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Quarter Million Pound Support for golf green research

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews has pledged support totalling £250,000 for research on golf green turf at the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley over the next five years.

The research programme includes a major project on irrigation, construction and fertilizer nutrition of golf green turf and a minor project on the nutrient requirements of fine-leaved bent and fescue grasses and greens.

The results of the research should be of considerable benefit to all golf courses, and will hopefully result in a return to faster, firmer and truer putting surfaces.

Over-watering, says the R & A, has probably been one of the main causes of the deterioration of British golf greens. Club golfers often demand a holding surface. Because Clubs have invested in an irrigation system there is an almost compelling desire to use it, even when watering is not really required.

However, over-watering cannot be isolated from the effects of different media used in the construction of golf greens, such as sands and soils, with their varying water-holding capacity.

In turn, green construction cannot be considered separately from the efforts of fertilizer nutrition with its consequences for root growth and distribution.

Over-fertilizing produces a restricted root system with

limited access to moisture in the rootzone.

The project will examine the relationship between irrigation, golf green construction and fertilizer nutrition with a view to providing recommendations for irrigation and fertilizer requirements of greens.

It is now generally accepted that the invasion of fine turf by the annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) is enhanced by high fertility levels in soils. This is especially true for soil phosphate concentrations. Because of this, greenkeepers are encouraged to maintain a low phosphate status in golf green soils. However, it is important that information is obtained on the likely effect of low nutrient levels on the desired fine-leaved species of fine turf.

A 5-year experiment is to be undertaken at Bingley to study the phosphate and potassium nutrition of the bent and fescue species commonly sown on golf greens. This will produce information on the relative abilities of these species to take up soil phosphate and potassium together with the effects on wear tolerance and disease resistance of varying soil nutrient levels.

•End

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IOG Show to move to Peterborough

The Institute of Groundsmanship is to move its annual IOG Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition from Windsor Racecourse to the East of England Showground at Peterborough in 1990.

The move has been made necessary because of the Exhibition's unprecedented success: new and existing exhibitors are clamouring for space, the 35,000 visitors annually have increasing expectations, and there is a growing number of delegations from overseas.

The Institute say they greatly regret the move will terminate a long and happy association with Windsor Racecourse but the change of venue will bring other marked benefits for the exhibitors — the 1990 Exhibition date will be almost two weeks earlier in the calendar, September 4, 5 and 6.

The 1988 Exhibition will take place at Windsor on September 20, 21 and 22, whilst the 1989 dates (at Windsor for the last time) are September 19, 20 and 21.

This year's Exhibition at Windsor

will be the largest ever. A record amount of trade stand space has already been booked; there is a greater demand for the demonstration areas; and a heavier than usual number of inquiries both from the UK and overseas have been received.

This showground site at Peterborough covers some 310 acres of fine parkland, providing approximately 365,000 sq.m. of outdoor space, and 2,500 sq.m. of indoor accommodation — with a further 4,500 sq.m. covered space held in reserve. Of the 105 — acres allocated to the event, 60,000 sq.m. have been reserved immediately adjacent to exhibitors' stands for working demonstrations.

The complex offers a vast array of amenities, including a private telephone system with 200+ lines available to exhibitors, a wide range of public and private catering arrangements and parking for 30,000 vehicles.

The success of the IOG Exhibition over its 50-year history has resulted in its outgrowing several venues: first Hurlingham, in 1938 then Motspur Park in Surrey, and now the Royal Windsor location.

Course alterations at Moor Allerton

Moor Allerton, the first Robert Trent Jones designed course, Britain is about to undergo its first major change since the 27-hole golf course to the east of Leeds was opened in 1971.

Last year the club was forced to make alterations to the 14th green, because of complaints

from a holiday caravan site, where mis-hit shots were said to be peppering the campers, but this has opened up an opportunity to build a new short 17th where a green will be set into the trees and the approach made over a small lake some 30 years from the putting surface.

This will also involve a change

Continued on page 7 . . .

