

GOLF

Greenkeeping

and Course Maintenance

James B. Beard

JULY 1981



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The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

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GOLF

Greenkeeping

and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

Britain's leading magazine on golf course management.

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See page 4 for details
about the BGGGA at the
Open.

EDITOR'S NEWS REVIEW

Fendress expand output

The associate company of Banks Horticultural Products, Fen Turf Dressings Ltd who manufacturer golf green top dressing Fendress, have recently acquired additional premises in Northamptonshire to considerably increase production capacity.

The popular demand for this humus based material particularly at peak seasonal times, has made it essential to increase output. The original premises in Norfolk are retained to manufacture Fendress for the South and East, whilst the new depot produces for the North and West.

The new arrangement enables the customer to obtain the best possible price and allows the company to offer Fendress to all parts of the UK mainland.

Fendress will now also be obtainable in pre-packs, thus providing a satisfactory solution to those golf clubs who do not possess storage sheds or are not able to handle bulk material.

Twose turf conditioner

Golf Landscapes Ltd who are specialist constructors of golf courses and playing fields, recently held a demonstration of their new turf conditioning machine.

The equipment that is tractor mounted, consists of a set of seven vibrating mini-mole plough blades at nine inch centres, approximately 12 ins long, which are hydraulically driven by the tractor.

The machine is drawn through the ground at slow speed, penetrating some 6 ins - 8 ins below the surface.

BGGA at the Open

For the first time the BGGA will be on show at the British Open. The stand will be for promotional purposes but all greenkeepers who will be at Sandwich are invited to visit stand No 30 which is located in the greenkeeping section of the main exhibition area.

All members are welcome to use the stand as a meeting point or resting place. Also too we hope the many friends of the BGGA will come along and visit the stand.

We will be promoting the Association with the theme of the stand being the work of the greenkeeper. On display will be photographs of machinery at work on British golf courses as well as recent copies of our official magazine Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance.

The editor of the magazine will be in attendance during the whole of the Open Championship and looks forward to meeting as many of the members as possible.

The mole blades have the effect of shattering the immediate subsurface layers of topsoil and subsoil, so relieving compaction caused by play. The vibratory action, however, means a minimum of disruption to

the playing surface. Additionally, the passage of the blades has the effect of improving surface drainage and aeration to the rootzone.

The treatment is applicable to all sports surfaces likely to become compacted by intensive play; golf courses; particularly around greens and tees and approaches.

Golf Landscapes are offering the service to local authorities and golf clubs throughout the Home Counties as an end of season treatment either by itself or in conjunction with an oversowing programme by contraction.

The service, costing in the region of £100-£180 per acre, is now operational and enquiries should be sent to the Company at Ashwells Road, Bentley, Brentwood, Essex. 0277 73720.

Watermation seminars

I have been taken to task over my recent comment about E.A. Yates holding the first ever educational seminars on irrigation. Watermation tell me they have been holding regular training courses for greenkeepers and groundsmen since 1975 and so far over 500 people have attended these Watermation sponsored events. (Every club or local authority using Watermation systems are invited to send their personnel to attend these seminars.

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GG1

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Ransomes sign up Victa

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rotary mowers sold annually in Australia. Ransomes is confident that this extensive distribution network,

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TORO

More awareness for diesel

The Chancellor's massive Budget Day increases in the cost of petrol has given an unexpected boost to Lincolnshire based Nickerson Turf-master Ltd.

The company, which manufactures professional grass cutting machinery, has received numerous orders and enquiries about the benefits of its diesel-engined Turf-master 84. Operating on untaxed agricultural diesel fuel it now offers considerable cost benefits to

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GG2

economy-conscious ground staff.

As an example, with a full tank of three and a half gallons, and travelling and cutting in second gear at seven mph, the diesel-engined Turfmaster 84 will cover 38 miles and cut 32 acres. Using the same equation the petrol version will travel 20 miles in a straight line and cut only 17 acres.

'Naturally, the equation varies depending on conditions, but diesel engines are more efficient (and more consistent regardless of load) in metering fuel,' explained Graham Templeton, Nickerson Turfmaster's operational manager. 'With untaxed agricultural diesel fuel at around 78 pence a gallon and petrol at around £1.58 a gallon, the immense savings are obvious.'

Running costs per hour for the Turfmaster 84 diesel average 50 pence (the petrol version averages £1.94). Taking a low usage of 500 hours in a season, the saving with diesel is £720 compared with petrol (diesel at £250 and petrol at £970). Considering that the average season, particularly for a busy contractor, is 1,200 hours, the cost savings are even more attractive.

Apart from substantially reduced running costs, diesel engines offer many more advantages. Provided normal preventative maintenance is carried out, a diesel engine will operate for about twice as long (for 3,000 to 5,000 hours) as its petrol equivalent, before a major overhaul is necessary. It has a number of design advantages over the petrol engine and fewer moving parts, resulting in less maintenance and less expensive downtime.

The diesel engine has no troublesome electrics, although there is an efficient electric starter. There are none of the familiar problems of petrol engines, such as poor starting due to condensation on the leads in damp weather.

Although some diesel engines can be more noisy than petrol versions, the new generation 710 Lombardini engine now fitted to the Turfmaster 84 is said to have considerably reduced the difference.

Among its many features the 710 is accurately governed which makes it impossible to exceed 3,000 rpm and thereby cause engine damage. And, unusually for a diesel engine, its fuel injection system is entirely self-bleeding. Put simply, if the engine runs out of fuel all the operator has to do is fill it up—the same as a petrol engine. For conservation-conscious grounds staff, the 710 is ecological too! Exhaust fumes from the engine are completely non-toxic.

READER'S Letters

Comparisons against US costs

When comparisons are made of UK versus USA golfing standards, the financial implications appropriate to the two countries do not in my view receive sufficient emphasis.

The following statistics arising from a survey of 100 clubs in 1979 published in the January edition of 'Grounds Maintenance (USA)' are therefore enlightening:

Survey of 100 clubs (2097 holes)

	Annual cost (\$ per hole)
Payroll expenses	6,048
Payroll taxes and employees benefits	1,087
Course supplies and contracts	1,674
Repairs to equipment and buildings	1,140
Caddy, committee and golf shop expenses	1,901*
Miscellaneous expenses	1,163
	13,013
Medium cost of maintenance per hole excluding*	11,112 (£4,940)
18 hole course	200,020 (£88,900)

The survey was undertaken by Harris, Kerr, Forster and Co, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

It would indeed be interesting to observe how these 1979 figures compare with a Budget 'sample' in the UK, or to learn the observations of those who complain about the rising cost of golf. I believe UK golfers (of which I am one) grossly underestimate the value they derive from their membership.

I imagine the comments of many greenkeepers would also be enlightening!

R C Jennings
Managing Director
Chipman Ltd, Horsham, Sussex.

Homes for US visitors

During the last few years, several of our members, including myself, have visited the United States and Canada. I know that without exception we all received fantastic hospitality, playing golf, visiting other courses and staying in the homes of our opposite numbers. This way, not only is the cost of a holiday cut dramatically, but you get to meet the real people and their families. You are also able to see behind the scenes at top golf clubs.

We will be hosts to the Americans and Canadians at our International Tournament and Symposium in September 1982, so wouldn't it be a nice gesture if we invited them to stay a few days, in our homes?

As most of them will be coming for about two weeks, there is little doubt that they will be looking forward to travelling around Great Britain after the Tournament and Symposium, to take a look at a few of our famous landmarks. So if we can compile a list of greenkeepers who would be willing to offer accommodation for a day or so, it will help our friends to plan their trip.

A few greenkeepers have already indicated that they would be pleased to help. If you are interested, will you please give me a ring, or better still write to me and give me the dates that you are available, around September 1982. These dates can then be passed on to our visitors.

Derek Gould
The Bungalow
Langley Park Golf Club
Beckenham
Kent
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Change of address

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March, April and May can often be difficult months for golf greens, really good growing weather in March so often being tantalizingly slow to arrive. By June and July the greens are usually at their best; the weather is warm enough for the grass to be growing vigorously, and water in dry periods is rarely a limiting factor since golf courses without irrigation systems for the greens are very few and far between these days. Mowing of sufficient intensity to cope with the summer growth is the primary job. Mowing techniques were discussed in some detail in a previous article of this series; suffice it to repeat here that mowing should be frequent—once a day is not too often when the grass is growing well—and it should never be closer than 5 mm (3/16 in.). To side-track here for a moment, one can put in a plea for prompt removal of grass clippings to a central point for rotting down before they are put into the compost heap, disposed of to club members as garden manure or used for any other purpose. The rather sordid half-decomposed pile of mowings which is to be seen sometimes in the rough behind the green is not only an eyesore, but sometimes a source of extreme exasperation to the less expert golfer if his ball buries itself into it.

