it sparked off a train of thought which led to him broaching the golf course idea with Sir Ivar Colquhoun, the owner of Rossdhu House, a stately ancestral home, dating back to 1772, but vacated by the family for something smaller, warmer and more liveable. Now David is a self-confessed "golfer" and on his world travels had played the two Arizona courses in cow-boy and indian country, Desert Highlands and Troon. The latter course was a Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish design and it so happened, Tom was around at the time.

David was introduced, broached the subject of his dream and persuaded Tom Weiskopf to come over and take a look. From that moment on the "dream" became reality.

Tom recalls that when he and Jay drove into the estate off the A82, they had laid out the 16th, 17th and 18th holes before they reached Rossdhu House. His reaction on arrival was - "We've designed the finishing holes, let's now look at the rest!"

He has been quoted before, but he said it again. "This is the finest piece of land we have ever been given to build a golf course". He is not necessarily looking for a memorial to the Weiskopf/Morrish partnership, though this could become a possibility. Rather, he said, he would like the course to have the appearance of having been built by a Scot over a hundred years ago.

The greens at Loch Lomond are under construction to the USGA specification, or nearly. The herringbone drainage system has been installed, but there is no stone carpet. "We don't