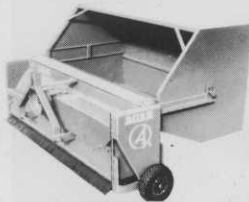


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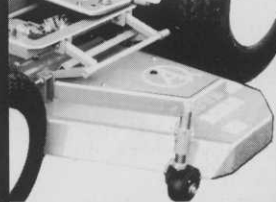
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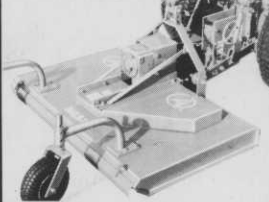
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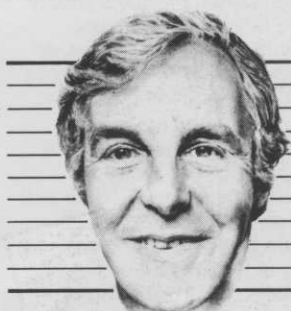
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John Lelean

MOPPING UP AT ROYAL LYTHAM

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham more than lived up to its reputation of providing one of the finest spectacles of competition, equalling, on the postponed final day, the classic Turnberry shoot-out of 1977, between Nicklaus and Watson.

Our congratulations go to Severiano Ballesteros for providing one of the most exciting climaxes to golf's major event and to his runner-up Nick Price.

Ballesteros not only showed he is the finest and most consistent golfer in the world, but his relaxed manner despite the tensions, showed through to bring smiles not only on his own face, but to the thousands lucky enough to have a grandstand seat at Royal Lytham.

With over 700 press representatives every possible word has been squeezed out of the golf, but it is this magazine's pleasant duty to say Royal Lytham could have been a disaster, were it not for the voluntary work from an army of greenkeepers, who by their efforts cleared the flooded course after Saturday's minor monsoon.

Throughout the five days of the competition, greenstaff from all over the country and even

from Sweden and Australia were engaged in bunker raking duties. They had given up part of their holidays to be there assisting Jimmy McDonald, Royal Lytham's Head Greenkeeper, with the demanding job of keeping the championship links in pristine condition.

When the heavens opened, the deluge that followed flooded greens, tees and fairways and although there is no accurate measurement of the rain that fell, it is estimated well over 2 inches saturated the course over a 12 hour period on top of a massive downpour on the Tuesday night.

The Fylde coast does not have a reputation for July rain so it was understandable that the mechanics for removing surplus water were not readily to hand. Into the breach stepped David Palmer from Supaturf who despatched son Marcus, through the night with 40 squeegee mops so that greenkeepers were prepared to commence mopping up operations at first light on Sunday morning.

Not only did they have the greens ready for play, but all the bunkers were re-raked to put back the sand washed off the faces.

R & A Secretary, Michael Bonallack, told *Golf Greenkeeping* "The members of the Greenkeepers Association did a magnificent job and without their efforts it is doubtful whether we could have re-started the Championship even at the later time of 11.15 am. The 6.45 am planned start was just impossible."

"They accompanied every match to maintain the bunkers so the caddies were relieved of the responsibility."

BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas said the Association provided all the volunteer greenstaff with light blue wet suits with the BIGGA insignia and blue shirts with the Association logo. The objective was to present the right image which he felt sure had been achieved.

Next year, added Neil Thomas, we intend to improve still further the greenkeepers' service to the Open Championship by organising additional help on the practice days when players take the opportunity to play a succession of sand shots.

There is nothing quite like the Open Championship and Greenkeepers can feel proud they are contributing so much to its success.

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News . . News . . News . . News .

Greenkeepers Exhibition at Harrogate Next Year

Plans are well in hand to mount the European Turf Managers' Exhibition in the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate over three days, on the 18th-20th January, 1989.

This exhibition, sponsored by the recently formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, will be the first major event under the auspices of the new Association.

As well as Executive Director Neil Thomas and two greenkeepers, David Golding and Arnold Phipps-Jones, Doug Partridge from the English Bowling Association has been invited to join the steering committee, together with five leading members of the turfgrass industry.

