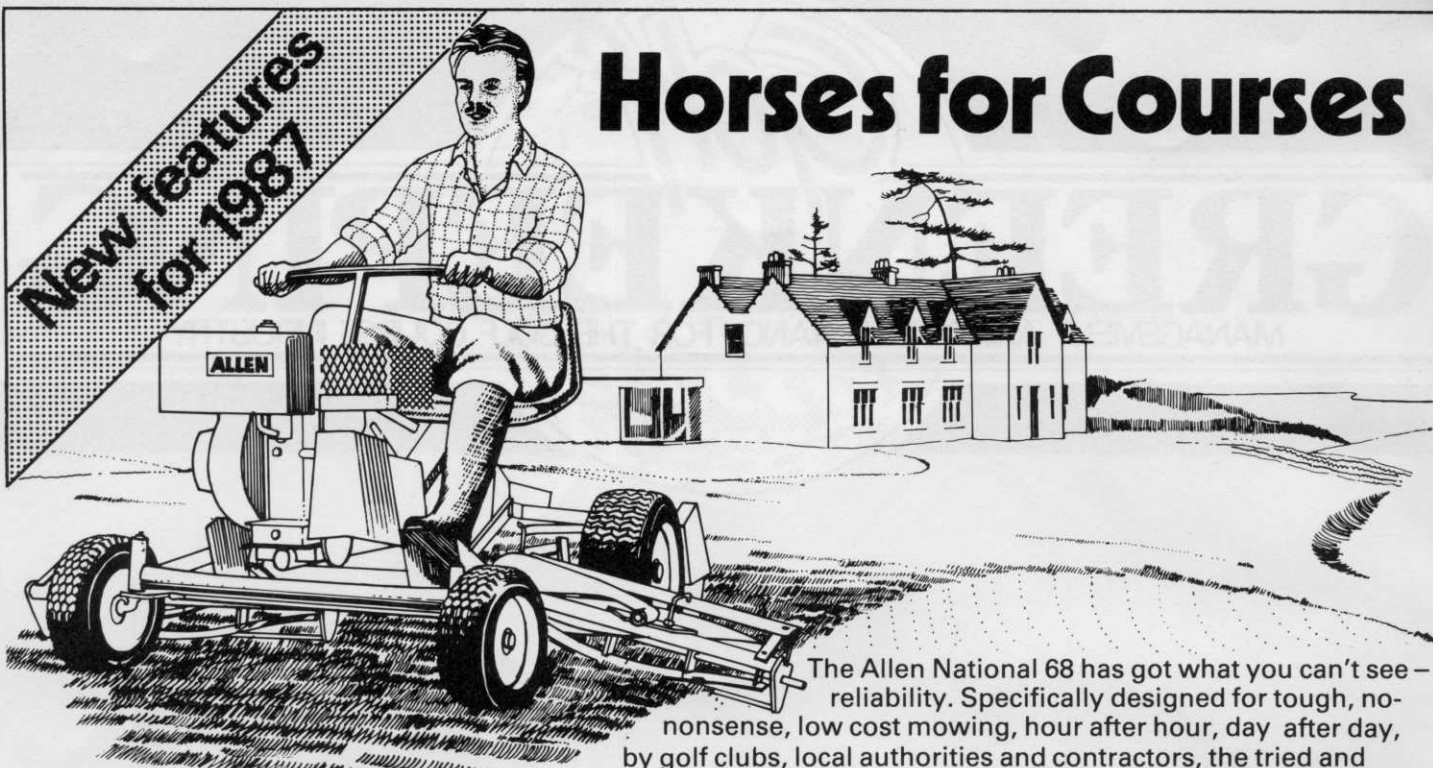


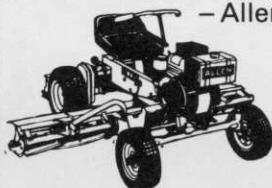
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# ISS

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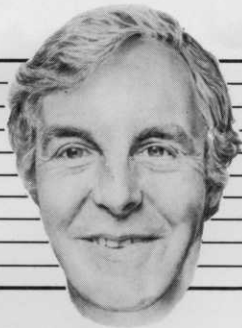
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## Menace below the surface

An horrific accident to Eric Green, Head Greenkeeper at Woodcote Park Golf Club in Surrey for the past fifteen years, prompts Golf Greenkeeping to highlight the potential danger on many golf courses in the land.

