

Healthfoods for greens and tees.

It's not easy keeping golf greens and tees naturally healthy and ready for play 365 days a year.

The Floranid range of high performance slow release fertilisers can help.

Help your Turf

Their concentrated balanced analysis give long term, all round feeding with both healthy root and leaf growth.



Help your Team

With their high slow release content, even high nitrogen inputs can be safely applied in only two applications per year. Less product to handle, less time spent applying the fertiliser.



Help Yourself

Because the slow release nitrogen in Floranid is released by a combination of temperature and moisture it can be applied when **you** want to use it.

If it's cold it will wait for warmer weather. If it's too dry it will wait for rain.

No leaching in winter, no scorching in summer.

Floranid is safe to use when you want to use it.

Floranid®

The Floranid range - it puts you back in control

Floranid is a BASF trade mark.

BASF United Kingdom Limited,
Fertiliser Department, Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich, IP7 6BQ. Tel: (0473) 822531.

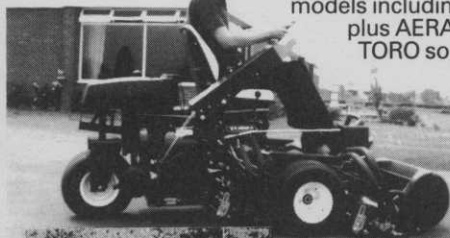
BASF Group.



TORO®

does it so much better

... and that's a fact, from the smallest domestic rotary to the 'big boys' TORO are in a class of their own. Not only are they superbly engineered, but they achieve results that are envied by everyone. Take a look at the new models including the 216 and 450D REELMASTER plus AERATORS ... it's all happening at TORO so why not give us a call now!



GREENSMaster 300

NEW
450D REELMASTER

NEW AERATOR



NEW 216
REELMASTER



TORO

Please send details as ticked

Literature Nearest Dealer Trial/Demo

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

GGCM/11/87

UK DISTRIBUTORS: LELY (UK) LTD STATION ROAD, ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS PE19 1QH Tel: 0480 76971 Telex: 32523



Editor & Publisher:
JOHN LELEAN

Regular Editorial
Contributors:
F. W. Hawtree
Martyn Jones

National Advertising
Executive:
Mike Massey
'Fieldside', Grange Road,
Bowdon, Cheshire
Tel: 061-928 2997

Graphics & Design:
Stephen Spellman

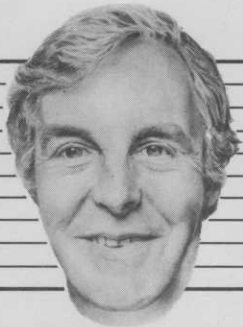
Production Manager:
Ian Donoghue

Golf Greenkeeping is a combined subscription and controlled circulation publication for the golf course management industry. Current distribution 2,500 copies per month. Published ten times per year. Copies are available on subscription postage paid, £12.00 per year. Overseas surface. £14.00 per year. Air mail rates on application to the publishers.

The Editor and Publishers do not necessarily agree with the comments and views expressed in this publication and do not accept any responsibility for any personal opinions stated therein. © Copyright 1987 Golf Greenkeeping. Permission for the reproduction of features and articles will be favourably considered for non commercial purposes on application to the publisher.

Published by:
Wharfedale Publications Limited
P.O. Box 12, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS22 4SR
Telephone: (0937) 63181

Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

Greenkeepers to the Rescue

Sheer mindless vandalism by a group said to represent animal rights campaigners, have dug up all but four of the eighteen greens at Fairhaven Golf Club near Lytham St. Annes.

The highly organised desecration of the beautifully kept greens, was done at night with gardening forks and spades in a so called protest, by members of the Animal Resistance Group, against the Poultry Association, who were holding their annual conference in Blackpool.

The Secretary at Fairhaven Golf Club, Mr. Brian Hartley, told *Golf Greenkeeping* it was impossible to put a figure on the damage caused to the course, though thanks to the help immediately offered by neighbouring clubs at Royal Lytham St. Annes Old Links and Lytham Green Drive, most of the initial repair work had been completed within three days.

Greenkeepers from the three neighbouring courses joined Head Greenkeeper George Lloyd and the Fairhaven staff to repair up to eighty fork and spade holes all over the greens to bring the course back to a playable state, though during the winter months much more will need to be done with top dressing and re-turfing to return Fairhaven to its usual immaculate condition.

Why Fairhaven was chosen to highlight these criminal protests against battery chicken farming is hard to understand. Perhaps it was because there was an announcement in the conference programme that a round of golf was available at Fairhaven for those delegates seeking a break from the weekend deliberations, though according to Mr. Hartley it was not an organised competition, simply the availability of the facilities for a small group to play golf.

