

GOLF

JULY/AUGUST 87

GREENKEEPING

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

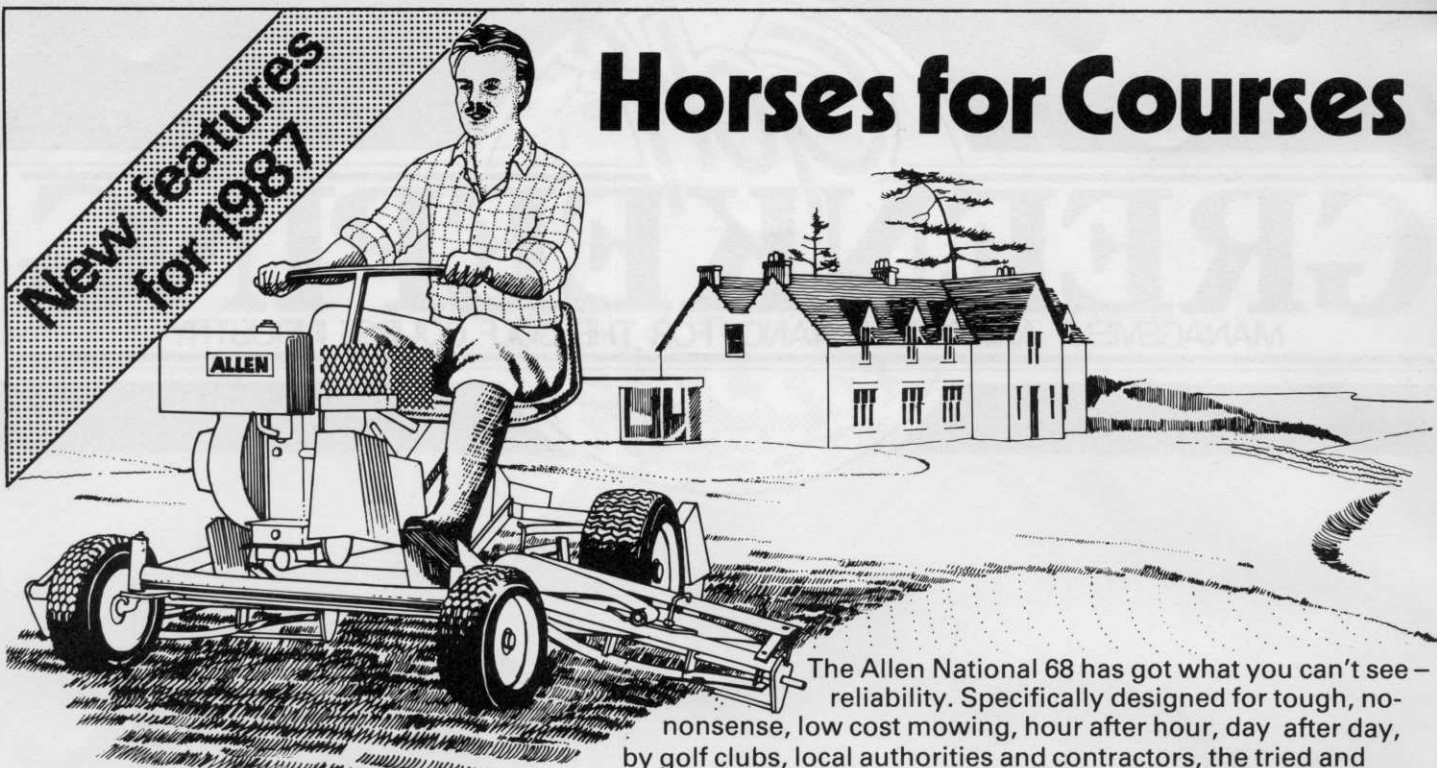


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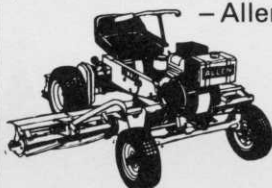
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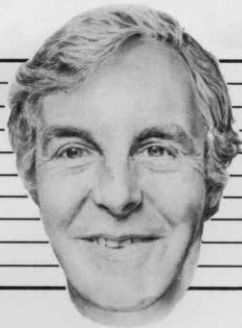
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John Lelean

Menace below the surface

An horrific accident to Eric Green, Head Greenkeeper at Woodcote Park Golf Club in Surrey for the past fifteen years, prompts Golf Greenkeeping to highlight the potential danger on many golf courses in the land.

Woodcote Park, celebrating their 75th anniversary this year, recently decided to update their irrigation system to include water on all eighteen tees as an addition to the Toro system installed on the greens thirteen years ago.

At 9.00 pm on a July evening, Eric Green, accompanied by his wife Carol and their ten year old daughter walked the course to check the sprinkler system. A number had failed to operate in the automatic mode so were switched on manually before transferring back to automatic.

At the 7th green, recently fertilised the sprinklers again had failed to operate. According to Mr. Green, as he bent over the cover to operate the manual valve, the box literally blew up in his face under a pressure estimated in excess of 120 psi and a piece of

plastic split his nose wide open, requiring immediate hospital treatment and seventeen stitches.

Once the stitches are removed, he will need a further operation to re-set his broken nose and could require plastic surgery.

Although his injuries are quite appalling it could have been worse. The valve box cover shot through the air and landed in the middle of the green; had that hit him the result could well have been a coroner's inquest. It was also fortunate his wife was there to rush him to hospital.

Frank Jones of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd, the Shepperton firm who installed the updated system, said he could not say at this stage how the accident happened but it was being investigated. He confirmed his company had replaced the control valves on all greens with a new three wire system using Buckner equipment. He further suggested the cover plate could have hit the nipple as it was lifted. Expressing regret he told Golf Greenkeeping the company was adequately covered by insurance.

Peter Roberts, Chairman of the British Turf Irrigation Association, has recently criticised golf clubs for paying more attention to the bottom line figure instead of looking at the specification standards, when considering quotations. He said Green Committees do not have the technical knowledge to judge whether an automatic water system is technically and hydraulically sound and should be guided by either an independent consultant or accept the standards laid down as a minimum by the B.T.I.A.

Until a full investigation can take place it could be wrong to attribute blame to any quarter, but it is not too late to issue a strong and urgent warning to all golf clubs of the potential danger to greenkeepers and members should a faulty irrigation system blow up under pressure.

Carol Green summed up perfectly when she said, "I would hate to think of the consequences if my daughter had been standing alongside Eric when the cover blew off".

Next Month: PREVIEW OF THE WINDSOR EXHIBITION
OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
GOLF GREENKEEPING TESTS.....
A NEW FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE PICK-UP

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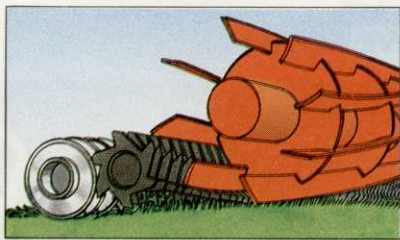


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NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

South Coast Greenkeepers Triumph again

The annual Vitax 'Key' greenkeeper golf tournament took place at Ferndown Golf Club, Dorset on 20th May 1987 with teams from Devon & Cornwall, Mid-Anglia, the South Coast, the South West and Wales taking part.

Last year's winners, the South Coast, retained the Key championship trophy and, also for the second year running, teams from Devon & Cornwall and Wales looked tied for second place. However on a recount Wales totalled 192 points and Devon & Cornwall 190 reversing last year's final placings.

The Welsh team received their award from Vitax distributors Roffey Bros. of Bournemouth.

