

# GOLF COURSE

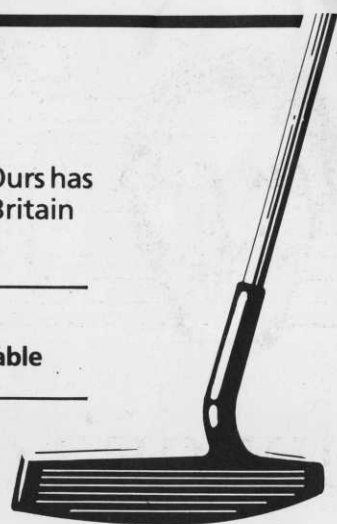
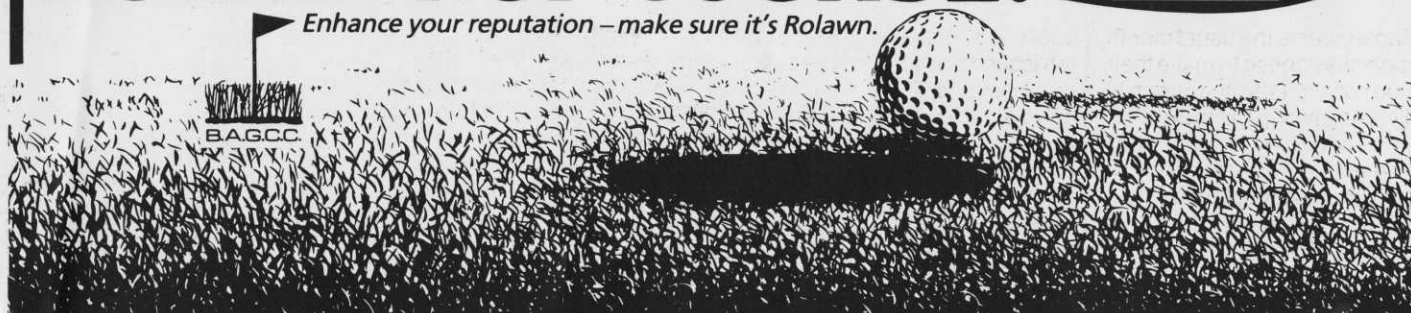
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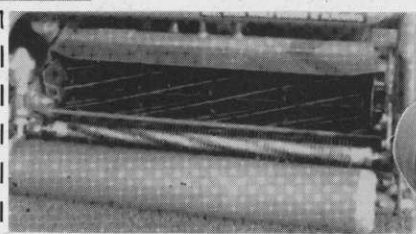
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# Greenside Comment...



Editor & Publisher:  
**JOHN LELEAN**

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Graphics & Design:  
**David Young**

## MERGER OF MAJOR TITLES

September is the usual month companies choose to make their announcements to the amenity turf press about product innovations, takeover bids, staff changes or other news likely to attract immediate attention from the ferreting scribes at Windsor's Sports and Leisure Exhibition.

This year the roles were reversed and it is the publishers themselves who created the talking point of the Show.

Golf Greenkeeping, published for the past six years, by Wharfedale Publications Ltd. will be amalgamated with The Golf Course, the official publication of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, with effect from the November issue.

This rationalisation has been welcomed by both the Executive and Directors of BIGGA, as well as manufacturers and distributors of golf course equipment in Britain.

It is seen as a major step forward for the developing Greenkeepers' Association, as The Golf Course will now be

published monthly, instead of ten issues a year. The size of the publication will be greatly increased, regular features and interviews are planned with golf course managers, in depth coverage of current technical subjects, plus all the up-to-date regional news from the North of Scotland to the West Country.

The re-launched magazine will now be published from the same stable as the highly acclaimed Turf Management, steered to success by the one time editor of Golf Greenkeeping, Stanley Ellison.

It is with a great deal of pleasure I can also announce that as part of the agreed merger of Golf Greenkeeping with The Golf Course, I am joining the newly formed publishing company as Executive Editor, to continue the role I have played and so much enjoyed for the past seven years.