Greenkeepers nationwide were horrified when news of the appalling damage to the fine putting surfaces was announced in the national press and it was not surprising the club had such instant offers of help from the greenkeeping staff of nearby courses.

Play continued immediately after the greens were dug up on the Friday night by cutting temporary putting surfaces, so the weekend competitions could take place and it is to the credit of the staff that they refused to bow down to the actions of what many would believe to be the criminally insane.

Next year the Open Championship is due to be played over the links at Royal Lytham which must cause grave concern to both the club, greenstaff and

the Secretary of the R&A, Mr. Michael Bonallack, in view of the vandalism perpetrated at Fairhaven, a qualifying course for the Open.

The last time the Open Championship took place on the Fylde Coast at Royal Birkdale, a group, said to represent a man wrongly convicted of a robbery and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, breached the security and spray painted several greens with slogans demanding his release.

To police a golf course of over 200 acres is an almost impossible task regardless of the finance set aside for security fencing, electronic surveillance or manpower.

It is a sad fact of life that action groups, who invariably represent minority interests believe the only way they can make their mark is to cause damage and distress to innocent victims.

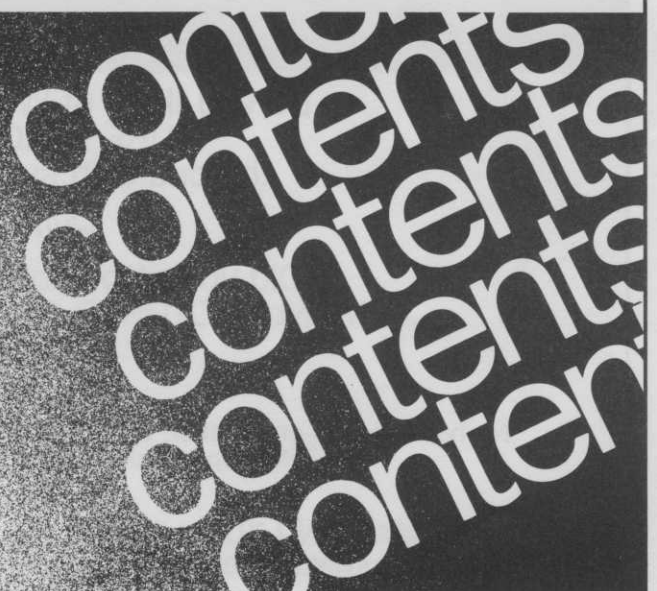
Their ideals would appear to be summed up in a recent piece of graffiti seen painted on the wall of a derelict building near a red brick University.

It read:

'Votes in the ballot box achieve nothing'.

The Kubota Golf Challenge	4,5
Turf Grass Diseases	5
News Round-up	6,7,14
Curiouser and Curiouser by Fred Hawtree.....	8,9
Guides to Golf Courses in Britain	10
Situations Vacant	10,11
Jacobsen Tournament Results	12
Golf-The History of an Obsession	13
Trade Directory	15

Cover Picture - An autumn scene of the opening hole at Wetherby Golf Club looking towards the club-house.





THE GREENKEEPERS TEAM
Winners of the 1987 Kubota Golf Challenge

Left to right:

Standing: Philip Wentworth (North Hants G.C.), Richard Barker (Longcliffe G.C.),
Mike Sheehan (Capt.) (Mere G&C.C.), Ivan Toon (Moor Hall G.C.)

Sitting: Edwin West (Broadstone G.C.), Ray Howlett (Cheshunt G.C.),
Melvin Guy (South Leeds G.C.), Neil Whittaker (Woburn G.C.)



Watermation
FOR ALL SPORTS TURF IRRIGATION

Do you think of Watermation as Europe's leading
TURF IRRIGATION CONTRACTOR
the one with systems in all the best places?

Quite right — WE ARE

Did you also know we are now Europe's leading
MANUFACTURER OF TURF IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT?

Right again — WE ARE

No need to look any further, we can provide you with everything you need for your turf irrigation.
Telephone us on Woking (04862) 70303 or 21009 for our catalogue

WATERMATION LTD., Monument Way E., Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Telex 859224 FLEXON G.
Telephone Woking (04862) 70303/21009 or Stirling (0786) 70252, or Dublin (0001) 760964 or Paris (010 331) 47 06 04 19

The Kubota Golf Challenge.

In this year's Kubota Golf Challenge played on October 12th and 13th at the Belfry, the greenkeepers swept all before them, for their third successive victory.

Young and fit, from a healthy outdoor life, they brushed aside the less athletic stewards by six matches to two in the semi-finals before overcoming the guile of the secretaries in the final. The margin was 5½ to 2½ and the greenkeepers were always in control, losing only the last two matches.