Individual prize winners were:

- 1st: Huw Morgan (Wales)
- 2nd: Richard Preest (S. West)
- 3rd: E. O'Hanlan (Mid-Anglia)

At the celebratory dinner after the tournament a vote of thanks to Vitax was made by Don Hunt, President of the Devon & Cornwall Section, and to Colin Murphy, organiser of the tournament.

Special praise was accorded to Ferndown Golf Club for its splendid hospitality, and to Head Greenkeeper Cyril Grubb and his staff for the superb condition of the course.

NEWS 1

Vitax appoints Top Consultants

Two of Britain's leading sports-turf consultants have joined specialist fertiliser manufacturers Vitax Limited as Consultant Agronomists.

John Hacker, MS, Dip Hort (Kew), CBIol, MIBiol, MIHort and

Mike Harbridge MSc BSc (Hons),

commenced their new appointments on 1st July.

Both Hacker and Harbridge will be advising the company on product useage for sports grounds, golf courses, landscaping and general amenity areas, and on new product development.

NEWS 2



Health & Safety Executive

SAVE YOUR SKIN!

Occupational dermatitis is the commonest of all health problems by work activities, but few appreciate it can become serious enough to cause permanent disablement. A national awareness campaign on occupational dermatitis has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive's Employment Medical Advisory Service this month to focus attention on the problem.

Speaking at a press conference in London John Rimington, Director General of the Health and Safety Executive, said "Skin disease caused by work activity is one of the major industrial health problems we face. It is widespread and affects workers in all sectors of industry. But it can be prevented. That is why we are mounting this campaign. 'Save Your Skin' is not just a catchy slogan. It is good, practical advice".

Many substances commonly used at work can irritate or sensitise the skin with unpleasant consequences. Contact Dermatitis is an itchy rash. It develops where the skin comes into contact with harmful substances and can spread. Some forms are difficult to treat and can result in some people having to give up their jobs.

During the year-long campaign EMAS will give advice to employers, backed up with leaflets, pocket cards for workers, posters and a video film. They will explain how to find out if there is a risk of skin disease, help to resolve cases that exists and promote a cost-effective skin care programme for the workplace.

Personal hygiene is also important. There should be washing facilities with suitable hand creams available near the workplace and workers should use them. They should also keep the workplace clean and tidy and regularly inspect their own skin for any sign of a rash.

NEWS 3

Royal Windsor '87 Exhibition biggest ever IOG Show

This year's Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at The Royal Windsor Racecourse (15th-17th September 1987) is going to be a sell out: to date a record amount of exhibition space and demonstration areas have been sold, and there are a number of space applications waiting to be finalised.

A total of 315 companies from all over the world have already been allocated space at this the 43rd annual event organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Among the special events planned for this year's exhibition are a "Best Literature of the Show" award - and "Best New Introduction of the Show" award.

The IOG will again be organising awards for outstanding stand design, and all awards will be presented at a special ceremony on Tuesday 15th September at 6.00 p.m.

NEWS 4

HA 1388

'Heron Power That's a Promise'

Golf Greenkeeping has been chosen by Heron Power Product in a new powerful national advertising campaign based on the slogan 'Heron Power - That's a Promise'. The slogan sums up the superb level of performance and reliability of all the machines for which the company is the UK distributor.

Each advertisement carries a reply coupon. Product ranges covered are Echo brushcutters and chainsaws; Suzuki outboard motors, portable generators, pumps and general purpose engines; and Stiga mowers. Special summer incentives will be offered to customers by most of the Echo and Stiga dealers.

In the case of Echo, anyone purchasing a chainsaw can receive a free Safety Helmet and loop of chain. With Stiga, Parks and Garden Department's of Local Authorities are being offered the free loan of a Stiga Park 2002 ride-on mower and Suzuki SuperCarry Pick-Up to transport it, allowing them to try out the machine on their 'home ground'.

NEWS 5

M&B May & Baker

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All clear for Major Wentworth Clubhouse Redevelopment.

Plans for the construction of a new multi-million pound clubhouse for the Wentworth Golf Club have now been approved. The "all clear" to proceed follows agreement from the Department of the Environment to remove a temporary Historic Building 'listing' imposed on the present clubhouse.

Last April, Golf Greenkeeping reported plans to renew the present clubhouse had been shelved, because the Dept. of the Environment had deemed it a class 2 listed building, though no one could imagine why. Some of those that know the Wentworth clubhouse have described it as a 'bit of a monstrosity', hardly suitable for the two courses at Virginia Water.

The new complex will be built in tandem with a third 18-hole golf course already approved in the Surrey stockbroker belt.

Architects D. Y. Davies will provide a development of more than 50,000 sq. ft. to give the club the best facilities of any golf course in the UK. The new complex incorporates a full range of changing rooms, bars, visitors' facilities, reception and administration areas, a professional's shop, function rooms, a restaurant, a large indoor swimming pool, two squash courts and a gymnasium.

The new clubhouse will be located to the north of the existing premises and will take advantage of the natural slope of the ground as well as blending with the surrounding landscape. It has been sensitively designed to be in keeping with the architecture of the Wentworth Estate and will include many features contained within the existing clubhouse.

Work will start in August and scrub clearance for the new Wentworth course will begin during the summer. The new clubhouse is expected to be opened in early 1989 and the South course should be ready for play in the early 1990's.

Kevin Munt, previously Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch has succeeded Gerry Coley as Course Manager at Wentworth amid fierce competition for this prestigious position.

NEWS 6



Bradshaw Vehicles for the Golf Course

John Bradshaw Ltd. can now offer a complete range of vehicles purpose built for the growing outdoor sports and leisure industry.

Model G is a luxury golf car. Available in battery, electric or petrol driven versions, in its basic form it is the perfect golf car, groundsman's transporter or greenkeeper's tote vehicle. It can be equipped with a variety of additional extras, but in its basic 2-golfer configuration, costs only £3,500.

Model GX 20 is the perfect groundsman's tool. It has turf tyres fitted as standard, and can accept all leading brands of turf management equipment. This versatile high-specification 2-wheel drive tipper, with an on-board capacity of 800kg, has a two-cylinder petrol driven engine producing up to 3,500 rpm, and a top speed of 20 mph. A four-speed synchromesh gear box and automotive style steering make for easy handling on metalled surfaces. Gradeability is outstanding, making the GX 20 ideal in applications with a high proportion of ramps and inclines. The robust new body shell, manufactured of high quality steel, includes mudguards, integral headlights, and a solid front bumper. The cargo bed, fitted as standard, has drop sides, and a hydraulically operated tipping mechanism controlled from the cab.

NEWS 7

Ransomes acquires Yorkshire Company for £1½ million

Ransomes Sims & Jefferis PLC, has acquired the business and assets of Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath-on-Dearne owned by Yorkshireman, Ralph Winstanley, for £1½ million. A successful specialist manufacturer of cutting cylinders, blades and grinding machines, for the grass machinery market in the U.K. and with a thriving export trade particularly in the United States.

Ralph Winstanley, left his Wath-on-Dearne home at the age of 15 to join a number of other young apprentices at the Brades factory in Birmingham. It was there he learnt all there was to know about edge-tool manufacture. He started in the grinding department, worked his way through the other sections and was eventually put in charge of the finishing business at the company's Holyhead factory.

His road to success started in 1953 at Holyhead from the back of a converted Morris Ambulance set up as a mobile workshop. His travelling grinding business aimed at top class restaurants and hotels along the south coast sharpening butchery knives for chefs.

Two years later he moved back to the South Yorkshire mining village of Wath-on-Dearne, bought an old slaughter house, put on a new roof and started to expand the grinding business by making lawnmower cylinders.

