

# NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

'Why is it that all the news that comes out of Northern Ireland is bad?'

This was the question put to golf writing colleagues over dinner in the magnificent club house at Royal Portrush.

'Because that is what the English want to read', was the reply.

Unfortunately the answer was not far from the truth, but one cannot do more than express sorrow that so much of the better facets of life in the province does not receive the publicity it should and that certainly goes for golf.

The reception and hospitality enjoyed over a long weekend at Royal Portrush and the nearby Portstewart Golf Clubs could not be faulted and although we were in somewhat of a privileged position, playing a team match between the golfing scribes of Yorkshire and our counterparts from the Belfast press the reaction of others from the mainland to the golfing delights of County Antrim confirmed similar feelings.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board have what must be one of the hardest jobs in the world to convince people that Ireland is the place to go for a golfing holiday. What must be even more frustrating, is the fact, they have a product that is quite superb.

Royal Portrush, regarded as one of the top courses in the British Isles hosted the Open Championship in 1951. It is the only course in Ireland to have done so and fittingly, was won by Max Faulkner. If ever a links was worthy of staging the event again, it must be here, but sadly,

Continued page 5

## Northern Ireland – A Golfing Paradise



The pictures of Royal Portrush Golf Club (front cover and this page) have been provided by courtesy of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

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the ugly side of politics must forbid any such consideration in most of our lifetimes.

Laid out by Harry Colt in its present form it was described by Bernard Darwin a golf writer who stands tall even in the company of men such as Henry Longhurst, 'as a monument to Mr. H. S. Colt, more enduring than brass'.

Every hole is a challenge, even those that seem reachable with no more than a good drive and a pitching wedge to the putting surface. The famous 5th-hole is a case in point. It was here the ravages of the Atlantic Ocean undermined the cliff face and the green almost fell into the sea. Members and golf lovers the world over rallied round and raised sufficient money to build a retaining wall to hold the green in place.

The Dunluce Course, better known of the two at Portrush (the other is the Valley) is the favourite of Fred Daly, the only other Open Champion from Ireland. He was born at Portrush and though now in his seventies is still a far better than average player.

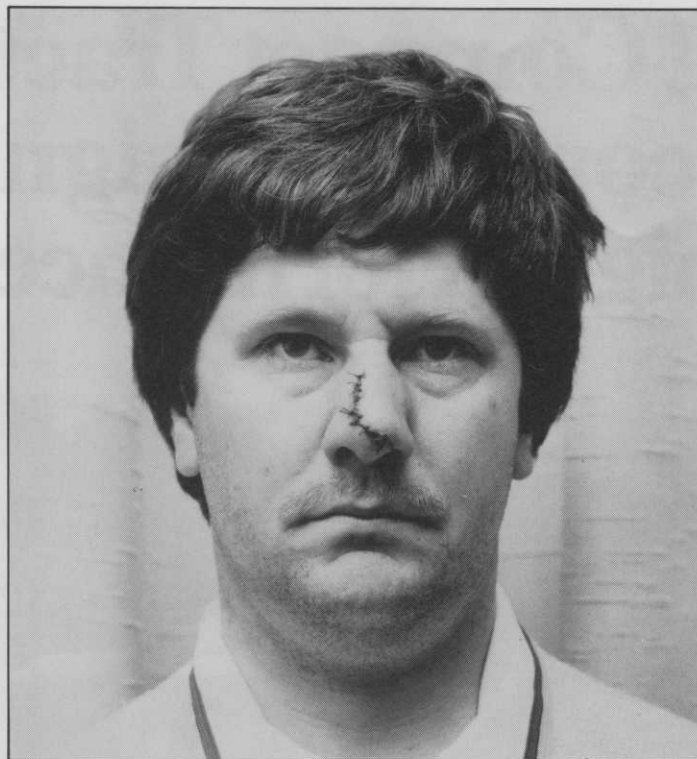
The Causeway coast is also renowned for one of Ireland's best known exports - Black Bush. For those who have not imbibed a 'drop of the Irish' they have a treat in store.

The distillery at Blackbush dates back to the beginning of the 17th century when a licence 'to distil whiskey' was granted by James I. It is now exported to 106 countries around the globe.

Each year in June, Black Bush sponsor the Causeway Coast Amateur Golf Tournament, played over the links at Royal Portrush, Portstewart and Castlerock. Entries come from all over the world and this year there were golfers from Canada, the USA, Australia and Zimbabwe as well as strong contingents from the UK.