It is no exaggeration to say I have made many friends among greenkeepers, manufacturers, agronomists, architects and those in education from literally the four corners of the globe,

since taking over as Editor of Golf Greenkeeping in 1982.

Those who witnessed the television coverage of the European Open at Sunningdale last month could not have failed to be impressed by the truly magnificent presentation of Jack McMillan's rolling acres. Although some may believe the fairies came out of the woods to paint the fairways in green stripes, our readers will realise the dedication and effort that was made to prepare an arena fit for gladiators.

As Course Manager, Jack personally received the accolades, but he is the first to pay tribute to the enthusiasm of his greenstaff, together with the army of volunteers, as well as neighbouring head greenkeepers and the industry who lent equipment. It was a co-ordinated effort in every sense of the word.

To be involved in reporting their achievements is a labour of love and one in which I shall continue to welcome with enthusiasm in the new launch of — The Golf Course.

See you next month . . . . .!

Golf Greenkeeping is a combined subscription and controlled circulation publication for the golf course management industry. Current distribution 2,500 copies per month.

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Front Cover:  
Greenkeepers at the 'Open' with Jimmy McDonald.

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# News . . . News . . . News . . . News .

## Greenkeepers' Association to push forward with Education and Training

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## American Superintendents' Membership tops 8,000

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

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

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

In 1983 GCSAA had fewer than 5,000 members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Scottish golfers on the long road south

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

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

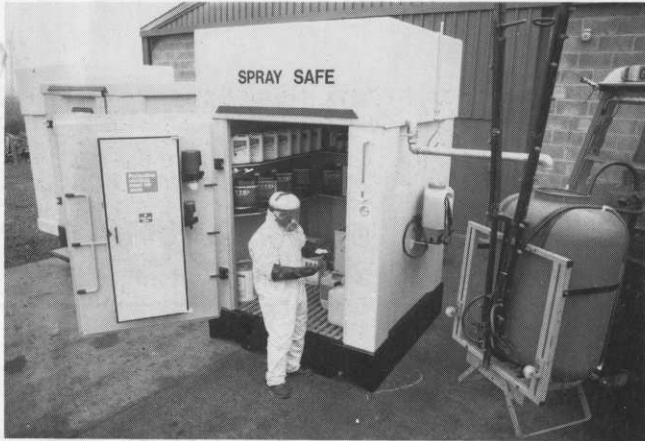
problem was diagnosed in the fuel pump.

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

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

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

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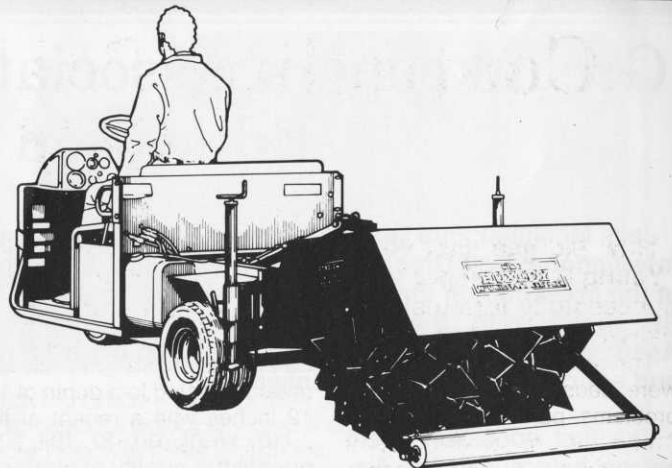


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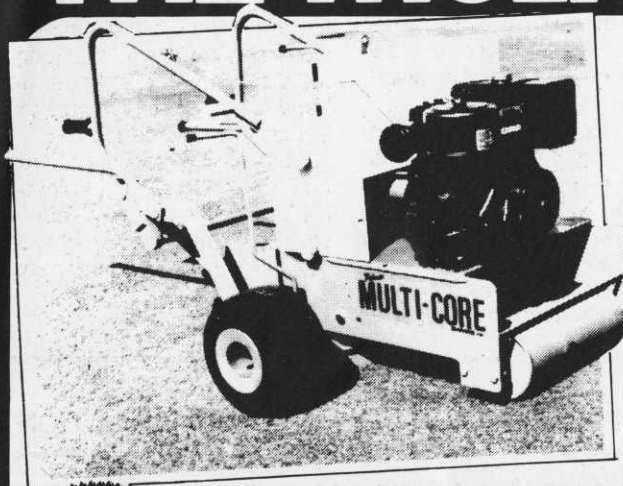
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# News . . News . . News . . News .