Summer is a testing time on the course

By D.F. Boocock
The Sports Turf
Research Institute

A necessary combination

Allied to the mowing should go regular fairly gentle scarifying, and together the two will produce really true putting surfaces on a green which is basically good. The regular scarifying will help to prevent undue fibre development and the mowing and scarifying will even combine to check the spread of certain coarse grasses like Yorkshire fog and creeping soft-grass; if they do not get rid of them altogether, they will at any rate fine them down to such an extent that only their lighter colour betrays them, and they will have no adverse effect on the putting surface.

Scarifying reels

Frequent light scarifying is very easy now on the steadily increasing number of courses which use the triple greens mowers made by Ransomes, Toro or Jacobsen, for which scarifying accessories are available. Scarifying once every 7-10 days is quite a feasible proposition during periods of good growth. Good growing conditions for any sort of scarifying are always essential; when grass has been scarified, particularly with vertical cutting machinery, and then mown, it needs to recover quickly from what amounts really to a 'short top and sides'!

Self-propelled machines of the vertical cutting type are also perfectly suitable for routine light scarifying, but as they do not cover the ground as quickly as triple greens mowers with scarifying reels the self-propelled machines can not as a rule be used quite so often. They come into their own, however, in the autumn, for



the deeper scarification for which the triple reels were not designed.

Another type of light scarifying (though not based on the vertical cutting principle) can be provided by steel rakes and by brushes. When these are fitted on the 'turf maintenance systems' (the Hydromain and the Cushman) they are a quite effective means for frequent light scarifying or grooming. Rakes and combs are also available for fitting between front roller and cutting cylinder of various models of mower and provide an additional form of light scarifying which can be quite useful.

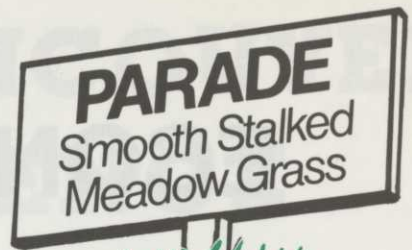
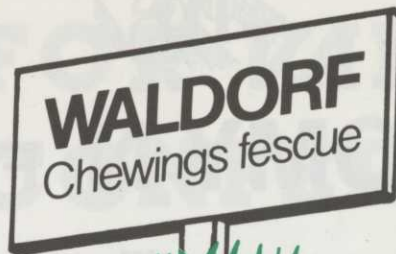
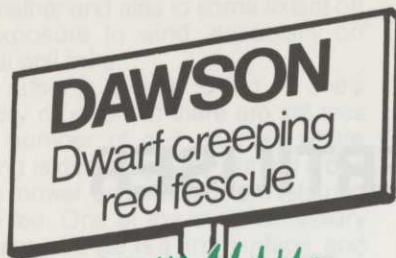
Aeration

Spiking of greens should continue all the year round as far as is practicable, summer included, but in dry weather it is best to stop spiking, or at any rate to

use solid rather than slitting tines since there is less risk of drying out round the top of the hole made by the tine. Brown dry patches are apt to appear on greens at this time of year, and once the soil dries out it is not easy to re-wet, especially if the turf is rather fibrous. Close solid forking of the brown patches is worthwhile, and in some cases it helps to follow up forking by watering on a solution of a suitable wetting agent. Normal irrigation of the whole green should then follow.

Spreading wear

Golf greens come under considerable pressure during a fine summer, with much play on them. It is very necessary, therefore, to spread the wear as widely as possible and to use as much of the area of the green for pin positions as the



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surface will allow. Sometimes a green is so undulating or bumpy that there are only two or three places flat enough for cutting the hole for the pin. This is not a happy situation, and a green like this should be earmarked for lifting and relaying eventually to provide a more suitable surface. New holes should be cut constantly, and as soon as the grass begins to show any sign of wear round the pin hole it is time to cut another hole in a fresh part of the green. Three or four new holes cut each week is by no means over-doing things when play is heavy. And, of course, the newly-cut plug should be carefully replaced to the old hole, exactly flush with the surface of the green so that the grass is not skinned next time the green is mown. Beware of putting back inferior turf in the old hole. Yorkshire fog for example can be spread around a green in next to no time in this fashion.

Quality of surrounds

Surrounds should receive similar treatment to that given to the greens, and really the only difference between the immediate surrounds and the green should be in the height of cut. Apart from the benefit to the golfer, this is also helpful if, as happens sometimes, the edge of the green tends to 'ebb and flow' to some extent, whether by accident or design. If the green is extended into the surround

by mowing further out, this can produce a very ugly edge to the green for some time if the turf in the surround does not match up with that of the green, and if the levels are not true.

Summer can be a testing time for bunkers; dry weather causes the grass to die back around the tops where it is particularly vulnerable, whilst rabbits, foxes, stray dogs and children from the



nearby housing estate make their contribution to undermining and erosion. General repair work must wait until the autumn, but if the growth of weeds and weed grasses in the sand outpaces the bunker maintenance work at a busy time they may be controlled in summer with a suitable weedkiller, and glyphosate (sold now by May and Baker) is almost ideal for this job since it will kill broad-leaved weeds and grass weeds (even grasses with rhizomes like couch) and yet is inactivated on the bunker sand as soon as it has dried. Therefore explosive shots out of bunkers, scattering sand on to green or fairway, are not likely to cause damage after the bunker sand has been sprayed with glyphosate.

Tee renovation

Tees, like greens, will suffer badly if all the wear is concentrated on one or two places instead of being distributed fairly evenly over the whole area. It is important therefore to move the markers regularly and progressively along the tee to a new position, and obviously the larger the tee the better, from the point of view of wear distribution. After the markers have been moved, divot holes should be trued up with sandy topsoil in which grass seed containing good cultivars of suitable grass species has been mixed. (It is not advisable to replace divots on tees since

this can produce irregularities in the surface.) The success of this summer seed renovation is variable, depending on whether the tees can be watered in dry weather and also to some extent on the exposure to wind, especially on coastal golf links.

It is rather surprising to find on one's advisory rounds that there are still tees on a number of golf courses where mowing is done regularly without a box on the mower, and clippings are returned to the tee. One of the most necessary attributes of a tee is a firm surface, and the regular return of the grass clippings, in addition to favouring the spread of weeds and the proliferation of worm casts, makes the surface soft. Mowing without a box is, as a rule, not due to lack of appreciation of the consequences, but to lack of time or the fact that the tee mower does not have a box (or boxes). Neither of these problems is incapable of solution and it is mainly a question of cash.

Fairway maintenance

Finally, a word or two about the fairways. At this time of year mowing and periodic 'divotting', that is to say replacing divots and filling in divot holes and scrapes with a soil/seed mixture, are the main requirements in the way of maintenance. Golfers are often blamed for not replacing divots when really the culprit is a rook or crow which picks the divot up again after the golfer has dutifully fitted it back.

There is sometimes, especially at seaside links courses, the odd fairway or two where there is very little soil over sand — perhaps just one or two inches or so. A dry summer really hits fairways like these, and the turf becomes so dry and brown that one wonders whether it will ever recover. Recover it does usually, but it is never sufficiently compact and uniform to provide good lies. On one or two of the links in the south of England a grass making a substantial contribution to the sward is bulbous meadow-grass, which dies right back in a dry summer, new stems and leaves being produced from the bulb in the autumn to give a much improved cover of grass for the fairway during the winter. This, in fact, is the grass which was grown a long time ago on the greens of some of the golf courses in the Riviera — at Cannes for instance — when golf used to be played only during the winter. The performance of the grass in the summer was irrelevant.

Watering of fairways would have caused hands to be raised in horror 20 to 30 years ago but there is no doubt that *discriminating* watering of these very sandy fairways keeps the grass growing when there is no rain, without changing the botanical composition of the turf for the worse; and there is a strong case for the installation of a few pop-up sprinklers, at any rate in the more strategically important areas. The accent though should be very much on 'discrimination', the turf being watered just sufficiently to prevent it wilting and no more.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

By Kevin Munt

It was my recent good fortune to have the opportunity to attend the 32nd Annual Canadian Turfgrass Conference held in Vancouver in March. This conference was a real education for a number of reasons, firstly the conference was an exercise in excellent organisation and co-ordination, secondly the whole affair was conducted with a nice balance of friendship and learning.