The weather was not especially kind for the tournament, but to quote a phrase 'the price was right' and there was always the whiskey to provide the internal warmth.

**NEWS 1**



(above)  
Eric Green needed 17 stitches in his nose when a plastic coupling broke off the control valve.

(below)  
Eric shows the broken valve.



One of the leading members, Bill Hawthorn of Watermation Ltd. has commented.

*The horrific accident to Eric Green, Head Greenkeeper at Woodcote Park Golf Club resulting in facial injury occurred because of a failure of the plastic nipple underneath the manual hydrant. Failures of this nature are not uncommon if this method of installation is used. For this reason many years ago Watermation devised a different method of mounting valve assemblies at the greens having the hydrant supported on a metal nipple attached to a robust metal tee, in order to withstand the mechanical loads which inevitably are placed upon the hydrant when hoses are attached.*

Toro, whose General Manager Peter Roberts is Chairman of the Association, has recently published a guide entitled 'The Thinking Man's Guide to Golf Course Watering', a publication that all golf green committees should read before asking companies to submit tenders for irrigation systems.

Naturally this booklet is biased towards the Toro product as any sales literature should be in a competitive market.

Other systems, such as that marketed by Watermation, could suit a club equally as well. The club must seek tenders for the product that best fits their need within a price bracket they can afford.

What they must not do is to take the lowest price, without ensuring the system fully meets safety standards and their staff are not put in a position of danger.

We are publishing the photographs of Eric Green's injuries, not from a sense of tabloid press sensationalism, but simply to bring home to Greenkeepers and those involved in Golf Club Management, the need to be ultra careful when dealing with water under extreme pressure.

**NEWS 2**

## HUXLEYS GRASS MACHINERY ON TOP, ON TURF.

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# NEWS ROUND-UP

## NEW GREENKEEPER GOLF CHAMPIONS

Mel Guy, Head Greenkeeper at the South Leeds Club has won the National Greenkeepers News of the World Cup for the best gross score over three days at Verulam G.C. at his first attempt.

Mel, has been a greenkeeper for only two and a half years, stepping into the job, when he was made redundant as a fabrication engineer.

A six handicap member at South Leeds he had often helped the club with engineering work and then made the decision to move permanently to greenkeeping. Eighteen months ago he was appointed Head Greenkeeper, but still remains a playing member at the club.

His gross score of 79, 73, 79 for a 231 total, although higher than most winning scores over the past few years was enough to get his name on one of the most prestigious trophies in amateur golf.

Congratulations are also due to the Northern team who won the Team Championship for the first time in many years.

Backing Mel Guy were Mick Hannam from Moortown and the evergreen Don Roberts, the retired greenkeeper at Bradford's West Bowling. Their total three day score was sixteen shots ahead of the field.

It is also worth a mention that Mick Hannam, Captain of the club at the 9-hole Roundhay course last year achieved the first 'ace' of his career in a recent monthly stableford. Although he finished with 35 points, he was still nine points adrift of the winner. Not surprising to those who know the scores put in by some of the Roundhay members in the local pro-ams!

### MONDAY, 17th AUGUST

1st	I. Toon	Nett 65
2nd	P. Fitzjohn	67
3rd	G. Payne	68
4th	D. Roberts	69

Over 60's R. Plain 73

Maxwell Hart Trophy		
2nd	R. Thompson	73
Coming of Age Cup		
3rd	R. Gates	80

### TUESDAY, 18th AUGUST

#### 36 Holes Scratch

R. S. Barker - 149  
Toro U.K. Trophy

#### 36 Holes Nett (0 to 11)

I. Toon - 130 Ransomes Cup		
2nd	M. H. Guy	140
Universal Cup		
3rd	M. Sheehan	141
Golf Illustrated Cup		
4th	Martin Smith	142
5th	P. Fitzjohn	142
6th	E. R. West	143
7th	J. M. Hannan	144
8th	D. Murtagh	144

#### 36 Holes Nett (12 to 18)

D. Roberts - 138 Pattison's Trophy		
2nd	P. Wentworth	140
President's Cup		
3rd	N. Whittaker	145
May's Cup		
4th	I. Holoran	146
5th	A. Panks	148
6th	J. Wells	148
7th	P. Malia	151
8th	B. Moss	151

### JUBILEE CUP

#### NORTHERN (422)

M. H. Guy
D. Roberts
J. M. Hannan

### 18 HOLES NETT:

1st	Martin Smith	65
Hamilton Stutt Cup		
2nd	R. S. Barker	65
Supaturf Challenge Cup		
3rd	I. Toon	65
4th	M. H. Guy	67