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of direction for the 18th hole, eliminating the punishing, sloping, dog-legged fairway and the climb up "heart-break hill" with a new tee at the back of an old quarry giving an almost straight line into the green over the lake in front of the clubhouse.

Golf course architect Dave Thomas has been credited with the design, but the idea came originally from Course Manager Colin Geddes, who was previously the Head Greenkeeper at the original Moor Allerton Course at Moortown, sold for housing.

The cost of construction is being funded by the Vehicle Builders and Repairers Association, whose Chairman Robert Hadfield said "Moor Allerton Golf Club has been extremely accommodating to the Association over a number of years allowing us to stage what has become the biggest one day tournament in the country. We felt by sponsoring the new hole we would be putting something back into future competitions and will serve to remind golfers of the close co-operation between the club and our Association.

German trainee to join Belfry Staff for holiday working

Last November we made an appeal for a British Golf Course to offer a holiday working position for a young enthusiastic German schoolboy from Hamburg.

A number of golf club greenkeepers and secretaries contacted our office offering to take Franz Bach on to the staff and although he was prepared to work for nothing to gain experience, without exception all the clubs said they would not hear of it. He would receive a rate for the job.

Franz has now accepted an offer from the Belfry, where he will join one of Britain's most competent teams of greenkeepers. He will see at first hand how the Belfry staff have made this West Midlands course one of the best in Europe, building on their reputation for preparing the 1985 Ryder Cup to produce an even more outstanding venue for the defence in 1989.

Franz, at 17 years of age, is already steeped in golf course maintenance. His family own the Grambek Club outside Hamburg.

He probably hits a good ball himself if family reputation has anything to do with it. Franz's Mother has represented West Germany and his sister is in the Hamburg Ladies' team.

FOR the past five and a half years this magazine has been produced and printed in the works of W. Kristall Ltd, a second generation family firm of printers in Leeds.

Regretfully, the company issued notice to all members of staff at the beginning of February, whilst the Editor was in Houston, unaware of the problems back home. It has now closed and the staff made redundant.

This accounted for the later than usual publication of Golf Greenkeeping, but it was put together, albeit two weeks behind schedule, thanks to the loyalty of

Further Developments for Greenkeepers' Association

The first President of the newly formed British and International Greenkeepers' Association is to be Viscount Whitelaw, recently retired from the Government after illness forced his resignation as Deputy Prime Minister.

He was the Captain of the R & A in 1969 and currently the President of his home club of Silloth-on-Solway, Cumbria, where he plays regularly and according to a very reliable source, knocks it round the 6,343 yard course in the low eighties.

His experience as a leading government minister over many years could be of great benefit to the Greenkeepers' Association, who have announced development plans affecting training, education and the enhancement of their professional status.

Funding for greenkeeper education has always been a serious problem, mainly because in the past the Golf Unions have not seen fit to accept the financial responsibility and only the more enlightened clubs have been prepared to pay for day

and block release education for their young trainees.

Viscount Whitelaw's influence in this aspect of greenkeeper education and training could prove invaluable to the Association members.

Greenkeepers will be in attendance at this year's Open Championship to be played over the Southport Links Course at Royal Birkdale, giving voluntary help to the full-time staff at bunkers, similar to the duties performed last year by the Scottish Greenkeepers at Muirfield, gratefully acknowledged at the presentation ceremony.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director has also announced a two day conference at Ayr in September in conjunction with the National Tournament and in January 1989 there is to be a turf management exhibition in Harrogate in parallel with a three day series of educational seminars.

Changes at Golf Greenkeeping

staff at W. Kristalls, who over the years have taken an increasing interest in the publication. Our thanks are extended to all those involved, particularly Stephen Spellman, whose creative design has made Golf Greenkeeping a well presented and attractive publication.

We are pleased to report his talents have been recognised and his services quickly snapped up by a leading firm of creative advertising agents.