Including a two day 36 hole pre-conference golf tournament the show covered six days and over 60 greenkeepers teed-off for the two days of golf. These were joined by a further 600 registrants and their wives for the Conference. All these people stayed in the 5-star Hyatt Regency Hotel which was also the venue for the Conference. This created a marvellous holiday atmosphere. Every time I stepped into a lift or went for a drink in the bar, I met someone wearing the conference ID badge, so straight away I had something in common. This also made me feel that I was part of something large and important in the Turfgrass world. The North American Superintendent realises he is an important person in golf and that a Conference of this proportion is vital to his education and standing in that world. (So does his Club).

Not only did I learn a lot about golf greenkeeping and running a conference

for a large Association, I received a good golf lesson in the Tournament. I was drawn off the first tee with the Presidents of the Canadian and United States Superintendents Associations and it was a nerve racking experience. The golf tournament was a very good ice-breaker for some of the early registrants and it gave us all a chance to get over the travel weariness, I say all of us because some people traveled 4000 miles from the east coast to attend their National Conference.

After the two days of golf we enjoyed a free day to enjoy the sights of Vancouver. It is the most beautiful city I have ever seen and a marvellous place to hold a conference.

On the night before the conference started 500 people attended a cheese and wine party hosted by British Columbia Golf Superintendents Association. British Columbia was the host province for the Show. This was the first of three great evenings that followed each days lectures. The second evening was known as the 'Rainbird Bash'. This was a real let your hair down session which included a large seafood spread and beer all night laid on by Rainbird Irrigation. They also ran

Continued on Page 26



With a range of competitively priced, quality products, backed by aggressive marketing in an atmosphere of increasing leisure activity, Nickerson Turfmaster Ltd, one of Britain's leading manufacturers of professional grass cutting machinery, is looking to the future with considerable optimism.

'Design, performance, price competitiveness, nationwide service and absolute reliability, backed by aggressive and confident marketing, are the keys to success,' commented Matt Templeton, the company's managing director. 'All this applies to the company I serve, but it could and should also apply to all sections of the 'turf industry' if I may call it that; be it grass seeds, fertilisers, pesticides or machinery.'

'The UK, with the vast expertise of its groundsmen and greenkeepers, knows how to grow the best grass areas and playing surfaces and we must capitalise on it as individuals and as a country.'

Matt Templeton (who lists his leisure interests as golf and gardening) has

been involved with the Nickerson Group, well known for its wide ranging agricultural interests, for nearly 30 years. He launched Nickerson Turfmaster in 1976 when Charles Nickerson, the chairman, acquired the manufacturing interests of the old Horwool company in Maldon, Essex. Mr Templeton's son, Graham, a former banker and Young Farmers national council member, now works for the company as operations manager.

Last September Nickerson Turfmaster moved to a new, vastly larger factory in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Although the factory is now fully commissioned the company is proud of the fact that no production was lost during the move—a considerable feat as most of its staff had to be recruited locally.

Today, Nickerson's manufactures a full range of British-engineered machines to meet every professional need. The Turfmaster 70, for example, the longest established machine in the range, has a deserved reputation for sturdy and reliable engineering. It is able to cut up to two acres of grass an hour at speeds

quickly cut large areas at an economic cost. Later this year we expect to be announcing a new and exciting development for the 2001.'

The company's chairman, Charles Nickerson, says: 'I am confident of the future and with our recently strengthened research and development department, look forward to providing the machines that amenity and sport interests need not only now but also in the future.'

Reliability and ease of maintenance on the Turfmaster range—minimising costly downtime—are other features which Mr Templeton confidently points out. Privately, he can quote several instances where Turfmaster machines have undergone servicing at the same time as competitive machines and emerged with considerably lower repair bills. All of the company's machines carry a warranty, but it is rarely invoked.

'We pride ourselves on producing an efficiently engineered, yet simple product,' added Mr Templeton. 'Our machines have an excellent reputation for little or no downtime and, because they are easily accessible for maintenance, any repairs that are necessary can be carried out quickly and efficiently. The cost of Turfmaster spares are also highly competitive, and most can be supplied in 24 hours. In fact, we have held our prices since January last year. All these factors make the range extremely cost effective which is a big attraction for golf courses, local authorities and others. Many of them purchase our machines as a matter of policy.'

All the machines produced at Gainsborough are subject to rigorous checks before they leave the factory, destined for the company's more than 40 UK distributors. The same stringent checks also apply to all export orders.

'We are perhaps unusual in that every stage of manufacture is signed for by the factory employees concerned as a measure of quality control; this enables us to quickly pinpoint problems in the rare event of anything going wrong,' said Mr Templeton.

Apart from individual checks, completed products are given an exhaustive, overall inspection prior to shipping from the factory. The distributors also subject the machines to quality control check and ask customers to make a final inspection prior to accepting delivery.

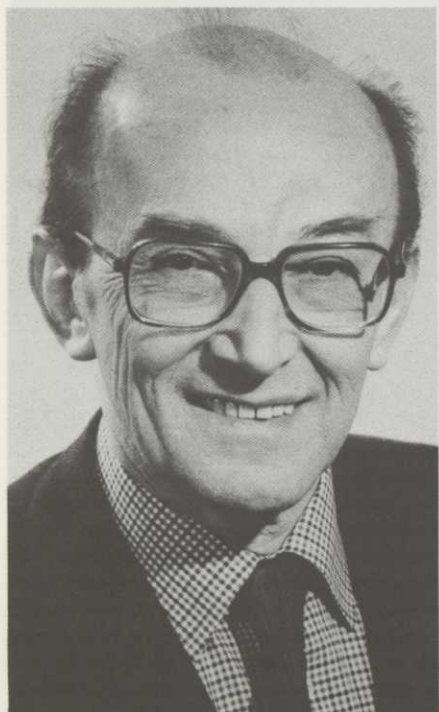
But regardless of all the manufacturing controls, the most critical part of production is the manufacture of the precision built cutting cylinders. 'It's quite obvious,' explained Mr Templeton, 'that a failure here means the whole product is in jeopardy.'

Indeed, unsuspecting visitors to the company's factory often find themselves invited to undertake the sledgehammer test. A swing at the cylinder's cutting blades with as much strength as you can muster, leaves one in no doubt as to the strength of the product!

Matt Templeton himself, a fellow of the Linnean Society, is a total expert. Not only does he control one of Britain's most successful professional grass cutting machinery companies, but he has also

Profile

'Absolute reliability is a key to success'



of up to five mph, in either wet or dry conditions.

The 70 features three independent and floating mowing cylinders that provide a varying cutting width of up to 70 inches. Two cylinder versions are available—five-blades for producing a superior finish where the grass is up to six inches high, or seven-blades for a fine finish on regularly mown areas. Highly manoeuvrable, its low centre of gravity and rear mounted mowing cylinders also make it extremely safe on banks and slopes of up to 30 degrees. The Turfmaster 70 is extensively used by local authorities, golf courses, parks and sportsgrounds, schools, private estates and caravan sites.

The most popular model in the range is the Turfmaster 84. It is the only British machine capable of traverse cutting up to 35 degree slopes making it ideal for the maintenance of steep retaining banks, as well as formal and semi-formal areas.

'Because of its versatility it will prove invaluable for organisations who need to

written a book on grass care called, simply, 'Lawns'. And he is pleased to report that the book is completely sold out.

He has plans for another book, but for the moment, is keeping its contents a close secret.

Apart from grass cutting equipment, Nickerson manufactures a range of sweepers and power-assisted scarifiers and, by use of a special adaptor frame, a large range of Sisis accessories can be fitted to the Turfmaster machines.

Whilst demand for Turfmaster machines is steady across the product range, the company received an unexpected boost from the last Budget.

'As a result of the massive increase in petrol prices, demand for the diesel-engined version of the Turfmaster 84 has shown a considerable increase. Traditionally, because of lack of awareness about the product, few people consider

the diesel engine as a viable commercial alternative to petrol. They are quite mistaken,' commented Matt Templeton.

Looking ahead Mr Templeton believes that the 2001 is the machine of the future and he says 'I think the Turfmaster 2001 goes as far as technology can economically reach at the present time in the grass-cutting field.' Capable of cutting up to 30 acres a day on an eight gallon tank of fuel, it is a genuine all-rounder dealing with short parkland grass to tall dense scrub.