Woodcote Park, celebrating their 75th anniversary this year, recently decided to update their irrigation system to include water on all eighteen tees as an addition to the Toro system installed on the greens thirteen years ago.

At 9.00 pm on a July evening, Eric Green, accompanied by his wife Carol and their ten year old daughter walked the course to check the sprinkler system. A number had failed to operate in the automatic mode so were switched on manually before transferring back to automatic.

At the 7th green, recently fertilised the sprinklers again had failed to operate. According to Mr. Green, as he bent over the cover to operate the manual valve, the box literally blew up in his face under a pressure estimated in excess of 120 psi and a piece of

plastic split his nose wide open, requiring immediate hospital treatment and seventeen stitches.

Once the stitches are removed, he will need a further operation to re-set his broken nose and could require plastic surgery.

Although his injuries are quite appalling it could have been worse. The valve box cover shot through the air and landed in the middle of the green; had that hit him the result could well have been a coroner's inquest. It was also fortunate his wife was there to rush him to hospital.

Frank Jones of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd, the Shepperton firm who installed the updated system, said he could not say at this stage how the accident happened but it was being investigated. He confirmed his company had replaced the control valves on all greens with a new three wire system using Buckner equipment. He further suggested the cover plate could have hit the nipple as it was lifted. Expressing regret he told Golf Greenkeeping the company was adequately covered by insurance.

Peter Roberts, Chairman of the British Turf Irrigation Association, has recently criticised golf clubs for paying more attention to the bottom line figure instead of looking at the specification standards, when considering quotations. He said Green Committees do not have the technical knowledge to judge whether an automatic water system is technically and hydraulically sound and should be guided by either an independent consultant or accept the standards laid down as a minimum by the B.T.I.A.

Until a full investigation can take place it could be wrong to attribute blame to any quarter, but it is not too late to issue a strong and urgent warning to all golf clubs of the potential danger to greenkeepers and members should a faulty irrigation system blow up under pressure.

Carol Green summed up perfectly when she said, "I would hate to think of the consequences if my daughter had been standing alongside Eric when the cover blew off".

**Next Month:** PREVIEW OF THE WINDSOR EXHIBITION  
OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS  
GOLF GREENKEEPING TESTS.....  
A NEW FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE PICK-UP

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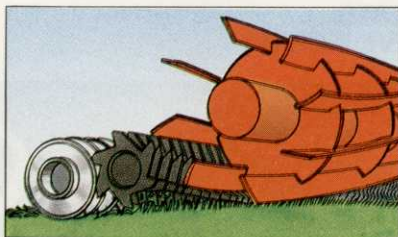


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# NEWS ROUND-UP

**PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

**IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY**

## South Coast Greenkeepers Triumph again

The annual Vitax 'Key' greenkeeper golf tournament took place at Ferndown Golf Club, Dorset on 20th May 1987 with teams from Devon & Cornwall, Mid-Anglia, the South Coast, the South West and Wales taking part.

Last year's winners, the South Coast, retained the Key championship trophy and, also for the second year running, teams from Devon & Cornwall and Wales looked tied for second place. However on a recount Wales totalled 192 points and Devon & Cornwall 190 reversing last year's final placings.

The Welsh team received their award from Vitax distributors Roffey Bros. of Bournemouth.

Individual prize winners were:

- 1st: Huw Morgan (Wales)
- 2nd: Richard Preest (S. West)
- 3rd: E. O'Hanlan (Mid-Anglia)

At the celebratory dinner after the tournament a vote of thanks to Vitax was made by Don Hunt, President of the Devon & Cornwall Section, and to Colin Murphy, organiser of the tournament.