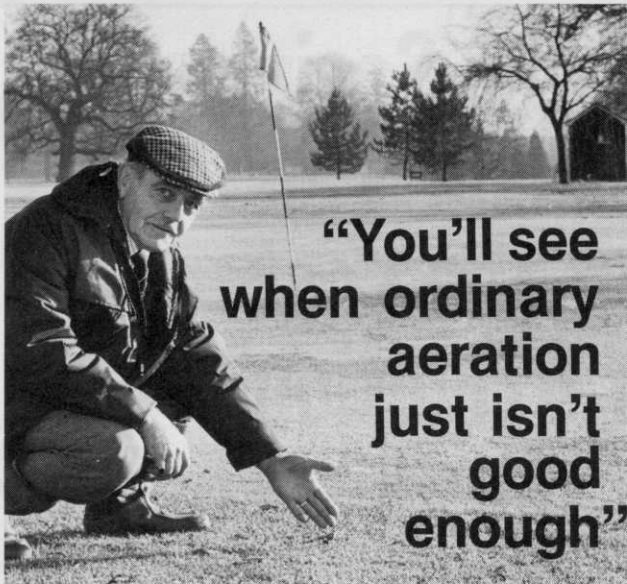
His cylinders are manufactured to extremely high standards, using a steel hardening process perfected himself, which guarantees their unbreakability under normal conditions.

A familiar figure at trade shows all over the world with his distinctive mutton chop whiskers, Ralph has travelled thousands of miles to promote his export business, which now accounts for around sixty per cent of the turnover.

But none of this could have been achieved without a strong home market. His first break came when he persuaded the Birmingham Parks Department to try a set of his cylinders in their machines. They performed so well that within two years almost every blade of grass in Birmingham's parks was cut with a blade from Mowing Machine Maintenance at Wath-on-Dearne.

Ransomes Group Chief Executive, Bob Dodsworth, said "this acquisition provides the Group with considerable potential to develop our important spare tyre business, particularly in export markets. It will also enable us to market a superior range of grinding machines throughout our worldwide dealer network". The business will continue to operate from the South Yorkshire premises.

NEWS 8



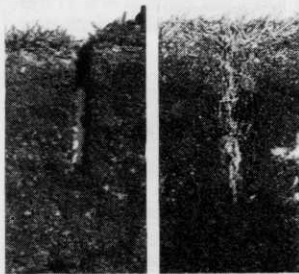
"You'll see when ordinary aeration just isn't good enough"

"You'll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

"What you can't see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result's the same. Water doesn't soak in properly. The soil gets starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You've got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn't going to solve it.

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"Why do I think Ryan hollow tine aerators are the best? They're exceptionally well made. Tough and reliable. And they've got a lot of special features, like the Greensaire's 2 inch by 2 inch core pattern. And the unique design which makes each tine go in and out absolutely vertically so that it doesn't damage the top surface like some others can.



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Huge Grants from the R&A

The newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association are to be given £37,500 by the R&A out of a massive £685,000 grant pay out to all levels of the game, both at home and abroad.

The St. Andrews Links Trust will receive the largest share, £200,000 towards the provision of a new course irrigation system. Other grants from the profits of the Open Championship include, £40,000 to the four home based amateur unions, £17,500 to the Ladies Golf Union and the four similar bodies representing ladies amateur golf. All this money is earmarked for coaching purposes.

The Golf Foundation are to receive £85,000, the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, £20,000 and even the wealthy Professional Golf Association will benefit with a grant of £24,000 towards the cost of training young assistants.

Golf on the European Continent is also due a slice of the cake with eight amateur authorities representing Spain, France, Portugal, Finland, Denmark,

Belgium, Austria and Czechoslovakia a member of the Communist block, receiving a share of £93,500 over the next three years.

Two other Continental Unions, Sweden and Germany, who have made great strides in the expansion of their golf in recent years are regarded as not needing any financial help.

The R&A have been instrumental in bringing together the three greenkeeper associations, the Scottish Greenkeepers, the British Golf Greenkeepers and the English Greenkeepers, a breakaway faction from the main group, who set up their own organisation five years ago, because they felt the main committee were not leading the association towards the status and standing enjoyed by greenkeepers in other parts of the golfing world.

Early this year the post of a General Administrator for the new Association was advertised extensively at a salary stated to be in the region of £16,000 per annum, to be based in headquarters at the Sport Research Institute at Bingley. Following a series of interviews at York, Mr. Neil Thomas will commence the new job on 3rd August.

NEWS 9

HA 1386

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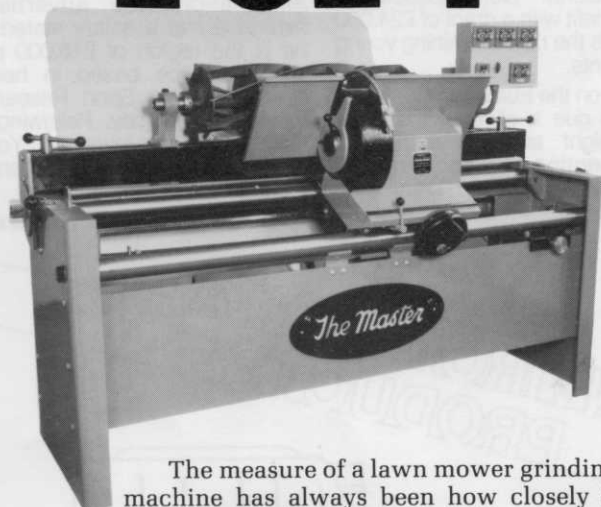
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Water Saving Scheme can cut the cost of irrigation in the Desert.

John Lelean reports on developments in Dubai.

Engineers have come up with a novel idea for saving water on the desert golf course destined to become one of the most spectacular in the world. While millions of gallons must be used to keep fairways and greens in prime condition, more than a third of the water will probably be recycled. And it's all thanks to an unlikely method, devised in the Middle East for keeping a private swimming pool topped up.

After the water has drained through the soil into the water table below, it will be pumped back up into two man-made lakes which form the central link in the irrigation system at the Emirates Golf Club.

Water is liquid gold in the United Arab Emirates. But it is there, on the outskirts of Dubai, that the first grass championship course in the region is growing out of the desert.

A team of experts, led by project engineer Stephen Trutch, have overcome a series of tricky obstacles on the course, which is scheduled to open in November this year.

In doing so they have come up with an effective way of reducing irrigation costs.

Water pumped into the two lakes from Dubai's desalination plant is fed to the course through a network of more than 500 Toro sprinklers. It drains into the saline water table just a few feet below the ground.

"It is common knowledge that fresh water sits on top of salt water", said Larry Trenary, the representative in Dubai of Karl Litten, the American who designed the course.

"The irrigation we are carrying out will create a freshwater lake on top of the salt water. We will be pumping up water for testing, and we feel that in two to three years time it will be feasible to collect that water on a controlled basis, put it back in the lakes, and save as much as 25 to 40 per cent.

"We have 25 well points going down into the sub-surface and we will have to install many more, with a large suction pump, to get the water out", added Trenary.

"But we know it can be done successfully because we have already carried out a similar operation in an area nearby where there is a lens of fresh-water on top of the water table".

The water saving scheme was pioneered by Eric Tulloch, chief engineer at Dubai Water Department for the past 25 years. He came up with the idea of filling his private pool by pumping water out of the ground in his garden.

The Emirates Golf Club has been hailed locally as "Mohammed's magnificent gift to Dubai" a reference to H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE's Minister of Defence who has inspired the project.

The course has also been attracting international attention, and former British Ryder Cup star Tommy Horton is one man who believes it has all the makings of a professional tournament venue.

Horton, chairman of the European Tour Committee, said after a visit to Dubai that the course could easily find a place on the European circuit.

