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Greenkeepers' Association to push forward with Education and Training

Jack McMillan, this year's Chairman of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, speaking at the presentation dinner after the Iseki Tournament at St. Pierre told the hundred guests it was the Association's intention to push ahead with the training and education aspect of greenkeeping.

The first education event will be held during the National Tournament and Conference at Ayr between 26th and 30th September. In the new year speakers will be presenting papers at the Harrogate Exhibition in January and next April a National Conference will be held at Queen's College, Cambridge, when the principle lecture will be presented by the renowned author and agronomist Professor James Beard of Texas A & M University.

Professor Beard will be presenting two papers to the Cambridge Conference, one is entitled "The current developments in turf grass maintenance on golf courses in the United States".

"I have never attended any lecture where I have not come away the richer for the experience", said Mr. McMillan.

He went on to tell the guests the quality of platform speakers already arranged was extremely high.

In answer to some critics who have commented that the Greenkeepers' Association was only a golfing society, he completely refuted the allegations and said that golf is our business and why shouldn't greenkeepers play the game. The tournaments such as had been sponsored by Iseki brought together greenkeepers from all parts of the country and had done much to bring the various administrative regions together.

Commenting on the first year of the new Association he said it is now essential that a National Headquarters be found. They had outgrown their office space at the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley St. Ives. It was also desperate that some-

one be found to take forward the programme of education and training.

Earlier Executive Director Neil Thomas had announced the Association were currently negotiating with a col-

lege of agriculture for the commencement of a Higher National Diploma Course in Greenkeeping, which would be residential and full time for a two year period.

American Superintendents' Membership tops 8,000

The Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America's active and visible role in golf — coupled with a vigorous and effective recruitment programme — is helping to pay dividends via a dramatic increase in membership. This month, GCSAA's rolls officially exceeded 8,000 for the first time in the association's 62-year history.

Timothy Robert Sever, golf course superintendent at Sugarmill Woods Country Club of Homosassa, Fla., became the 8,000th member.

"I believe the association's high visibility within golf is one factor contributing to this growth," says John A. Segui, CGCS, president of GCSAA. "At the same time, our continued increase in membership has also allowed the association to provide more benefits and services — which in turn has steadily attracted still more members."

In 1983 GCSAA had fewer than 5,000 members.

GCSAA headquarters is at Lawrence, Kansas, adjacent to Alvarado Country Club. The association annually hosts the International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show — one of the 200 largest trade shows in the United States — in various major cities across the nation.

The organization also provides nearly 70 educational seminars and offers its members a variety of other services, including insurance pro-

grammes, employment assistance and referral, an audio-visual lending library and an extensive line of exclusive merchandise.

More than 450 members of the GCSAA are expected to gather in Palm Springs, California, several days before the organization's 60th International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show to compete in the association's golf championship.

The two-day tournament will be played on four courses in the desert resort area. The PGA West courses that will host the championship will be the TPC Stadium Golf Course, site of the annual Skins Game, and the Jack Nicklaus Resort Course, where the 1988 PGA Tour Qualifying School was held. Other participants will play the Citrus Course at LaQuinta and the Mission Hills Resort Course. The first three are in LaQuinta and the latter is in Rancho Mirage.

Many of today's superintendents are avid golfers, and their knowledge about the game plays an important role in the maintenance of their courses. "When you play, you can sympathize better and have a better understanding for the course difficulty," says defending champion Dave Powell, golf course superintendent at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. Powell won his second GCSAA championship title early in 1988 in Houston.

Scottish golfers on the long road south

A nightmare journey lasting 26 hours, added least three shots a piece to the handicaps of the twelve contestants from Scotland, travelling south to the Iseki Tournament final at St. Pierre.

Forty miles short of the Severn Bridge their almost new Mercedes coach broke down not far from a Motorway Service Station. Rather than wait for assistance they decided to push the coach along the hard shoulder where the

problem was diagnosed in the fuel pump.

Running repairs put them back on the road once more, only to break down again, this time for good.

And there they sat until the early hours of the morning waiting for a relief coach from Glasgow.

To add insult to injury, according to Chris Kennedy, they not only lost a night's sleep but were too late for breakfast!

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Controlling Poa Annua on a Welsh Golf Course

Huw Morgan, last year's winner of the coveted title "Young Greenkeeper of the Year" describes how he has successfully formulated a programme of control at the Fairwood Park Golf Club at Upper Killay, Swansea.