They are Keith Cleverley - ICI, David Palmer - Supaturf, John Hinton - BASF, Richard Bishop - Ransomes and Graham Dale - Lely (UK) Ltd.

In addition to the expected numerous stands in the spacious exhibition centre a series of seminars are planned in conjunction with the Sports Turf Research Institute, the National Turfgrass Council, the English Bowling Union and various Colleges specialising in turfgrass education.

Although the event is aimed primarily at greenkeepers, cricket and football clubs, bowling clubs and the amenity managers in local authorities in the UK, a trade mission from West Germany have already indicated they will attend. Their visit is sponsored by the British Lawnmower Manufacturers' Federa-

tion. Harrogate is regarded as almost the centre of Britain, being almost equi-distant between London and Edinburgh. The local authority have set out to make the town one of the most prestigious conference centres in the country by providing not only expansive exhibition facilities, but backing this with a concert hall attracting international entertainers.

Accommodation covers the complete range from top hotels to ample bed and breakfast facilities for as little as £10.00 a night, all within easy walking distance of the exhibition centre.

And as for eating out, the gourmets will not find anything to surpass the standards of Yorkshire food, whether it is in the specialist sea-food restaurants, Cantonese, Chinese or down to earth meat and two veg in the friendly inns.

There is also a steak house serving 3lb T-Bones and if you can eat it in an hour, the proprietor will give you your money back!

Entry to the exhibition will be by a widely distributed ticket list, non ticket holders will pay a nominal charge at the door to include the cost of a catalogue.

Further details of this major event will be published in forthcoming issues.

Japanese Tea House Bunkered by Villagers

Frustrated Japanese golfers in Britain who have found it difficult and in most cases impossible to find a club to accept them into membership in the golf starved areas of the Home Counties, now face further opposition to their plan to build their own course in Denham, Buckinghamshire.

Proposals to construct a course with a Japanese style club-house by converting a grade 2 listed building on 300 acres of farm and parkland near

the village has raised a storm of protests from local residents who include veteran film actor Sir John Mills.

Bucks County Council had all but accepted the scheme from the giant Kajima Corporation which would have given the growing Japanese community in the London area an outlet for their golfing activities, but now it looks as if the scheme will be further delayed for planning appeals.

Bingley Director invited to sit on USA Research Committee

Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley has been invited by the United States Golf Association Green Section to sit on their Turfgrass Research Committee. Dr. Hayes will be attending their next meeting which will be held in Portland, Oregon from July 11th to 14th 1988. The Committee will be discussing the research programme of the USGA with particular reference to their currently financed turfgrass breeding programme. A considerable amount of time

will be spent in the Committee sessions reviewing proposals and planning research funding recommendations for 1989.

Dr. Hayes in a statement said "This is the first time a research worker from outside the USA has been invited to sit on the USGA's Research Committee and it is a great honour to the Institute that the Director has been chosen to sit on this prestigious Committee. The invitation reflects the increased golf research work being carried out at Bingley".

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A GROWING, BUT CURABLE PROBLEM

The Editor examines a subject many would rather ignore — MENTAL ILLNESS.

If there is one sickness affecting a large number of the population, but regarded as unmentionable, other than in derisive or jocular terms, it is mental illness.

It can affect workers in every type of occupation and applies equally to those with an outdoor job as it does to those confined to the office or factory.

The Health and Safety Executive whose work is well known in the field of industrial safety have recently published guidelines to employers highlighting the tell-tale signs that managers should be aware of so they can take action before the illness becomes chronic.

Golf Greenkeeping is aware of a case, where a member of greenstaff, showed all the classic symptoms of depression. His colleagues suspected that he had problems, but they did not appreciate just how desperate he had become, or how they could help him.

He was well-liked, had served the club for a number of years, was a reliable worker, but quiet and withdrawn. A bit of a "loner", said one of his work-mates.

When he failed to arrive at work one Monday morning, they were not too concerned, but after he missed the next day without even a telephone call, colleagues did become worried and called at his house. The milk was on the step, the curtains drawn and there was no reply to their knocking.