Kerry Son, from Florida appointed as Course Superintendent flew into Dubai from Florida, inspected the course within hours, and came up with a glowing verdict.

"It's magnificent, both in terms of the design and character", he said. "It is going to be a very challenging course for any golfer. It may take a whole year to get it into optimum condition, but it will be a very popular course throughout the world when it is finished. It is going to be spectacular".

Designer Litten, involved in more than 100 golf course projects around the world over the past 20 years, believes his offering to Dubai could turn out to be the masterpiece of his career.



One of four lakes stocked with Japanese Carp in front of the club-house.

"I'm thinking that more and more every time I see it", he said, after jetting to the UAE to carry out a progress check, and go over the details with course engineer Stephen Trutch, who has been deeply involved in the project since it was first launched just 12 months ago.

On the outskirts of Dubai where camels roam the desert plains, the grass is now visible from the main highway, and motorists slow down to check out the growing splash of green.

The Emirates Golf Club is not easy to miss. When it opens in November it will become the first championship course in the Gulf, the latest in a growing line of sporting assets for the go-ahead city in the United Arab Emirates.

One man who played his part in the projects is a welder from Oklahoma. His hydraulic invention, a machine that can plant a fairway in a couple of hours, has been one of the most important pieces of equipment used in the construction of the course.

The machine, which cost \$20,000, was built to specifications laid down in Dubai, and has not been sold commercially.

It is towed behind a tractor, and drops grass sprigs in any frequency you want to broadcast the grass. Behind is a large roller with knives which dig into the ground down to about six to eight inches. Then there is a large roller which closes it all up and tucks it in.

It can take four or five days to plant an average size fairway by hand. This machine can do the same work in a couple of hours, covering an area of about three acres.

In recent weeks a new shape has begun to emerge from the sandhills - the beginnings of a structure that looks like a space-age version of a Bedouin tent. This is the multi-million dollar club house where members will dine in a five-star restaurant and relax in saunas, and jacuzzis. Close at hand will be squash and tennis courts, along with a floodlit crown green bowling arena and practice range.

The 6,618 yard par 72 course itself displays a classic links style within a few dog-legs of the sea, its fairways sunk beneath smooth banks and flowing around four man-made lakes.

All the attention to detail in early days, before giant earth-movers began shifting millions of tons of sand last July, is now paying dividends. The two types of chosen hybrid Bermuda grass, are now growing towards maturity on fairways and greens.

On arrival in the UAE the grass sealed in packets to prevent contamination was immediately planted at nurseries near the course. "After we established a goody heavy turf we then used a machine (a Ryan verticut turf mower) that pulls pieces of root and stem out of the ground", said Larry Trenary.

Continued on Pages 10 & 11

HA 1387

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TECHNICAL



نادي جولف الامارات دبي

EMIRATES
GOLF CLUB DUBAI

Continued from Pages 8 & 9

"This machine has hundreds of little blades that are curled at the end and spin very quickly, go about half an inch into the ground, and pull up the grass.

"We broadcast the grass over the greens by hand and kept it wet for 10 to 12 days. You lose about 50 per cent on the greens, but they are completely covered in about five to six weeks".

Tift 419 Hybrid B, developed in Tifton, Georgia, one of the foremost grass-growing regions of the USA, was chosen for the

fairways because it is salt tolerant, and replaces itself quickly.

For the greens the Emirates Golf Club picked Tift 328, a thinner-leaved type of Bermuda grass which allows a better run of the ball. "You can cut it to three sixteenths of an inch, and by cross-cutting you can develop a speed of nine to nine-and-a-half on the Stimpmeter", said Trenary.

Fast and true putting surfaces are just part of the general attraction of the course that has already impressed a number of top golfers who recognise the potential in Dubai.

Long drivers like Sevy Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle would appreciate the sting in the tail of the Emirates Golf Club - a 550 yard par five 18th hole. It requires a finishing shot across one of the lakes to a giant double green shared by the ninth.

Any player forced to go paddling after selecting the wrong club might have more success with a fishing rod. The lake is stocked with several thousand Japanese Koi carp, all part of the beautification work which has seen thousands of trees and plants springing up out of the desert, making the 700,000 square metre site as verdant as any natural oasis.

TECHNICAL 1



THE DRIVING RANGE

The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases – whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.



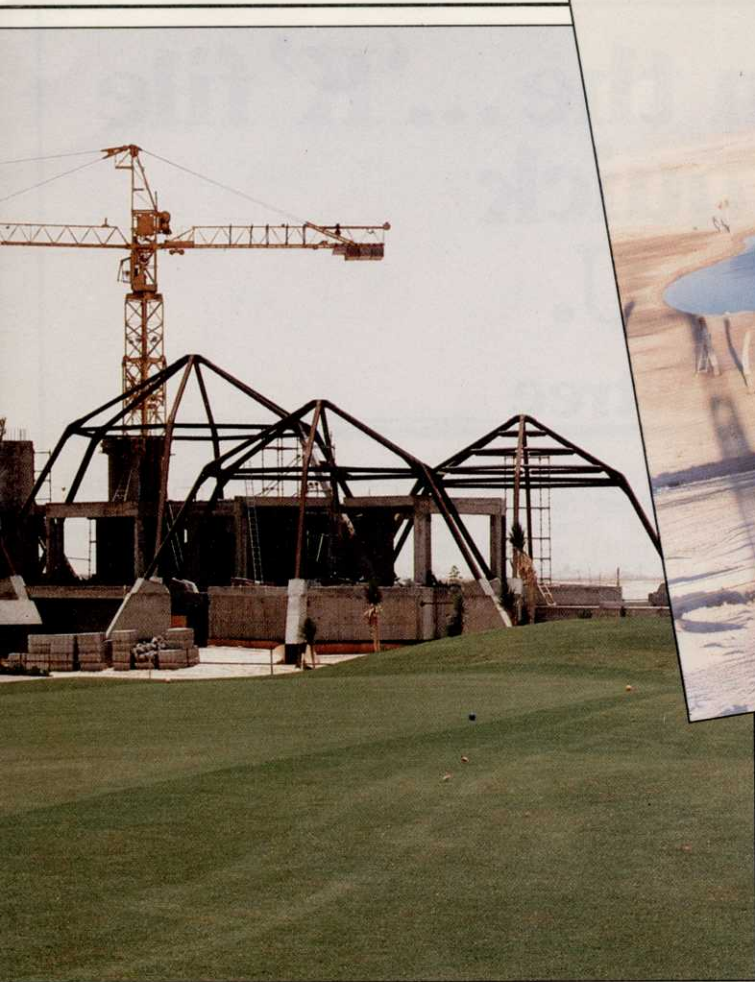
SUPERVERDONE* The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

GAMMA-COL* turf. Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.



TURF CARE PRODUCTS
Professional

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.



(Above) A man-made oasis sprouts from the desert sands.

(Left) The putting green now matured fronts the Bedouin style club-house.

A further report on the first grass golf course in the Arabian Desert

ING RANGE.

TORNADO* Based on carbaryl, Tornado gives economical, effective and long-lasting control of casting worms. Because it works by contact and ingestion it gives quick results and good residual activity. The special liquid formulation is easy to mix and simple to apply. After application it leaves no unpleasant odour – so as soon as the grass is dry, play can continue.

DACONIL[‡] turf. A broad spectrum fungicide for the prevention and control of major turf diseases. Its unique multi-site action and chemical composition means that even after years of successful use it continues to be effective – even sequential spraying programmes create no problems. Daconil turf has dependable and consistent activity at any time of year.



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More on the ... 'K' file .. and a quick look at ... U.