Special praise was accorded to Ferndown Golf Club for its splendid hospitality, and to Head Greenkeeper Cyril Grubb and his staff for the superb condition of the course.

**NEWS 1**

## Vitax appoints Top Consultants

Two of Britain's leading sports-turf consultants have joined specialist fertiliser manufacturers Vitax Limited as Consultant Agronomists.

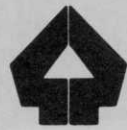
John Hacker, MS, Dip Hort (Kew), CBIol, MIBiol, MIHort and

Mike Harbridge MSc BSc (Hons),

commenced their new appointments on 1st July.

Both Hacker and Harbridge will be advising the company on product usage for sports grounds, golf courses, landscaping and general amenity areas, and on new product development.

**NEWS 2**



**Health & Safety Executive**

### SAVE YOUR SKIN!

Occupational dermatitis is the commonest of all health problems by work activities, but few appreciate it can become serious enough to cause permanent disablement. A national awareness campaign on occupational dermatitis has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive's Employment Medical Advisory Service this month to focus attention on the problem.

Speaking at a press conference in London John Rimington, Director General of the Health and Safety Executive, said "Skin disease caused by work activity is one of the major industrial health problems we face. It is widespread and affects workers in all sectors of industry. But it can be prevented. That is why we are mounting this campaign. 'Save Your Skin' is not just a catchy slogan. It is good, practical advice".

Many substances commonly used at work can irritate or sensitise the skin with unpleasant consequences. Contact Dermatitis is an itchy rash. It develops where the skin comes into contact with harmful substances and can spread. Some forms are difficult to treat and can result in some people having to give up their jobs.

During the year-long campaign EMAS will give advice to employers, backed up with leaflets, pocket cards for workers, posters and a video film. They will explain how to find out if there is a risk of skin disease, help to resolve cases that exists and promote a cost-effective skin care programme for the workplace.

Personal hygiene is also important. There should be washing facilities with suitable hand creams available near the workplace and workers should use them. They should also keep the workplace clean and tidy and regularly inspect their own skin for any sign of a rash.

**NEWS 3**

## Royal Windsor '87 Exhibition biggest ever IOG Show

This year's Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at The Royal Windsor Racecourse (15th-17th September 1987) is going to be a sell out: to date a record amount of exhibition space and demonstration areas have been sold, and there are a number of space applications waiting to be finalised.

A total of 315 companies from all over the world have already been allocated space at this the 43rd annual event organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Among the special events planned for this year's exhibition are a "Best Literature of the Show" award - and "Best New Introduction of the Show" award.

The IOG will again be organising awards for outstanding stand design, and all awards will be presented at a special ceremony on Tuesday 15th September at 6.00 p.m.

**NEWS 4**

HA 1388

## 'Heron Power That's a Promise'

Golf Greenkeeping has been chosen by Heron Power Product in a new powerful national advertising campaign based on the slogan 'Heron Power - That's a Promise'. The slogan sums up the superb level of performance and reliability of all the machines for which the company is the UK distributor.

Each advertisement carries a reply coupon. Product ranges covered are Echo brushcutters and chainsaws; Suzuki outboard motors, portable generators, pumps and general purpose engines; and Stiga mowers. Special summer incentives will be offered to customers by most of the Echo and Stiga dealers.

In the case of Echo, anyone purchasing a chainsaw can receive a free Safety Helmet and loop of chain. With Stiga, Parks and Garden Department's of Local Authorities are being offered the free loan of a Stiga Park 2002 ride-on mower and Suzuki SuperCarry Pick-Up to transport it, allowing them to try out the machine on their 'home ground'.

**NEWS 5**

**M&B May & Baker**

# ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

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SUPER MOSSTOX CONTAINS DICHLOROPHEN.  
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# All clear for Major Wentworth Clubhouse Redevelopment.

Plans for the construction of a new multi-million pound clubhouse for the Wentworth Golf Club have now been approved. The "all clear" to proceed follows agreement from the Department of the Environment to remove a temporary Historic Building 'listing' imposed on the present clubhouse.