Powered by a Ford 1098 cc low compression petrol engine, the machine's fully floating rotary deck has a cutting width of six feet and a cutting height that can be adjusted from one and a half to six and a half inches. It can safely cut grass on steep banks up to 35 degrees and, with its offset cutting unit, can cut under overhanging branches, bushes and barriers, economising on expensive

hand trimming time.

Apart from its dramatically different aerodynamic shape, the 2001 features a unique and patented hydraulic system in its tubular chassis. The system not only provides smooth transmission control and positive braking, but can also be used to power other hydraulic equipment such as pumps, chain saws and pruners.

Like the rest of the Turfmaster range, the 2001 has been well engineered but simply designed to give years of service with the minimum of maintenance. It has fully hydrostatic transmission which obviates clutches, universal joints and gears. 'In many ways the 2001, which was introduced in 1979, was a machine before its time,' continued Mr Templeton. 'Now, due to spending cutbacks, local authorities and others are buying larger, and therefore more labour saving, machines.

Seaweed for a healthy soil

By W.J. Visser, Alginure Products Ltd

'Not fit to live in' — 'Pollution of environment causes mass exodus of population'.

All too familiar headlines when we talk of our environment, the one that relates to us and our existence. Poor growth and susceptibility to disease, and as a result a possible reduction of lifespan. But does this only relate to us? No, it relates also to any environment which is host to a society of living organisms.

As human beings we are very complex, but there are many far simpler organisms which require an equally suitable environment in which to live and prosper. Such an environment is the soil and in it grows the major stock of the greenkeeping trade — Turf.

Turf is an infinitely variable complex of grass, soil and organisms who must exist in harmony, this degree of harmony will represent the quality of turf and its wear characteristics. We believe neglect of this balance will, as in all living systems, lead to problems. The soil is not an inert mass of dirt in which grass anchors itself; it is a living and constantly changing mass continually moving and providing water, food and shelter for roots, insects and microscopic life forms as well as food for the plants on the surface. It is perhaps these life forms primarily bacteria and fungi which require much more attention paid to them and their activities in the soil.

When mentioning these soil builders the word fungi causes a lot of greenkeepers' hearts to miss a beat; Fusarium being the most commonly spoken of on golf courses. But it should not be so! The amount of fungal activity in most soils is enormous, this being carried out by harmless and vigorous species which are

continually digesting and humifying dead grass, roots and thatch.

These common soil fungi are perhaps the most powerful digesters of organic matter we have. They can, above ground, digest a fallen tree to pulp within several years, rot oranges or fruit within days and digest even the most distasteful waste quickly, cleanly and effectively, producing their own waste growth promoting and beneficial chemicals we don't even fully understand yet.

Just because we cannot see what goes on under ground, no way should we forget that it is one of Nature's most complex and vigorous areas of activity. In recognition of this activity we must pay more attention to our soil and its life, using wherever possible products which will provide a balanced and beneficial response from the soil. Firstly, hard wearing turf must not be over fed. One cannot expect grass to put up with continued severe mechanical loading if it is soft and fleshy from overfeeding. Similarly, if it is overwatered one is artificially providing conditions outside its designed capabilities.

Of course one has to use chemical fertiliser to feed and chemicals to control disease, if the turf cannot recover on its own; but we must, as with all powerful complex chemicals, restrict use to when it is absolutely necessary, or resistance can be built up usually leading to the proliferation of the more 'toxic or poisonous' organisms. Over the years many advisors to the golf industry have arrived with differing motives. They range from genuine desire to pass on experience to fellow and less informed greenkeepers; to more colourful characters who for their own good

reasons preach their own brand of turf management. Our beliefs are simple and easily understood with a common sense attitude to improving the most vital ingredient necessary to greenkeeping turf health:— The Soil.

The skills and direction of the greenkeeper is of the utmost importance, he can either produce a course which reflects his reasoning and his abilities in respect of his turf care programme, or be the puppet of advisors or salesmen. Available today is a very wide range of machines and materials with the potential to create the very best fine turf. They always say that a bad workman blames his tools, let us return to the skills where tools made for the job enhanced the craft. The 20th Century tools are, irrigation, balanced plant foods, fungicides, sophisticated and complex machinery — they are our servants not our masters. The technology is available for rapid and sometimes instant cures for everyday problems, but must be used carefully as part of a well reasoned programme. One aspect we feel is nearly always omitted and that is a helping hand for the soil, and in this context we mean the general improvement in soil health. We know for instance that the use of Alginure Soil Improver has the ability to promote slowly and progressively an increase in soil micro-organism activity, redress many of the imbalances which can and do have an effect by the lack of trace elements, provide an almost identical natural chemical to humus, thus dramatically improving soil structure. It is not a synthetically manufactured product but the natural way of recycling everything which has been washed from land into the sea, being put back to the land utilising a natural plant — Seaweed. It is cold composted to retain all essential properties of a humified product but does not contain any significant quantities of plant food. It is food for the soil, not the plant. Its prime ability is to promote soil health, and by doing so, lay the essential foundations and building blocks for the establishment of durable healthy golf turf.

AGM AT IPSWICH

Notice is hereby given that the Sixty Fourth Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be held at the Ipswich Golf Club, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich on Monday August 17, 1981, at 3.00 pm. Notice of resolutions must be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary twenty-one days before the date of the meeting.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The Sixty Fourth Annual Tournament will be held at the Ipswich Golf Club, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 17-19, 1981. Entry Forms appeared in the March Journal.

Monday, August 17, a.m.
18 hole Medal Competition.
1st Round 36 hole Competitions.
18-hole Coming-of-age-cup.
3 pm A.G.M.

Tuesday, August 18, a.m.
2nd Round of 36-hole Scratch Cup and Prize.
2nd Round of 36-hole Senior Division Handicap.
2nd Round of 36-hole Junior Division Handicap.

Wednesday, August 19, a.m.
18-hole Medal Competition.
3 pm Prize Presentation.

Section Secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all competitors from their records before the Tournament. All handicaps must be based on the National Golf Union's Handicapping System.

May I remind all holders of trophies from last year's Tournament who are not taking part this year, to ensure that these are returned to the Ipswich Golf Club, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, by Saturday 15th August, 1981. Would all holders returning trophies ensure that these are in a suitable condition to be presented to this year's winners.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the Ipswich Golf Club on Sunday August 16, 1981, at approximately 5.30 p.m.

Signed. W. Heeles. Hon. Secretary.

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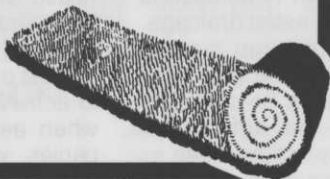
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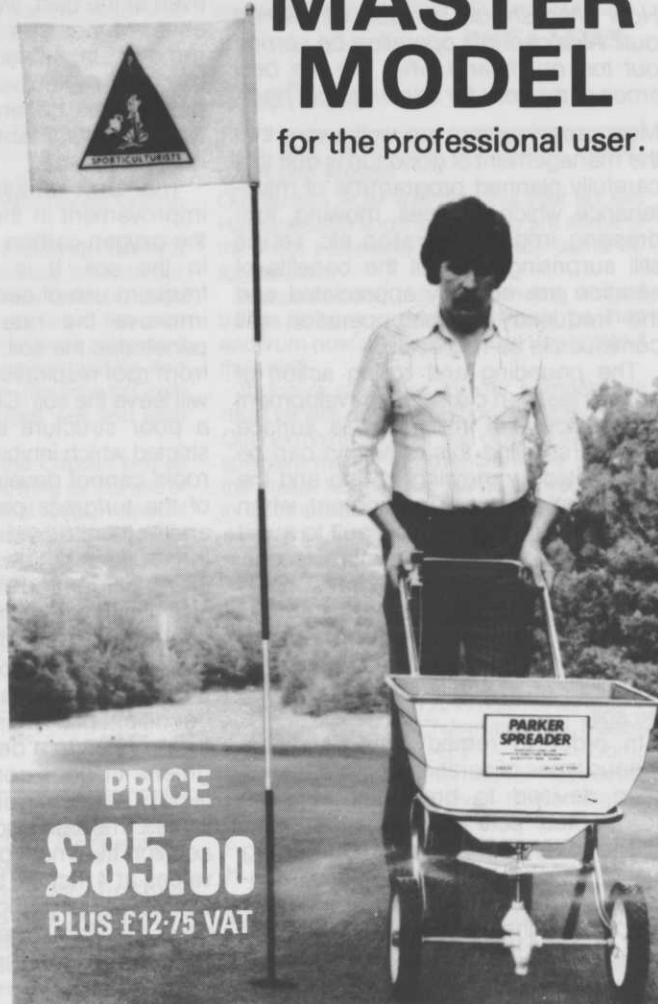
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FAIRWAY Notepad

How often should aeration be carried out? Also can this operation be carried out too much and what are the best times of the year for aerating?