The production of Golf Greenkeeping is now in the hands of the Walkergate Press at Anlaby, Hull, where the highly sophisticated electronic compo-

sition will allow an even greater creative flexibility.

A glance at our growing number of appointment advertisements will demonstrate the scope of equipment that is capable of composing an attractive eye-catching advertisement on a computer screen, in less than five minutes!

There are certain to be teething troubles in the first few issues, but Golf Greenkeeping will be back on stream within the next few weeks to give our increasing readership an informative, newsworthy, readable magazine.

Editor.



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Greenkeepers and Pro. Golfers - Follow Through

Ask any greenkeeper to name the most aggravating trait among some club golfers and most will pick on those who do not repair their pitch marks, replace divots and walk out of a bunker without raking the sand.

A novel idea has born fruit in the USA where the Superintendents, Association and the American PGA have combined their resources to produce an attractive colour poster, featur-

ing Tom Watson, reminding golfers to "Follow Through."

The follow through refers to those unrepaired ballmarks, divot holes and footprints in the sand.

Most golfers know the etiquette of the game, or should do, but seem quite oblivious of their responsibility when it comes to putting the approved practice into operation.

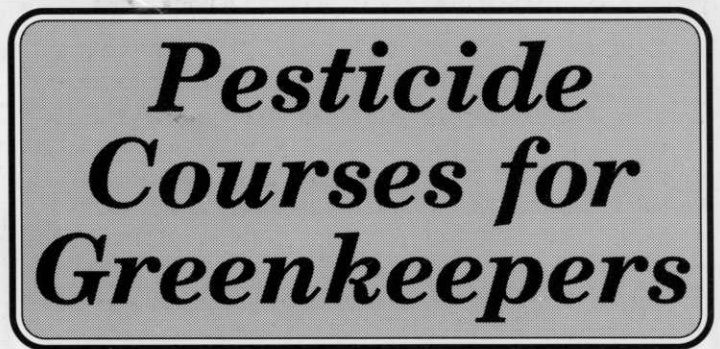
Perhaps our own Greenkeepers' Association and the PGA could discuss a similar poster campaign in the clubhouses. If they do not think it is their responsibility maybe the Golf Unions might consider spending a little of the club subscription fee to promote better behaviour on the golf course.



Due to the requirements under the Control of Pesticides 1986 to record all spraying operations, Chipman Limited have produced "The Chipman Pesticides Application Log" to enable professional Spray Operators to record accurately all spray applications.

The application log contains all the information that needs to be recorded - rate of application, area to be treated, spray volume etc and a special "tear off" instruction sheet for each Spray Operator.

They are available direct from Chipman Technical Representatives or Chipman at HORSHAM (0403) 60341 or HARROGATE (0423) 68658.



In 1986 the Government implemented the Pesticide Regulations as part of the Food and Environmental Protection Act introduced in 1985.

One of the features of these regulations is the need for many of the people involved in the application of pesticides to undergo training and competency tests in pesticide use and application.

To meet these training demands, staff from Askham Bryan College, York, have themselves undertaken specialist training and the College is now running courses at the College and through its Extra Mural Centres, situated at Guisborough, Bedale, Harrogate, Easingwold and Pickering.

David Marsden who is responsible for organising Adult Training at Guisborough Agricultural Centre is also a member of the Greens' Committee at Saltburn Golf Club. As he was arranging for the greens staff at Saltburn to attend training he

thought it would be a good idea to run courses especially for greens staff in the Cleveland area. As a result twenty greens staff from most of the golf courses in the Cleveland area have embarked on the two days of training which is the minimum required by these regulations.

The course covers all the requirements of the Act, including safety, storage, mixing and selection of chemicals, keeping of records and the correct use of the machinery involved in applying pesticides.

David hopes that as a result of meeting the greens staff any other training needs required in this increasingly technical occupation can be identified and met through the College's Green Keepers' specialist Nick Bisset.

If anyone wants to know more about these courses or has any other training requirements, then ring David Marsden on (0287) 33870 or 34323 (evenings) and he will be only too pleased to discuss your needs with you.

