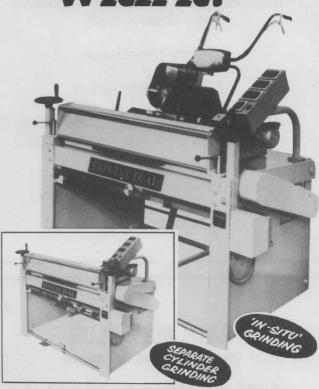
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## Berkhamsted Greenkeeper returns to his first course to win the Jacobsen Tournament

The third annual Jacobsen National Greenkeepers' Tournament played over the Hunstanton links in Norfolk last month again produced a nail biting finish with three players tying on 36 Stableford points.

The winner, first assistant Gerald Bruce, a four handicap golfer at Berkhamsted made sure of the trophy at the first extra hole in the play off by sinking his putt for a birdie at the par four first hole.

The two others in contention, Alan Patterson (11) an 18 year old apprentice greenkeeper from Powerfoot, the delightful seaside course on the Solway Firth and Andrew Toomey (13) Head Greenkeeper at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club in Essex needed three extra holes before Patterson emerged as runner-up.

For Gerald Bruce, his triumph was the more memorable because Hunstanton was the course where, under the tuition of Head Greenkeeper Jimmy Reed, he served his apprenticeship before moving to Berkhamsted to become the first assistant. The son of a police inspector at Kings Lynn, Gerald's success has delighted the members of his new

The Captain of Berkhamsted Golf Club, Mr. M. J. Howard, has issued his congratulations to Gerald Bruce in a letter to members and wished him well for his forthcoming educational trip to Houston, Texas.

The Jacobsen final has now become an established fixture over the demanding Hunstanton course, where the hospitality and welcome to greenkeepers nation-wide could not be bettered. The club professional, John Carter ran the tournament from start to finish with a degree of organisation to match any major golf event. The course was presented in immaculate condition by Jimmy Reed, despite torrential rain over the previous three days which many thought would make the links unplayable.

His greens, naturally, cut with the latest diesel Greensking fitted with the Turf Groomer, were like putting on polished glass. Certainly the fastest greens any of the competitors had seen this year. Over dinner Jimmy said he was cutting at 3/32nds, every day during the summer, but might raise the cutters slightly and reduce the mowing to three times a week as the winter progressed. If this is his greens maintenance programme, then for this course it cannot be faulted.

At the presentation dinner in the Hunstanton Club House, Jacobsen's General Manager for the UK, Mr. Chris Smith, said it was the company's intention to continue this tournament which has proved so popular both in the preliminary rounds and at the final. "It is our intention to make everyone a winner with Jacobsen" he added.

Gerald Bruce, in addition to his trophy and voucher for £100, has been invited to represent greenkeepers from all over the country at the GCSAA Convention to take place in Houston, Texas in February 1988. He will also be able to participate in the series of seminars, lectures and debates. which are part of the seven day programme in conjunction with the largest indoor turf exhibition in the world.

If he takes his golf clubs with him there will certainly be an invitation to play some of the excellent courses outside Houston, that is if he has the time to fit in a round between a host of other invitations likely to come his way.

This year the Jacobsen final produced a number of new faces among the competitors as well as a few 'old stagers' and no disrespect is intended to Bob Plain, and Gordon Payne! Once more the luxuries of the Caley Hall Motel were made the available to all the players kept in strict order by mine host the hospitable Clive King, whose stature and girth is a living example of the delights of fine

Breakfast at the Caley is only surpassed by the dinner at night, closely followed by the entertainment to suit all tastes.