Most greenkeepers are well aware that the management of good turf is due to a carefully planned programme of maintenance which includes, mowing, top-dressing, irrigation, aeration, etc. Yet it is still surprising how all the benefits of aeration are not fully appreciated and the frequency of this operation still continues to be neglected.

The pounding and rolling action of human feet can cause the development of the compact impermeable surface layer of soil and this condition can be aggravated by mowing, rolling and the use of other heavy equipment when soils are wet. It is often difficult to avoid compaction under such circumstances, and when it develops, grass roots generally suffer due to lack of sufficient air and moisture to permit normal functioning. In addition it becomes more difficult for water and fertiliser to penetrate the soil.

In order to remedy this condition, various types of aerating equipment has been devised to break through the compacted soil layer mechanically. These different types of cultivating machines can be used by the greenkeeper to help relieve this compacted condition of the soil.

One often hears individuals asking

how often the turf should be aerated; what the relative merits are of hollow-tining; slit-tining and spiking; what the benefits are of aeration? There may not be completely satisfactory answers to these questions for much of the evidence is based on observation and experience, not theory. However, the mere fact that these questions get raised from time to time does justify some discussion on the subject of aeration.

The important function of aeration is to alleviate compaction, assist drainage, control thatch and break up surface crusting. Correction of these problems even at the best, will never be complete as a percentage of the turf always remains untouched by spikes, tines or blades. The effectiveness of any aeration programme generally depends on the type of equipment used and the frequency of use.

The term aeration itself implies an improvement in the air penetration, or the oxygen-carbon dioxide relationships in the soil. It is acknowledged that frequent use of aerating equipment will improve the rate at which oxygen penetrates the soil, and carbon dioxide from root respiration and other sources will leave the soil. Compacted soils have a poor structure and drainage is restricted which inhibits this gas exchange; roots cannot develop and the capacity of the turfgrass plant to absorb water and nutrients is reduced. As a result, the turf suffers by becoming thin, weak, losing colour and vigour of growth. It is also likely to be more susceptible to disease in this condition.

According to experiments in the U.S., it was found that greens in good condition had satisfactory oxygen diffusion rates to a depth of 4 inches, but greens in poor condition had unsatisfactory levels, even at a depth of 2 inches. The tests also showed that routine aeration treatment produced satisfactory values at 4 inches, but not at 10 inches. On the other hand, experiments with deep aeration gave satisfactory values to a depth of 10 inches and perhaps

The deep slitting aerator fitted with 8 ins tines produced by Sisis as an attachment for their Hydromain System.

deeper. It would appear from this that there is a direct relationship between depth of penetration and depth of good oxygen soil levels.

Further experiments have shown that standard aeration had little effect on water infiltration rates in a soil of bad textural and structural characteristics to a depth of 12 inches. This lack of response was attributed to the shallow depth of the holes (2½ inches) in relationship to the tight soil. It was found that aeration to a depth of 6 inches provided temporary benefits.

Most experts agree that it is important to achieve deep penetration of the soil when aerating the turf. Several companies who have specialised in the designing of aerating equipment for a great many years, have long been convinced that a greater beneficial effect can be attained in the management of turf by relieving sub-surface compaction which is a problem that has bedevilled many greenkeepers for ages.

The Sisis company, for instance, have recently introduced an 8 inch slitting tine for greater depth penetration in use with the Hydromain System as an alternative to the standard 6 inch tine. Obviously this operation is best carried out at a time of the year when conditions are soft enough to permit maximum penetration of the tines during the autumn and winter months.

Good moisture penetration is assisted by regular aeration and the small openings created in the compacted surface provides channels and small reservoirs through which the water may seep into the soil and reduce the surface run-off.

Over a period of time, compacted soil layers may build up near the surface level on a green as a result of frequent top-dressing and a build-up of buried fibres. This often causes the surface to remain soft and soggy, due to poor water infiltration and restricted root growth. Penetration of these compacted layers with aerating tines may assist drainage into more permeable soil below.

The mixing and cultivation action of aerating tines helps to break down thatch and compacted soil layers. It also assists the penetration of top-dressing material into the thatch layers to enhance more rapid decomposition of the fibre build-up.

How often should aeration be carried out? This is a question often asked and no precise answer can be given. In fact, this operation is rarely overdone for most turf areas would benefit from much more use of aerating equipment. The poorer the soil conditions, the more frequent aeration should be. Even when there are not turf problems any turf expert would agree that regular aeration is a good preventative measure. The frequency of this operation is often limited by management rather than agronomic considerations.

This month's question has been answered by John Campbell who is a golf course consultant.



REGIONAL NEWS

BGGA NEWS

Surrey

Hon Sec: F. Brittin, Farseen, 13 Lawday Link, Farnham, Surrey. Tel: Farnham 713753

Members enjoyed a most splendid day at the section's spring tournament which was held at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club. This Leatherhead course is always in good condition and a tribute to Bert Watson and his staff. Two trophies were being played for and we were most grateful to all the firms who helped with prizes. Bill Mitchell, the well known professional from Selsden Park, presented the prizes. The leading ones were: Scratch prize and Ransomes Gold Watch—D. Johnson; first handicap—D. Fernie; second—P. Lucas; third—P. Wright; fourth—G. Beesley. A special prize was given to Nevil Shande for his hole-in-one.

The section expressed their gratitude to Tyrrells Wood for making us so welcome.

The next event will be played at the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club on Monday, August 10. Play will commence at 4.00pm. The trophy will be the McMillan tankard. All entries should be sent to N. Shade, 30 Brookhurst Road, Addlestone, Surrey. Tel Weybridge 41096.

BGGA NEWS

Wales

Hon Sec: Roger Bird, The Gatehouse, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan. Tel: 044 63 2001

We are now in the midst of our golfing competitions and only poor attendances so far, which is most disturbing. It hardly seems good manners to write to golf clubs for the courtesy of their courses when only a handful of members turn up.

The latest competition was an extra one in our schedule—the special prize being the Waycott Cup.

We made one big mistake, or at least I did,

because all entrants should have been told of the committee ruling that the handicap limit was 18. The result was that first prize was taken by a 24 handicapper, Steve Hunt. Second place was taken by local boy Roger Thomas, who had the same score as Steve but lost on a count back over the last nine.

The section thank everyone who turned out and we hope to see you at Southerndown where the meal will be provided by the Golfing Union of Wales.

News has reached me that Bryan Owen is unwell and we are sorry to hear this and our wishes go to him for a speedy recovery. Also our old friend Henry Stead visited the area recently and I was sorry that work prevented me from meeting him. I understand he and Gill are on the move again, this time to Great Yarmouth. We hope all goes well and wish you all the best, Harry.

Our gratitude goes to the Captain and all the staff at Pennard for allowing us the use of their course for the Waycott Cup. A special thank you goes to the greenstaff led by head greenkeeper Colin Lacey for preparing the course and for providing us with a prize. Results of the Waycott Cup were: S. Hunt nett 70 first prize, B. Thomas, second prize. G. Cox third and M. Jones fourth.

BGGA NEWS

Southern

Hon Sec: D. Gould, The Bungalow, Langley Park Golf Club, Beckenham, Kent. Tel: 01 658 4791

A successful day was had for our Spring tourney at New Zealand Golf Club with the following results: 1st Scratch & Handicap—M. Smith, 135; 2nd—D. McIndoe, 141; 3rd—G. Brown, 143; Under 25's—R. Tydeman, 144; Veteran—P. Whitehead, 78.

The work from the staff at New Zealand Golf Club and the annual donation of gifts and help from the trade members was gratefully accepted.

Bonzo Ryan has decided to retire from greenkeeping and also from the committee

of our section and our best wishes go to him with thanks for his support in the past which was always 100 per cent. He was also a founder of the Benevolent fund.

At this year's AGM which was held in the Artisan Club house after the Spring Tournament, Hugh Brown unfortunately resigned as Chairman and from the committee, this means that I am now Chairman which is a position I am not really over the moon about but will see how it goes. The following new members to the committee were elected, Tom McDonald, David McIndoe, Stuart McMillan, J. Kirkpatrick, and G. Brown, were re-elected to the committee and P. Fitzjohn was made Vice Chairman. Any news please should be sent to me, B. Newcombe, 39 Malling Gardens, Morden, Surrey SM4 6JG.