### PAST CHAIRMAN'S CUP

J. Richardson

### VITAX KEY TROPHY

36 Holes Putting Competition
P. Nason

### WEDNESDAY, 19th AUGUST

#### 18 Holes Medal

1st	J. Cole	66
Fisons Bowl		
2nd	P. Wentworth	66
S.T.R.I. Cup		
3rd	R. Howlett	68

#### 54 Holes Best Nett

1st	P. Wentworth	206
S.A.I. Longlife Trophy		
2nd	I. R. Toon	206

#### 54 Hole Scratch Championship

M. H. Guy — 231  
"News of the World" Bowl

NEWS 3

## CADDY OFFER

A small advertisement in the Yorkshire Post under the Personal Column is expected to produce a deluge of replies. Headed - Unattached Gentleman Golfers, it read; 'Do you require an attractive tall blonde lady caddy in her early 40's, with perhaps hopes of forming a friendship off the course. There is no indication whether she was prepared to carry or required a trolley.

## FOR SALE

Toro GM3 Greens Triplex complete with greens unit and grass boxes. Reconditioned engine recently fitted  
£2,500 o.n.o.

Ransomes 180 tees and surrounds ride on mower with floating heads and grass boxes, new cast iron engine fitted  
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Ransomes Triplex Verticut Units Set of 3, excellent condition  
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## Golf Club's Sports Forum raises £2,000

Moor Allerton Golf Club came up with an enterprising idea to raise funds to finance the construction of their new 14th hole during the Benson & Hedges Tournament played at Fulford.

Capitalising on the talent available in Yorkshire during the week, they recruited Peter Alliss, Tony Jacklin, Mike Parkinson and their own tournament professional Howard Clark to participate in a golf forum and then sold tickets for the evening at £10.00 a head.

For Peter Alliss it was a return 'home'. Moor Allerton was the club where he was appointed the consultant professional when the Trent Jones designed course opened twenty years ago. He stayed for ten years in a converted farmhouse with his good friend, Head Greenkeeper, Colin Geddes as his next door neighbour.

Moor Allerton's General Manager, Ted Goldberg, told Golf Greenkeeping it was a superb evening. Over 200 golfers packed the clubhouse, keeping the panel under the chairmanship of Mike Parkinson on their toes for three hours.

It will cost £12,000 to move the 14th hole, brought about because of complaints from an adjacent weekend caravan site, who had threatened injunctions after mishit shots landed among the campers. Work is now at an advanced stage with turf laid on a sand base. Later this year the new tee will be constructed and the hole brought into use by the spring of 1988.

The project has been so successful we hear further improvements to other parts of the course are in the pipeline.

So often when course alterations take place, committees see the only way of finance is a levy on the members. Moor Allerton have already raised half the cost organising sponsored events and expect the remainder to be in the bank by the end of the year.

NEWS 4

## CHEERS

A member of the Highgate Golf Club, millionaire 'Rabbit' golfer, Mr. Edward Mowle has left £400.00 in his will to buy drinks all round in his club's nineteenth hole.

Mr. Mowle of St. John's Wood who died in January left £1,394,136



Picture courtesy of Yorkshire Post Newspapers.

Europe's Ryder Cup Captain Tony Jacklin, Michael Parkinson, Howard Clark and golf commentator Peter Alliss in fine form at Moor Allerton.

HA 1388

## Gearing up for 1989 Ryder Cup

One of Britain's newest, yet highly regarded golf courses is already gearing up to host the 1989 Ryder Cup.

The Belfry at Coleshill, near Sutton Coldfield, recently conducted a comprehensive weed control programme, for both the Brabazon and Derby courses.

A two man team from Hodges & Moss, accomplished the task with the help of a special low ground pressure self-propelled sprayer in just two days.

The Belfry won many friends in 1985 and much respect when the European team won the Ryder Cup for the first time since Lindrick in 1957.

Lee Trevino the American captain said Derrick Ganning, the Belfry's course manager, was the '13th member of the European squad' as his tribute to the excellent condition of the course. A tremendous compliment and one of the reasons why the Belfry is anxious to ensure perfection for the return match in 1989.

NEWS 5

**M&B May & Baker**

# ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

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## SUBSURFACE AIR BLAST SOLVES SOIL PROBLEMS



Soil compaction, a widespread problem in sports and amenity areas, is quickly, effectively and safely alleviated with a sophisticated machine operated by a Suffolk-based contractor. It shatters the compacted layer or pan with a blast of compressed air and at the same time can inject fertiliser and other therapeutic materials to help rejuvenate stressed trees, shrubs or turf in danger of dying.