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New Pressure regulator from Weather-Matic

WEATHER-MATIC are producing a pressure regulating option for their 8000CR and 11000CR series valves. The XPR pressure regulating module senses inlet pressure and maintains constant outlet pressure regardless of inlet variations.

The new Weather-matic pressure regulator may be ordered as a factory installed option or installed in the field on existing Weather-matic valves where pressure regulation is required. Equipped with manual flow and bleed control, the XPR module regulates pressure when the valve is operated either electrically or manually. A downstream connection is provided for accurate pressure sensing. The XPR will accommodate a maximum inlet pressure of 150 psi.

Weather-matic is distributed and installed in the UK by Prime Watermen Limited, Wangford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 8AX

Government Minister to Head Conference on turning

The National Turfgrass Council, the National Farmers' Union and the Sports Council are arranging a workshop on the "Recreational diversification of farmland" at the NAC, Stoneleigh, on Tuesday 24 May. This will be the first major workshop at which turfgrass experts and experienced amenity grass managers will explain some of the pitfalls and plus points in constructing golf courses and other specialized sports facilities.

The principal speaker will be the Rt. Hon. John Gummer, MP, Minister of State for Agriculture. Supporting speakers from the Sports Council, NFU and banking will set the scene, followed by turfgrass construction and management experts. This should

interest everyone in agriculture and the leisure industry.

Further details of the workshop can be obtained from:

**The Secretary, NTC,
3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden,
Bingley, West Yorkshire.
BD16 1HZ**

Sales integration for Hayter & Beaver

Following last October's acquisition of Beaver Equipment Company, Hayters plc has announced organisation changes and new appointments.

From 1st February 1988, the sales and marketing activities of both Hayter and Beaver will operate from Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford.

The company is establishing two sales divisions specialising in domestic and professional machinery. The professional machinery division, incorporating both Hayter and Beaver professional equipment, will be directed by Richard Smith — formerly Beaver's Sales Director and now a Hayter Director.

Domestic product sales, including key accounts, will be directed by Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, at Spellbrook.

It is the company's intention that, progressively, the Beaver range of product will be assimilated into the Hayter corporate identity under the Hayter trading name. The Beaver name will continue as a model designation. The Hayter range of product, both professional and domestic, will continue in its current form.

Managing Director, Bill Palmer told **Golf Greenkeeping**, "The changes outlined confirm our intention to support fully both the professional and domestic markets. Not only with extra sales personnel, but with additional design, manufacturing and support capabilities in combination with an ambitious investment programme. We aim to ensure that effective trading relationships can be established to the benefit of all".

FARMURA LAUNCH FERROSOL LIQUID IRON

FARMURA have introduced Ferrosol Liquid Iron to the UK market, which they say is specifically formulated for use by 'greenkeepers'.

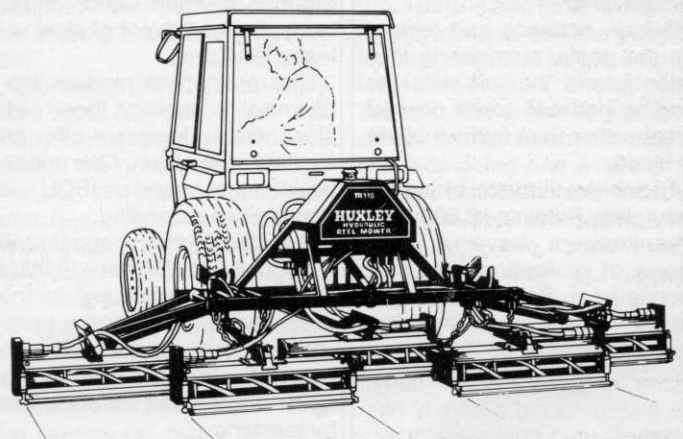
Ferrosol is a patented bonding of ferrous sulphate to urea which not only keeps the iron stable but also speeds up its intake into the plant system. Because plants have a high requirement for nitrogen they absorb it and the iron at the same time. However Ferrosol avoids the problems normally associated with excessive or unwanted flushes of growth

due to additional nitrogen as the amount of N actually applied per square metre is very low - i.e., at recommended rates the amount of nitrogen is as low as 30 grammes per 100sq. metres.