BGGA NEWS

Sheffield

Hon Sec: B.V. Lax, 15 Sheaf Place, Workop 83588

Our section AGM was held this year at Lees Hall Golf Club and the following are some of the most interesting points which came up for decision.

It was decided the rule banning all golf trollies at our tournaments should be lifted and from now on members can use trollies if they wish.

In future all entries for our competitions must be with our competition secretary, Peter Quartermaine, before the closing date with sufficient money to cover the entry fee and the meals. No member will be allowed to play in a competition if Peter had not received the entry form. To check that your entry has been received ring Peter on Workop 83040.

The winter lectures for 1982 will be held at Lees Hall Golf Club on the first Thursday of the month commencing at 3.00pm if possible.

The officials elected at the AGM are as follows: President—S.K. Arnold; Chairman—G. Herrington; Vice-Chairman—R.N. Maltby; Secretary/Treasurer—B.V. Lax; Comp Secretary—P. Quartermaine; Executive Committee representative—H. Herrington; Section Committee—E. Palmer, K.B. Heaney, F. Frost, H. Herrington, G. Mason, S. Platts, H. Gillespie

The President's prize this year was played at Tankersley Park Golf Club. The weather was fine and sunny and the course was in excellent condition thanks to the work of head greenkeeper, R. Graham and his staff. The prizes for the whole event were provided by our president, S.K. Arnold to whom we are most grateful. Winners of the 18-hole stableford were: First—Neil Maltby (34 pts), Second—Simon Wooley (30 pts) won over the back nine after a tie with Barry Heaney. Fourth, Phil Fielder (29 pts).

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Midland

Hon Sec: B.D. Ganning, 2 Faidrene Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5JS. Tel: 021 358 1246

The spring tournament was held at Broadway Golf Club in May with the following results: First gross, M. Hughes (125); second best gross, D. Roberts (126). Best nett, A. Boraston (99); second best nett, V. Smith (109.5); third nett, S. Wood (110). Guest's prize, J. Woodfield (117).

Will all those with their results from the first round of the Matchplay Foursomes please send them to D. Keen without delay. If you have any problems arranging your fixtures in this event then ring D. Keen on 0952 461173.

We were particularly pleased to see the Captain who spent the whole day with us.

We are also grateful to head greenkeeper and his staff for the way in which they prepared a first class course. We were all impressed by the high quality.

BGGG NEWS

South West

Hon Sec: 1 Scoones, Failand Lawn, Failand, Bristol. Tel: Long Ashton 2676

The Greenkeeper-Am competition took place at Westonbirt in May with the largest entry so far for this competition. It's popularity seems to be growing and a great deal of fun was had by everyone who entered.

Results: 1st—P. Worster and R. Law (Circencester) nett 58; 2nd—D. Everett and C. Routledge (C. Sodbury) nett 59; 3rd—

B. Reeves and B. Cook (Clevedon) nett 61; 4th—G. Pearce and I. Scoones (Long Ashton).

The section thanks Westonbirt School for allowing us to play on the course and Bob Gates for putting up with us. Thanks also to the trade once again for their support and to Mike and Pat Bell for their hospitality and the cold buffet afterwards.

BGGG NEWS

North West

Hon Sec: D.F. Golding, 38 The Grove, Flixton, Manchester. Tel: 061 748 8592

Our now retired section Chairman, Mark Holmes, together with all the staff of Hesketh Golf Club gave us all a most enjoyable day for our 1981 Spring Tournament. With very little growth in early May the course was still in excellent condition and the closing holes certainly broke a few hearts, mine included!

Bert Scott (Shaw Hill) was the winner of the new Spring Trophy donated by D.B. Hargreaves of Sisis and we were also grateful to Roger Hargreaves for coming along to present the cup on its debut. Onto the over 55s and who else could step off an aeroplane at 6.30 am, travel to Hesketh without any sleep and win a cup but no other than our new Chairman Dick (Ballasteros) Lewis. The Spanish sun or wine must have done him good! His chauffeur, Edwin Walsh, took the gross.

Our thanks go to all our friends in the trade for furnishing our prize table. There are too many to list but once again gentlemen thank you for all your support.

Thanks to Nick Gray and David Royle for helping all day with the monies and cards and finally our thanks to the Captain and Hesketh

Golf Club for being so helpful to us and we certainly hope to return one day and master their course.

For members unable to attend our AGM I would like to list the new officials for the year 1981-82 and also list the points of interest to come from the minutes:

President—E. Staniforth; Chairman—R. Lewis; Vice-Chairman—A. Cross; Sec/Tres—D.F. Golding; Ex-officio—M. Holmes. Committee: S. Arrowsmith, J. Bond, M. Bottomley, B. Gregson, H. McAddey, J. Robinson.

A long serving and hard working member of the committee, Reg Vickers, declined to stand this year and the Chairman presented Reg with a tankard which we hope will be put to good use!

Points for discussion by the incoming committee arising from Any other business:

- 1) In future the cost of the day at the Spring/Autumn Tournaments will have to be paid for in *advance* to assist with catering etc.
- 2) At the Spring/Autumn Tournaments one guest per greenkeeper who does not necessarily have to be a member of your club.
- 3) The section to hold its AGM on the morning of the Sisis Tournament.
- 4) Starting times to be used at the 'Sisis Tournament'.

Points 1 and 2 were passed by the members at the AGM so please bear this in mind for future reference.

I also confirm that the 'Home & Away' Quizes with the Manchester Branch of the Institute of Groundsmen was warmly welcomed and Barry Gregson will be our chief liaison with the IoG.

One of our Vice-Presidents, Russell Faulkner, has offered to arrange a day's visit to the Supaturf Works if sufficient members are interested. A joint trip with the Manchester IoG members may be arranged depending on members' response.

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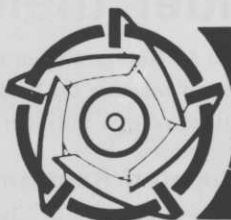
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Mid Anglia

Hon Sec: R.S. Morris, 41 Hampden Way, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs. Tel: Huntingdon 213348

Our annual fixture against the Secretaries was held in May at Ashridge Golf Club and for the second year running our lads were pipped by the odd match. However, the occasion was enjoyed by all who attended and our thanks go to Sandy Heron, the Secretary at Ashridge who greatly helped with the organising of the event.

Thanks also to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for providing sandwiches for the players.

We are now well into the holiday season and so our next full golf meeting is not until September, but we have a home match organised on July 28 at Cold Ashby Golf Club when a team from the Midland Section will visit us for a 12-a-side, 36-hole match.

BGGG NEWS

Northern

Hon Sec: B. Freeman, Tel: 0937 832653

The orange colour of the Kubota tractors was seen at Moor Allerton during the spring when Alan Gray of Fearncro, Sheffield master-minded a display for greenkeepers. Two models were on display, the new 34hp L345 and the smaller tractor, the B7100 16 hp model which had a set of three hydraulically driven gang mowers mounted to a design of Alans. Though nifty in concept the tractor, which had four-wheeled drive would need to have turf tyres fitted to offset sward damage on the finer turf areas.

The L345 attracted lively interest and provided an opportunity for us to feel the built in luxuries of this model. This model won the more favourable comments although it was a pity no gangs or other implements were on hand to put the machine to work. After the demonstration the group moved indoors where films, slides and a question and answer period were handled most efficiently by Gordon Henry, Product Development Manager of Kubota Ltd.

At the section's AGM the following were elected as officers: President—W. Mountain; Chairman—D.C. Hannam; Vice Chairman—P. Taylor; Secretary/Treasurer—B. Freeman (Tel 0937 832653); Comp Secretary—J. Scott (Tel 0937 61668); Auditors—W.H. Bartle and D.C. Hannam; Committee—C. Geddes, I. Tomlinson, D. Roberts, A. Loft-house, M. Bryant, A. Gamble. Mr. Spencer, C. Garnett, A. Robertshaw, S. Bailes, W. Heeles ex-officio.

It was ruled that members who had not paid their subscription by June 30 would have their membership terminated and they would need to re-apply before being reinstated.—Stern news maybe to some!

Also there was overwhelming agreement for the resolution that anyone arriving at section tournaments in jeans etc or indeed anyone improperly dressed would not be eligible for play.