## Controlling Poa Annua on a Welsh Golf Course

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

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

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

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

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

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

In September 1986, the Verti-

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Huw Morgan*

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

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

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

I am convinced this combination of intensive aeration, the use

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

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

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

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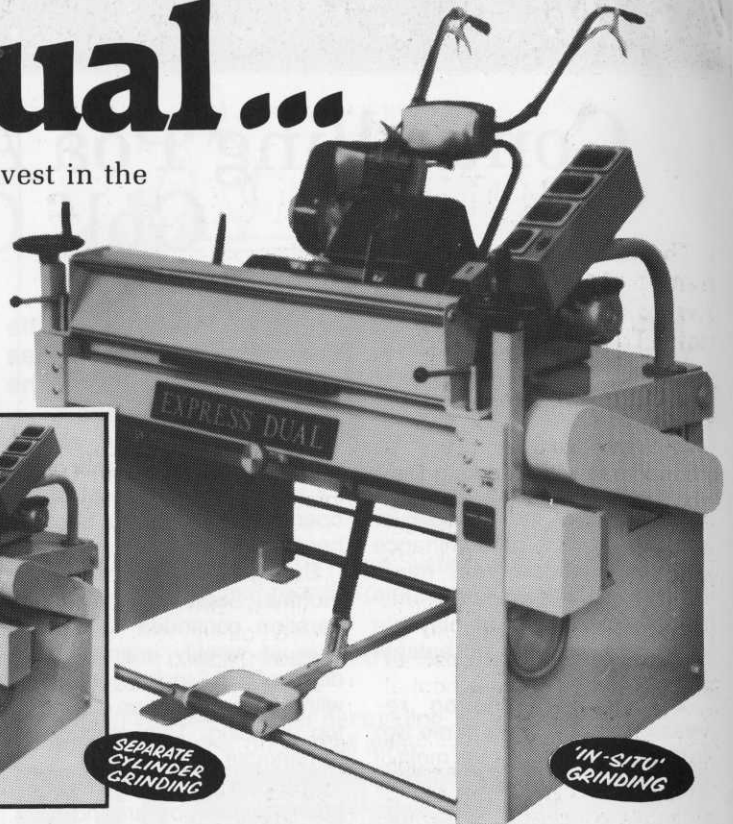
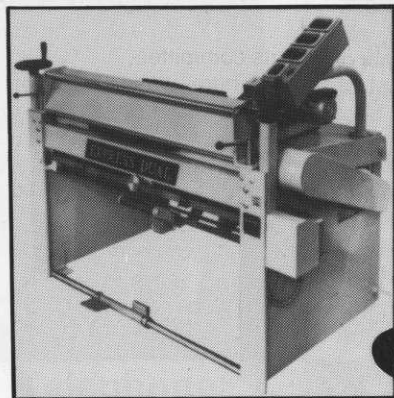
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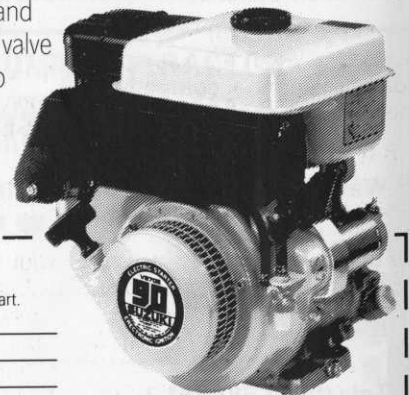


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# News . . News . . News . . News .

## SIXTEEN FINALISTS IN 1988 GROUNDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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

### Young Groundsman of the Year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

man at Birtles Cricket Club, Macclesfield;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Paul Whiting** (22), Assistant

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

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

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

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

## NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL APPEALS FOR MORE PATRONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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