

GOLF

GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

November
1985

**Martyn Jones concludes
his series on American
greenkeeping techniques**

**Winter dormant Bermuda
grass at Georgia, showing
an overseeded putting green**



The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

GREEN

The putting surface should be,
The players may be, The
greenkeeper cannot afford to
be!

Rolawn turf is the easiest way
to achieve a fine, hard wearing
green sward for sports and
amenity applications.

Available in various grades, all
of superior consistent quality,
supplied in square-yard rolls
from nurseries throughout the
country.

Like you, we know a thing or
two about turf.

For our colour brochure
contact . . .

Rolawn



Rolawn
 Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd. Dept. GG
 Elvington, York YO4 5AR
 Telephone (0904) 85661
 24 hour
 Ansaphone
 service

Watch the grass grow under your feet!

See what new, slow release Floranid can do for
your grass. It means better growth, fewer applications,
less mowing.

To see the quick results of slow release Floranid
contact your distributor or send off the coupon and
we'll send you all the details.



Floranid

the new slow release fertiliser range for turf

BASF United Kingdom Limited, Fertiliser Department,
Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6BQ

Please send me all the details on Floranid.

Name _____
 Position _____
 Organisation _____
 Address _____

Floranid is a BASF trade mark



BASF

GOLF

478

GREENKEEPING and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association
Founded 1912

President:
PETER ALLISS

Vice Presidents:

Gordon Wright	W. Mountain
F. W. Hawtree	F. G. Catchpole
G. Vaughan	J. F. R. Wilson
J. Cogan	B. C. Jennings
T. Scott	D. Craig
E. Stanforth, M.B.E.	J. Field
D. B. Hargreaves	D. R. B. Hopkins
W. Payne	R. Bird
J. E. Lelean	J. Moyce
Dr. P. Hayes	J. Hamilton Stutt

Chairman:
E. R. James
49 Chatsworth Road,
Parkstone, Poole,
Dorset
Tel. 0202 735904

**Hon. Secretary
& Treasurer:**
W. Heeles
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough,
N. Yorks.
Tel. 0423 863851

Executive Committee:

H. McAddey	R. Gates
H. Fry	W. Pile
H. Gillespie	G. Malcolm
E. James	P. McCarron
A. Kite	H. Herrington
J. Richardson	A. Gamble

Auditors:
Lishman, Sidwell,
Campbell & Price
8 York Place,
Knaresborough
N. Yorkshire
Tel. 0423 862334

Solicitors:
Mr. M. Holmes
Topham Phillips & Co.
11 Princes Square,
Harrogate
N. Yorkshire
Tel. 0423 66777

The Association is affiliated to the
English and Welsh Golf Unions

**Publisher and
Editor: JOHN LELEAN**
**Editorial
Panel:** A. Gamble
H. Gillespie

CONTENTS

ST. ANDREWS CONFERENCE The Editor Reports...	4
CRYSTAL COMPETITION	5
TWICE RUNNING Ransomes Tournament Report	6
ARE YOU FULLY EXTENDED? Fred Hawtree	7
P.G.A. PROPOSALS	8,9
SECTIONAL NEWS & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	10,11
UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN GREENKEEPING Part 2	12,13
SITUATIONS VACANT	14
TRADE DIRECTORY	15

FRONT PAGE:

*Martyn Jones concludes his series
on American Greenkeeping
techniques*

*Winter-dormant Bermuda grass at
Georgia, showing an overseeded
putting green*



John Lelean

GREENSIDE COMMENT

A FAIRWAY FOR GREENKEEPERS

This month we are printing in full the proposals made to the BGGA by the Professional Golfers Association outlining their suggestions for a joining of forces between the two principal bodies involved in the game of golf.

However, since the document was first presented to the Executive of the BGGA and the two other Associations representing Greenkeepers in England and Scotland a further approach has been made by golf's controlling body, the R & A, through their Secretary Michael Bonallack.

The first meeting of the three Associations, together with the English Golf Union and a representative of the R & A has already been held in York with a further meeting arranged on 4th November.

At the first York meeting it was agreed that a Steering Committee should be appointed to explore the financial and other problems associated with the creation of a joint Federation and to draft a Constitution for consideration by the three Greenkeeper Associations. Both the PGA and the R & A consider the appointment of a full time executive officer with secretarial assistance is essential if Greenkeepers are to be represented by an Association with sufficient authority to improve the status, development and interests of Greenkeepers throughout the UK. As members of the EEC one does not have to stretch the imagination too far to include European Greenkeepers as well.

We have constantly complained that Greenkeepers are not receiving a fair deal from the golf industry and now this fact has been publicly recognised by the most respected authority in golf. Not only recognised, but acknowledged it takes organisation and finance to put the matter right.

Specific sums have so far not been mentioned, but Mr. Roger Robinson at the October meeting told the Greenkeeper Associations, the R & A would give consideration to the additional financial burden which would otherwise fall upon the Greenkeepers in setting up a more professional organisation.

The time has come to grasp the nettle and for all Greenkeepers to give serious consideration to the approaches from the PGA and the R & A. A number of BGGA Sections have already formed opinions about the PGA proposals and have indicated their reservations over tying themselves to the Professional Golfers. Naturally, there are suspicions about the PGA motives in asking the Greenkeepers to join them. Is it entirely a wish to give a helping hand to a body of men without whom golf could not be played or might it strengthen still further a powerful and very financially secure organisation?

The role of the club golf professional is changing rapidly. They no longer have the exclusive control over the sale of golf equipment. The pattern now developing, is exactly the same as has happened in the United States with the mushrooming of golf equipment supermarkets, offering cut price clubs, balls, bags and trolleys. Can Greenkeepers be blamed for suspecting the PGA might be protecting their own members interests by looking at the possibilities of diversifying into overall golf course management.

There are now two firm offers on the table and Greenkeepers throughout the land must put aside personal prejudices and support whichever scheme is best for those young men already in our multi-million pound industry and those who will enter with expectations for the future.

NEXT MONTH:

**GREENKEEPERS WIN KUBOTA TOURNAMENT
FRED HAWTREE VISITS PAU
REACTION TO PGA PROPOSALS**

Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance is published by: Wharfedale Publications Limited, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4SR. Telephone: (0937) 63181. Published ten times per year. Copies for non-members by subscription. £10.00 a year. Single Copies £1.50 postage paid. Published for the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association by: Wharfedale Publications Limited. The BGGA, The Editor and Publishers do not necessarily agree with the comments and views expressed in this publication and do not accept responsibility for any personal opinions stated therein. © Copyright 1985 Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance. Permission for the reproduction of features and articles will be favourably considered for non commercial purposes on application to the publisher. Printed by: W. Kristall Ltd., Leeds

ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE

The Editor reports.....

Over three hundred delegates, including students from Elmwood College, attended a Conference for Greenkeepers held at Younger Hall, St. Andrews last month run in conjunction with the Ransomes International Tournament, organised by SIGGA Executive Members under the Chairmanship of Walter Woods.

The Scottish Greenkeepers, excelled themselves, not only for the entertainment arranged for the many nationalities attending the three day event, but by their attention to detail and personal concern that everyone should not only feel welcome, but wanted, at St. Andrews.

This year forty-five greenkeepers, secretaries and green chairmen from Sweden flew in for the one day conference. When one considers Sweden has only 175 courses, a degree of the depth of enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge can be gauged. Not only that - they could all converse in the English language!

The theme throughout the day was the golf course maintenance.

David Jones discussed the methods he was using to bring back the finer grasses to Purdis Heath; Russell Brown, Turnberry's Course Manager, refuted criticisms of his course's suitability and readiness for next year's Open Championship; Gordon Childs, a member of the Devon and Cornwall

Section of the BGGGA gave a well received paper on Parkland Management, and the morning session finished with a previous Green Chairman at Lindrick, Nicholas Park, presenting a well researched and excellently illustrated lecture justifying the present turf culture regime at Lindrick.

Despite extending his talk well over the allotted time, there were many in the hall who were not convinced the objectives had been achieved or whether an overwhelming belief in principles had clouded the original issues.

Did we really hear correctly that green is only a cosmetic colour for the putting surface?

The afternoon session was led by Mike Bonallack, the Secretary of the R.&A., whose significant remarks are reported elsewhere in this edition. Then followed a paper by Rolf Lowgren of the Swedish Golf Federation with a most interesting slide presentation of golf in Sweden, including the development of a new course inside the Arctic Circle.

Bob Heron, from the Canadian GCSSA, showed how his team tackle the massive ice-flows that spill out of the adjacent river every spring turning the greens and fairways into a penguin's paradise. He also showed pictures of migrating wild geese descending on the course and how greenstaff stage a rodeo style round-up so they can be shipped out by truck to join another flight path to the south.

Although fascinated by Bob's efforts to overcome adversity there were several who, applying a little lateral thinking, wondered why anyone had built a golf course there in the first place!