The greens at Fairwood Park were causing a great deal of problems, particularly in winter. An analysis of the grass cover showed an 80% predominance of annual meadow grass, needing an excessive amount of fertiliser to keep them in playable condition, with an acceptable putting surface.

Detailed examination revealed a thatch layer some two to three inches deep over most of the greens, with all the in-built problems that thatch can bring.

Discussions took place with the Club Management and the Greens Committee on ideas to improve the situation and they gave me their full backing and support.

It was obvious to all that there was no instant remedy to the situation and any programme of improvement would need to take place over a prolonged period, so I planned a three year programme of intensive aeration, combining a system of hollow tining with verti-draining.

In September 1985, the greens were hollow tined to a depth of 2-3 inches and this was repeated in March the following year immediately prior to the first flush of spring growth.

In September 1986, the Verti-

drain was hired and all the greens aerated to a depth of 10-12 inches with a repeat of the operation a year later in September 1987.

During the autumn and winter months, September to March, aeration continued with a slit tiner at weekly intervals to a depth of 5 to 6 inches, combined with a light application of a sandy top dressing. This produced a remarkable improvement.

The poa annua had not only been reduced by around 50%, but the age old problems of standing puddles after heavy rain were eliminated, the putting surfaces were playable in wet weather and we went through the whole of last winter without closing the course once.

However, solving one troublesome winter difficulty then created another during the summer months.

At Fairwood Park we had no irrigation system to water the greens during the dry weather, though a system has now been installed.

Granular fertilisers were not practical without rain, so I experimented with a liquid fertiliser, spraying Farmura at monthly intervals at the start of the April growing season.



Huw Morgan

This proved highly successful until the temperatures soared to the mid 70s and then the greens began to show signs of wilting and brown patches started to appear.

Controlled irrigation would have put matters to right, but without water I began to wonder whether I had overdone the improvement to drainage, though the advantages still heavily outweighed the disadvantages.

At this point further applications of Farmura and liquid iron were given in an attempt to keep the greens correctly coloured, whilst praying for rain at the same time.

I am convinced this combination of intensive aeration, the use

of liquid fertilisers and a sparing use of water is the correct method to produce faster greens in summer as well as an acceptable putting surface in winter.

Initially, there must be a surface disturbance for a few seasons while these operations are taking place, but I was fortunate and grateful to my golf club management that they had sufficient confidence in my judgement to allow me a virtual free hand to plan improvements over a relatively long period.

I said earlier that we now have an irrigation system at Fairwood Park, this has recently been installed by Watermation, but I can assure you it is used very sparingly.

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SIXTEEN FINALISTS IN 1988 GROUNDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Institute of Groundsmanship has announced the names of 16 finalists in its 1988 Groundsman of the Year Awards contest, sponsored by ICI Professional Products. They are:

Young Groundsman of the Year

Andrew Bruce (19), a groundsman with Tendring District Council in Essex and currently entering his second year of turf management studies at Writtle College;

Nick Cole (20), a finalist in 1987, Nick has recently left his Head Groundsman post at Northaw Preparatory School at West Tytherley, near Salisbury, to undertake a two-year National Diploma course at Myerscough College. He is a Member of the Institute's Winchester Branch;

David Cook (21), is a groundsman with Cleveland County Council and a Member of the Teesside Branch of the Institute of Groundsmanship;

Matthew Farrant (18), is a groundsman at the Cranford Club at Exmouth and is currently undertaking horticultural studies at Bicton College;

David Rhodes (19), is a groundsman at Bolton School in Lancashire and studying sports-turf management at Myerscough. He is a Member of the Institute's Manchester Branch;

Paul Tinsley (20), a Member of the Institute's Nottingham Branch, is a groundsman with Nottingham County Council. He is currently studying for his City & Guilds at Brackenhurst.