Eventually the police were called, the house broken into and another case of suicide became the subject of a Coroner's Inquest.

The greenstaff and club officials were absolutely shattered. Why did it happen? They knew he had been

somewhat withdrawn of late, but he was financially secure, had no money worries, was a single man without any responsibilities and appeared to be fit and healthy. There seemed to be no logical reason for him to take his own life.

Mental illness is of course illogical, which is the main reason why those who do not suffer from mental stress and depression cannot appreciate the torment endured by the growing number of people who do.

The individual may not be aware that all is not well, but those who work with him certainly will. The signs all relate to changes in a pattern of behaviour such as:-

Irritability, quick tempered flare-ups.

Resentment of advice and constructive criticism.

Being unsociable and withdrawn.

Consistent late arrival at work.

Failing to carry out instructions.

Deterioration in personal appearance.

Involvement in minor accidents.

Increasing consumption of alcohol, cigarettes and coffee.

Trivial excuses for absence from work.

In extreme cases the distress is shown by uncontrollable weeping, the smell of alcohol taken before coming to work and a sense of hopelessness shown by an inability to cope with even the simplest tasks.

If those in a management role suspect all is not well with an individual, they have a responsibility to face the problem head on. It is no use ignoring the situation, hoping it will cure itself.

The first step is to adopt a sympathetic approach and

encourage the colleague to talk about his problems, but obviously away from the ears of others. Often reassurance about job security helps, but it is essential he is promised the confidentiality of any discussions about personal problems — and that promise is kept.

The manager's job is to persuade his staff member to seek medical advice. To go to his doctor, who will diagnose the extent of his illness and perhaps refer him to a specialist for treatment.

If this does not succeed, then he must be told, his illness is causing concern and

will be referred up the management chain to senior officials, who will need to contact his doctor direct.

Mental illness can be cured in exactly the same way as other illnesses, provided prompt treatment is given. A cut finger is stitched, a broken leg re-set. In the same way stress and depression can be treated and the patient restored to full health.

Mental anguish is hell for the sufferer, but it is others who must recognise the symptoms and act with a positive approach of compassion and sympathetic understanding.

TORO CONTRACT HIRE PLAN

The TORO Company has just introduced a Contract Hire Plan which is available on all their Groundmaster product range. This will be of particular interest to local Authorities because it will allow them to fund grass cutting machinery from annual revenue budgets as opposed to capital budgets.

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TORO say it is their intention to extend the scheme to other products ranges in the future.

Further and more detailed information can be obtained from any TORO appointed dealer or from Graham Dale, TORO Sales Manager, Lely (UK) Ltd, Station Road, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 1QH. Telephone 0480 76971.

COURSES IN TURF MANAGEMENT

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three courses at Bingley in autumn 1988 on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last five days (Monday to Friday) and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilizers and machinery. The commencing dates are 17th October,

24th October and 31st October. The fee is £100 for members and £120 for non members plus VAT (exclusive of accommodation and meals).

Further details from the Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Telephone Bradford (0274) 565131.

EXPANSION FOR TORO DISTRIBUTOR

The Cheshire based Toro distributor, Turf Irrigation Services, headed by genial Robin Hume, the well-known northern irrigation specialist, has amalgamated with Golf Landscapes to provide a centralised design and maintenance service for Toro Irrigation.

Golf Landscapes run by the Dunning brothers, Bob and Peter, will concentrate on the construction side of their business, plus the contracting of irrigation and TIS will handle the specialist equipment.

TIS, working through regional agents, cover East Anglia, the south East, the Midlands and north into Scotland.

Robin Hume told *Golf Greenkeeping* by centralising the spares and administration at Sandbach, they can offer a 24 hour service and in an emergency the time lag can be reduced to 12 hours.

Robin now has four or five designers, based in Cheshire, with Graham Francis covering the South and South East and

Jim Clowes responsible for the Midlands, North and North West as area managers.