Agronomist Stanley Zontek, who I had the pleasure of meeting several times during the three days, covered the subject of the US Greens Section and how this organisation of consultant agronomists helps golf courses with analysis and advice. It was interesting to discover the finance for maintaining the staff, offices and the well read news-letter, comes from money raised at the US Open Championship.

Jim Wyllie, from the Bay View Golf and Country Club, closed the session in his usual polished fashion. Disagreeing with some of the previous speakers and not afraid to say so.

Well done the SIGGA Conference Committee. Although thirteen countries were represented, the English were sparse on the ground. If only more Green Chairmen would take the trouble to attend an event such as this, they would have a better understanding of the vagaries of maintaining a golf course.

Watermation

FOR ALL SPORTS TURF IRRIGATION

You can't beat us when it comes to first class irrigation. With over 15 years experience behind us, we have installed irrigation systems all over Britain, in all the best places, and our sprinklers pop-up in Ireland, in Europe and in Africa.

But you probably know about our past. In the future we will continue to offer the best automatic irrigation installations but now we are ALSO OFFERING A NEW RANGE OF SPRINKLERS, CONTROLLERS AND OTHER SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT, ALL DESIGNED AND BUILT BY WATERMATION IN ENGLAND.

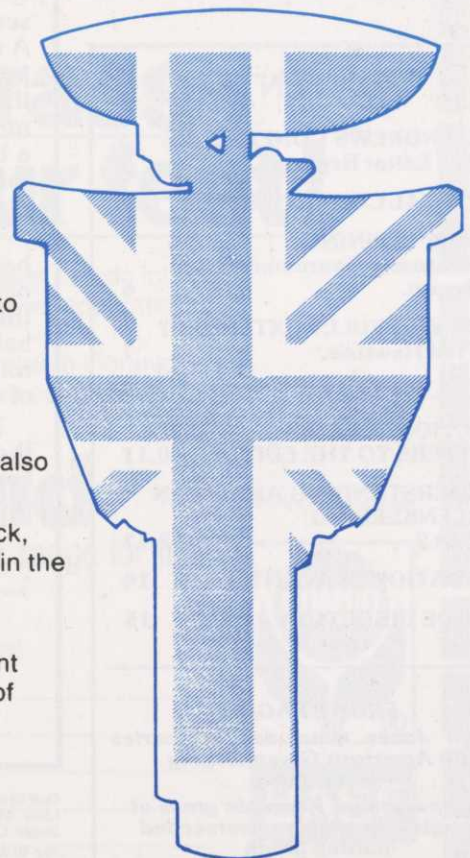
It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

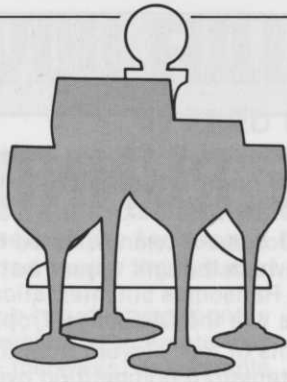
So if you have a golf course, tennis court, bowling green, running track, football pitch . . . or even a whole town to be irrigated and monitored in the Middle East, we can offer you irrigation equipment which is specially designed and suitable for the needs of those areas.

Naturally, we can still supply you with all our usual range of equipment and spares and in fact we now have the most comprehensive range of irrigation equipment in the Country. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

WATERMATION LTD.
Monument Way E.,
Woking, Surrey. GU21 5LY.
Woking (04862) 70303

also at:
Stirling (0786) 70252
Dublin 760964





THE CRYSTAL COMPETITION

Journey's end! This is the sixth and final part of the Crystal Competition sponsored by Rigby Taylor, producers of the Mascot range of turf-care products.

Over the past five issues you have been posed a total of twenty-five questions about golf and greenkeeping, this month the last five questions are printed to make-up the total of thirty.

All thirty questions are listed below with spaces for your answers.

There are three prizes and the winner of the first prize of a magnificent cut glass decanter and matching lead crystal glasses will be the first correct entry drawn out of the hat after the closing date of **30th November 1985**.


The competition is open to all readers of
Golf Greenkeeping.

Cut out the 'golf ball' tokens from the previous issues and attach them to your entry. Anyone missing a previous token may obtain one by writing to the Editor.

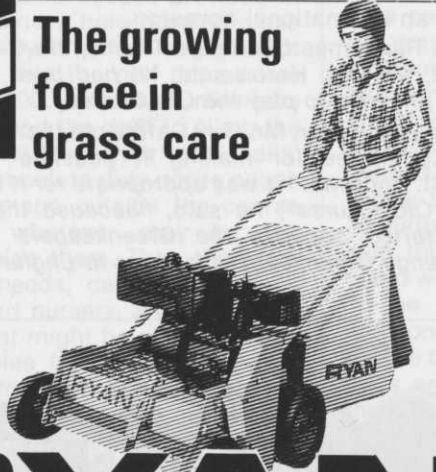
The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. You know the rules so go to it!

And there is a bonus prize. The Editor will award a mystery bottle of whisky in a draw to the entrant who answers just one section of five questions correctly.

Which section we are not telling - that's the mystery. But it does give every competitor a chance to pick up a prize even if you cannot submit an all correct score.



The growing force in grass care



RYAN POWER RAKES

When it comes to turf maintenance, one name is universally associated with the highest quality equipment - RYAN.

Look at the versatile range of RYAN Power Rakes. Three basic models are available. Standard with 5hp and 8hp engines. And heavy duty with a powerful 10hp engine. Fitted with a choice of easily changed blades and optional spacings, they're versatile performers for breaking up cores, dethatching or slicing fine turf areas.

Quality-built through and through - that's RYAN.

Now backed by VICTA in the UK.

Victa (UK) Limited, Rutherford Road, Daneshill West, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 0QY Tel: 0256 50301 Telex 858282

1. An Australian golfer is a close relative of a famous cricketer, Who is he?
2. Who are the three men presented with the 'Old Tom Morris Award'?
3. Who designed the Lincolnshire course of Woodhall Spa?
4. What are 'Whins'?
5. Where is the first Jack Nicklaus designed course in the U.K?
6. Club golfers play for a Monthly Medal. Where did the 'Medal' round originate?
7. The early 'gutta' ball was made from what?
8. What part of the world did the material come from?
9. What type of wood was used for the wooden shaft club before hickory was brought in from America?
10. What is measured with a Stimpmeter?
11. What was the name of the forerunner to the Sports Turf Research Institute?
12. Which course staged the first 'Open Golf Championship'?
13. The first trophy was 'the Challenge Belt' to be retained by the first competitor to win it three years in succession. Who was that competitor?
14. Whose responsibility is the allocation of a Standard Scratch Score to the golf course?
15. (a) What is the size of the putting hole?
(b) What is the minimum depth it must be sunk into the green?
16. Name the two championship courses at Gleneagles.
17. How many rounds of golf were played in the first Open Championship at Prestwick in 1860 to complete the 36 hole championship test?
18. How can observation of bird life indicate an infestation of leather jackets?
19. New Zealand golfer Bob Charles had play suspended at Sunningdale during the European Open when he reached the first green. Why?
20. Name two of the common causes of weed incursion in fine turf.
21. What is the sign used on the container of a Toxic chemical?
22. How many species of earthworm are there in the U.K. Nine Fifteen Twenty-five?
23. Which British tree is facing extinction through the activities of a beetle?
24. What year was the BGGGA in its original form, started?
25. Which architect is associated with the two tier green?

And now for this month's final five questions.

26. How many yards is the famous 10th hole at the Belfry?
27. What was the final score in the 1985 Ryder Cup?
28. Which course is Walter Woods associated with?
29. Name two of the major plant nutrients.
30. Who is the present Secretary to the R. & A?

Cut out the list of questions and attach the page to a plain sheet of paper, listing your answers from 1-30.

If you do not want to cut the magazine, a plain sheet of paper is acceptable, but don't forget to include your name and address.

Send your completed entry to the Crystal Competition Golf Greenkeeping, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 4SR to arrive not later than 30th November.

NAME

ADDRESS

CLUB/COMPANY



The growing
force in
grass care

RYAN POWER RAKES

When it comes to turf maintenance, one name is universally associated with the highest quality equipment – RYAN.

Look at the versatile range of RYAN Power Rakes. Three basic models are available. Standard with 5hp and 8hp engines. And heavy duty with a powerful 10hp engine. Fitted with a choice of easily changed blades and optional spacings, they're versatile performers for breaking up cores, dethatching or slicing fine turf areas.

Quality-built through and through – that's RYAN.

Now backed by VICTA in the UK.

Available from Victa (UK) Limited

Professional Rotary
Grasscutters

Power Turf Edgers

Ryan Aerators

Ryan Power Rakes

Ryan Turf Cutters

Petrol Cylinder Mowers

Domestic Rotary Mowers

Victa (UK) Limited, Rutherford Road, Daneshill West
Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 0QY Tel: 0256 50301 Telex 858282

TWICE RUNNING

As the early mist on an October morning cleared from the famous links courses at St. Andrews, a thought uppermost in the minds of competitors taking part in Ransomes 5th International Tournament was 'Could the Canadians win the Challenge Trophy again?'