The Fourth Estate, represented by the golf writers, duly finished fourth, finding the combination of a wet and windy Brabazon course, a woman team member and stewards intent on dispensing defeat rather than hospitality too much to cope with. At least they had run the Secretaries, twice winners of the event, close in the semi-final despite starting off a point down as a result of one team member breaking down on the M6.

To everyone's surprise, including their own, the writers did manage to win something. Flinging Kubota's gleaming orange mini-tractors round a cone-bedecked car park with reckless abandon, they won a novel driving competition. Admittedly, the greenkeepers, the real professionals, were handicapped by having to drive a much larger machine in the confined space.

Out on the course, however, where it mattered, there was only one team in it. In the bar afterwards, the stewards and the secretaries could be seen in huddles discussing the merits of reducing greenkeepers rations and increasing their workloads before coming to the conclusion it would just make them leaner and meaner and harder to beat.

GRAND FINAL 1st Tee (Brabazon Course)

Greenkeepers v. Secretaries

MATCH RESULTS:

Melvin Guy (5) (South Leeds G.C.)	halved against	Elliott Proctor (3) (Northumberland Union G.C.)
Richard Barker (6) (Longcliffe G.C.)	beat 3&2	Bob Abercromby (7) (Woodhall Spa)
Mike Sheehan (6) (Mere G.&C.C.)	beat 7&6	Ronnie Luckman (8) (East Devon G.C.)
Ray Howlett (8) (Cheshunt G.&C.C.)	beat 2 up	Colin Desmond (9) (Knott End G.C.)
Edwin West (8) (Broadstone G.C.)	beat 1 hole	Lou Hatton (9) (Unattached)
Ivan Toon (9) (Moor Hall G.C.)	beat 5&3	John Crowther (10) (A.G.C.S.)
Philip Wentworth (North Hampshire G.C.)	lost by 2 holes	Jim Coutts (11) (Mannings Heath G.C.)
Neil Whittaker (15) (Woburn G.C.)	lost 2&1	Ray Hill (15) (St. Ives G.C.)

GREENKEEPERS WON 5½ to 2½

Greenkeepers v. Stewards

MATCH RESULTS:

Richard Barker (5) (Longcliffe G.C.)	lost 3&2	Roy Mobbs (12) (Worlebury G.C.)
Melvin Guy (5) (South Leeds G.C.)	beat 3&2	Pat McGreevy (13) (Chipping Sodbury G.C.)
Mike Sheehan (6) (Mere G.C.)	beat 5&4	Tony Caldeira (13) (Redditch G.C.)
Ray Howlett (7) (Cheshunt G.C.)	beat 3&2	Harry Roberts (15) (Shire-Hampton Park G.C.)
Ivan Toon (9) (Moor Hall G.C.)	lost to 3&2	Mike Moffat (16) (Upton-by-Chester G.C.)
Edwin West (9) (Broadstone G.C.)	beat 5&3	Roger Gregory (18) (Southwick Park G.C.)
Philip Wentworth (14) (North Hampshire G.C.)	beat 3&2	Bill Ireland (18) (South Beds G.C.)
Neil Whittaker (15) (Woburn G.C.)	beat 2 up	Lawrence Tippet (18) (Churston G.C.)

GREENKEEPERS WON 6 to 2

Turf Grass Diseases

The onset of winter is the time when the greenkeeper must keep a constant vigilance over his greens to spot and diagnose the first symptoms of disease.

The latest edition of an excellent publication from the Sports Turf Research Institute entitled *Turf Diseases*, defines a disease as a harmful deviation from the normal functioning of physiological processes caused by a pathogenic organism.

Both bacteria and viruses can cause diseases in turf, but they are considered to be relatively unimportant compared to the fungi organisms.

In the introduction, author Neil Baldwin says much new information has come to light since the first booklet was published in 1979 and this new information and the advice for treatment is included in the 40 pages.

As would be expected Fusarium Patch occupies the first pages in the book as the most common and most damaging disease to affect putting surfaces. The small brown or orange circular spots appearing on the green surface, are the first visible symptoms. They can increase rapidly both in size and number to produce patches of dead grass, both in fine turf and particularly on poa annua greens.

It is suggested the best preventative measures are mechanical rather than chemical. Greens should be adequately drained, dew taken off the surface and aeration with the addition of a sandy based top dressing to make the surface less moisture retentive.

There are now a number of products on the market to treat Fusarium Patch once the first signs appear. During the winter months when growth is slow the contact fungicides such as chlorothalonil, iprodione, vinclozolin, and quintozene, provide good control, though many of these products are expensive.

