

(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.

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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%.

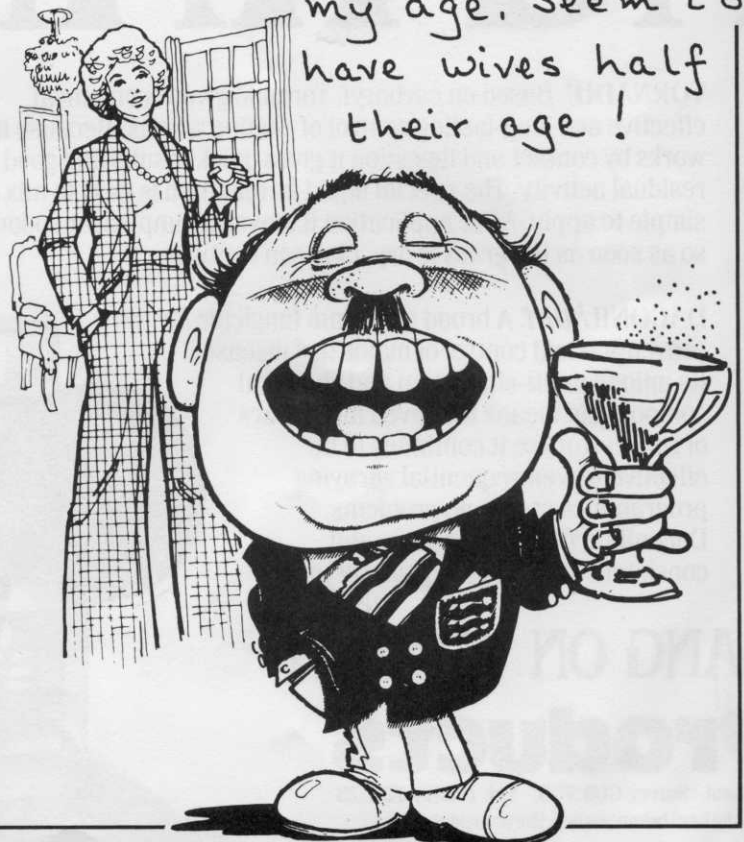
They have a long way to go but it will not take long if the current estimate of 30% growth per annum is maintained.

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.

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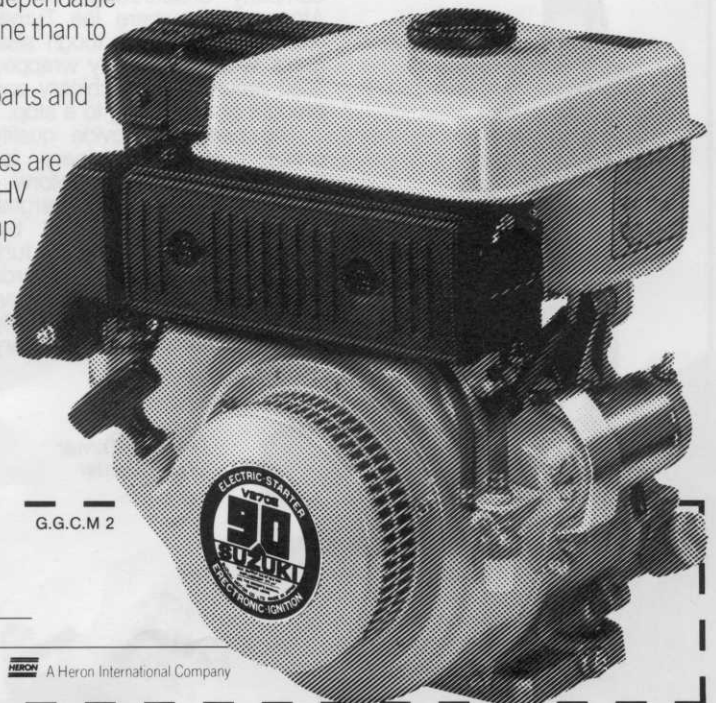
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G.G.C.M 2

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.

The new Turner Grass Master



'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.



"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)

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**The Secretary,
BROKENHURST MANOR GOLF CLUB
Sway Road, Brockenhurst,
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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.