A record entry with teams of four players from thirteen different countries took part in a stableford competition over 36 holes.

At 8.30 a.m. the Welsh were the first to tee-off and at the end of the first round only one point separated the two leaders - Scotland with 45 and the Canadians on 44. Breathing down the Canadian's necks, one point behind, were the Dutch, Northern Irish and Swedes. Only three of the thirteen teams were under 40 points after the morning round, with every prospect of an exciting tussle in the afternoon.

Nature intervened during the afternoon with a wind gusting up to 30 mph which the competitors blamed for their frequent exclamations of anguish. The wind proved disastrous for the Swedes who dropped right out of contention, but the two teams from across the Atlantic proved to be masters of the wind. The Canadians returning a superb 47 points and the USA team 46.

The German team, lying eleventh at lunch-time, scored 45 points in the second round to be placed sixth overall. Alas, the Scots who led after 18 holes recorded one less in the afternoon, but took second place.

So the Canadians won the Ransomes Challenge Trophy for the second time with a total of 91 points. Scotland were second and USA third.

Only four points separated the first four places. Northern Ireland were fourth, and three teams, Holland, West Germany and Spain, tied for fifth place.

Following the tournament, the traditional Ransomes Banquet was attended by 150 guests at the Rusack's Marine Hotel where Mr. Keith Mackenzie, the Past Secretary of the R & A was guest speaker. He described how the game of golf was played at St. Andrews in the past and said how much he enjoyed being present at such an international occasion.

Receiving the Ransomes Challenge Trophy, the Captain of the Canadian Team, Mr. Bob Heron said: "It had been a wonderful occasion and a privilege to play the Old Course".

Ransomes Sales Director, Mr. Guy Catchpole thanked the Links Management Committee for making it possible to play the tournament at St. Andrews. "It was appropriate for it to have been played on the Old Course", he said, "because the Ransomes Tournaments started because the Greenkeepers in Scotland wanted to challenge Greenkeeper members in England to a game of golf."



Pictured with their Scorer on the first tee of St. Andrews' Old Course waiting to drive off is the Canadian team, winners of Ransomes 5th International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament. The members of the Canadian team are (left to right) Bob Heron, Doug Meyer, Lockie Shaw and Kimmo Soloman.

ARE YOU FULLY EXTENDED?

by FRED HAWTREE

In the hinterland of Sleazeville-on-Sea where I have my holiday cottage, Golphin, there is an excellent nine hole course though, regrettably, it announces itself in the landscape by thin rows of cypress. One wishes Mr. Lawson had never introduced them into his Edinburgh nurseries.

When the club heard, some months ago, that the neighbouring estate was to be auctioned, there was considerable excitement. If they could extract 50 acres or so, they might finally realise their perennial dream of extending to 18 holes. In 1928, the committee had refused an offer of a similar area for a modest £500, believing that 9 holes were plenty for 72 members.

All subsequent committees agreed that this refusal had been short-sighted. One can only concur. It is axiomatic that any land connecting with golf course boundaries should be snapped up even if it is superfluous to present needs. The club will surmount such hurdles with the greater comfort, the greater the area available to expand elsewhere. A nine hole course will feel obliged, still more strongly, to go to all lengths to acquire more ground. Even if it is small now, another piece may become available one day and enable the magic 50-60 acres to be put together to achieve the transition to the Senior League.

Apart from extending or meeting future problems, it is always good to have control over what happens next to the course. Houses may otherwise be built or public access provided in fields alongside a hole running close to the boundary. It is then no argument to point out that the golf course has been there 100 years and members have always had the right to climb the fence and retrieve their golf balls. There is an absolute duty not to cause injury or damage outside the course boundaries whatever may be the situation inside them. Then there are occasional needs, car parking for a pro-am., a turf nursery, a tree nursery; a modest rent might be obtained from a local stables for grazing. The club can decide for itself instead of being a helpless onlooker. The asset will never be found to be wasting.

If however, there is enough land for an extra 9 holes then any lingering reluctance should disappear. Action should be swift, firm and decisive to avoid the monotonous chant down the next fifty years "*In 1985, the Committee could have bought it for £X,000*"; and its antiphon: "*Is that all?*".

The faint-hearted may first wish to take outside advice as to the use of the land for golf, its soil, its drainage, whether contours are suitable. These questions can be answered if necessary after an option has been obtained. An option is a wise precaution even though the vendor's agents are looking to the golf club as their prime purchaser. If the land is not suitable for golf, it

is likely to be an odd piece of country not commanding any inflated price but naturally the club will not reveal any potential development which they envisage. Any change of use will involve planning consent and that is where the option to buy will be useful while an application is being considered. Its outcome may indeed modify assessment of the purchase price. If a local land agent or surveyor is also a member of the club, so much the better; but in any event, the input of an expert in valuation should come at an early stage.

If attractive drawings start to arrive on the committee table, they should be allowed to lie there. Low handicap golfers with less artistic prowess but more influence in the club may also feel obliged to offer layouts.

The risks of adopting schemes prepared by persons not specifically qualified are awesome when the current costs of construction are added to those of purchase. Mistakes at this stage are not only expensive: they also lead to discomfort and frustration later when they have to be corrected.

The dangers of an amateur design are compounded by two other factors. If the preferred scheme is presented by a person familiar with the process of grants, interest-free loans and sponsorships, he acquires some extra 'pull' which may tip the scales his way. The other factor operates if the captain is a low handicap golfer and feels obliged to present his own version of a new 9 holes. If he is also likely to be instrumental in raising a substantial sum towards the cost then that club could well be in for 10 years of turmoil. To be fair, a scheme prepared by someone who has never planned a golf course before may be a winner. But the odds are all against it. Nevertheless there is a curious tradition in golf clubs with rules as democratic as could be desired, that the Captain acquires some despotic authority above the governing processes and has to be indulged in 'his year'. The layout adopted will be there long after the Captain's name has faded on the Honours Board. Let us hope it will be a memorial to him by permanence and because of his reticence.

Outside advice raises certain difficulties in itself. It is natural for the Committee to wish to sell a scheme to the members which is obviously attractive and progressive. They will often want more from their consultant than he can deliver. Any plan is a compromise and an extension has not only to make the usual compromises with the land but also with the connec-

tion to the existing course, the provision of a second starting point, the avoidance of too much disturbance to the holes in play, and the provision finally of two reasonably balanced, blended halves. If the existing course is tightly planned and the new acreage is minimal, nobody can provide the sort of length, which is often over-optimistically expected. Total length is a precise function of acreage and contour and a layout which exceeds the appropriate yardage will either be unsafe or eccentric.

The golf course architect will have estimated probable costs and made recommendations as to the method of construction. The work will be beyond the means of an average ground staff but there will be jobs they could undertake. There may be one or two greens to be made within the confines of the existing layout. One per year is a fair allowance though there is scope for more if earth movement, for example, is done by the contractor chosen for the extension. There is a British Association of Golf Course Contractors. Try them first.

The golf course architect or his agronomist should also have determined whether existing grass cover on the new land should be retained. The groundstaff can undertake mowing economically. They will do it more regularly and at better times than a contractor who has to come from a distance. It is surprising how quickly a fine turf will develop where the surface is acceptable. The savings are considerable. Ploughing, cultivating and sowing cost something like £1,200 to £1,400 per hectare and there is still further stone-picking and a long maintenance period before a playable surface develops.

New greens to a full specification by contract cost £8,000 to £9,000 each and tees, say £2,000 per hole initially. Fairway bunkers can wait but allow for tree planting in the initial stages. On these lines, with the ground staff's collaboration, the cost of the 9 holes could be held down closer to £110,000 than the normal range, about £150,000, entirely contracted out.

We seem to have run a long way past the Sleazeville-on-Sea Golf Club's current activities. They have not yet bought the land but they already have a plan for the new 9 holes pinned to the notice board. There is plenty of green colour with yellow bunkers and a bright blue water hazard. But there is no scale. Therefore I cannot honestly assess whether it might be a disaster or not, though I have my suspicions. But I did notice that it was signed by a member and that he was the Captain and that he had a low handicap and that he was promoting fund-raising activities. That is an irresistible combination. Nobody will dare to stand in his way. My educated guess therefore is that S.O.S.G.C. are in for a long haul before they get it right. I could be wrong. I hope so. Otherwise, does anybody want to buy a holiday cottage called 'Dungolphin'?

THE PGA PROPOSALS TO THE BGGGA

The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, founded in 1912, is the longest established and most prestigious Association in its field. In recent years, a lack of development and poor promotion and P.R. has encouraged the formation of other Greenkeepers' Associations in the U.K. and failed to attract a large number of working greenkeepers into membership. These two factors have combined to erode the prestige of the Association and its members.

FIRST MEETING

In 1981 meetings were held between representatives of the PGA, BGGGA, and the Stewards' Associations. At that time it was felt that the climate was not right for any alliance.