Colin Pryce, who runs this new soil conditioning service, points out that in the past soil problems caused by compression by machinery and treading were virtually impossible to overcome without surface disturbance or the risk of severe root damage. His German Terralift does little, if any surface or root damage, yet each blast loosens a saucer-shaped soil volume measuring up to 13ft across and 3ft deep.

"The only other tool that can shatter the soil to depth is a subsoiler, but this cannot be used round trees or on sports fields or any other amenity area without inflicting root damage or surface lifting and tearing", he explains. "The Terralift's effect is virtually all below ground and it does minimal root damage which if anything is beneficial because it tends to stimulate root growth.

The machine's other major advantage is that it simultaneously injects slow release nutrients like BASF's Floranid Tree and Floranid NPK into the soil cracks as they are being formed. This is far quicker and more effective than surface application or root feeding through auger or crowbar holes because the fertiliser is distributed throughout the root zone. As a standard practice he also injects 1mm to 3mm polystyrene granules to help prevent subsequent closure of the fissures.

The direct feeding of stressed trees with Floranid fertilisers has significant advantages. Floranid

Tree is specially formulated to relieve stress by immediately releasing major and trace elements to roots which previously had been unable to function effectively due to the compacted soil. For roadside trees the product's high potassium and magnesium content also helps to counteract the harmful effects of salt applied to roads during frosty and snowy weather. Floranid NPK contains the balanced range of nutrients essential for good tree and plant growth and like Floranid Tree some of its nitrogen is in slow-release (nitrogen Isodur) form, thus ensuring sustained growth.

The idea of launching an amenity soil conditioning service occurred to Mr. Pryce at last year's Institute of Groundsmen's show at Windsor where he saw the machine on BASF's stand (they recommend the Terralift for soil treatment with their Floranid fertiliser range). Subsequent enquiries indicated a considerable potential demand for such a service for jobs such as rejuvenating trees in building construction areas, where soil is compacted by machinery, and conditioning soil in goalmouth areas, cricket pitches and golf courses where excessive treading has caused poor growth.

The pedestrian operated machine is powered by a Honda 7 bhp four-stroke petrol engine which drives and industrial compressor serving two compressed air cylinders. The compressed air forces air at high speed and a pressure of 105 to 300 psi through the probe and out of three holes near the probe's tip and a split second later injects the beads and the fertillier (or other materials) through the probe and thence into the cracks produced by the compressed air 'explosion'; it also drives individual wheel motors and operates a hammer that rams a hollow steel probe up to 30in. into the ground.

"The volume and pressure of air can be varied according to soil conditions and the job in hand", says Mr. Pryce. "With golf greens and tennis courts, for example, one wants to avoid rupturing the surface and so the pressure and volume would be at the lower end of the range. I don't advise use of the machine in waterlogged soil, otherwise it can work under any soil conditions".

Cost of his service ranges from about £40 for soil conditioning around a large tree to £400 for treating a football pitch or the equivalent area of land. These prices include polystyrene bead soil improver mix injection but not fertiliser or other materials such as nematicides and fungicides.

In conjunction with BASF the Terralift will be demonstrated at the Sports and Leisure Exhibition at Windsor on September 15th to 17th.

**NEWS 6**

**Editor's Note:**

The 'Terralift' was seen in action on the tree lined streets of Munich last year, injecting BASF Floranid Tree deep into the roots.

The Munich authority have calculated it is cheaper to 'dose' a sick tree, rather than remove and replace it.

## GOLF - Chinese Style

There is a new exotic oriental venue for competitive amateur golfers, who can play to a handicap of 12 or less.

The second mens open amateur championship for the people's Republic of China will be played at the Chung Shan Hot Spring Golf Club over four days commencing on 5th November.

Six days accommodation, including breakfast, two days of practice, entry fee, jet foil from Hong Kong, a buffet dinner on the first day and a Chinese Banquet on 7th November are on offer for a mere \$300 US dollars. (£140.00).

Unfortunately this price does not include the air fare from Heathrow to Hong Kong.

If any of our readers fancy making the trip the Editor has the entry form and would consider offers of sponsorship to join competitors and report the proceedings. He is also on good terms with the Course Manager.

**NEWS 7**

HA 1383

**M&B May & Baker**

# ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

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