The section took the opportunity of thanking Walter and Betty Heeles for the unstinting help, to the retiring chairman Colin Geddes for long service and to Ben Freeman with suitable encouragement for the next leg!

Skipton Golf Club hosted our spring tournament when players had the pleasure of playing on the doorstep of the Yorkshire dales amid lark song and curlew calls. The tourn-

ament was played over 27 holes, the first nine marking the inauguration of the Laurie Sharp stableford competition. Had it not been for the thunder and rain the event would have been a treat. The course had a lot on offer ranging from primrose bedecked ravines to railway lines. The variety of wild flowers appearing around the course was an added pleasure.

The section thanked the Skipton club for accommodating us at such short notice when the original venue, Bingley St Ives was unplayable because of heavy snow.

We are also grateful to Norman Sheddon who organised the starting and checking the scorecards.

The dwindling interest shown in a formal annual dinner has raised the idea of holding periodic gourmet evenings at provincial centres. Alan Lofthouse has this idea in hand and details will appear in these columns.

BGGG NEWS

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Hon Sec: K. Munt, 77 The Croft, Sudbury Town, Wembley Middlesex. Tel: 01 904 2487

With rounds of 75 and 73 Ray Wotten of Burnham Beeches GC won the Presidents Prize and Ransomes watch at our 36 hole Spring Tournament. Ray's last round (nett) 73 clinched the solid silver salver on a last round count back from Seve Schmitz, who's last round 77 let him down after a fine 71 in the morning.

Sonning, in fine condition thanks to the hard work put in by Alan Collis and his staff, played to its full length from the back tees. The fact that nature's overhead irrigation system seems to be stuck on repeat did not help scoring either. This made Jack Brearley's 69 nett in the morning a very fine score indeed. John Teixeira of Hillingdon GC who was defending the Parkers Shield for the best low gross shot a 76 to be hot on his heels. The nearest nett score to Jack's 69 came in from Seve Schmitz of Ellesborough GC with a 71 while Brian Valentine (Goring and Streatley GC), Tom Foster (Maidenhead GC) and John Teixeira all had 72s.

The afternoon saw the leaders collapse with gross scores in the mid 80s. This left Neil Wichelow of Hillingdon GC with his consistent total of 159 (80), (79) the winner of the Parkers Shield. Ray Wotten won the nett prize, his total of 148 (75), (73). Brian Payne of Burnham Beeches produced the best afternoon golf with a 76 gross 71 nett. M. Gale of Hillingdon rounded off the Hillingdon and Burnham Beeches benevolent tournament, by taking the first year competitors prize with 173 gross.

The section are appreciative to members and staff of Sonning Golf Club for the work they put in to give us a nice day. We also thank the Ladies section at Sonning who gave up their Tuesday match to give us the freedom of the course. David Craig ensured the golf flowed smoothly and ironed out any starting problems with his usual efficiency.

Some 34 members played at Sonning which is nearly half the total membership of 70. One face it was good to see at Sonning was that of Bob Plain, back amongst us in fine health.

With the support our section is now receiving and with 15 single figure handicap players, we should have a good representation at the national tournament at Ipswich. Don't forget to enter!

If you have any news that would be of interest to the section don't wait until it makes the News of the World! Send it to me and we'll get it in the journal.

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BGGG NEWS

East Anglia

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Well lads, time to stop cutting grass for a minute and put your feet up. Nothing much to report this time, except that our local club has put its gondolas away and started hiring trolleys again.

We had a nice quiet day at Stowmarket. It was nice to see some old faces that have been missing of late. I can't remember when I last saw a combine cutting the rough or the sunshine for one of our tournaments. I should imagine Michael Peters and his staff are working nights to keep that grass down, but keeping it down he is.

Our new handicapping system was used

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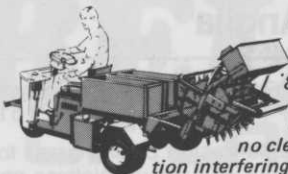
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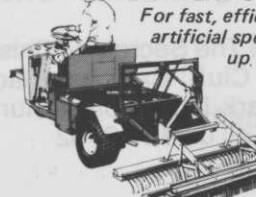
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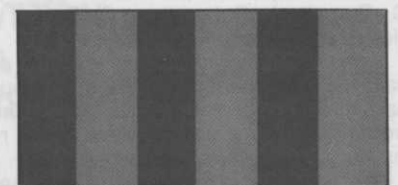
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for the first time with staggering results. Guest prize was won by G. Storey, with 35 points. In the 1-7 handicap section R.J. Smith carried off the Kings prize with 26 points. Runner up was Smiling George Newson with 24 points. The 18-24 handicaps prize was won by Wally The Bandit, Mann, on 28 points. Runner up in this section was 'yours truly', Mick Lathrope with 26 points. I had a job to convince my wife that I didn't buy the prize, and then she said, 'Well, it makes a change from the Loo Seat!' (What ever happened to that Ron?)

The 'Triers' prize was won by Roy Gould. Keep quiet about the points Roy, I know how you feel, believe me.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Dyball, past captain of Stowmarket, and we must thank the catering staff. At the end of a quiet summer's day, we rolled home at peace with the world, and watched the grass grow.

When you all receive your forms for your next tournament, please return them as soon as possible and if you say you are going, then for some unforeseen reason can't, then let Dave know. The next venue is Thetford, July 8. Then it's the Big One at Purdis, August 17-19. Be there if you can!

I'm going to write to Mr. Jim 'I'll Fix It' to see if he can stop my meadow grass seeding!

BGGA NEWS

East Midlands

Hon Sec: R.W. Willars, 27 Condor Close, Broughton Astley, Leics. LE9 6RR. Tel: Sutton Elms 283053

The Long Alley Skittles Night which was held in April at the Plough Inn, Littlethorpe, was such a good night that I have been asked to arrange a similar night for the Autumn.

Our Spring golf tournament was held at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester and we thank Captain and Committee of Birstall for allowing us the courtesy of the course. Our thanks also to the Ladies for doing the cards, raffle etc, to Mr and Mrs Walter Cole for buying the prizes and to all the firms, vice presidents and golf clubs who donated prizes. Mr W A Garratt Captain of Birstall, also one of our vice presidents, presented the winners with their prizes who were:- Greenkeepers. 1st S. Donogue 87 (13) 74, 2nd I. Simmons 97 (22) 75 on last nine. 3rd R. Allen. 81 (6) 75. 4th D. Bull 85 (8) 77. Vice Presidents: 1st R. Lead 83 (11) 72, 2nd G. Organ 99 (24) 75. 3rd M. Walker 84 (8) 76. Visitors: 1st A. Holwell 78 (5) 73, 2nd R. Liquorish 88 (12) 76, 3rd M. Elkington 86 (9) 77.

The agm was held at Longcliffe Golf Club and the officers elected were as follows:- President, R. Bailey; Chairman, S. Fretter; Vice-Chairman, D. Cleaver; Secretary, R.W. Willars; Treasurer, P. McCarron; Section Representative, P. McCarron; Committee—F. Kempster, B. Mott, N. Root, W. Cole and R. Holt.

BGGA NEWS

South Coast

Hon Sec: Nita Stimson, Caretakers Cottage, Breamore House, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Tel: Breamore 277.

The 1981 Spring Meeting was held at Hockley Golf Club, Winchester, on 20th May. Relentless rain soaked everyone at the start of their morning round but thankfully by mid-morning the skies cleared and the rest of the day was dry and sunny. Thirty-eight members

took part in the 36 hole Medal Competition and the prizewinners were:

Best Gross score over 36: A. Devlin (Dunwood Manor) 151 pts. 2nd Best Gross score over 36: B. Emberley (Knighton Heath) 160 pts. Best Nett score over 36: K. Unsworth (Hockley) 146 pts. 2nd Best Nett score over 36: S. Barker (Parkstone) 147 pts. Best Gross score morning: I. Stickley (Southampton Municipal) 79 pts. Best Gross score afternoon: G. Briggs (New Forest) 80 pts. Best Nett score morning: T. Patchin (Hockley) 73 pts. Best Nett score afternoon: R. Whyman (Lee on the Solent) 75 pts. Best Nett score over 36 for 24 handicap: S. Wedge (Southampton Municipal) 167 pts.

Eric James, our Chairman, thanked Hockley Golf Club for giving the Section the opportunity to play their course, complimented John Dodds and his greenstaff on its excellent condition, and thanked Mrs. Hollingworth, the Stewardess, for the meals she provided; she received a bouquet as a token of appreciation.