Last April, Golf Greenkeeping reported plans to renew the present clubhouse had been shelved, because the Dept. of the Environment had deemed it a class 2 listed building, though no one could imagine why. Some of those that know the Wentworth clubhouse have described it as a 'bit of a monstrosity', hardly suitable for the two courses at Virginia Water.

The new complex will be built in tandem with a third 18-hole golf course already approved in the Surrey stockbroker belt.

Architects D. Y. Davies will provide a development of more than 50,000 sq. ft. to give the club the best facilities of any golf course in the UK. The new complex incorporates a full range of changing rooms, bars, visitors' facilities, reception and administration areas, a professional's shop, function rooms, a restaurant, a large indoor swimming pool, two squash courts and a gymnasium.

The new clubhouse will be located to the north of the existing premises and will take advantage of the natural slope of the ground as well as blending with the surrounding landscape. It has been sensitively designed to be in keeping with the architecture of the Wentworth Estate and will include many features contained within the existing clubhouse.

Work will start in August and scrub clearance for the new Wentworth course will begin during the summer. The new clubhouse is expected to be opened in early 1989 and the South course should be ready for play in the early 1990's.

Kevin Munt, previously Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch has succeeded Gerry Coley as Course Manager at Wentworth amid fierce competition for this prestigious position.

**NEWS 6**



## Bradshaw Vehicles for the Golf Course

John Bradshaw Ltd. can now offer a complete range of vehicles purpose built for the growing outdoor sports and leisure industry.

Model G is a luxury golf car. Available in battery, electric or petrol driven versions, in its basic form it is the perfect golf car, groundsman's transporter or greenkeeper's tote vehicle. It can be equipped with a variety of additional extras, but in its basic 2-golfer configuration, costs only £3,500.

Model GX 20 is the perfect groundsman's tool. It has turf tyres fitted as standard, and can accept all leading brands of turf management equipment. This versatile high-specification 2-wheel drive tipper, with an on-board capacity of 800kg, has a two-cylinder petrol driven engine producing up to 3,500 rpm, and a top speed of 20 mph. A four-speed synchromesh gear box and automotive style steering make for easy handling on metalled surfaces. Gradeability is outstanding, making the GX 20 ideal in applications with a high proportion of ramps and inclines. The robust new body shell, manufactured of high quality steel, includes mudguards, integral headlights, and a solid front bumper. The cargo bed, fitted as standard, has drop sides, and a hydraulically operated tipping mechanism controlled from the cab.

**NEWS 7**

## Ransomes acquires Yorkshire Company for £1½ million

Ransomes Sims & Jefferis PLC, has acquired the business and assets of Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath-on-Dearne owned by Yorkshireman, Ralph Winstanley, for £1½ million. A successful specialist manufacturer of cutting cylinders, blades and grinding machines, for the grass machinery market in the U.K. and with a thriving export trade particularly in the United States.

Ralph Winstanley, left his Wath-on-Dearne home at the age of 15 to join a number of other young apprentices at the Brades factory in Birmingham. It was there he learnt all there was to know about edge-tool manufacture. He started in the grinding department, worked his way through the other sections and was eventually put in charge of the finishing business at the company's Holyhead factory.

His road to success started in 1953 at Holyhead from the back of a converted Morris Ambulance set up as a mobile workshop. His travelling grinding business aimed at top class restaurants and hotels along the south coast sharpening butchery knives for chefs.

Two years later he moved back to the South Yorkshire mining village of Wath-on-Dearne, bought an old slaughter house, put on a new roof and started to expand the grinding business by making lawnmower cylinders.