Ferrosol can be tank mixed with other Farmura products and will complement their liquid fertiliser programmes.



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African Golf Report!

MONITORING the success of Welsh International David Llewellyn, partner of Ian Woosnam in the World Cup last year a newspaper cutting came across the Editor's desk from an African golf correspondent reporting on the Zambia Open in Lusaka. We cannot resist quoting parts of his report, even if just to show golf writers in the West they have not, as yet, exhausted the English vocabulary of all possible phrases that can be written to describe a golf tournament!

"Welshman David Llewellyn raised his game to a nearly unapproachable level of nine under par on day three of the Zambian Open at Lusaka. On the back nine he was ferocious like a wolf.

Of the ten hopefuls the full blooded mortal, who could swamp Llewellyn is the consistent day two runner-up, Richard Fish, who is only three behind Llewellyn having scored a three under-par 70 yesterday, which when summed with his previous day's scores of 71 and 72, end up as 213.

Although it was a day also accredited to Fish, he felt he was impotent at driving, saying only his putting was better. Carrighill with one under par 74 was however not the only one of the big barrels that spent the rest of his time treading grass, Scotsman Bernard Gallagher also had grass growing under his feet ushering serious championship prospects to an elongated list of ten contenders".

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Woodbridge prepares for International Tournament

DESPITE the October hurricane which swept South East England and changed the landscape overnight, the 18 and 9-hole courses at Woodbridge Golf Club in Suffolk, venue for this year's Ransomes 6th International Golf Greenkeepers' and Superintendents' Tournament, are back in excellent shape.

At the previous meeting 3 years ago at St. Andrews, 13 countries were represented at the Tournament, and this year's event taking place at Woodbridge on Wednesday, 5th October is expected to attract competitors from even more countries.

Bordering the Club's 9-hole course is Rendlesham Forest, virtually destroyed by the gale, but within days after Head Greenkeeper Lyn Arbon and his staff had set to work with chain-

saws, both the 18 and 9-hole courses were back in play. None of the tees, fairways or greens were damaged and although members are aware of the changes in the landscape when playing the 18-hole course, it has not lost any of its charm.

Although the 9-hole course itself is back to what it was before the hurricane, the devastated Rendlesham Forest leaves visitors in no doubt about what happened in October.



Surveying the devastation in Rendlesham Forest following the October hurricane is Lyn Arbon, Head Greenkeeper of Woodbridge Golf Club, venue for this year's Ransomes 6th International Golf Greenkeepers' and Superintendents' Tournament.

Peak's Course Approaching Pinnacle of Condition

In the situations vacant section of this month's issue we are publishing an advertisement for a head greenkeeper at Hessle Golf Club at Hull.

The vacancy has occurred because at the retirement of the club's 65 year old Head Greenkeeper, John Peak, who

has completed 34 years faithful service with one of the finest golf clubs in the East Riding.

Two clubs in fact, because in the mid 1970's, Hessle had to leave their well established course alongside the banks of the River Humber to make way for the building of the northern approach road for the massive Humber Bridge, the largest and

longest single span suspension bridge in the world.

In 1973, John had the difficult task of maintaining the old course, amid the construction work for the bridge and at the same time supervising the maintenance of the new greens, tees and fairways of the new Hessle golf course at Raywell near Cottingham, to a design by the

Alliss, Thomas partnership.