More recently, the particular affinity of the greenkeeper and the Professional have become more apparent and in June 1985 the PGA invited representatives of the Executive of the BGGGA to a meeting at PGA Headquarters.

SECOND MEETING

A second meeting took place on Saturday 6th July. General agreement was reached on most issues and it was decided that the proposals should be set out in full for consideration by the Sections of the BGGGA. Once agreement is reached in principle a timetable would be evolved leading to the necessary changes being implemented within a period of 6-12 months, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the PGA.

The following proposal outlines plans to bring the BGGGA into the 'eighties' and give its members the status and recognition they deserve

There would be three principal objectives to the development of the BGGGA.

- (i) *the development of membership services with the aim of attracting all greenkeepers into the Association in due course.*
- (ii) *the evolution of the BGGGA into a more professional and influential organisation.*
- (iii) *the close working relationship of the BGGGA and PGA bringing a more concerted influence on golf clubs and other employers to the mutual advantage of both Associations.*

Development of Membership Services

It would be the intention to develop the services and privileges of membership to a point where everyone involved in the profession either wanted or needed to be a member.

Public Relations

The resources of the PGA, together with its existing publications could be brought to bear on a campaign of presenting the greenkeeper to the golf world as the highly qualified, dedicated and resourceful man he really is.

Magazines and Year Books

This particular aspect of P.R. could be developed immediately. It is felt that the magazine of the BGGGA could be combined with the PGA Journal. The cover would reflect the involvement of both organisations and the new publication would be a double magazine reflecting all the features and editorial of the present BGGGA magazine. The PGA enjoys having a Journal which places no financial burdens on it and it is anticipated the same facility would apply to the BGGGA. The current BGGGA magazine should be developed as a vehicle for promoting greenkeepers. A Careers Brochure should be produced similar to the one currently used by the PGA, and this too would present the BGGGA as a Professional Association concerned with recruiting the best possible assistants and offering them a thorough training and secure career.

Advice on Contracts and Appointments

A full-time Secretariat would give much greater scope for liaison and negotiation with individual clubs on members' contracts and salaries and proclaiming the case for greenkeepers in general to clubs, Golf Unions, etc. An 'Appointments' service would be offered notifying members of job opportunities and approaching clubs offering poor terms to bring them up to the standard required.

Tournaments and Members Activities

The greenkeeper is often an avid golfer and currently enjoys a programme of organised tournaments. The full resources of the PGA would be put behind developing the greenkeepers tournament programme with more attractive prizes.

Training

The training of BGGGA apprentices and members is already well-advanced and respected.

There would be no attempt to influence the training of greenkeepers and the responsibility for determining the content, frequency, location and degree of training would continue to rest with the BGGGA.

The advantage of the new alliance would be to give the BGGGA more flexibility for Managerial positions. A Diploma in Golf Management, would also be available to qualified members of the BGGGA, thus equipping them with a qualification to apply for these senior positions in the future.

Expanded Services

One of the principle aspects of this proposal is the appointment of full-time staff by the BGGGA backed up by the existing resources of the PGA.

(ii) Evolution of the BGGGA

The current organisation is bottom-heavy and unwieldy. there is insufficient professional representation and the time-consuming administration of a major national Association is carried out by elected representatives trying to make a success of their own jobs and run the Association at the same time.

A similar re-organisation would lend itself ideally to the future long-term interests of the BGGGA.

Development of Regions

The present sections meet regularly and an elected representative sits on the Executive. Individual members and sections would still enjoy the same representation if the sections - still retaining their own identity were formed into four or five Regions. Each Region would then elect a member to serve on the National Executive comprising six or so members.

The full-time Secretary would attend the meetings of the Regions in order to service the Committee and bring a consistency to proceedings.

This system has brought the PGA out of the wilderness into the forefront of sports bodies in twelve years. Members still control all aspects of the Association, determine the Constitution and Regulations, Subscriptions, Training Methods, etc. The full-time staff carry out the wishes of the membership and the Executive.

(iii) BGGGA and PGA Liaison

It is easy to imagine many asking "why should they do this?" or "what's in it for the PGA".

Greenkeepers and Professionals are two essential ingredients in the world of the most highly organised club-sport in the world. Yet, in many cases they are treated as necessary luxuries at best and labourers at worst.

Clubs currently employ four basic groups of staff; greenkeepers, professional stewards, and secretaries. Each is represented by different organisations and none enjoys the support of the other in times of difficulty. An alliance of greenkeepers and professionals would do much to improve their status.

Separately, these two stalwarts are a lone voice in the wilderness. Together, they will double their influence. Their basic requirements are very similar. The growth in influence and pressure eventually available to members of both organisations can only be estimated but it is a safe assumption that in time the PGA will only play tournaments at clubs with BGGGA members just as it enforces this condition with PGA members and bring other pressures to bear in the interests of members of both Associations.

It has been suggested that the PGA is seeking an alliance in order to open up greenkeeping opportunities for its members. This is not so. It is envisaged that in the future, the pro-greenkeeper will be even less likely than now. There will be those who by virtue of circumstances are sufficiently talented to qualify in both disciplines and be eligible for membership of both Associations but these will be insignificant in number and likely to become less.

FINANCE

The proposed re-organisation could be achieved by the appointment of a full-time BGGGA Secretary, based at PGA National Headquarters supported by all the resources available.

This will cost significantly more than the present system and a basic outline of the Expenditure of the initial year(s) is set out below.

	£
Salaries and National Insurance	15,000
Car Expenses	4,000
Telephone	2,000
Stationery and Postage	2,000
PGA Admin. Charge	10,000
Audit and Legal Expenses, etc.	1,000

	34,000

Note

1. These are anticipated figures.
2. They do not represent an increase of £34,000 since the BGGGA currently incurs expenditure for telephone, postal and administration expenses.
3. The PGA Administration charge is estimated to cover a contribution towards the running of Headquarters including heat, light, rates and other services including the services of a Chartered Accountant, Computer, etc. etc.

Based on current membership numbers, an increase in subscription from the present rates to £20 for head greenkeepers and £15 for Greenkeepers and apprentices would bring increased income of approximately £8,000 - £10,000.

The main increase in income would come from an increase in the membership encouraged by the new organisation and development of membership services. If, the membership was doubled, this would cover the full costs on subscriptions alone. The PGA would be prepared to support this development of the finance for a period. The increase in subscriptions may appear significant at first but should be set against PGA members paying between £70 and £80 and Trainees £40 at present.

Additional income would be encouraged from a number of external sources and pressure brought to bear on other organisations to support the development of the BGGGA with grants and donations.

It is not anticipated that the whole burden will fall on BGGGA members but it must be understood and accepted that over a period of time they must make a greater contribution if they are to enjoy a greater return.

Retention of Finance

The BGGGA will continue to control its own finances and ALL income accruing through subscriptions, donations and funds raised through activities will belong to the BGGGA. The overall control of assets will be in the hands of the PGA Board of Directors but the Board will also guarantee the financial security of the BGGGA in the future.

This same system applies to PGA Regions and the WPGA which in every respect determine their own financial income and expenditure.

The BGGGA would be financially independent but enjoy the security of the resources of the PGA.

IDENTITY OF THE BGGGA

It is clear that a number of changes will be required to the basic organisation and the Constitution of the BGGGA if the developments in this proposal are to be achieved.

- (i) The Association will be called The British Golf Greenkeepers' Association unless the BGGGA decide to change it.
- (ii) BGGGA stationery will be used.
- (iii) Headquarters will be referred to as "BGGGA National Headquarters".
- (iv) The BGGGA Secretary will wear the BGGGA badge and tie at official functions.
- (v) The BGGGA magazine will still be recognised but as a part of a joint publication with the PGA Journal.
- (vi) The BGGGA Executive will control all aspects of BGGGA activity and, in addition, have a seat on the Executive of the PGA.

CONCLUSION

The PGA feels that it has an administrative base and resources which are ideally suited to assist the BGGGA achieve a new status in the golf world. The PGA would benefit from the additional influence this would give its members as part of an alliance of golf club employees.

To be successful, members of the BGGGA would be required to have vision and determination and accept a number of developments which would make this possible.

It is envisaged that for a period of time, membership of the BGGGA would be offered to qualified greenkeepers currently in membership of other Associations. However, if these individuals, choose not to take advantage of the situation, the plans could still go ahead unhindered.

The whole object of this exercise would be to develop an Association which greenkeepers could not afford to ignore. It is envisaged that in a few years all clubs with vacancies will stipulate Membership of the BGGGA essential in their advertisements just as nearly every club specifies Membership of the PGA for appointments of Professionals.

It is the time to consider the future not only of the BGGGA, but of every individual member. A great deal of hard work and commitment will be needed to make it successful but the benefits will far outweigh the problems.

The PGA did it twelve years ago and proved that the formula works - does the BGGGA want to do it now with the help of the PGA?

SECTIONAL News

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: Frank Barratt,
46 Lister Avenue,
Sheffield S12 3FP.
Telephone: (0742) 399941

All members of the section, and indeed all greenkeepers will be saddened by the death of George Herrington. George was a good man in the broadest sense of the word, and will be greatly missed.