In the senior, **Master Groundsman of the Year**, section of the annual competition there are 10 finalists:

Raymond Barrett (34), a finalist in 1987, Ray Barrett is an Area Parks Superintendent with Hastings Borough Council and a Member of the Sussex Branch. He takes up a new appointment in November as Grounds Maintenance Officer with the PSA in Gosport;

Geoffrey Brereton NDT (38), a Member of the Cheshire Branch and Secretary of the Institute's North-West Zone, Geoff is a turf-culture lecturer at Cheshire College and grounds-

man at Birtles Cricket Club, Macclesfield;

Jonathan Eager (23), is a greenkeeper with North Down Borough Council in Northern Ireland, responsible for bowling and putting greens at Ward Park, Bangor;

William Elwood (48), Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch Secretary and Secretary of the Scotland & Northern Ireland Zone. Bill Elwood is Head Groundsman for the Scottish Rugby Union at Murrayfield;

David Evans (36), Head Groundsman at the University of Leeds Athletics Grounds, Dave Evans is in the West Yorks/Leeds Branch of the IoG. He is also North-East Zone representative on the National Executive Committee and sits on the Education Committee;

Clive Jones (22), is a greenkeeper at Llantrisant and Pontyglun Golf Club, a Member of the Institute's South Wales Branch and a Member of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers' Association. He is currently studying for his City & Guilds in Greenkeeping at Pen-coed;

Graham Mapp NDT (48), is Head Groundsman of the Birmingham Post & Mail newspapers and a Member of the IoG Branch in Birmingham. As well as organiser of a number of training courses for members in the Midlands, Graham is also National Quiz question setter;

Christopher Nolan (38), an active member of the Irish Greenkeepers' Association, Chris Nolan is Head Greenkeeper of the Castle Golf Club at Rathearnham, Dublin;

Laurence Pithie (35), was winner of the Master Groundsman title in 1987. He is Golf Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club, a Member of the Institute's Gloucester Branch and a Member of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers' Association;

Paul Whiting (22), Assistant

Groundsman at Ranby House Preparatory School at Retford, Nottinghamshire, was a finalist last year in the Young Groundsman of the Year competition. He is a Member of the Institute's Sheffield Branch and has recently been elected to serve on its committee.

There was a total of 1,027 entries in this year's two contests and the final adjudications will take place at The Reform Club in London on Monday, 31st October, 1988. The names of the

winners and runners-up will be announced that same evening at the annual Institute Educational & Training Awards celebration which takes place in the Club's main Library.

With £10,000-worth of prizes — including a top award to the Young Groundsman and Master Groundsman of the Year of an all-expenses paid visit to the GCSAA Convention in Anaheim, California in February — this is the sports turf industry's biggest ever competition.

NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL APPEALS FOR MORE PATRONS

The NTC used the IOG Exhibition to bring together representatives of the Amenity Turf Industry to appeal again for further financial support from the trade to finance their programme of activities for the coming year.

They also used the occasion to make an award to The President of the Institute of Groundsmen, the doyen of their Association, W. H. (Bill) Bowles, now well into his mid-eighties, but whose mind is not only active, but able to see the future of the industry with a clarity to be envied by men half his age.

Thanking the Chairman of the NTC, Howard Swan for the Council's Award, Bill Bowles said, "Turf not only stood up to punishment better than any other surface but had powers of recuperation as well."

"Leisure, he added, is as big an industry as any other. More he believed should be done to get young people off the streets and on to the pitches and this means some Government body must take the industry seriously and give it their backing."

Howard Swan addressing well over a hundred representatives from Education, Manufacturing, Suppliers and Distributors said:

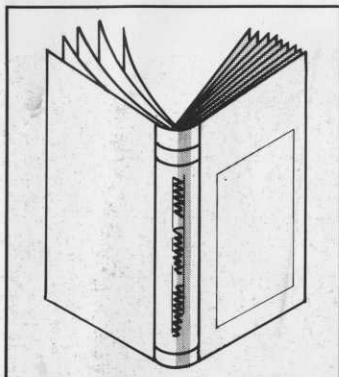
"During 1988, the National Turfgrass Council has established its permanent secretariat with John Shildrick, on his retirement from Assistant Directorship at STRI, Bingley, being appointed as Chief Executive.

This office will, I believe, give the Council a basis, lacking for so long because of its purely voluntary nature, upon which it can develop and grow into a more effective representative body for the Industry. This was possible solely because of the success of last year's patronage appeal and the 1988 programme."

"The Council also began to publish regularly its newsletter, on a bi-monthly basis, with circulation in excess of 10,000. It also published the highly authoritative and successful Code of Practice for Pesticides, with its simpler follow-up guide, as well as many other publications."