... by Fred Hawtree

Even before the June 'Green-keeping' hit your doormat its powerful analysis of human greetings had worked through to the top brass. When the Queen went to Berlin, not one Guards' officer received more than the routine handshake, whereas President Gorbachev was pictured greeting President Honecker with lips pursed ready to deliver a powerful smacker.

He was aiming for the left cheek. That settles the problem we touched on last month. Both parties must know which side to go for initially in order to avoid crunching noses, glasses, or teeth.

If kissing cheeks is a hang-over from aristocratic times, one may find it odd that Russia retained the practice while ditching most other behaviour of the Imperial Court. But society springs from older roots.

One word in the English language which suffers cruel neglect is 'ululate'. Being of a sympathetic nature I never pass up a chance to dust it off and give it an airing, but the opportunity does not knock very often.. As those of you who refer to 'Bent' as 'Agrostis' will know, the curious shape of the word represents the plummy vibration in a concert of female throats, of the glottis or, perhaps, Adam's (if that is the right word) Apple. They heard it in Rome expressing approval of returning legions marching past the emperor after annexing another parcel of Mediterranean real-estate. Instead of clapping, whistling, or blowing motor-horns, Roman ladies 'ululated'.

The sound is not as dead as the word seems to be. Some fifteen years ago, Moroccan troops went to Zaire to calm a volatile situation. Having calmed it, they flew home to a heroes' welcome and marched through the main square of Casablanca just below my bedroom window. As each detachment passed the crowded pavements, the air vibrated shrilly as the ululations rolled in and out with them. The Roman sound must have been identical. Only the uniforms had changed.

I did not see the final ceremonies but the pictures next day in 'Le Matin du Sahara' showed more than a few cheek-to-cheek greetings as a bonus. But kissing greetings are common between Arab males, whether shaven or unshaven. Osculation springs from depths as unplumbed as ululation. Revolutions do not change either of them though not everyone is equally affected emotionally.

Ululate.....
the plummy
vibration in
a concert of
female throats

When there were no more ululations to be heard, I went out to see what other echoes of ancient times I might pick up. The hope was quickly dashed by a young man who asked if I had business in Casablanca. I explained that strictly speaking my work was in the north, close to Tangier, but my clients had offices in 'Casa'. He seemed amazed by the coincidence. He was, he said, just about to open a bank in Tangier. He would be delighted to handle my financial transactions. I explained that these were unlikely to go beyond cashing a traveller's cheque but he saw that only as an overture to export and import licences, letters of credit and all the paraphernalia of international commerce. With these high hopes, which I endorsed cordially, he shook my hand and was about to disappear round the corner into the Avenue Hassan II, when a thought suddenly struck him. Turning back he added thoughtfully, "By the way I suppose, just until I get established up there, you couldn't possibly lend me the price of a cup of coffee?"

Let us pick up the thread nearer the present. Just before Christmas, I renewed acquaintance with a Monsieur George de Bernard. A good golfer, he had been on several committees establishing new golf courses in France during the mini-boom of the sixties which after 25 years of comparative calm has become a

mad rush. Figures are quoted glibly but the last I heard said the French Golf Federation had knowledge of 500 new projects. There are 2.9 golfers per one hundred inhabitants in Britain, but in France last year it was only 0.2%.

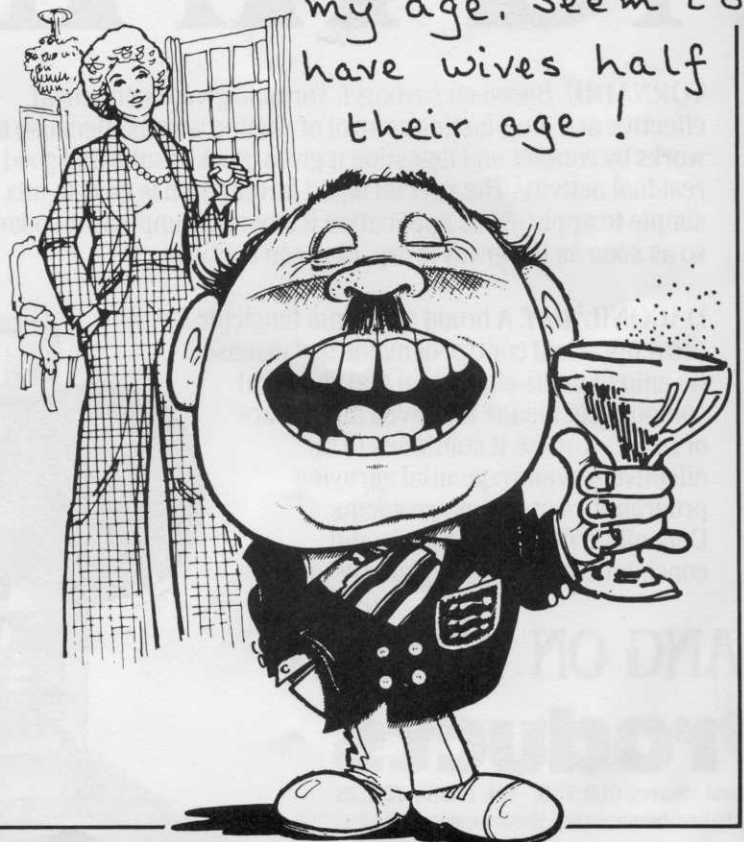
They have a long way to go but it will not take long if the current estimate of 30% growth per annum is maintained.

George de Bernard later retired to his family home near Angers and turned it into a four star hotel attached to the Relais des Châteaux chain. He receives a regular clientele from the House of Lords due to a recommendation from one of his earliest visitors who happened to be royal and incognito. George de Bernard recognised him but kept mum for a whole week and his discretion was appreciated.

His neighbour down the road has farm land surplus to requirements and subject to the vagaries of Common Market agricultural policy. He is wisely considering turning some of it into a golf course - in fact two. This is the Monsieur de la Poype who left France in 1940, joined the Free French and thence the Royal Air force, and finished up sweeping German aircraft out of the skies over the Russian front with notable success.

The Russians were so pleased they presented him with the fighter plane in which he flew so many sorties. This gesture was both a reward for his exploits and a facility for his journey home at an awkward time. They also awarded him the Red Star and with it he received the ultimate accolade. He was kissed by Joseph Stalin, as de Bernard said impressively, *sur la bouche!*

French golfers half my age, seem to have wives half their age!



So none of your left and right pecks for Uncle Joe - slap bang on the lips. Although prickly, this too must have echoed some ancient ceremonial reserved for the ultra brave. One on the cheek for long service; but the full works for a DFC and bar.

The Romans presumably brought something like it to these shores in 55 BC, but could neither persuade the British ladies to ululate nor us rough old tribesmen to take up kissing. The Normans did no better in 1066 and even disappeared themselves.

The British kept clear of possible infection outside the family for 2,000 years but are now trying to make up for lost time. Observe your Club Captain, when next presenting prizes to the Ladies Section.

Such a gathering last night at La Forêt-Fouesnant here in Brittany, obliges me moreover to correct an impression I reported last month. Based on the evidence then available, four kisses were standard greeting even between casual acquaintances. That may still be true of young ones and was confirmed this morning between young ladies of the pillion riding type in the Cafe du Centre in Pont-Aven. Three of them performed identically. But persons more mature and with different recreations

have come under my in-depth scrutiny and things are less out of hand than I suspected.

Thirty years ago next month, I laid out a 9-hole course for the Golf de Cornouaille. It lies just across the estuary from this hotel and there are plans finally to extend it to eighteen. Hence my return. I am especially fond of its members because the only change they have made since the beginning is a new pool on the left of the drive at the eighth and there are not many clubs that have not added a pool somewhere if they could find a hole for it.