A total of eighteen turf grass diseases, which will cover almost all those known to the British Greenkeeper are described in detail, together with the visible symptoms, conditions in which the disease will thrive and measures and treatments to relieve the problem. There are also eight colour plates for instant identification of Fusarium, Take-All, Red Thread, Dollar Spot, Fairy Rings, and Damping Off.

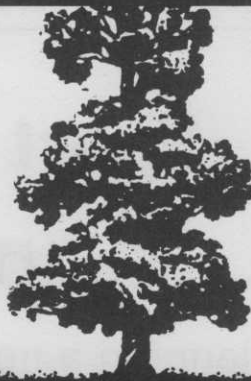
This essential publication for any greenkeeper can be obtained from the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley St. Ives, priced £2.50.

FEATURE 1

COSFORD GOLF LANDSCAPES

**DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,
EXTENSIONS, ALTERATIONS,
IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE,
ADVISORY SERVICE,**

FREE COMPETITIVE ESTIMATES.



TEL: ALBRIGHTON (090722) 4248

NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

Nature Conservationists meet golfers on their own ground



To any greenkeeper, the tranquility and beauty of the golf course is as much a part of the game as the challenge and competition it offers. Yet, how many greenkeepers paused to consider the vital role they played in preserving and safeguarding the important wildlife habitats of this country?

To raise money for the British Wildlife Appeal, the British Wildlife National Golf Classic, is set to 'tee off' in January 1988, and some 500 golf clubs and 70,000 golfers are expected to participate. Club members will be invited to take part in their individual Club competitions between January and July 1988, with the winners progressing to one of nine regional finals being held around the country. Regional finalists will then go on to play in

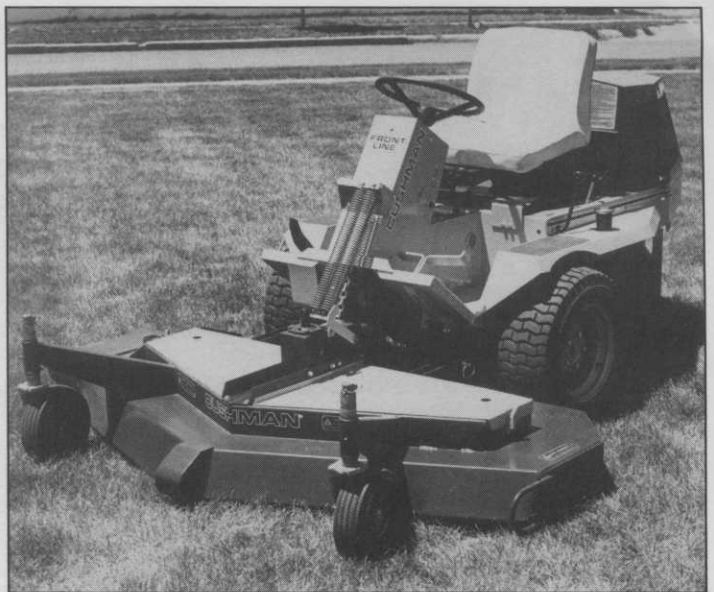
the Women's Professional Golf Association Pro-Am to be held in September.

Entrants will be asked to donate a fee of £5.00 and this, together with all monies raised by the event, will be used to support the British Wildlife Appeal in its fight for Britain's countryside. The Appeal, aims to raise £10 million by 1990 to protect and maintain the natural habitats of Britain's wildlife - a cause which any greenkeeper would be proud to support.

Further details on this project can be obtained from:

Lynda Cowan,
Tryangle Management
International Limited,
6 Church Street,
Altrincham,
Cheshire WA14 4DW

NEWS 1



New diesel rough cut mower from Cushman

A new 3-wheel model Cushman Front Line mower has been launched by the American manufacturers, OMC Lincoln.

Powered by a 21.5 hp three-cylinder diesel engine, both the engine and remote coolant radiator are fitted with rubber-isolation mounts to minimise vibration. The 806 has manual steering and is capable of zero turning radius with an outside

turning circle of just 150 inches with a 72-inch mower deck. Other available attachments include the Cushman Grass Caddy for picking up clippings, a 51-inch two-stage commercial snow blower, a 54-inch snow blade, 60-inch sweeper brush and a 60-inch flail mower.

Contact:
U.K. Cushman dealers for further information

NEWS 2

Top Ten American Golf Courses

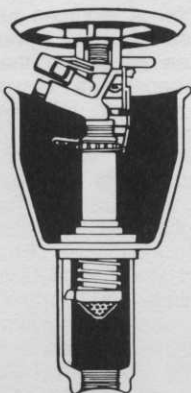
The November issue of *Golf Digest* has announced the biennial rankings of America's 100 greatest golf courses, and 86 have managing greenkeepers who are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

According to the magazine the criteria for selection are based on seven categories: shot value, design balance, memorability, aesthetics, tradition, conditioning and resistance to scoring.