The Annual Slater Trophy match, Sheffield versus Northern Section was held this year at Heworth Golf Club, York. The Sheffield Section thank all concerned for a very pleasant day, even the weather was kind. There was of course a snag, the Northern Section won, yet again.

Six days after the debacle at Heworth, the Autumn Tournament was played at Hallowes Golf Club, and again the section thank all concerned for a pleasant afternoon.

The result was:-

J. McNickolas	(2 up)
R. Needham	(2 up)
K. B. Heaney	(2 up)

The opening talk of the winter series was a non event, our promised speaker Mr. M. Farrant of Farrant Chemicals (Soil Life) did not turn up. Although this had been a long standing date, asked for by Mr. Farrant, confirmed by letter and again at the Windsor Exhibition where Henry Gillespie, Barry Heaney and myself had a long talk with Mr. Farrant, he saw fit to cancel our arrangement by a phone call late the night previous to his proposed talk, this left the section without a speaker. I find this cavalier attitude difficult to understand, particularly when the people being so badly treated are potentially customers of a product not yet fully proven.

The November talk will be given by Mr. David Stansfield of The Sports Turf Research Institute; Hillsborough Golf Club, 2.30 p.m. November 6th.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
6 Locke Street, Newport,
Gwent NP1 5HL

On Wednesday 9th October we held our annual match against the South-West at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club.

The match was a well-fought affair played with enthusiasm.

This year it was the year of the South-West yet again.

RESULTS:

P. Swain v. G. Wissett	Won 1 up
T. Thompson v. C. Lewis	Won 2 & 1
D. Jones v. L. Walters	Lost 4 & 2
H. Fry v. W. Jones	Lost 2 & 1
J. Walsh v. R. Kitcher	Lost 5 & 4
T. Gray v. D. Williams	Lost 4 & 3

The South-West won 4-2

Dates for 1986:

17th April: Wenvoe Castle Golf Club
10th July: Dinas Powis Golf Club

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
20 Aston Way, Clavering Park,
Whickham, Tyne & Wear
Telephone: 886765

On the warmest day of the year we held our annual Autumn Meeting at Arcot Hall Golf Club.

I would like to thank Peter Henderson and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, the committee for their courtesy and the steward for the excellent meals.

Thanks also to the trade for supporting the section and the donation of prizes.

TROPHY WINNERS:

Best Gross: (Salver)
C. Handyside (Gosforth G.C.) (7)
(Carriage Clock)
77 + 38 = 115

Best Nett: (Ransomes Cup & Watch)
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.) (108½)
74 + 34½ = 108½

Greenlay Cup: (Wine Set)
J. Redhead (City of Newcastle G.C.)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fewsters Shield: (Holdall)
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.) (14)
76 + 33 = 109 Nett

Fisons Tankard (9 holes Competition):
J. S. Richardson (Whickham G.C.)
34½ Nett

Sisis Tankard:
I. Johnson (Stocksfield G.C.)
33 Nett

Our grateful thanks to the following:

Ryton Gravel Co. . Bland Short . Karsway
Parkside . Fewsters . Dixon Sports
Stewarts . Pattinsons . Bentleys
Supaturf . Fison . Sisis . Ransomes
Lloyds

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: S. Wood,
153 Dickinson Drive,
Bescot, Walsall,
West Midlands WS2 9DR
Telephone: (0922) 640291

On Wednesday 18th September we held our Autumn Tournament at Trentham Park G.C.

We would like to thank the committee and the members for giving us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities.

Because of the International Exhibition that week our numbers were reduced to only 24 players, but a good day's golf was had by all.

A. Lewis won the gross competition with a fine one over par score for 27 holes, and also wins the best Gross Aggregate score from our three major Tournaments, for the second year running.

Best Nett:	67	25½	J. Humphries
Second:	69	34	M. Hughes
Third:	71	36	S. Wood
Fourth:	72	35	I. Toon

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

December 2nd:
Xmas Competition at Olton Golf Club, £9.00 each.
Contact A. Phipps-Jones (0684) 292892.

January 13th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Summer Golf Videos,
Moor Hall Golf Club.

February 10th (Monday) - 7.30 p.m.):
Lecture Moor Hall Golf Club

March 7th (Friday) - 2.00 p.m.):
Spraying and Chemicals
Telford Golf and Country Club:
Contact:
I. Toon (021) 308 7936 for details.

SOUTH COAST

Hon. Sec: J. R. Dennis,
Hampshire College of Agriculture,
Sparsholt, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2NF.
Telephone: (096) 272441 Ext. 288.

Over fifty members and guests took part in the Section's Autumn Tournament in September. This was a 36 hole Greensome Stableford Competition, held at Waterloo Golf Club. As usual, the Section is indebted to the Club officials for their hospitality, in particular to Laurie Carless and his staff for preparing the course to such a high standard. Thank you Laurie, and we were pleased you could join us for the evening meal and presentation.

Our thanks also to trade members for their contribution to the Prize Table.

Prize Winners were:-

1st	J. C. Newman (7)	79 pts.
	D. Grove (7)	
	DOWNSHIRE GOLF CLUB	
2nd	B. Emberley (7)	78 pts
	P. Hector (11)	
	KNIGHTON HEATH GOLF CLUB	
3rd	R. Walker (9)	74 pts
	J. Lister (20)	
	QUEENS PARK GOLF CLUB	
4th	J. Stimston (14)	74 pts
	R. Trim (Hon)	(11)
5th	C. Mitchell (9)	74 pts
	R. Lawrence	
	MAIDENHEAD GOLF CLUB	
6th	B. Forder (4)	72 pts
	W. Brackstone (15)	
	SOUTHAMPTON GOLF CLUB	

In the Annual match play Tournament between our Section and the South-West, our team had a handsome win of 5 matches to 1.

However, most games almost went to the 18th hole, so it was a very tight and hard fought match. Our thanks to Derek Cheetham, Head Greenkeeper at Knighton Heath Golf Club for arranging the competition.

I am pleased to report that Derek and his partner Bob Walker were 1 up at the end of their game.

New members since my last report:

Stephen Longyear
Phillip Ryder

(Both with Pennyhill Golf and Country Club)

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: David F. Golding,
Telephone: (061) 748 8592

The North-West Committee are unanimously agreed. Please study the reports etc., and if anybody has any views, please write to me as we on the Committee would like as many opinions as possible.

We feel that:-

- All Greenkeeping Associations should be 'united' under one Association in the future with a paid full-time Administrator.
- We do not accept the P.G.A. report in its present form and even in another form, we do not think it is in the interest of any Greenkeeper to be linked with the P.G.A.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES:

December 11th, 1985 'Trees on Golf Courses'
January 8th, 1986 'ICI/Maxwell Hart, Slow Release Fertilizers'
February 12th, 1986 'SISIS Equipment'

Usual venue, The Old Cock Hotel, Stretford, at 8.00 p.m.
Junction 8 off the M63 towards Old Trafford.

DEVON & CORNWALL

Hon. Sec: Bill Pile,
33 Knowle Drive,
Exwick, Exeter EX4 2DF.
Telephone: 214053

Our Section were certainly blessed with good fortune on the day of our first meeting at Truro Golf Club on Wednesday October 16th. After several days of thick fog and mists causing havoc on the roads and delayed starts for golfing events, our day dawned clear and everyone had a good run down to Truro with the golf starting right on time.

Forty-two members attended the meeting and thirty went out on the course, kept in fine fettle by Dick (sorry, Richard) Parr and his staff, to contest for the Stanley West cup and Ransomes watch. The others were given a conducted tour of the course and work sheds which proved most interesting.

After a first class meal the cards were checked and the results were announced as follows:-

1st R. Whyman (Hcp 13)	40 pts.	Bude G.C.
2nd P. Bullen (Hcp 20)	20 pts.	Newquay G.C.
3rd C. Burgess (Hcp 18)	33 pts.	Droitwich G.C.

Keith Stuart kindly presented the prizes which had been donated by Stanley West Ltd.

The afternoon had been set aside for a discussion on greenkeeping practices, but although a lively debate took place it was on the various merits of the amalgamation of the B.G.G.A. with the P.G.A. and the alternative offer of assistance from the R & A and the golf unions. Our section were unanimous in support of more information on these propositions in the magazine. Certainly the P.G.A. offer should be printed in full also the minutes of all meetings with the R & A golf unions and other greenkeeping associations with any relevant comments from the B.G.G.A. executive.

MID ANGLIA

Hon. Sec: L. Wakerell,
26 Loxley Road, Berkhamsted,
Herts. HP4 3PS

The Autumn Tournament was held over 27 holes at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday 24th September.

Once again the weather was kind to the 33 competitors and Andrew Burden, a young assistant from John O'Gaunt Golf Club scored 23 points over the morning 9 holes and although steadying down in the afternoon with 33 points, the total 56 points was good enough to take the President's Watch and Trophy.