The sponsor supplies not only superb trophies but Champagne into the bargain

The membership (200) is lively and there is a competition every weekend from March 1st to 29th November, plus two more in December, ten more on various Thursdays and others on Public Holidays like Pentecost yesterday. They are all strongly supported and followed in the evening by a prize giving for which the sponsor supplies not only superb trophies but also champagne or other

appropriate beverage for 70 or 80 people into the bargain.

In the cause of pure research on your behalf, I found myself at both the Sunday and the Monday gatherings. Champagne Sunday; Rosé, Monday. It would have been churlish to decline the invitations and you yourselves would have felt obliged to do the same.

Heavily disguised as one of the participants with a glass in my hand I could observe the others with scientific detachment as they milled round the long lines of ready filled glasses while greeting friends not previously encountered on the golf course during the day.

...did not the brushing of the cheeks become more lingering as the night wore on?

I can now reveal that in Brittany at least, the standard ration is still two kisses, one on each cheek, as between men and women golf club members, as of 7th/8th June 1987. However the atmosphere of an occasion like this tends to become super-

charged as the temperature rises and the calories accumulate. Was there I wonder, as we social observers tend to do, some other dimension in all this? Should I be looking below the surface as well as at it?

I returned to the Hotel de L'Esperance and reflected carefully before putting a new theory to you - especially as I messed up the first one. My latest thinking can be summed up in eight words. 'The more there are - the less they mean'. (But I suggest you still file it under K).

Most French golfers half my age seem to have wives half their age, mostly blonde and all beautiful. Was I mistaken or did the basic brushing of the cheeks become more lingering as the evening wore on? It became less a question of number than of intensity. To kiss four times at this level would give the whole game away; a lingering twice leaves scope for putting in some real meaning without holding up the party. I leave it to you.

You have been very patient as I prattled on about these superficial matters while you were itching to hear what the Parisian greenkeeper is wearing this Spring.

In September we will get back to work - and so must I!

FEATURE 1

A powerful argument for replacement

Suzuki general purpose engines offer an unrivalled combination of dependable power and value for money. So it's much better to fit a new Suzuki engine than to waste time repairing a worn out unit.

All Suzuki replacement engines have a full 12 months warranty on parts and labour - regardless of application.

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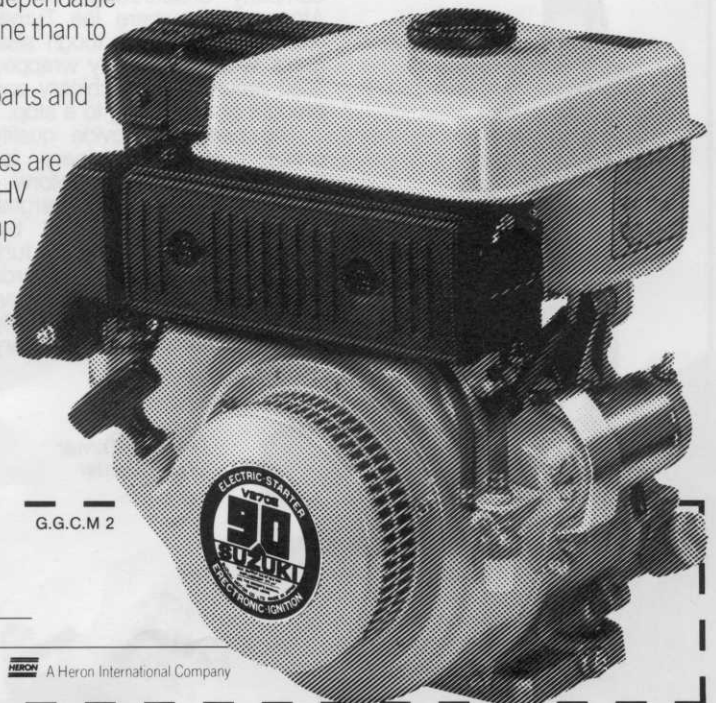
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G.G.C.M 2

HERON A Heron International Company



Ideal for fairway maintenance - the Turner Hustler

Company Chairman Tony Turner, is a high flyer in more ways than one.

Evidence of one of his aeronautical achievements is parked on the lawn outside his rambling country house at King's Coughton near Alcester in the shape of a four seater light aircraft.

At the other side of the house is the results of more than 25 years of innovative design and sheer dedication in the shape of a modern designed factory employing 110 people, manufacturing a wide range of quality machinery for the farming and turfgrass industry.

Turner International (Engineering) Ltd have come a long way since Tony Turner first gave thought to the production of his first flail mower and the company is now among the leading group of British engineering firms producing grass cutting equipment.

Now a division of Elswick plc a Group with a Stock Market share quotation, Turner Engineering are moving increasingly into the amenity turf market, but still developing the flail mowers that gave them their reputation as the 'Rough Cut Boys'.

Changing from a fixed to a swivel flail blade made the company breakthrough in the African bush where the Turner flail cut through the tough sisal grass which previously wrapped itself around the machinery and brought grass cutting to a stop.

The need to provide quality grass cutting machinery for increasing areas of motorway embankments, roadside verges, parks, sportsgrounds and the many varieties of amenity turf, has led the company towards developing machinery that can cut grass quickly, economically and by a finely adjusted rotary system, neatly as well.



'Flailure' creates success for West Midland Grass Machinery Company

The four seater aircraft, more than capable of trips to the Continent has a grass runway kept in playing field condition with the latest ride-on machines in the range - the Turner Hustler.

For sheer versatility it will take a great deal of beating.

The Kubota four cylinder diesel engine provides hydrostatic drive to the drive wheels. The rotary blades are belt driven.

The steering is unique; no normal steering wheel, just two aircraft type control sticks which gives the operator unbelievable control. It will turn completely within its own length by counter rotating the independently powered drive wheels.

As a rotary machine for cutting golf course rough it is the answer to a greenkeeper's prayer. There is a ground speed of 10 mph and a cutting speed of 4-5 mph, with simple adjustments to vary the height of cut from four inches down to fairway length.

The control levers are so sensitive that it can be driven up to a sapling and the grass cut to within inches of the tree without fear of damage.

The padded driver's seat is designed for operator comfort and fatigue reduction an essential requirement in harness with the 11 gallons fuel tank which will operate the Turner Hustler all day without refuelling.

The grass cutting attachments for the Hustler can be supplied as a 60" 3-way rotary mower, the 72" 3-way rotary mower or the heavy duty 72" dual trim rotary, incorporating a rear discharge of cut grass and off-set facilities on either side.

Other attachments include a grass collection box a 60" rotary broom for sweeping leaves and other debris and a 54" blower with a hydraulically controlled directional spout, ideal for clearing the car park around the clubhouse during winter snowfalls.



The new Turner Grass Master



"We left home at unbelievable hours in the morning and drove hundreds of miles to demonstrate the machinery but it was all worthwhile once the customer had been convinced it was the equipment he needed".

The latest Turner campaign "Save a Sapling" is aimed at sparing hedgerow trees. Mechanical cutting has achieved the retention of Britain's hedges. Without a cost effective machine farmers would have ripped them out and moved over to prairie style farming.

Now with cutting machinery so responsive to the operator's control, there is no need to cut at the same height all along a hedge.

The "Save a Sapling" campaign launched at The Royal Show is linked with yellow weatherproof tree tags to mark the sapling destined to grow into a roadside tree.

"All part of our preservation, health and safety and country conservation policy", said Graham.

He knows what he is talking about. Why kill off the tree that in ten years time will require the services of a Turner's Wood Chipper!