The leading courses in the conditioning category are:

- (1) Augusta National G.C.
- (2) Muirfield Village G.C.
- (3) Oakmont C.C.
- (4) Shoal Creek
- (5) Cypress Point Club
- (6) Winged Foot G.C. (west)
- (7) Seminole G.C.
- (8) Scioto C.C.
- (9) San Francisco G.C.
- (10) Los Angeles C.C. (north)

NEWS 3



Sport —————> turf

the irrigators formula for

Planning a new irrigation system for next season —
choose from the very best of equipment and service :-

Prime Watermen Ltd

NEW GOLF MAGAZINE TO BE LAUNCHED NEXT YEAR

A new monthly golf publication is due to be launched in the Spring of 1988, with a £1 million pound budget.

Published by the Peterborough based Pursuit Publishing Company, the magazine is to be called 'TODAY'S GOLFER' and will compete with the established golf publications such as Golf World, Golf Monthly and Golf Illustrated.

The lucrative golf magazine market is already saturated with a great number of free regional publications piled high in the clubhouses each month for members to take away.

This new golf monthly will be sold off the bookstalls and comes from the publishers of Angling Times the leading group in the fishing magazine market, and is aimed at the amateur player.

Bill Robertson, currently the Editor of Golf Illustrated will head the editorial team and moves into the Editor's chair on 30th November.

NEWS 4

Five Weeks Work - Without Pay!

Would any golf course care to offer a five week working experience to a keen, 6' 3" German Schoolboy from Hamburg, who has set his heart on joining the profession?

Seventeen-year-old Franz Bach lives alongside a new course at Grambek, owned by his family where he spends all his spare time assisting on the course. He is already experienced in many aspects of golf course maintenance, but wants to come to Britain during his summer holidays to work alongside greenstaff, particularly on green's maintenance.

Franz is not looking for any payment, though if a club would care to make some contribution to his living costs, he no doubt, would be very grateful.

This is an excellent opportunity for a club to benefit from the services of a most willing extra hand during the height of the season and at the same time give him valuable experience in our greenkeeping techniques.

Golf is steeped in the family. His sister plays for Hamburg and his Mother has represented West Germany.

Offers to either the Editor of Golf Greenkeeping (0937 63181 or through a London based friend of the family Mr. John Schouw, 39, Holly Tree Close, Inner Park Road, Wimbledon, SW19. Tel: (01 686) 4411.

NEWS 5

Polymark Beaver Take-Over

F. H. Tomkins P.L.C., the industrial management company, has acquired Polymark Beaver Equipment Ltd., manufacturers of professional and commercial grass cutting equipment.

Tomkins already owns Hayters P.L.C. and this new acquisition will compliment the current range of Hayters' rotary grass cutters. It will significantly strengthen Tomkins' position in the professional lawnmarket and further establish its products overseas, particularly in America.

Recently, Tomkins have invested more than £1m in improved production facilities at Hayters' Bishop's Stortford factory and this will benefit the combination of Hayter and Beaver and aid the strengthening of distribution arrangements.

Greg Hutchings, Chief Executive of Tomkins, said,

"We are very pleased to be making this infill acquisition which will complement and extend our already strong position in the lawnmower market. It clearly demonstrates our commitment to developing and expanding our existing business".

F. H. Tomkins recently made unsuccessful overtures to Britain's biggest grass cutting company - Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, and this take-over of Polymark Beaver confirms their determination to gain a sizeable piece of the turf maintenance market.

NEWS 6



Natalie Devlin, the 1986 Miss Scotland, with the Ryder Cup on display on the United Distillers stand at the CBI Conference and Exhibition in Glasgow. Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky, one of United Distillers' leading brands sponsored the European Ryder Cup team which won the tournament in September for the first time on American soil.

NEWS 7

New Finance Package for Kubota Machinery

Under the new arrangement, Kubota's full range of machinery - tractors, grass mowers, backhoes and rotary cultivators - can be funded by an operating lease, which involves paying a fixed monthly or annual rental, enabling easier forward budgeting and improved cash flow.

In addition, Kubota equipment accessories can be included in the agreement, which can also cover all major services, maintenance and repairs. In cases of extended breakdown replacement machines are provided. A set of replacement tyres are also included in the agreement.

A new finance scheme - 'Kubotaplan' - aimed specifically at the grass maintenance market has been launched by Highland Leasing Ltd, the UK's leading agricultural finance house, in conjunction with Kubota (UK) Ltd.