This move establishes Turf Irrigation Services as the largest Toro Area Distributor in the U.K. By absorbing the Golf Landscapes Sales territory, TIS now represents Toro Irrigation products in England from the South Midlands northwards. They are also responsible for Scotland and Wales.

Bob and Peter Dunning, founder directors of Golf Landscapes are very happy with this new arrangement. The growth in both landscape and golf course construction contracts has been so dramatic during the past five years they need to concentrate our experts and energies in those markets.

Golf landscapes will continue to provide irrigation system installation and maintenance services but will be working hand-in-hand with TIS.

Robin Hume, has known and worked with both Bob and Peter for many years.



New partners! Robin Hume (centre), director Turf Irrigation Services (Sandbach) with Bob and Peter Dunning, founder directors, Golf Landscapes, Brentwood.

They were all involved in the recent Penina (Portugal) Golf Course contract and as a result discussed the advantages of pooling their resources by consolidating efforts in the U.K. turf irrigation market.

Peter Roberts, General Man-

ager, Toro Irrigation Limited is delighted with the arrangement. He said "Bob, Peter and Robin are dedicated professionals in the sports turf business. Between them, they will provide the 'tools' to take us into the nineties and maximise Toro service."

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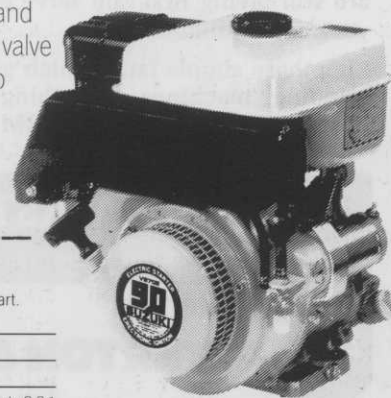


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ROYAL LYTHAM

Royal Lytham, the 870 member club at the posher end of Blackpool has attracted considerable criticism as a venue for the Open Championship since its popularity has attracted increasing crowds for the event.

Over the nine days including the practice sessions 205,285 turned up to break the previous record attendance at St. Andrews in 1984 by 12,000. This figure is 70,000 up on the 1979 Championship.

As a test of golf Royal Lytham is superb for both the amateur and the professional, its main drawback is the lack of space for the now necessary tented village and hospitality accommodation.

Better car parking needed if Royal Lytham is to stage the open again.

These were squeezed into the land adjoining the course, but without doubt it is the car parking that causes the organisers the greatest problem. Although the R & A say the thousands of visitors don't mind walking two miles to the course a great number believe this aspect of the event needs considerable improvement.

Having paid £2 to park the car a hike across a roped off walk way littered with cow pats, that no one had bothered to clear up is not the best start to a day out. Buses were said to be available, but only for the aged and infirm and few would admit to either.

At Royal Birkdale car parking is provided well away from the course, but an excellent shuttle bus service operates continuously, keeping traffic congestion well away from the entrances and ad-

BRITISH AND NOW ON

The golfing season has so far provided some of the most memorable golf ever (and in the UK, the wettest weather too!). Three of the world's four major tournaments have now taken place and each has produced classic golf and nail-biting finishes.

International Sport Showcase has already released a video of Sandy Lyle's unforgettable triumph in the US Masters and on August 19th delivers two more essential items for golf fans — The 1988 British Open and The 1988 US Open.

The US Open took place in glorious sunshine at The Country Club, Brookline, Massachusetts between 16th and 19th June. It was another example of European golf's ascendance with our own Nick Faldo battling neck-and-neck with America's Curtis Strange.

Still level after 72 holes, Faldo and Strange continued their

joining properties.

It is certain Royal Lytham will remain on the Championship list if the members have a say in the matter. They are quite prepared to sacrifice their golf for weeks for the honour of five days in the spotlight.

Royal Lytham also has a superb recovery capability. Within a week or so the course was back to its best with only some of the cross over points showing signs of wear and despite the beating down of the turf new grass is already showing through.

Later in the season, Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy McDonald will put the verti-drain across the fairways to relieve compaction and let the sites off the course area recuperate naturally.