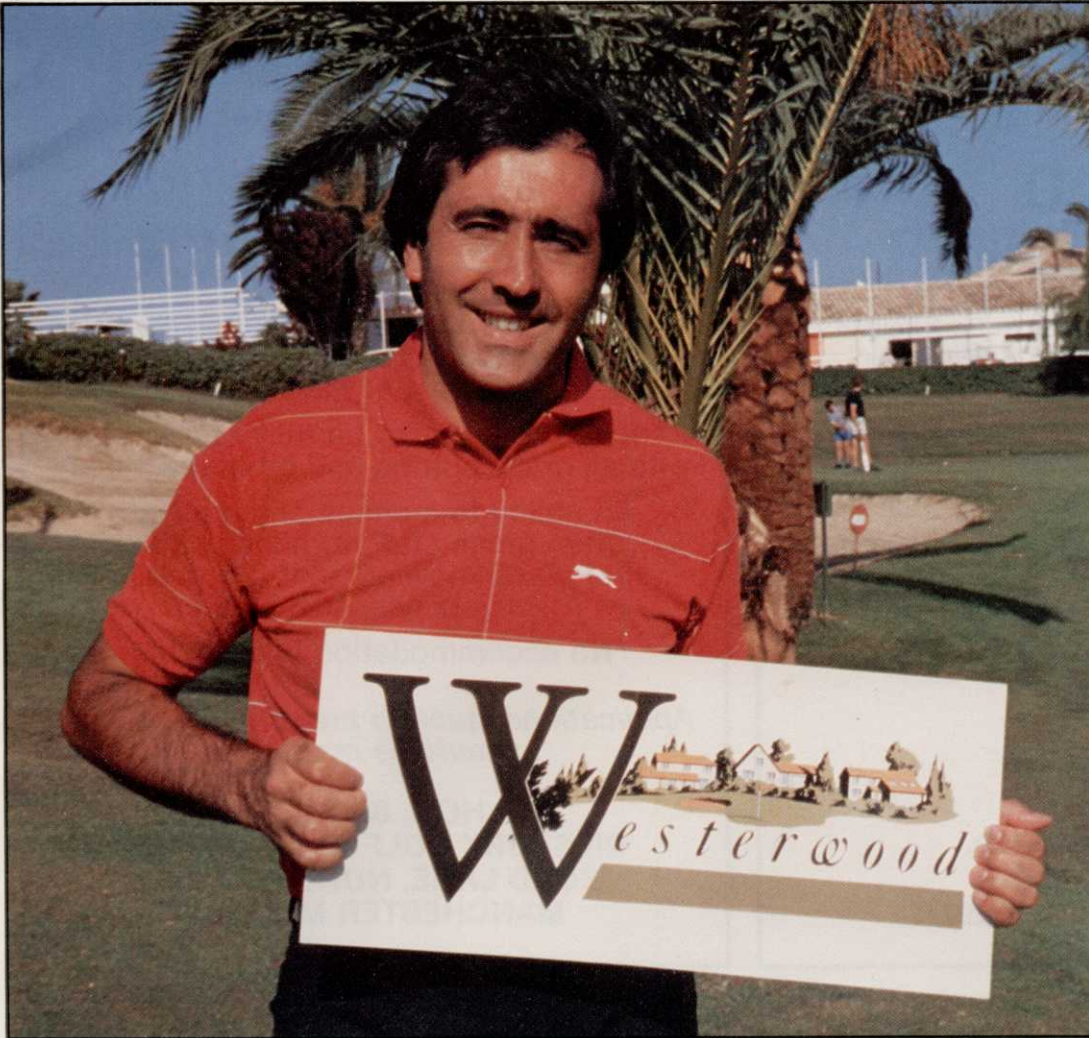
Although providing all the transport and manoeuvrability benefits of a fully tractor-mounted machine, these two optional items give the mower the characteristics of a trailed unit in work, allowing the frame to follow ground contours independently of the tractor.

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

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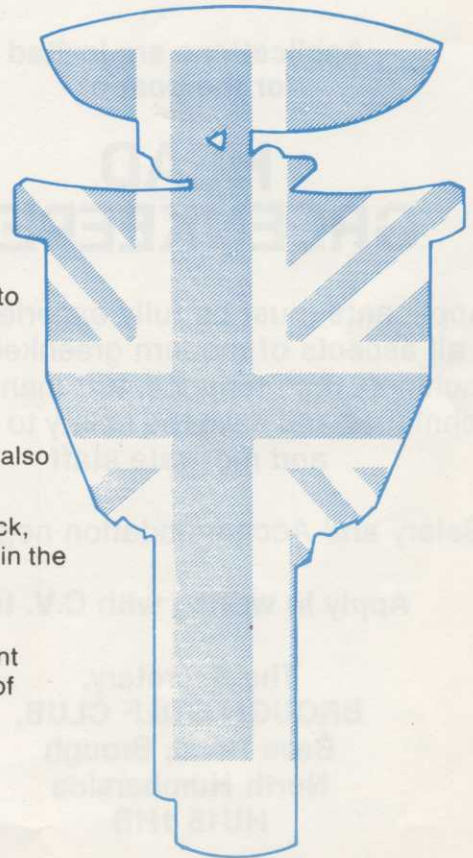
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**G. A. FINN,
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Douglas Golf Club,
Cork, Ireland
Telephone: 021 895297**

Didsbury Golf Club Limited

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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

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**THE HON. SECRETARY,
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Salary and Accommodation negotiable

Apply in writing with C.V. to:-

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

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the post of

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The Greensward Company, The Old Hall, Langham, Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire LE15 7JE. Tel: Oakham (0572) 2923 & 56031. Telex: 34362 Greeco G.

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