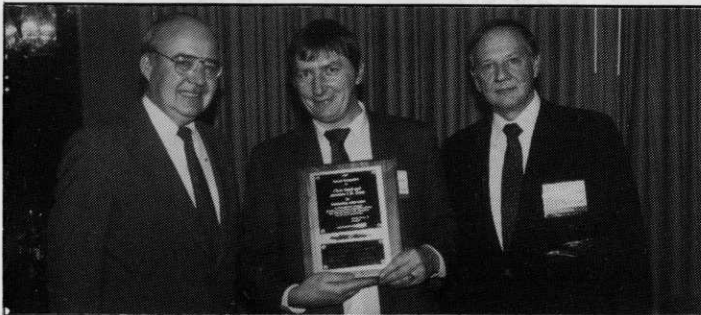
The reputation of the fast maturing Hull course is a credit to the dedication and skill of John Peak, who will leave the foundation of a golf course certain to gain in stature to his ultimate successor.

News . . . News .

Jacobsen U.K. win Outstanding Achievement Award

RACINE, WI – Chris Smith and his team from Jacobsen/Textron Ltd., King's Lynn, Norfolk, won an Outstanding Achievement Award from Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. for exceptional performance in their first full year of U.K. branch operation.

The award was presented February 7, 1988, during Jacobsen's Annual International Dinner. The dinner was held in conjunction with the GSCAA's 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Houston, Texas.



In the photo, Chris Smith, Sales Manager for Jacobsen/Textron Ltd. (centre), accepts the award from John R. Dwyer, Jr., President of Jacobsen; and Curt Kimpbeck, Director of International Sales.

"Golf at Its Best" makes debut at Houston Conference

An ambitious effort to promote awareness of the role today's golf course superintendents play in the overall picture of golf made its debut at the 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Houston through a film presentation.

The nine-projector audio-visual production, titled "Golf at Its Best", featured several superintendents and professional golfers Arnold Palmer, Jan Stephenson and Tom Watson, all of whom gave their services free. Dramatic photography by golf photographer Brian Morgan brought the 14-minute presentation to its exciting finale.

Produced by Bruce Mathews Communications of Independence, Mo., the program explained the superintendent's role, using photographs taken at various American courses — each with its own distinctive terrain, climate and other conditions — to illustrate the versatility demanded by the profession. Later an extended version was shown at the closing banquet.

"Superintendents from all over the world have great responsibility placed upon them to keep a living, beautiful environment just that — living and beautiful", said GCSAA President, Donald E. Hearn, CGCS. "This program provides great background about a great profession".

This program is now available on video cassette.

New Triplex for the UK?

Ransomes recent acquisition of the Steiner Corporation based in Ohio is likely to result in the availability of a new 74 inch triplex reel mower later this year.

The four wheel drive S-20 Steiner Tractor unit, with its distinctive eight wheels can be mounted by the TM-74 reel units in less than three minutes to provide a safe sure-footed triplex capable of cutting steep banks, slopes, in wet, soft or sandy conditions.

The cutting heights can be adjusted from 3/8" to 2 1/4" in 1/8" increments, the reels are hydraulically driven independent of the forward speed of the tractor and are guaranteed for life against breaking or bending in normal conditions.

The optional six or nine blade reels are made by another of Ransomes recent purchases, Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath on Dearne.

This machine is certain to cause considerable interest when it makes its British debut as we have so many courses where wet slopes cause particular grass cutting problems.

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| Staffs, W. Midlands, Warwicks, Hereford, Worcs. ET Breakwell 021-7444477 | Glos., Avon, Wilts. (N) Handy Garden Machinery, 0793 721615 |
| | Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gwent Celtic Mowers 0792 41517 |
| | Somerset, Devon LF Jewells 0278 424088 |
| | W. Sussex, Hants., Dorset, I.O.W., Wilts (S) Marshall Rolfe 0794 513185 |
| | Kent, E. Sussex, Surrey, London (S) Shanks Mowers (Croydon) 01-771 4811 |
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ICI to Sponsor Groundsman Awards

The Master Groundsman and Young Groundsman of the Year Awards for 1988 are once again being organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship and this year ICI Professional Products have agreed to sponsor the event.