LYTHAM 'OPEN' REVIEW

THE US OPEN ON VIDEO

titanic struggle into an 18 hole play-off, from which Strange finally emerged victorious.

In between the rainstorms at Royal Lytham and St. Anne's recently, The British Open produced some electrifying golf, highlighted by Seve Ballesteros's spectacular final round of 65 — equalling the course record — which won him the coveted title.

His tussle with Zimbabwe's Nick Price during that last round (on the Monday due to Saturday's play being abandoned) was an epic with Price matching Ballesteros's outrageous stroke-play right up until the last couple of holes. Vintage golf!

Both titles retail for just £9.99 and will give viewers a second chance to see an 'Open' duel to match the classic Watson v Nicklaus shoot-out at Turnberry in 1977.



Ballesteros nurses the Open Trophy for the second successive time at Royal Lytham.

Accrington Greenkeeper qualifies for the Open

Trevor Foster, Accrington's 28 year old Head Greenkeeper, finally made the Open Championship on his fourth attempt to qualify, but it was his young caddy who grabbed the headlines.

Foster, the Lancashire amateur champion pre-qualified at Ormskirk with a round of 72, then made second place in the final qualifier at Blackpool North Shore.

Although he failed to make the cut he did have the unique distinction of heading the leader board for a fleeting moment on the opening day as one of the early starters and his first day score of 74 looked good enough

to keep him in the hunt.

Unfortunately a second round of 79 scuppered his chances and he missed the cut by five shots, though so did Peter Baker, winner of this year's Benson & Hedges and other such famous names like Raymond Floyd, Hal Sutton, Tony Jacklin, Mark Calcavecchia and Australian David Graham.

Foster's caddy, 14 year old Ryan Done was so keen to carry the bag for Trevor he issued an ultimatum to his parents who wanted him to join them on a holiday in France. — "If you insist, I will run away from home", he told them.

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News . . News . . News . . News .

Golden Rollers Midnight Dash



Royal Lytham's Head Greenkeeper Jimmy McDonald controlled the team that saved the Open from a 'watery end'.

If Bernard Shaw had been at Lytham St. Annes in July he might have coined a different phrase for Liza Dolittle, he certainly would not have said "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain."

As the rain intensified on the fourth day, play was at first suspended then abandoned because greenstaff could not cope with the flooded greens with the equipment available.

There were two squeegees in the sheds, but these could not combat the standing water which in a couple of hours had turned the course into a gigantic duckpond.

Manfully the greenstaff wielded the timed honoured implement, the back of a rake, much to the disgust of a

number of competitors, particularly the American contingent used to more sophisticated equipment, both mechanical and automatic.

Hubert Green had completed seven holes before play was suspended and was none too pleased when he was informed his efforts were to be struck from the record.

Not many of us would be, if we had started 3-3-3-3-3-4-4, carding five birdies and two pars. Our own "Woosie" was very vocal in his criticism when he was recalled at the eighth after shooting a birdie and an eagle to pull back three shots. He said if the right equipment had been available the Championship could have continued.

A letter published in the na-

tional press from the Chairman of Swindon Golf Club, near Dudley was in similar vein. He suggested the pictures of greenstaff removing water with rakes was totally degrading and not at all representative of golf clubs in England.

But to the rescue, came David Palmer, not quite the build of a knight in shining armour and without his trusty steed, but he was able to open up the Supaturf depots to provide 30 Goldline Roller Squeegees and rush them through the night to arm the waiting volunteers.

Mopping up continued all morning until play recommenced at 11.15am, but then, like most emergency equipment, it stayed in the

sheds for the last two days as the sun broke through to dry out the links.

Supaturf picked up a £1,500 order from the R & A and a great deal of international publicity, though it is not true that David Palmer has invoked the Rain Gods to give us the wettest summer for a hundred years.

As much as we regret embarrassing Michael Bonalack, who has been extremely gracious in his praise of the Greenkeepers Association his quote on the eve of the championship is worth repeating — "Here there won't be the problem of play being interrupted by rain — like Wimbledon!"