In reply, the Captain of Hockley Golf Club, Mr. Ball, said that the members were delighted that the greenkeepers had visited their course—it was always in good condition but now they would enjoy playing a course which looked immaculate. He felt that greenkeepers should be encouraged to play as it gave them a better understanding of their job. Mr. Ball presented the prizes.

Credit for the success of the meeting must go to Eddie Fox, ably assisted by Allan Jeffery and Roger Hanks, and also our thanks to Jim Fry, Barry Beckett, Nick Clarke, Richard Johnson, Jack Roffey, and Bill Smith, for their support.

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Section was held later that eve-

Continued on page 26

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W Mountain & Son Ltd, Bank Avenue, Morley, Nr Leeds. Tel: (0532) 531201-6. Telex: 557067
Contact: A C Mountain.

T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF. Tel: 01-337 7791.

Rogers Engineers Ltd, Great Bartord, Bedford MK44 3LP. Tel: Bedford 870201. Telex: 826527.
Contact: M D Reeder, Ext 46. Also at Telford Way, Kettering. Tel: Kettering 82611.

Rowes of Chichester, D Rowe & Co Ltd., The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JW. Tel: Chichester (0243) 788100

W Wilcock & Sons (Preston) Ltd, Walker Street, Preston PR1 2PR. Tel: Preston 53068.

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Fisons Limited, Horticultural Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: Ipswich (0473) 830492.
Contact: Professional Horticulture Department.

PEAT—BULK

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Joseph Arnold & Sons Ltd., Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8TW.
Contact: P R Windmill

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Contact: A C Mountain.

Terra Force, Horticultural Engineers, Replant Works, Pratling Street, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7DS. Tel: Maidstone 78642. Telex: 965222

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Contact: John Dyter, NDH (Tel: 03943-3344).

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ning and it was a straightforward affair. One decision concerns next year's Spring Meeting—the draw will be such that players of scratch to 12 handicap will play together (in threesomes) and players of 13-24 handicap likewise.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, and we hope that their association with us will be a long and happy one: Peter Reese (Weymouth), Colin Read (South-

amptonMunicipal); Keith Elsworth (Meyrick Park); Paul Cox (Hockley); John Bowers (Meyrick Park); Robert Lodge (Southwick Park); John Lawton (Tylney Park); Stephen Trew (Parkstone) and Simon Bowler (Liphook).

We are very sorry to learn that Trevor Pipe has decided to transfer to the Surrey Section now that he has settled in at Hoebridge Golf Centre, Woking, but we intend to keep in touch and take him up on his offer of a day's golf after its official opening next year!

Vancouver Conference report

Continued from Page 13

an inter-province boat race (beer drinking contest). Sixteen teams of 4 men and women raced to drink 4 pints the quickest.

The last evening saw a fitting end to a professionally run event—the Annual Banquet. Over 500 sat down to a four course meal and were entertained by a comedy duet and then a band. This banquet only served to further demonstrate how well organised the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association is.

If you have read this far and are wondering why I have so far only talked about the entertainment side of what is supposed to be a Turfgrass Conference and Show. It is because I wanted to show what can be achieved by a group of forward thinking people who wish to advance their profession. The superintendents of North America are not only achieving this in their own circle they are showing their golf clubs and the trade their Professionalism.

Professionalism was one of the many subjects covered by the 18 speakers. Other subjects covered were 'Replacing Poa Annua With Bent', 'Mechanizing Turf Maintenance', 'Tree Care & Maintenance', 'Control of Aquatic Plants', 'Water Options and Systems Available', and 'Recreation For The 80's'. All the lectures were well presented and most were accompanied for good slide presentations. One speaker by the name of Dr. Roy L. Goss presented an article on how to grow Good Poa Annua. He had a lot of explaining to do.

The lectures were held in a large ballroom in the hotel. Next door to this in an even larger ballroom was a machinery show. These rooms were four floors up in the thirty four floor hotel. In the show were two Kubota tractors, a full range of both Toro and Jacobson machinery including their tractor mounted gang mowers. I could not believe the equipment that was in the hotel four floors up.

This trip came about because I attended our own International Symposium in 1979. There I met the members of the Canadian team who were to play in the International Match. I built up a friendship with Bob Wick who was the CGSA Director for British Columbia. He then invited my wife and myself to stay in Canada for three weeks taking in the Conference. So I would say to any greenkeeper in Britain who has the chance to attend any lecture or golf match and who wishes to improve his knowledge and make friends in the 'Profession' to jump at the chance. We all have our moans and groans about the BGGGA but none of us are beyond reproach and nobody knows it all. But a group of people who get together and share their ideas and views can only extend their personal horizons and become more in their chosen career.

The North American greenkeeper is not a better greenkeeper than a British greenkeeper but he does have a more professional outlook to his job and is thus better recognised by the people he is working for.

Editor's note. Kevin and all members of the BGGGA will be pleased to learn that an International Greenkeepers Conference is being held in Britain later this year. More details about this will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

Sisis competition

'I TOLD YOU SISIS WILL TRAVEL ANYWHERE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR HYDROMAIN'

Congratulations to John Roots of Northfleet, Gravesend, the winner of the Sisis Hydromain Cartoon Competition. Sisis say that they were very impressed with the high standard of the entries and judging proved to be extremely difficult. However, Mr. Roots caption, printed above, was judged to be the best and a case of wines is on its way. Because there were so many witty ideas, Sisis have awarded two extra prizes of a bottle of whiskey to Mr. Bill Marshall of Benton, Newcastle on Tyne for his caption: 'Its British of Course!!! Far more advanced than

that stuff the Americans used to send up here' and to Mr. L. Nelson of York, for 'Its Lunar-sy to work without a Sisis Hydromain'. The following deserve a special mention:

a) J. Barnes; b) S. Lee; c) R.N. Maltby; d) D. Golding; e) C. Lunt; f) S. Richardson.

a) 'When SISIS claim that the Hydromain System has Universal useage, they mean just that'

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d) 'Are you sure he's experienced? He keeps saying, 'Gee Up' to start it.'

e) 'I said, 'Greens Slit by Noon, Not go to the Moon'

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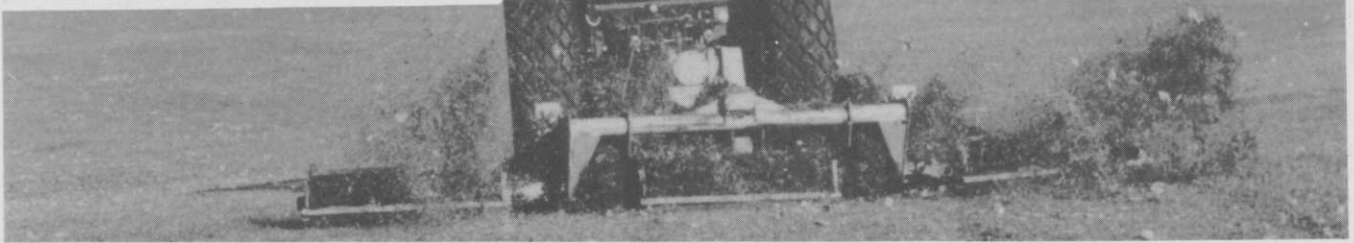
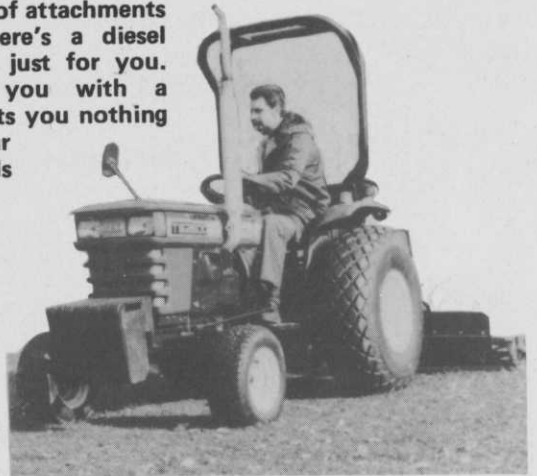
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Entrance: By Catalogue £1. Complimentary admission to IoG Members.

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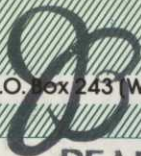
How to get there: (Windsor is just 22 miles west of London.)

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By Rail: Frequent services to Windsor from Waterloo, Reading and Paddington with connections to all parts of the country. Coach service direct to the Exhibition from Windsor & Eton Central and Riverside stations.

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