Second with 54 points (17 + 37) was Cyril Stevens, and third, playing his first Tournament was Steve Denton on 53 points, (17 + 36).

The morning prize was won by Bill O'Hanlon, with 18 points and the afternoon's best round (73 gross) for 43 points was easily good enough to win the Tea Set for young 'Loc' Millar, who we are pleased to welcome from the South West Section.

The course was in fine condition, and the greens absolutely superb, as they always are at Verulam thanks to Geoff Smith and his green staff.

We were delighted to have Mr. Peter Cooper, the Verulam Captain join us

LETTERS to The Editor

You may be aware that I had the honour to speak at the 5th International Greenkeeping Conference at St. Andrews, on behalf of the B.G.G.A. on the 8th October. This 4 day event was very well organised by S.I.G.G.A., and I personally was very well received, as I am sure was the Chairman, and the two members of the B.G.G.A. who, along with two members from E.I.G.G.A. made up the England team.

I attended all events on all four days, including walking 27 of the 36 holes played by the team. The support of the E.I.G.G.A. board was very much in evidence, in fact one member caddied for 36 holes. It was my pleasure to add my support to the team. So you will understand my feelings on Conference day that the support of your Chairman was missing, preferring by all accounts to leave St. Andrews and play golf elsewhere. The two members of the team, who also went to play golf that day at least came to me and apologised later.

It was at this Conference that the offer from the R.&A. to all Greenkeeping Organisations in Britain was made, but was missed by the B.G.G.A. officials.

This Conference was an eye-opener. To hear the true facts of the proposed merger with the P.G.A. is just one example. Ask yourselves, what do we get out of it? The answer is, a better organised administration, which would be welcome. A central headquarters, again very much a plus. So what has the P.G.A. to gain? Greenkeeper training, so they can take over your jobs? Well, that has got to be a possibility. They get much more strength, for a greenkeeper is a very important member of a golf club staff, and one which is hard to do without, but a club can run without the professional. I am not suggesting it should, but you must see my point.

They point out that more cash will be available. This may be true, but you should also be aware that most of this cash will come from your pockets. So what are the alternatives? I would like to see us make a move to the R.&A. for help, which will be given, and not at the cost of jobs.

The information passed down the line to B.G.G.A. members, that E.I.G.G.A. and S.I.G.G.A. are no more than splinter groups and struggling to get by is rubbish. That was evident at the Conference where they were very well organised and represented.

I listened to many comments made by different members of greenkeeping groups, as well as the press, and one cannot help feeling that unless we are very careful, the B.G.G.A. could end up very much the poor relations. This must not be allowed to happen.

It is my view that the past must now be forgotten, and a big effort made to bring the groups together as soon as possible. I realise that personality problems exist, which are difficult to overcome but if we are to look after the greenkeepers of the future, we cannot afford to let them stand in the way. So I beg all of you to find the common ground that must be there, and end this mess before it is too late. Working with the R.&A. has got to be better than the P.G.A. and no doubt will be taken up by both S.I.G.G.A. and E.I.G.G.A. so just for once we must be together.

I do not apologise to anyone this letter may offend, because I believe that all members of the B.G.G.A. should know what goes on, and if it brings to life some reaction then my letter has done some good. By the time you read this, it may be that some decisions have been taken on your behalf. I only hope they prove to be the right ones.

G. F. CHILD

NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam, 12 Moorfield Avenue, Menston, W. Yorks.
Telephone: (0943) 72008

Our Autumn Tournament this year visited yet another of Yorkshire's golfing jewels; Alwoodley.

With conditions comparable with the ideal summer, a keen group of speculators sampled and thoroughly enjoyed the delight of Hugh Marshall's magnificent course.

Our thanks to Hugh, his staff and Alwoodley Golf Club for permitting and providing such a super experience.

As this was the final fixture in our 1985 golf calendar we offer thanks to all clubs and greenkeepers responsible for making our year's golf such a success.

for dinner in the evening and present the prizes. We were also pleased to see the Vice-Captain, Mr. Len Beardow, our President, Don Reeder, and indeed many of our Vice-Presidents throughout the day.

The meals were most enjoyable thanks to Veronica Bentham, while husband Ben had a good supply of liquid refreshment on hand for those in need.

We thank the Captain and Members at Verulam for the warm welcome extended to us and of course thanks to the prize donors:

Mr. Don Reeder, our President.	
Supatuff Ltd	Rigby Taylor Ltd.
Pattissons Ltd	T. Parker and Sons Ltd.
Maxwell Hart Ltd	Ransomes Ltd.
Bentley's Ltd	Mr. Ben Bentham
Mr. Geoff Smith	

Another Section evergreen Tom Burns suffered a heart attack during September.

He lays the blame on stress, pointing out the needless tension created by people in "authority". Judging by what is known and heard, Tom could have a very valid point, worthy of further investigation. Who knows, perhaps our winter meetings might be better taken up by Yoga, Meditation or some other form of mind relaxation!

Tom, we are pleased to hear is on the mend.

Talking of winter meetings:-

November 14th
The British Association of Landscape Industrial
December 5th
Thatch, Irrigation, Nutrition and Aeration
From the S.T.R.I.
Moor Allerton Golf Club, 7.30 p.m.



UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN GREENKEEPING

Part 2. Maintenance Practices

Martyn T. Jones Consultant Agronomist in Landscape & Leisure

It is common fallacy in Britain that 'American' golf greens are constructed of sand; are excessively irrigated, excessively fertilized, and that their surfaces are soft. Generalisations of 'American' golf greens cannot be made. The diversity in climates, maintenance budgets, construction methods, etc., results in a host of 'American' greens. The grass species on the greens may consist of *Poa annua* (Annual Meadowgrass); or *Agrostis palustris* "Penn-cross"; or a mixture of *Agrostis* and *Fescue*; or hybrid *Bermudagrass*; or even a blend of *Ryegrass* during the Winter months. The soils can vary from strong clays to coarse sands; from very acid to highly calcareous. The surfaces of greens can vary from soft and lush to hard and starved.

The popular notion of 'American' greens being slow, soggy, and plugging, is most easily rebuffed by exemplifying the firm, lightning-fast greens of the Augusta National Links, Georgia; those of Merion Golf Club, Pennsylvania; those of Pebble Beach, California; and virtually all the other tournament courses that are televised in Britain. Our own experiences tell us that the so-called 'typical American golf green' is not typical at all.

At one time it was probably fair to say that the majority of American greens were over-fed and over-irrigated but, nowadays, fertiliser and water usage is much reduced and the demands are for firm, fast greens. Britain and America share this same goal. After all, the U.S.G.A. Green Section has, for many years, been advocating a policy of reduced feeding and watering.

Ignoring the obvious inaccuracies of common generalisations, let us consider some of the maintenance practices currently in use in various parts of the United States and compare them with practices in Britain. Any comparison must take account of the differences in climate, a factor which can often dictate the need for certain operations. In many instances, an exceptional year in Britain, such as the drought of 1976, will offer some indication of the conditions that many American golf course superintendents must face year after year. In fact, the vast majority of American superintendents must cope with much harsher conditions than those. Winters, too, can be very much more severe than any that we may have experienced in the last fifty years.

Many people are familiar with the chemically-orientated greenkeeping systems of some parts of America. Fungicides, in particular, are widely used. In some localities and at certain times of the year, fungicides may be applied to the greens as frequently as every four or five days, and every seven to ten days on the fairways. By our standards, this is unthinkable.

Nevertheless, we are very fortunate in that our climate does not favour the rapid development of serious turf diseases. Even *Fusarium Patch Disease* is relatively mild in comparison with some of the diseases that are experienced during the hot, humid Summer weather of areas of the North-eastern States. Even so, our turf managers soon resort to the use of fungicides to control an outbreak of *Fusarium Patch*. Imagine their horror if their greens were attacked by *Pythium Blight*, a disease which is capable of killing a whole golf green in a matter of only a few hours.

Is it any wonder that some golf courses in the States use vast quantities of fungicides as a preventative measure against such an alarming disease? If our climate encouraged such diseases, we too would use any chemical at our disposal, and in equally large quantities. Areas of the States which enjoy a milder climate, more reminiscent of our own, use no more fungicides than we do. Like ourselves, they have no need to.

In some zones, insect pests such as *Awl*, *Sting* and *Stubby-root Nematodes*; the *Hairy Chinch Bug*, *Hunting Billbug*, *Sod Webworm*, *Mole Cricket*, and *Fall Armyworm* can create further headaches for turfgrass managers. The weather in some years can encourage their numbers to reach epidemic proportions; frequent and expensive chemical control over a large part of the golf course being necessary to avoid severe damage. In the case of *Mole Crickets*, the damage can be worsened by the digging activities of *Armadillos* which are predators of them.

Similarly, the use of fertilisers is often misunderstood. How often has it been stated that the Americans use vast quantities of fertilisers and that their greens are over-fed? Again, as with this Country, some greens are excessively lush but it is not a general policy. Indeed, the United States Golfing Association's 'Green Section', the principal advisory body in the States, recommends very modest rates.