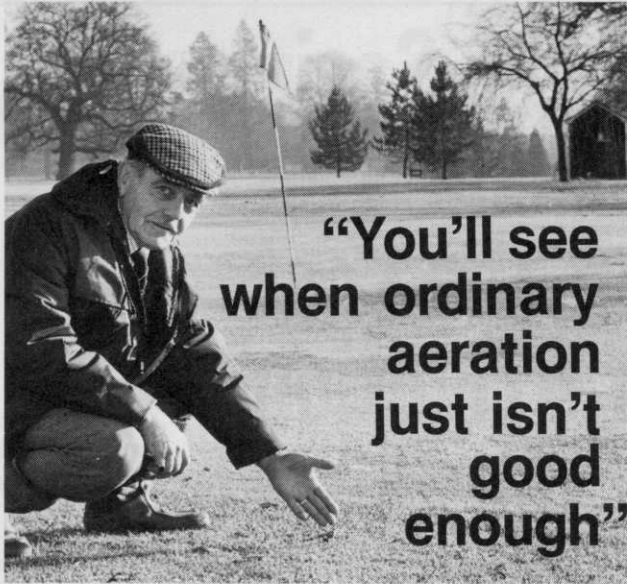
His cylinders are manufactured to extremely high standards, using a steel hardening process perfected himself, which guarantees their unbreakability under normal conditions.

A familiar figure at trade shows all over the world with his distinctive mutton chop whiskers, Ralph has travelled thousands of miles to promote his export business, which now accounts for around sixty per cent of the turnover.

But none of this could have been achieved without a strong home market. His first break came when he persuaded the Birmingham Parks Department to try a set of his cylinders in their machines. They performed so well that within two years almost every blade of grass in Birmingham's parks was cut with a blade from Mowing Machine Maintenance at Wath-on-Dearne.

Ransomes Group Chief Executive, Bob Dodsworth, said "this acquisition provides the Group with considerable potential to develop our important spare tyre business, particularly in export markets. It will also enable us to market a superior range of grinding machines throughout our worldwide dealer network". The business will continue to operate from the South Yorkshire premises.

**NEWS 8**



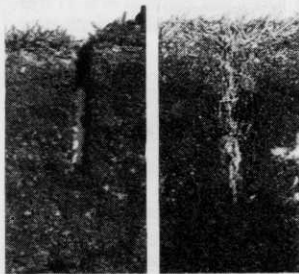
**"You'll see when ordinary aeration just isn't good enough"**

"You'll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

"What you can't see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result's the same. Water doesn't soak in properly. The soil gets starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You've got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn't going to solve it.

"Hollow tine aeration is the answer. What the Ryan people call Core Cultivation. In fact, I reckon it should be a routine part of any turf maintenance programme, not just a problem solver.

"Why do I think Ryan hollow tine aerators are the best? They're exceptionally well made. Tough and reliable. And they've got a lot of special features, like the Greensaire's 2 inch by 2 inch core pattern. And the unique design which makes each tine go in and out absolutely vertically so that it doesn't damage the top surface like some others can.



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"In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It's the best you can buy".

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## Huge Grants from the R&A

The newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association are to be given £37,500 by the R&A out of a massive £685,000 grant pay out to all levels of the game, both at home and abroad.

The St. Andrews Links Trust will receive the largest share, £200,000 towards the provision of a new course irrigation system. Other grants from the profits of the Open Championship include, £40,000 to the four home based amateur unions, £17,500 to the Ladies Golf Union and the four similar bodies representing ladies amateur golf. All this money is earmarked for coaching purposes.

The Golf Foundation are to receive £85,000, the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, £20,000 and even the wealthy Professional Golf Association will benefit with a grant of £24,000 towards the cost of training young assistants.

Golf on the European Continent is also due a slice of the cake with eight amateur authorities representing Spain, France, Portugal, Finland, Denmark,

Belgium, Austria and Czechoslovakia a member of the Communist block, receiving a share of £93,500 over the next three years.

Two other Continental Unions, Sweden and Germany, who have made great strides in the expansion of their golf in recent years are regarded as not needing any financial help.

The R&A have been instrumental in bringing together the three greenkeeper associations, the Scottish Greenkeepers, the British Golf Greenkeepers and the English Greenkeepers, a breakaway faction from the main group, who set up their own organisation five years ago, because they felt the main committee were not leading the association towards the status and standing enjoyed by greenkeepers in other parts of the golfing world.