"The NTC's representation on other national bodies was widened so that the turfgrass industry's point of view could be firmly stated to allied industries, and perhaps most importantly, the connections with central government are closer and have been strengthened through discussion and co-operation in NTC seminars and meetings. I hope that my recent meeting with Colin Moynihan will be the first of many to be held on a regular basis, and the Government can, as it has said it will, actively assist the Council in its role."

"I believe, therefore, that the NTC has progressed quite well in 1988 and I would like to see it do even better in 1989. I am sure it can, given the support it needs from both the public and private sectors."



BOOK REVIEW

Two new books of interest to greenkeepers have landed on the Editor's desk, one strictly practical, the other pure self-indulgence, but what hours of pleasure it will give.

The World Atlas of Golf, first published in 1976, was hailed as a golf collector's dream. The late Henry Longhurst said it was the most splendidly written, edited and illustrated book that had yet come his way. Tom Scott said it was a book you would love to give your dearest golfing friend and Peter Dobereiner writing in the Observer, said of the vivid descriptions of Killarney, the reading almost brings a hint of peat smoke to the nostrils.

The new edition is even bigger and better. In over 300 colour pages, lavishly illustrated, the book details the more famous golf courses in forty-three countries around the globe. Eighteen new North American courses are

included in this revised edition, an updated record of events and a revised index.

Unlike many of the golf books currently on the bookshelves, The World Atlas of Golf, delves deeply into the construction, design and maintenance of golf courses. It is not a book for cursory reading, it is an in depth reference study, for a cold winter's night, in front of a warm fire.

Some of the courses mentioned have possibly been played by our readers. One, The Champions in Texas, described with great affection by Charles Price, gave a party of British Greenkeepers a magnificent welcome when they visited the Houston Convention. To recapture memories of that fabulous day last February, playing the wooded Cypress Creek course, through the pages of this book brings a lump to the throat.

Edited by Pat Ward-Smith and published by Michell Beazley at £14.95, The World Atlas of Golf is an absolute must for the serious collector of classic golf books.

There can be few greenkeepers whose courses are devoid of water, whether it is a pond, lake or stream. Whatever form the water takes there is always the problem of keeping weeds under control.

Aquatic Weed Control, by Chris Seagrave, a lecturer in fish farming and fishery management at Sparsholt College, provides a practical guide to mechanical, chemical and biological methods of keeping weeds in check.

Species are described and illustrated for purposes of identification, recommended chemical

applications are listed, not only under the name of the product, but the supplier, as well as the prescribed treatment.

There is also a chapter on grass carp, the "weed eaters". Originally from China the White Amur, as it is known in the USA, is a prolific consumer of weed.

Trials conducted by a number of Water Authorities have now allayed fears that the introduction of a foreign species would unbalance the indigenous fish population in Britain and more and more lakes and ponds are stocking the grass carp under licence from the local Water Authority.

Aquatic Weed Control, published by Fishing News Books Ltd at £12 is a reference work that should be on the shelf in every golf course manager's office.

Title merger to give readers a "BIGGA and BETTA" Monthly Journal.

An agreement has been reached between the publishers of Golf Greenkeeping and Park View Publications, the new publishers of The Golf Course to merge the two titles with effect from the next issue in November.

The amalgamation of the two major magazines for the golf course maintenance industry in Europe has been welcomed by both the Amenity Turfgrass Industry and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, the rapidly growing organisation representing golf course greenkeepers and course managers throughout the United Kingdom.

The Golf Course, now to be published mid-month, every month throughout the year, is the official journal of the Association and will report news of the Association's activities, both from the National Headquarters at Bingley St. Ives and the various regions in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales.

The combined magazine will be greatly increased in size, keeping readers informed not only of product developments from the turfgrass industry, but with regular features from the heart of our expanding business — the Greenkeepers, themselves.

We are now emerging from a long period of stagnation as far as the building of new courses in Britain is concerned, in complete contrast to the huge growth of new golf courses in Europe, particularly France and Sweden. More land is about to be released for leisure purposes and that must lead to additional golf courses in the private sector and in turn to greater opportunities for ambitious greenkeepers, whose career prospects have been sadly stifled in Britain.

We trust our loyal readers will enjoy the expansion of the publication and the benefits it offers.

The readership of Golf

Greenkeeping and The Golf Course is not restricted to Britain, both publications have an international circulation, with subscribers in every country where golf is played.

Golf is a game with a spirit of friendship able to cross frontiers, political barriers, language, race, colour or creed. We hope our letters page will reflect this in future issues.

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