TECHNICAL 2

The versatile Turner Tiger

A smaller rough cut mower the Turner Tiger is also new to the company range. Petrol driven with either a Kawasaki or Kohler engine the rotary cutters come in a side or rear discharge. Although not as manoeuvrable as the Hustler the Tiger is ideal for cutting fairway rough and at a price starting at £3,500 + VAT it is good value for money.

Turner's are also deeply into future development. They are well aware that to keep ahead of the opposition a company of their size needs to invest time and money in research and development. Currently they are investing around a quarter of a million pounds a year with the emphasis on producing machinery for the finer cutting of leisure turf.

Greater emphasis on conservation and recycling waste products has led to an increase in the demand for wood chippers. Brush hedge trimmings and even small trees can be turned into beneficial organic mulch or used as an inexpensive and attractive base material for paths and walkways.

Turner's 70TR Chipper mounted on a 40 hp tractor by a three point linkage can turn out between two and three tons of chippings an hour and cope quite easily with wood up to 9 inches in diameter.

Sales Director Graham Satchwell, an energetic 40 year old has been with the company for 20 years.

"My days as a demonstrator were the happiest of my life,"

says

Graham Satchwell

He started life with Turner's in the factory and has moved along the path of demonstrator, fitter, sales representative and sales manager and is currently the director responsible for both the marketing and sales.

In addition to dealers in various European countries they now have wholly owned subsidiary companies in Atlanta, USA and Melbourne, Australia, with around 40% of the production exported.

In this country Turner's machinery is distributed through a 27 outlet dealer network, backed by company demonstrators, fitters and a spare parts facility.

Enthusiasm, dedication and company involvement by all employees has had considerable influence on the success of the firm, Graham Satchwell, with a wistful look in the eye, still believes his days as a demonstrator were the happiest days of his life.

Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club (Situated in the heart of the New Forest)

Invite Applications for the post of

Experienced HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of course management, the direction of staff and have a thorough knowledge of course machinery and its maintenance

Attractive remuneration package including a three bedroom bungalow, rent and rates free

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**The Secretary,
BROKENHURST MANOR GOLF CLUB
Sway Road, Brockenhurst,
Hampshire SO42 7SG**

NTC's Water Management Seminar

The Conference organised by the National Turfgrass Council as a residential seminar at the Post House Hotel, Allesley, near Coventry, entitled "Water Management for Turfgrasses", is being covered in three sessions.

Good drainage is essential on the golf course, and yet an STRI survey in 1981 showed four out of five courses had a drainage problem on at least one of their greens. Research work undertaken at Aberystwyth and Bingley to investigate the best construction methods and the right sands to use in different situations, will be reviewed in two papers.

Against this research background, Geoffrey Davison of Cambridge Associates will describe the special kinds of turfgrass drainage systems which can be installed and how to keep them effective in spite of surface capping and compaction. In the fourth paper, Bob Fry of the Land Drainage Contractors Association will review the drainage industry, the cost benefits available and likely future developments.

The second session examines water management from the opposite point of view: making sure that turfgrasses have sufficient water, especially on the free-draining constructions.

The session begins with two of the country's most knowledgeable turfgrass irrigation specialists. Robin Hume will cover all types of sports turf requiring irrigation, Philip York reviews the development of irrigation for landscaping and prestige amenity areas, David Bracey of the Metropolitan Police Sports Club and Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Club, will explain how irrigation is integrated with mowing, fertiliser application and the other aspects of fine turf management.

In the third session, the perspective widens, to include water in and around turfgrass areas. Glyn Williams of the Severn-Trent Water Authority reviews the availability of this basic resource. No irrigation system can function without assured supplies of water of sufficiently good quality. Recent pesticide legislation has put particular emphasis on avoiding the contamination of water, in the ground or in waterways; and it will be valuable to learn the proper management of the water areas themselves.

Details of the Seminar and the booking form are available from:

John Shildrick, Secretary, NTC
3 Ferrands Park Way,
Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ
Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131

NEWS 10



Huxley's Show attracts Greenkeeper interest

The splendid backdrop of Stratfield Saye House, with its 30 acres of landscaped grounds, provided the perfect setting for the first major public working demonstration for three new items of professional grass and turf maintenance equipment from leading manufacturer and supplier, Huxleys Grass Machinery.

Shown as part of a three-day exhibition of the company's full range of equipment, which includes the Cushman, Huxley, Royer, Little David, Red Rider and Yankee product names, the latest introductions emphasise Huxley's continuing commitment to the professional grounds and turf maintenance industry.

Staged during May at the country estate of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the exhibition attracted public authorities, golf and sports clubs, contractors, private organisations businesses and individuals from throughout London, the Home Counties and the South of England.

One group of visitors, from Huxley's Spanish distributor, travelled from Madrid specifically for the event.

Their interest, along with a number of British grounds-staff, centered on Huxley-made attachments for the Cushman turf care system, and particularly the latest addition to the range - the H44 Fine Turf Scarifier for use with Cushman Turf Truckster vehicles.

Designed for renovation work, thatch control and general main-

tenance, this pto-driven attachment has 52 thin, closely-spaced revolving blades which cut-out dead and lateral-growing grasses, moss and tired or matted material to help promote healthy and vigorous regrowth of amenity grass.

Working depth can be controlled infinitely on front and rear height-control rollers down to a maximum of 3/4 inch. It has a 36 inch working width and is fully-mounted on the Huxley H16 three-point linkage frame at the rear of the Turf Truckster.

The Huxley TV36 Fine Turf Scarifier has been produced by the company for use with smaller compact tractors in the 14 to 18hp range.

Both Fine Turf Scarifiers, for Cushman vehicles and compact tractors respectively, cost £1,355 (plus VAT).

Another new machine attracting interest was the latest Cushman Front Line ride-one rotary mower with its three-cylinder, 21.5hp diesel-engine.

Developed for the day-long professional cutting of rougher and longer areas of grass, the latest Front Line has a number of features intended to enhance, and extend, operating performance throughout the year.

Full hydrostatic steering at the two rear wheels produce effortless fingertip control around obstacles and when turning, while Cushman have incorporated uprated insulation and mountings for the engine to reduce vibration and noise levels in work.

As on all Cushman Front Line models, drive to the out-front 60in. (1.52m) or 72in. (1.83m) rotary cutting deck is by shaft in a direct line from the engine, with the latest model including a new heavy-duty pto clutch for optimum performance and longevity.

Both cutting deck widths can be had in side- or rear-discharge form. Other options include a roll-over protection structure, cab, rotary brush, snow thrower and blade.

Price of the new Cushman Front Line with 21.5hp diesel powered unit, complete with 60in. deck, is from £9,830 (plus VAT).

Of special interest to golf greenkeepers with undulating fairways was the Huxley TR138 'Golf Course' five-gang hydraulic reel mower, making its first public appearance with its new floating top link and rear castor wheel options.