Early this year the post of a General Administrator for the new Association was advertised extensively at a salary stated to be in the region of £16,000 per annum, to be based in headquarters at the Sport Research Institute at Bingley. Following a series of interviews at York, Mr. Neil Thomas will commence the new job on 3rd August.

NEWS 9

HA 1386

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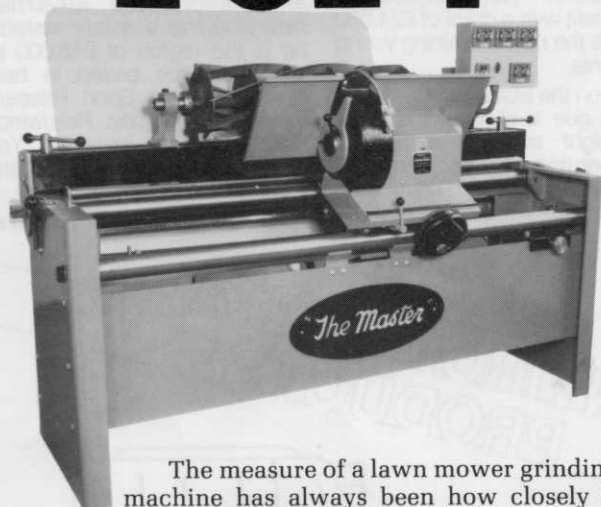
**TIP'N'POUR**  
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# Water Saving Scheme can cut the cost of irrigation in the Desert.

John Lelean reports on developments in Dubai.

**Engineers have come up with a novel idea for saving water on the desert golf course destined to become one of the most spectacular in the world. While millions of gallons must be used to keep fairways and greens in prime condition, more than a third of the water will probably be recycled. And it's all thanks to an unlikely method, devised in the Middle East for keeping a private swimming pool topped up.**

After the water has drained through the soil into the water table below, it will be pumped back up into two man-made lakes which form the central link in the irrigation system at the Emirates Golf Club.

Water is liquid gold in the United Arab Emirates. But it is there, on the outskirts of Dubai, that the first grass championship course in the region is growing out of the desert.

A team of experts, led by project engineer Stephen Trutch, have overcome a series of tricky obstacles on the course, which is scheduled to open in November this year.

In doing so they have come up with an effective way of reducing irrigation costs.

Water pumped into the two lakes from Dubai's desalination plant is fed to the course through a network of more than 500 Toro sprinklers. It drains into the saline water table just a few feet below the ground.

"It is common knowledge that fresh water sits on top of salt water", said Larry Trenary, the representative in Dubai of Karl Litten, the American who designed the course.

"The irrigation we are carrying out will create a freshwater lake on top of the salt water. We will be pumping up water for testing, and we feel that in two to three years time it will be feasible to collect that water on a controlled basis, put it back in the lakes, and save as much as 25 to 40 per cent.

"We have 25 well points going down into the sub-surface and we will have to install many more, with a large suction pump, to get the water out", added Trenary.

"But we know it can be done successfully because we have already carried out a similar operation in an area nearby where there is a lens of fresh-water on top of the water table".

The water saving scheme was pioneered by Eric Tulloch, chief engineer at Dubai Water Department for the past 25 years. He came up with the idea of filling his private pool by pumping water out of the ground in his garden.

The Emirates Golf Club has been hailed locally as "Mohammed's magnificent gift to Dubai" a reference to H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE's Minister of Defence who has inspired the project.

The course has also been attracting international attention, and former British Ryder Cup star Tommy Horton is one man who believes it has all the makings of a professional tournament venue.

Horton, chairman of the European Tour Committee, said after a visit to Dubai that the course could easily find a place on the European circuit.

Kerry Son, from Florida appointed as Course Superintendent flew into Dubai from Florida, inspected the course within hours, and came up with a glowing verdict.

"It's magnificent, both in terms of the design and character", he said. "It is going to be a very challenging course for any golfer. It may take a whole year to get it into optimum condition, but it will be a very popular course throughout the world when it is finished. It is going to be spectacular".