As a guideline, Nitrogen applications for *Bentgrass* greens should be in the order of a half pound per 1,000 square feet per growing month. In an area such as Southern California, which can enjoy 365 days per year of growing weather, the total annual Nitrogen application, using Sulphate of Ammonia as the Nitrogen source, would be in the order of 32lbs. or more per 1,000 square feet. It sounds a lot, doesn't it?

However, when the same guideline is applied to areas of the north-west which suffer a growing season similar to our own, the total application of Sulphate of Ammonia would be approximately 1.5 to 2 ounces per square yard per annum. Even the most ardent critic of 'American' greenkeeping methods has to admit that such a quantity cannot be described as excessive. Indeed, it is far less than many British greenkeepers are applying to their greens.

Even the manicuring of some of the American courses is often misunderstood. Parkland courses on highly fertile soils in Britain require constant manicuring because the growth rates are so rapid. However, in comparison with the growth rates witnessed in the warm, humid areas of America, our parkland courses are very slow. Snakes are a common nuisance to golfers on many courses, with some clubs applying a local ruling of a free drop when a player's ball lies within a club length of a rattlesnake. If the rough were permitted to grow, lost members could well be a bigger problem than lost balls.

In Peninsular Florida, alligators basking in the sun on a golf green, or swallowing golf balls in the rough, are additional golfing hazards that provide a greater challenge than a mere sand trap. Severe rough would constitute a major danger to life and limb.

Most certainly some golf greens in America are over-watered and maintained in a rather soft condition, but the same thing can be said of many greens in Britain.

When judging the relevance or value of a maintenance practice, it must be related to the local soil type and/or climate. For example, the quantity of water needed to irrigate a sand construction in the arid climate of Arizona should not be considered excessive if it is compared with the requirements of a sandy loam in the high rainfall district of Lancashire. Just because an irrigation system is used more frequently in Arizona, it does not mean that the soil moisture content is any greater than it is in Lancashire. The grasses may be maintained in a similar state of drought stress, despite the enormous volumes of water applied. Evapotranspiration rates are so much greater in the hot climate of Arizona where daily temperatures can exceed 110 degrees in the shade that large quantities of water are required just to prevent the grasses from dying. In the

cool temperate climate of Lancashire, only a relatively small quantity of irrigation water is required to maintain the grasses in a similar state.

The total volume of water used does not, necessarily, indicate that irrigation has been excessive. The philosophies of irrigation can be exactly the same but the volumes of water required to achieve a similar result may be very different.

There is a fundamental difference between the best courses in America and their counterparts in Britain. Prestige is a vital ingredient of membership to some American golfers and cost of achievement receives little consideration. Resulting from this, because the better clubs charge astronomical fees to guarantee excellence, there is a proportionately higher cost for mediocrity. It is simply a difference in standards set by the golfers.

Similarly, golf course superintendents vary in ability. Competition is fierce. The better superintendents are extremely knowledgeable and, equally important, very professional. The majority of golf course superintendents are now university trained, most State Universities offering degree courses in turfgrass and golf course management. Salaries can range from as little as £9,000 per annum to above £50,000. A golf club that is willing to pay the high salary is, again, usually rewarded with excellence.

The most frequently quoted comparisons between 'American' and 'British' golf courses, and probably the least related, are maintenance budgets. There is considerable diversity in American budgets, with figures ranging from about £30,000 to over £250,000 per year. British greenkeepers and golfers often express consternation at, what appear to be, extravagant budgets but rarely is it noted

that the severe climates that prevail in many parts of the States make turfgrass maintenance, even to a relatively low standard, very costly.

All too often, critics in this country are only familiar with our own climate and management systems and are totally unaware of the problems in America. Certainly, some of the American clubs have luxury budgets but the vast majority experience similar financial constraints as their British counterparts, although the subsistence figure may be much higher. When more exacting standards are set and essential requirements are greater, the overall maintenance costs are bound to be higher.

Much of the golf course maintenance equipment currently available in Britain was designed in America for American conditions, but they have often proved invaluable to our own maintenance regimes.



A view of the tree lined fairway at Pine Valley Golf Course, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Creeping Bent and Bermudagrass, the turfgrasses which form the vast majority of putting surfaces in America, are vigorous species, prone to thatching and graininess. Verti-cutting units on triplex mowers were developed to retard thatch accumulation and minimise nap formation. They were introduced onto the American markets but prove to be just as valuable in Britain. Similarly, if used sensibly, integrated turfcare systems such as the Cushman, or automatic pop-up sprinklers, are very valuable maintenance aids. They are as relevant to Britain as they are to the States, their country of origin. The use of Sulphate of Ammonia and Sulphate of Iron are also introductions from America. Many of our accepted maintenance practices originated in the United States and they have, over the years, proved to be applicable to our climate, provided some allowance is made for our milder conditions.

The use of sand as a construction material is also an American introduction, although all our finest seaside links and heathland courses originated on such sands. Correctly, we should say that the use of sand as a construction medium is a re-introduction. Not all golf greens in America, however, are constructed of very sandy mediums. Many of the older, or lower priced constructions, are loams and display similar problems to those encountered in the U.K., although the severe climates usually result in more pronounced drawbacks.

The American construction techniques, management systems and maintenance equipment have evolved in response to climatic, environmental and social influences. We should not criticise their golf courses. Instead,

we should appraise them and their management techniques and, as we have done in the past, adopt whatever would be advantageous in our climate, and feasible in the British social structure, for the general improvement of our own golfing facilities. Perhaps the Americans will do the same with British golf courses! Most importantly though, we should maintain an open mind and remember that many of our present, accepted maintenance practices originated in the States.

Martyn Jones will be contributing further articles in 1986, on the development and maintenance of golf courses world wide.

SITUATIONS VACANT

New Golf Course at Bendinat, Palma de Mallorca

Applications are invited for the post of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

A fully qualified, able, enthusiastic
greenkeeper is required to bring this
recently seeded 9-Hole course into
first-class playing condition with a
staff of 5.

Attractive salary and conditions.

Written application giving full details of
age, qualifications and experience to:

**HAWTREE & SON,
5 Oxford Street,
Woodstock,
Oxford OX7 1TQ**

GOLF LANDSCAPES IRRIGATION

require the following personnel for their
expanding team installing TORO systems

Installation Engineers

with experience in turf irrigation, able to
undertake both electrical and hydraulic work
and to operate specialist machinery

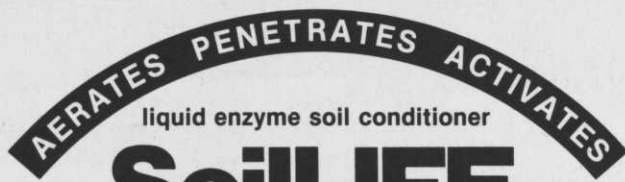
Salespersons

with horticultural or agricultural background
who are prepared to learn about TORO
products and the turf market, and can liaise
with golf and sports clubs, local authorities
and architects, to improve our market share
and penetration in an area in East and
Southern England, including London

Those interested should apply to

**GOLF LANDSCAPES
Ashwells Road, Bentley,
Brentwood,
Essex CM15 9SR**

enclosing a curriculum vitae



SoilLIFE NATURE'S CHOICE

BREAK UP SOIL CRUSTING AND **COMPACTION**
ENCOURAGE ROOT GROWTH AND REDUCE **THATCH**

**NOW
REDUCED PRICE**

for

Professional and trade users

1 Case of 4 x 5 litre bottles @ £2.50 per litre + VAT
25 litre Polydrum @ £2.40 per litre + VAT
(Carriage on Application)

Contact your local supplier or direct to:

Name _____
Address _____

Name of Club _____
Tel: _____

ROMILT MARKETING
NORTH WYKE FARM
GUILDFORD ROAD
NORMANDY, SURREY
Tel: GUILDFORD (0483) 811933

SECRETARIES

Advertise your vacancies in the
Greenkeeper's own
monthly journal

Appointments receive priority
attention from
Golf Greenkeeping's
Advertisement Staff

Phone: 0937/63181

for attractive rates and
personal service

or write:

**Sits Vac:
GOLF GREENKEEPING,
P.O. Box 12,
Wetherby,
W. Yorks. LS22 4SR**

TRADE Directory

PLACE YOUR SMALL ADS IN THE TRADE DIRECTORY

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

The Greensward Company, The Old Hall, Langham, Oakham, Rutland, Leicestershire LE15 7JE. Tel: Oakham (0572) 2923 & 56031 Telex: 34362 Greeco G.

DRAINAGE TUBES AND PIPES

Lamflex coiled perforated drainage pipe to BS 4962 and kite marked sizes 60m - 80m - 110m and larger sizes available. Fittings and junctions available to make up complete systems.

Critchley Bros. Ltd., Brimscombe, Stroud, Glos. GL5 2TH. Tel: (045) 388 2451.

CONSULTANT AGRONOMISTS

Martyn T. Jones, Consulting Agronomist in Landscape and Amenity Turf Culture, 41 Pennine Way, Great Eccleston, Preston, Lancs. PR3 0YS. Tel: (0995) 70675.