NEWS 8

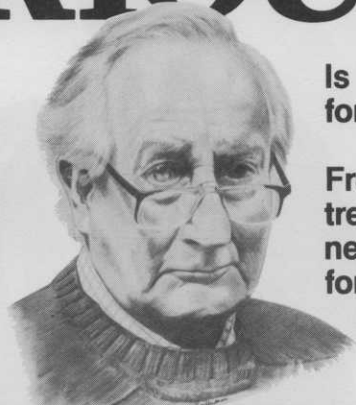
➔ **Weather-matic** ➔ **Prime**
 successful turf watering
 need new equipment to up-date your system —

WANGFORD · BECCLES · SUFFOLK NR34 8AX
 TELEPHONE (050 278) 481 · TELEX 975731 PRIME G

THE IRRIGATORS

CURIOUSER

and



Is this the way forward for Golf Course Architecture?

Fred Hawtree looks at current trends in the confection of new courses and yearns for a classical revival.

CURIOUSER

They are at it again, as you have no doubt noticed. I refer to professional golfers. In times gone, they designed the world's earliest golf courses. Then, as the purses got bigger, they concentrated on their own game while Colt, Alison, Morrison, Simpson, Mackenzie, Mackenzie Ross and many others, all amateurs, developed a profession and set out a few rules on how to do it best. Now, just when the purses, the prizes, the sponsorships, and the rewards for endorsing somebody's tee shirt have anything up to five noughts on the price tag, the pro's are back with a vengeance and a few more noughts are being added to the price of today's new lay-outs.

Well, it's a free country with a market economy and we all like to see our lads doing well even if we ourselves pay for it in the end. But I am bothered by those extra noughts and by some of the reasons for them appearing on the bill. There is no need for me to declare an interest as we of riper years can rise entirely above all that is petty, envious or malicious and pass on to you the pure distillation of half a century's experience without fear or favour.

Let's first take a look at where all these extra noughts on the cost of today's golf courses are coming from.

First of all, the top names in any sort of job do not come cheap. The sportsman probably comes less cheaply still because he only has about twenty years to turn it into cash. Fortunately in golf, the Seniors' Circuit will now help him to prolong the season but the principle remains the same. The best hay is made before the seedheads start to appear.

But then a name in itself is not an isolated item on the bill. It has to be emphasised, publicised and maximised. This process, besides requiring more payouts, involves other insidious erosions of the bank balance. To justify an expensive intervention, the design of the golf course spreads a nasty rash over the countryside. This will be due to so much sand, so much water, so many rockeries or so many mini-mountains that the visual effect is outlandish: One used to be able to describe a layout in broad terms as 'links', or 'park' or 'heath'. Not any more. Eager to engrave a strong signature on a piece of ground which he may well only see two or three times in his life because he has little time to spare from other commitments, your 'professional' golf course designer will do his damndest to ensure that, when the dust settles, the result is as unlike any other golf course as he can make it, except for the number of holes. (And I am not so sure that even the mystical figure 18 is sacrosanct any more).

The result will be interesting though puzzling for archaeologists in the 25th century but not always much fun to play in this one. And expensive.... just listen to this. In order to transform a little piece of Britain into a displaced section of the Gobi Desert, the first thing these rascals do is strip the top-soil off something like 50 acres. It may be 100 in practice but 50 will do to start with. Now this morning at 10.00 a.m. the price of this operation by your friendly contractor was 25p per square metre. A quick sum in your head which you have probably done by now, turns 50 acres into 20 hectares so you do not need me to tell you that those mounds of

earth all over the place cost $200,000\text{m}^2 \times \text{£}0.25 = \text{£}50,000$ to put there. Another quick calculation suggests that when we spread all that top-soil out again, we shall be spending another £50,000 on top of the first. And now we can start building the golf course. So it's no wonder the green-fee has to be £25 and upwards and you can't always get a comfortable round.

But don't rush off to get your clubs yet. There is more - much more. All those exotic earthworks have got to be maintained because they don't really belong in their new situation and do not easily adapt to our native routine. I am indebted to Donald Steel, current Chairman of the British Association of Golf Course Architects who ferreted out the vital figures while he was covering the Ryder Cup at Muirfield Village

for 'The Sunday Telegraph'. 'The reason', his article concluded Muirfield Village's condition was so perfect is its maintenance budget of \$850,000 a year, including salaries for 43 greenkeepers to give it tender, loving care'.

See what I mean? A whole new golf course every twelve months.

He also said that it was a mistake to compare any aspect of American and British golf. I am not so sure about that if they are attacking us in our own back-yard although the general premise is very true. It has taken at least fifty years to get rid of the image of golf as a rich man's game. Then just as it is finally shed, along come **super-luxe** developments which risk putting it out of reach of the new wave of enthusiasts. What we really need is more developments along





Above:
Severiano Ballesteros, another pro golfer 'architect' involved with Dave Thomas at Westerwood, Scotland.