Designer Litten, involved in more than 100 golf course projects around the world over the past 20 years, believes his offering to Dubai could turn out to be the masterpiece of his career.



One of four lakes stocked with Japanese Carp in front of the club-house.

"I'm thinking that more and more every time I see it", he said, after jetting to the UAE to carry out a progress check, and go over the details with course engineer Stephen Trutch, who has been deeply involved in the project since it was first launched just 12 months ago.

On the outskirts of Dubai where camels roam the desert plains, the grass is now visible from the main highway, and motorists slow down to check out the growing splash of green.

The Emirates Golf Club is not easy to miss. When it opens in November it will become the first championship course in the Gulf, the latest in a growing line of sporting assets for the go-ahead city in the United Arab Emirates.

One man who played his part in the projects is a welder from Oklahoma. His hydraulic invention, a machine that can plant a fairway in a couple of hours, has been one of the most important pieces of equipment used in the construction of the course.

The machine, which cost \$20,000, was built to specifications laid down in Dubai, and has not been sold commercially.

It is towed behind a tractor, and drops grass sprigs in any frequency you want to broadcast the grass. Behind is a large roller with knives which dig into the ground down to about six to eight inches. Then there is a large roller which closes it all up and tucks it in.

It can take four or five days to plant an average size fairway by hand. This machine can do the same work in a couple of hours, covering an area of about three acres.

In recent weeks a new shape has begun to emerge from the sandhills - the beginnings of a structure that looks like a space-age version of a Bedouin tent. This is the multi-million dollar club house where members will dine in a five-star restaurant and relax in saunas, and jacuzzis. Close at hand will be squash and tennis courts, along with a floodlit crown green bowling arena and practice range.

The 6,618 yard par 72 course itself displays a classic links style within a few dog-legs of the sea, its fairways sunk beneath smooth banks and flowing around four man-made lakes.

All the attention to detail in early days, before giant earth-movers began shifting millions of tons of sand last July, is now paying dividends. The two types of chosen hybrid Bermuda grass, are now growing towards maturity on fairways and greens.

On arrival in the UAE the grass sealed in packets to prevent contamination was immediately planted at nurseries near the course. "After we established a goody heavy turf we then used a machine (a Ryan verticut turf mower) that pulls pieces of root and stem out of the ground", said Larry Trenary.

Continued on Pages 10 & 11

HA 1387

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# TECHNICAL



نادي جولف الامارات دبي

**EMIRATES**  
GOLF CLUB DUBAI

Continued from Pages 8 & 9

"This machine has hundreds of little blades that are curled at the end and spin very quickly, go about half an inch into the ground, and pull up the grass.

"We broadcast the grass over the greens by hand and kept it wet for 10 to 12 days. You lose about 50 per cent on the greens, but they are completely covered in about five to six weeks".

Tift 419 Hybrid B, developed in Tifton, Georgia, one of the foremost grass-growing regions of the USA, was chosen for the

fairways because it is salt tolerant, and replaces itself quickly.

For the greens the Emirates Golf Club picked Tift 328, a thinner-leaved type of Bermuda grass which allows a better run of the ball. "You can cut it to three sixteenths of an inch, and by cross-cutting you can develop a speed of nine to nine-and-a-half on the Stimp meter", said Trenary.

Fast and true putting surfaces are just part of the general attraction of the course that has already impressed a number of top golfers who recognise the potential in Dubai.

Long drivers like Sevy Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle would appreciate the sting in the tail of the Emirates Golf Club - a 550 yard par five 18th hole. It requires a finishing shot across one of the lakes to a giant double green shared by the ninth.

Any player forced to go paddling after selecting the wrong club might have more success with a fishing rod. The lake is stocked with several thousand Japanese Koi carp, all part of the beautification work which has seen thousands of trees and plants springing up out of the desert, making the 700,000 square metre site as verdant as any natural oasis.

TECHNICAL 1



# THE DRIVING RANGE

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**SUPERVERDONE\*** The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

**GAMMA-COL\* turf.** Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.



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ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.