FERTILIZERS & TOP DRESSINGS

Fisons plc, for the comprehensive turf fertilizer range, and both bagged and bulk peat and peat/sand top dressings, delivered nationwide.

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

"Maskells" for Comprehensive Range of Fertilizers in Granular, Powder and Liquid form, Bagged and Bulk Peat(s), Pulverised Bark(s), Turf Dressings, Soils, Sands, Composts delivered U.K. Tel: (01) 476 6321.

Contact: *Maskells Golf Course Department*
Stephenson Street, London E.16. Quotations by return.

FUNGICIDES

Fisons plc, for Turfclear combined turf fungicide and worm cast control and Filax against Pythium and Phytophthora. Professional Horticulture Department, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: (0473) 830492.

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

Frews Grass Machinery (Scotland) Ltd., 30-32 Bankhead Drive, Sighthill Industrial Estate, Edinburgh EH11 4EH. Tel: 031-443-4436.

GRASS MACHINERY RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS

Henton & Chattell Ltd., London Road, Nottingham, NG2 3HW. Tel: 0602 862161.

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

Rowes of Chichester, D. Rowe & Co. Ltd., The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JW. Tel: Chichester (0243) 78810. Telex: 86110. Contact: *D. Strange or J. Burfoot.*

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

GRASS SEED

BRITISH SEED HOUSES LTD., Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 5LE. Tel: (0925) 54411.

Portview Road, Avonmouth, Bristol, Avon. Tel: (0272) 823691.

Camp Road, Swinderby, Lincolnshire. Tel: (052286) 714.

David Bell Limited, Eastfield Industrial Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian. Tel: (0968) 78480.

Mommersteeg International, Station Road, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 5NT. Tel: Wellingborough (0933) 680674. Telex: 311234.

TRADE DIRECTORY

Your own heading and product announcement for twelve months will cost only £35.00 and it is cheaper for two or more entries.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

Cameron Irrigation, a Division of Wright Rain Ltd., Harwood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 7BA. Tel: (09064) 3985. Telex: 877483.

Par 4 Irrigation, Ash Grove Industrial Estate, Ash Grove, Ripon, N. Yorks. Tel: Ripon (0765) 2175.

Supply, installation and servicing on automatic irrigation systems. Contact: *E. B. Simms or L. Oyston.*

Sports Ground Irrigation Co., 'Hereward Lodge', Paget Road, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics. Tel: (0858) 63153.

Contact: *Mr. M. D. Walker.*

T. & G. Turf Irrigation Services, 8 Whitcliffe Grove, Ripon, North Yorks. Tel: (0765) 2941.

Golf Course Irrigation Contractors.
Vibratory Moleplough and Tractor Winch For Hire.
Contact: *R. N. Glover or T. Teggin.*

Toro Irrigation Ltd., Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SD. Tel: Ringwood 6261/2.

Wateration Ltd., Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Tel: Woking (04862) 70303.

Supply and installation of golf course irrigation.

Wimpey Laboratories Ltd., Farrods Water Engineering Division, Dallamires Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire. Tel: Ripon (0765) 4455.

Supply and installation of Rainbird sprinkler systems.

Turf Irrigation Services Ltd., Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire. Tel: (04775) 255.

Suppliers and installers of automatic irrigation systems. Contact: *R. M. Hume & D. W. Evans.*

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILIZER

Farmura Ltd., Stone Hill Egerton, Nr. Ashford, Kent. Tel: (0233) 76241.

Contact: *Jonathan Harmer.*

NAMEPLATES & PLAQUES

Thos. A. Ingram & Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 305, 68 Soho Hill, Birmingham B19 1BB. Tel: (021) 554 4576.

Full Colour Brochure Available.
(Commemorative Plaques, Seat Plates, etc.)

PEAT

FISONS plc, for good clean sedge peat, bagged and bulk, delivered nationwide, Sphagnum bales bagged and bulk also supplied.

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

PEAT—BULK

Banks Horticultural Products Ltd., 36 High Street, Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 7NL. Tel: Market Harborough 64346.

SAND

Joseph Arnold & Sons Ltd., Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8TW. Tel: Leighton Buzzard (0525) 372264.

Contact: *P. R. Windmill.*

Martin Bros. Ltd., 1A Clifton Street, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7NN. Tel: (0625) 584571.

SEMI-MATURE TREES

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd., Wood Lane off Barston Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0JL. Tel: Hampton-in-Arden (06755) 2033/2034.

Contact: *Michael Fisher.*

SEMI-MATURE TREE PLANT & LIFT EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd., Wood Lane off Barston Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0JL. Tel: Hampton-in-Arden (06755) 2033/2034.

Contact: *Michael Fisher.*

SOIL CONDITIONERS

SOILIFE: Liquid enzymes. ROMILT MARKETING for your local supplier: North Wyke Farm, Guildford Road, Normandy, Surrey GU3 2AN. Tel: Guildford (0483) 811933

SOIL STERILIZERS, SIFTERS AND SHREDDERS

Terra Force, Kent Horticulture Engineers, Prospect Place, Tonbridge Road, Watlington, Kent ME18 5NY. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 81387. Telex: 965222.

Contact: *John Brough.*

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

Evers & Wall Ltd., St. George's Way, Bermuda Industrial Estate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7QT. Tel: Nuneaton (0933) 680674. Telex: 311234.

Suppliers of *Hardi Knapsack, Powered and Tractor Mounted Sprayers.* Enquiries for Specials Welcomed

TOP DRESSINGS—BULK

Fen Turf Dressings Ltd., 36 High Street, Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 7NL. Tel: Market Harborough 64346.

Suppliers of *Fendress.*

TORO & ISEKI SALES & SERVICE

County Mowers, Toro Sales and Service, Main Street, Thornor, Leeds LS14 3DX. Tel: 0532-892627.

Contact: *David Birdsall.*

D. & J. Needham Ltd., Toro and Iseki, Sales, Service and parts. (24 hr. Datapost service). Darlington Road, Middleton-St.-George, Darlington, Co. Durham DL2 1LH. Tel: (0325) 332991.

Contact: *Needham or M. Grange.*

TREES, SHRUBS & PLANTS

Notcutts Nurseries Ltd., Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4AF. Contact: *John Dyter, NDH.* (Tel: 03943-3344). Also incorporating *Waterers Nurseries*, Bagshot, Surrey.

T. Hilling & Co. Limited, Chobham, Woking, Surrey. Tel: (099 05) 7101.

Contact: *Bob Felton, Sales Manager.*

TREE TIES & GUARDS

Toms Tree Ties, (J. Toms Ltd.), Wheeler Street, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 891111

TURF

J. Brailsford, Thrang End Farm, Yealand, Redmayne, Carnforth. Telephone: (0524) 781952.

Turf suppliers to the Trade for 30 years of all types.

TURF (SPECIALITY)

Fine purpose grown sports and amenity turf.
ROLAWN (TURF GROWERS) LTD., Elvington, York YO4 5AR. Tel: (0904) 85661. Telex: 57796. Rolawn G.

WATER STORAGE

Milne, Elan (Liquid Storage), Station House, Eye, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0DT. Tel: Leominster (0568) 3697.

Contact: *Michael D. Cockett.*
Suppliers of *Water Tanks for Golf Courses.*
Specialised suppliers and installers of *Liners for ornamental ponds, lakes and reservoirs.*

Turf Irrigation Services Ltd., Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire. Tel: (04775) 255.

Suppliers and installers of automatic irrigation systems. Contact: *R. M. Hume & D. W. Evans.*

WEEDKILLERS

FISONS plc, for *Tritox*, selective turf herbicides, *Herbazine* total herbicide range and *Greenkeeper Extra*, combined weed and feed for turf.

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

PEST CONTROL

MOLES VANISH

'KILMOL'

MOLE BAIT MAKES CERTAIN

A safe and effective method (not Strychnine)

£6 Packs — ½ acre (approx.)
£16.20 Packs — 3 acres (approx.)
(Incl. P&P)

Generous discounts for larger quantities

Trade enquiries

CALLISTO AVIARIES (G)

Lapley, Stafford ST19 9JP
Tel: (60785) 840366



There's very little we can't cope with

...either on or off the grass!

Clubs and numerous sporting complexes throughout the country have nothing but praise for these truly exceptional tractors and all British Built attachments. LELY ISEKI is the name you can depend on for reliability, versatility and above all economy. Sales and Service Distributors with fully trained personnel in your locality. Give Colin Gregory a call and arrange to see any one of the 16 to 72 hp 4 WD models working under your conditions. Also ask to see the new TX 2160 'HST' 4 WD but don't leave it too late!



ISEKI

LELY ISEKI TRACTORS
 Please send me comprehensive brochure
 Nearest Dealer Demo details
 Name

Address

Tel No. GGCM/11/85

LELY ISEKI TRACTORS STATION ROAD, ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS. PE19 1QH
 Telephone (0480) 76971 Telex 32523