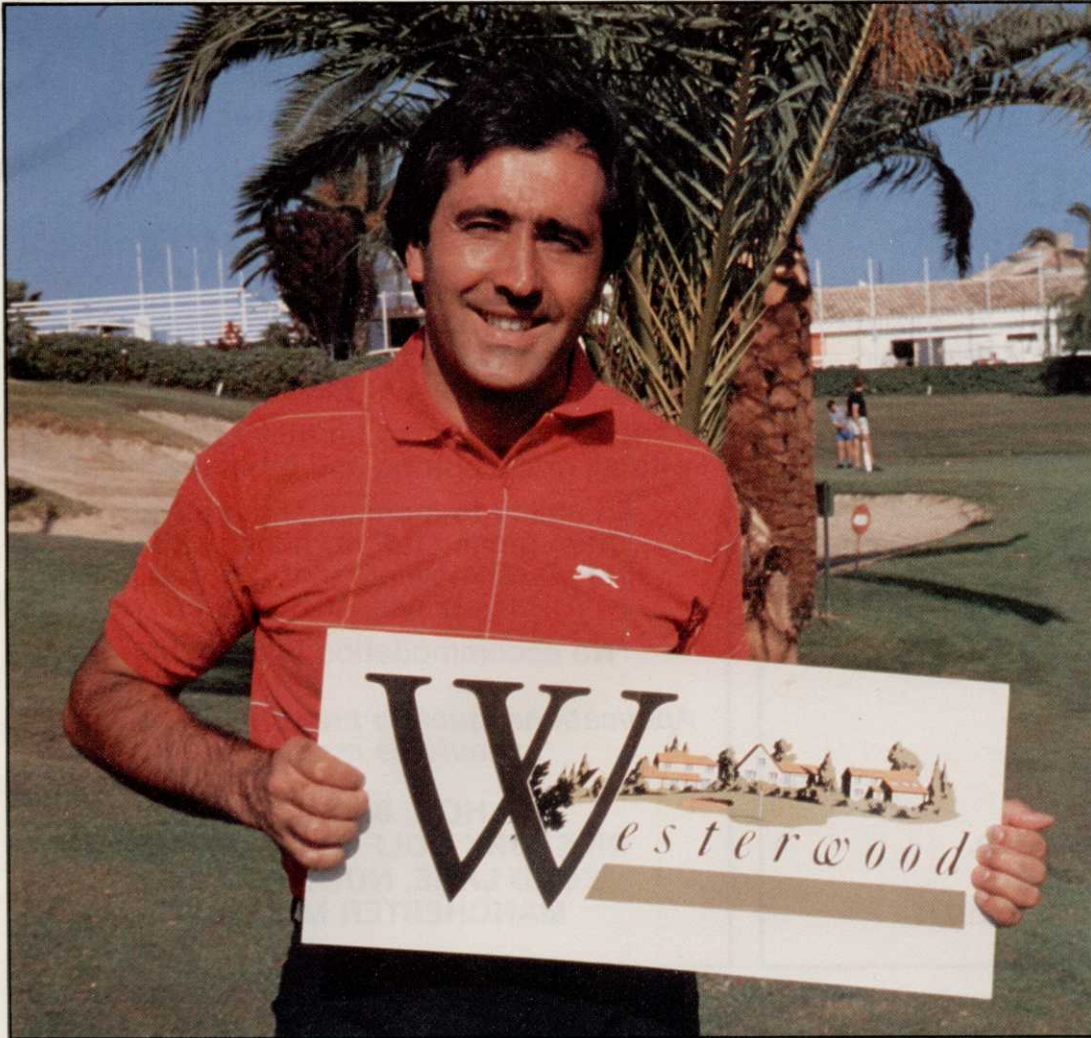
Although providing all the transport and manoeuvrability benefits of a fully tractor-mounted machine, these two optional items give the mower the characteristics of a trailed unit in work, allowing the frame to follow ground contours independently of the tractor.

The TR138 'Golf Course' mower has twinroll floating head cutting units as standard and is equipped with seven-knife reels for a precision finish on most golf course fairways.

In standard form, this 11ft 6in. cut mower, which requires tractors developing a minimum of just 25hp, costs £6,700 (plus VAT). The floating top link and castor wheel options for undulating surfaces add £125 (plus VAT) to this price.

Demonstrations of any items of their equipment can be arranged by contacting Paul Huxley on Alresford (0962) 733222 or Barry Huxley on Egham (0784) 38666.

NEWS 11



Westerwood is to be the name of Seve Ballesteros's Scottish golf course and will form the centrepiece of the multi-million pound housing, hotel and leisure development, currently being constructed by the Livingston based Walker Group between Dullatur and Cumbernauld.

Ballesteros and former Welsh Ryder Cup player Dave Thomas, the man with whom Seve is undergoing his course design 'apprenticeship', met in Spain to make the final selection of the name.

"The name Westerwood has a certain quality", said Ballesteros, "and when I learnt that it was the name of a Roman fort on the Antonine Wall beside the line of the golf course that decided it for me. I feel the name could become as well known as Gleneagles once the course is well established".

Commented Thomas: "Of all the names on the short list Westerwood very quickly became firm favourite. The remains of the Westerwood Fort on the site obviously represents the history and tradition of the area. It seems appropriate that golf, should be associated with that history and tradition".

The development of the golf course has been going ahead since the beginning of the year and is currently up to schedule. It's expected that a greenkeeper will be appointed within the next couple of months.

NEWS 12

Watermation

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You can't beat us when it comes to first class irrigation. With over 15 years experience behind us, we have installed irrigation systems all over Britain, in all the best places, and our sprinklers pop-up in Ireland, in Europe and in Africa.

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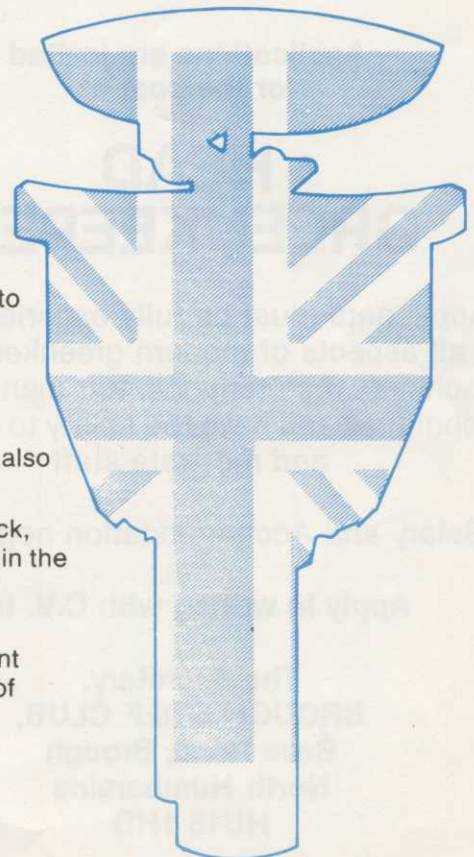
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DOUGLAS GOLF CLUB

invite applications
for the post of



HEAD GREENKEEPER

An 18 hole Parkland Course in Cork-Ireland has a vacancy for a Head Greenkeeper

The person required will have considerable experience in maintenance and care of golf courses and must have achieved a high standard of excellence over a period of time

Professional training an advantage

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated including accommodation if required

Send full C.V. to:-

**G. A. FINN,
Manager,
Douglas Golf Club,
Cork, Ireland
Telephone: 021 895297**

Didsbury Golf Club Limited

invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

A Head Greenkeeper is required for this 18-hole parkland course, seven miles south-west of Manchester

The applicant must be fully conversant with all grass cutting and other machinery

An ability to manage and motivate other green staff, together with a first class knowledge of turf culture is essential

No accommodation is available

Applications, quoting previous experience should be made to:

**THE HON. SECRETARY,
DIDSBURY GOLF CLUB LIMITED
FORD LANE, NORTHENDEN,
MANCHESTER M22 4NQ**

BROUGH GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited
for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, machinery maintenance, turf management techniques and have the ability to organise and motivate staff

Salary and Accommodation negotiable

Apply in writing with C.V. to:-

**The Secretary,
BROUGH GOLF CLUB,
Cave Road, Brough
North Humberside
HU15 1HB**

FILEY GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for
the post of

Course Superintendent

Applicants should have a Head Greenkeeper's experience at a recognised golf course and have the ability to control and motivate staff

Salary Negotiable

No Accommodation Available

Applications should be in writing and include full C.V. including present salary to:-

**The Secretary,
FILEY GOLF CLUB,
Filey,
North Yorkshire
YO14 9BQ**

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