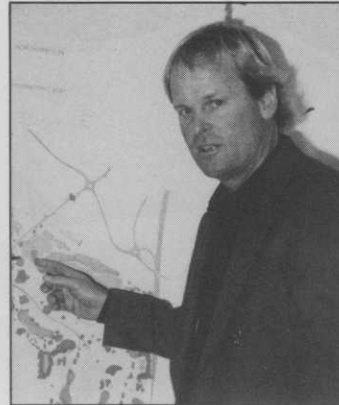
Left:
Jack Nicklaus at St. Mellion's; sculptured by bulldozer from the farmland of the Bond family and forests of the Duke of Cornwall's Estate.

the lines of the Hoebridge Golf Centre near Woking in Surrey. Here the beginner will find a Driving Range, Par 3 Course, a full 18 holes, with another 9 holes Intermediate Course under construction. All these are served by central club-house facilities which are more than adequate and probably a great deal better than most private clubs. This development is only a few years old but serves a very wide spectrum and none are put off by the cost.

But cost is not the only danger. The greatest growth industry of recent years has been the departments of planning allied to conservation. Since they really started to flex their muscles, it has become more and more tricky steering a new project through the early stages and making sure that all the authorities,

associations, societies, residents and pressure groups who might be remotely interested have all been consulted and persuaded that the proposed golf course will not ruin the view, will not result in an increase of traffic hazards, will not destroy the badger's favourite habitat, will not destroy the last breeding ground of the natterjack toad, and might even give a few hundred people the chance to join in the hitherto limited appreciation of these desirable features. It may sound impossible but that can still be done. But we shall be wasting our time if we turn loose many more American professionals who presumably twist the arms of the tame designers standing in their shadow in order to achieve the shock novelty they need to get their brain-child into the limelight.

Another sobering thought occurs to me - this anonymous character in the background who draws the plans and instructs the contractor between the annual visits of his overlord. Who is the real designer? The pro? Or the chap who sweats it out on the site? The wheel has come full circle. When James Braid or Harry Vardon used to



JOHNNY MILLER

lay out a golf course in a day's visit, it was the greenkeeper or local contractor who had to make it work afterwards. And very little credit he got for it. It was not such a big deal in those days. But now that a new project needs the full publicity treatment to create maximum 'impact' why do we never hear the name of the man who is doing the real work while the big name poses for 'pix' holding a spade, of all unlikely implements. They simply don't use them any more. (If you find this scenario a trifle far-fetched, turn back to a recent issue of this magazine for confirmation...

And still another thing. If the invisible man is clever enough to translate a few lordly waves of the hand in between air-port transfers, why does he not put his own signature on the result? He certainly deserves as big a medal as the part-time pro. Most ghost writers in golfing literature (With one possible exception) get a mention in such titles as "The Day I won the Open" by Fred Hawtree with Joe Bloggs'."

This does not mean that they have changed the format of the Open Championship to Foursomes. It only indicates that I made a few off the cuff comments to Joe B. (God bless him), on the way to the locker-room and that he then went off home with his tape-recorder and turned them into a book for me after a modest amount of research. You can always tell the 'with' books because they never quite get rid of the chatty style of the original tape with its endless 'you know's', 'You see's', and 'However's' but they certainly earn their cut. So does the man standing behind the Big Name. I therefore hope that we shall see the layouts of the next decade being designed by Ben Nickler **WITH** Caspar Weinberger or whoever else they take under their wing.

I also hope that the promoter ensures that the end-result of their operations will bear some resemblance to the original landscape and derive its special quality from its own surroundings and internal features. He will find this cheaper, the planners will be less suspicious, the populace will be less aggressive, and we shall be able to play a round on it without budgeting in three figures.

In case you are still not convinced, look around your own county and select the course which you judge to be the most generally popular. Then try to judge the extent to which that popularity is derived from what was there before they built the course and is still there afterwards. With the long winter evenings on the way, play this game in other counties too. Send me your nominations and we will see if we agree. My theory is that the less you see of the architect's work the better the course. That is not to say he has not put his heart and soul into it. He has. But he has used the site as his fourth dimension not as a means to expressing bizarre theories.