The annual Awards, now in their eighth year — have undoubtedly become the sports and leisure industry's most rewarding competition — with dozens of prizes now totalling £10,000.

The Master Groundsman and Young Groundsman of the Year will each win a trip to the GCSAA Convention which is to be held in Anaheim, California in February 1989. They will also receive an engraved silver salver.

The runner-up in each category will be invited to an extended weekend in Germany where they will visit research facilities and trials centres.

The two third prize winners

will be invited to visit the ICI salt mines in Cheshire — a mile underground! — and Europe's biggest. (*Why not Siberia*).

All 18 finalists will receive an engraved crystal decanter.

The employer of both the Master Groundsman and the Young Groundsman of the Year will receive £500 worth of "Longlife" turf fertiliser from ICI Professional Products. Similarly, the college, university or study centre with the largest number of student entries will receive £500 worth of "Longlife" fertilisers.

The competitions are open to everyone involved directly in the management or maintenance of sports and leisure turf-culture

facilities: groundsman, greenkeepers, parks officers, estate managers, trainees and apprentices, and students.

There is no entry fee, and membership of the Institute of Groundsmanship is not necessary.

The final date for receipt of entries will be 12 noon on Tuesday 31st May 1988, and initial adjudications will take place during June 1988.

The nine regions of the competition are: Scotland; Northern Ireland; North-West England and North Wales; North-East England; The Midlands and Central Wales; East Anglia; London and South-East Eng-

land; South-West England and South Wales; and Eire.

Entry Forms are now obtainable from:

The Institute of Groundsmanship

19-23 Church Street,

The Agora,

Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK12 5LG.

OR

ICI Professional Products

Woolmead House East,

Woolmead Walk,

Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB.

BINGLEY RETIREMENTS

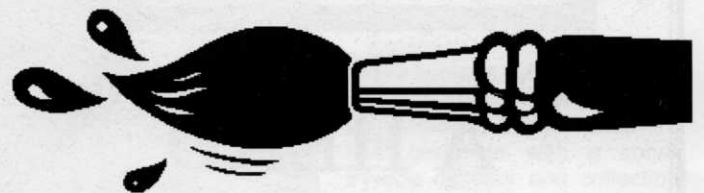
Two long-serving, senior members of staff retire together on 13th May 1988. They are Mr. J.P. Shildrick, BA, CBiol, MIBiol, FIHort, who has been the Assistant Director for 20 years and Mr. B.M. Wood, FCIS, who has been the Secretary for 33 years.

John Shildrick's principal involvement has been with the Institute's research programme. He has initiated many new projects over the years, including pioneering the testing of grass cultivars for amenity use. This latter resulted each year in the production of the "Turfgrass Seed" leaflets outlining the attributes of good cultivars of turfgrasses which are marketed for sports turf use.

Brian Wood, as Institute Secretary, has been essentially a "back-room boy" whose many responsibilities have included the administration and accounting functions of the Institute, as well as personnel.

The Secretary designate is Mr. T.R. Wheeldon, FCA, who has had wide industrial experience as a financial director and company secretary in textiles.

The Editor would appreciate any articles or comments for the next edition



Letters ... Letters ...

WILDLIFE ON GOLF COURSES

In these times of natural habitat reduction, golf courses are becoming increasingly important as wildlife reserves. I am presently undertaking research into the flora and fauna that is found on golf courses in the United Kingdom and have particular interest in the urban courses, which provide such vital habitat for so many species. May I through your correspondence columns, ask for information from greenkeepers regarding:

1. The wildlife on their course.
2. A brief description of the area surrounding their golf course (e.g. housing, farmland).

3. Any 'peculiar' behaviour of wildlife in these areas.

4. Any rare species to be found on their course, and any measures which they may take to protect or encourage them.

I would be keen to film interesting subjects and would therefore be especially interested in those species which are frequent enough to be found on specific days. However, I welcome any information on the subject and thank you and your readers for any help they may be able to give.

Clarissa Titcomb.

Plummerden House, Lindfield, Sussex RH16 2QS.