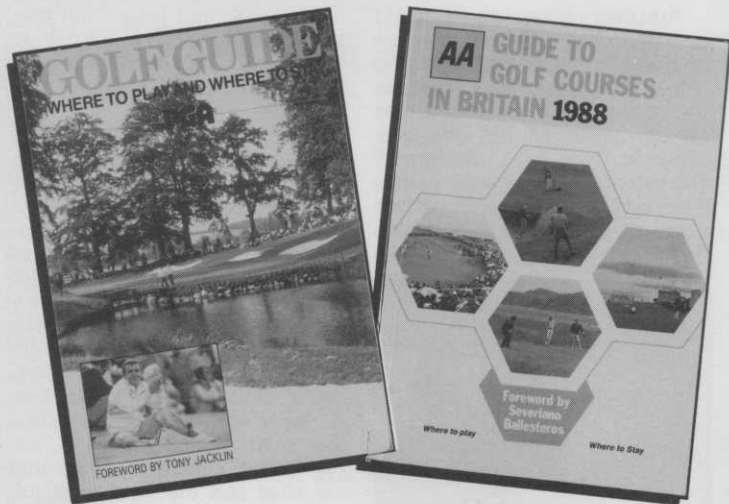
FEATURE 2

TO GET YOU GOING, HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LIST:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Yorkshire | Ganton |
| Lincolnshire | Woodhall Spa |
| Norfolk | Brancaster (? I don't know it myself) |
| Suffolk | Ipswich G.C. (Purdis Heath) |
| Essex (?) | (I'm open to suggestions) |
| Kent | Knole Park |
| East Sussex | Crowborough Beacon |
| West Sussex | Pulborough |
| Hampshire.... O.K., now you take over | |

Greenkeepers — Why don't we take a leaf from the leading golf publications and compile our list of top ten natural courses?

*Pick your ten in order of merit and send to:
The Editor, Golf Greenkeeping, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, W. Yorks.
The Results will be published in 1988*



Guides to the Golf Courses in Britain

Two new guides to the golf courses in Britain will hit the bookstalls in time for the Christmas stocking.

The AA Guide to Golf Courses in Britain and the PGA - Golf Guide - Where to Play and Where to Stay

Price wise, the best value for money is undoubtedly the PGA Guide, offering 364 pages of information for £3.95. The AA Guide has 268 pages and costs £7.95.

This year's eleventh issue of Where to Play and Where to Stay contains a wealth of information not only listing every golf course in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, but each section of the country is introduced by a leading provincial golf writer who has used his local knowledge to introduce the 'little gems' in his region. The golf courses that may not be to championship standard but are nevertheless a joy to play.

So many golfers set off on a golfing holiday with only the big names in mind and miss out a nearby 18 holes of golfing paradise known only to the locals.

As an example it is worth quoting Tony Garnett, the Sports Editor of the East Anglian Daily Times a self confessed long handicapper, who admits to knowing as much about the rough on most East Anglian courses as he does the fairways.

"The golfer who sets up base in West Suffolk is also well catered for with well designed parkland courses. My favourite is the nine hole course at Flempton, which I enjoy even more than the more famous Royal Worlington, which is less than half an hour away. Flempton has 91 bunkers which must be something of a record and they give visitors a warm welcome....."

Discussing Barnham Broom he says the course is notable for its rivers and lakes, some of which are quite deep. *"The last time I was there I heard a bit of a commotion behind the reeds in one of the ponds. I supposed it was a swan, but to my surprise a diver, fully equipped for the job started to emerge from the water. He threw a bag of balls onto the steeply sloping bank and there was nothing he could do as they rolled, one by one, back into the deep muddy water!"*

Similar articles prefacing the sections are included from such notable journalists as John Drake from the Yorkshire Evening Post, golf writers John Reece in the West Country, Bob Jenkins of the Scottish Sunday Post, Brian Barron, Northampton Chronicle and Echo and Chris Smart, Welsh correspondent for the Western Mail.

This golf guide with a forward by Europe's Ryder Cup Captain, Tony Jacklin is excellent value for money and an essential reference for any golfer tempted to stray from his home course.

Although the AA Guide lists the British Golf Course alphabetically it was puzzling to discover they have completely ignored those in Northern Ireland, particularly as the main article, by that doyen of golf writers Peter Dobereiner, occupies nine pages telling the reader what a marvellous golfing experience awaits one in the Emerald Isle.

Perhaps the AA are producing a supplement for their members. If not there is always Where to Play and Where to Stay to refer to for details!

TECHNICAL 2



Require a HEAD GREENKEEPER

to take over the management of their 18 hole course

He will require a knowledge of man management, machinery maintenance, turf management and all associated course problems

Accommodation is available for the successful applicant

Written application with full details of age, experience and qualifications etc. to:

**The Secretary,
LINGFIELD PARK GOLF CLUB
Lingfield Park, Racecourse Road,
Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6PQ**

ENVILLE GOLF CLUB

Require a Head Greenkeeper

Applications are invited from experienced persons with suitable qualifications and a thorough knowledge of course management and machinery maintenance, combined with proven man management ability

Written applications with full C.V. to:

**The Secretary Manager
ENVILLE GOLF CLUB,
Highgate Common,
Enville,
Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY7 5BN**