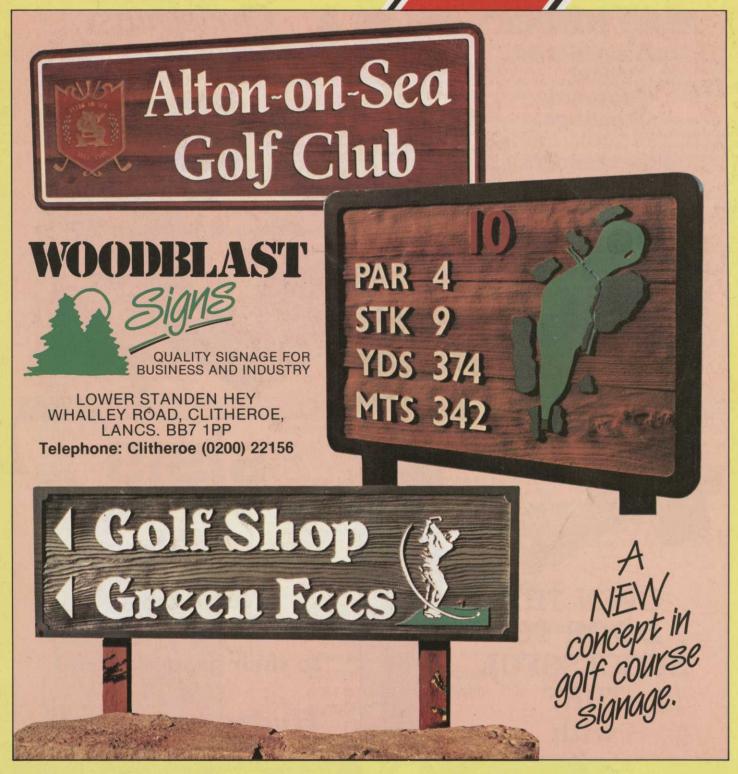


and Course Maintenance

Dec/Jan 1986/87





The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association







Seasonal greetings to Greenkeepers

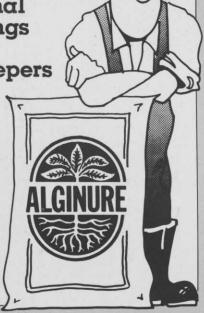


and his friends
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and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

Founded 1912

The Association is affiliated to the English and Welsh Golf Unions

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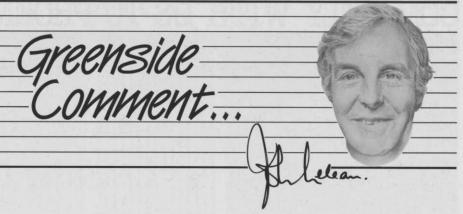
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As we approach the beginning of another year, 1987 will be remembered for two significant milestones to mark the past and future of British Greenkeepers. As is reported in this issue the first Chairman of the newly formed Association has been unanimously voted into office by the nominated Board of Management, and what a fine choice they made in selecting Walter Woods, the Links Superintendent at St. Andrews.

Walter is the present Chairman of SIGGA and deeply involved in the education of young greenkeepers. As a next door neighbour to the R & A Headquarters, who have been instrumental in bringing the three Associations of Greenkeepers together, he will be able to keep in close personal contact during what is certain to be a challenging year for him and the new Association. Our congratulations Walter and may all the members be with you.

The other significant event is the celebration of the 75th year of the formation of the present British Golf Greenkeepers Association. It has been known by several other names over the years including the straightforward Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Although we now have what is referred to as a 'new' Association, in fact it is nothing of the sort, it is the reuniting of the family of greenkeepers and what better event to toast the health of the British and International Association of Greenkeepers than at their 75th birthday.

Although it is realised the cost is prohibitive to many greenkeepers, we have gone ahead this month with the sponsoring of a trip to Phoenix, in Arizona in January, during the week of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of

Our trip offering seven nights hotel accommodation in a brand new complex tucked into the side of a mountain, only a couple of miles from the centre of Phoenix is fantastic value for money at £579.00. Courtesy buses call at 'Westcourt in the Buttes' to pick up guests and take them into the city centre.

The annual conference and trade exhibition, last year supported by over ten and a half thousand visitors, is a major organisational achievement in the world of golf. There has been much criticism in recent years of the 'American influence' in golf and golf course management, some perhaps justified in the context of the 'British game', but no one could criticise them for their organisational and business approach to their Association's activities. To experience that alone is well worth the visit to Phoenix.

We hope some of our larger golf club companies will consider such a visit as management training, which it undoubtedly is, and finance the trip as part of their Course Managers personal development.

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Next Month

Golf Course Drainage Fred Hawtree reviews the history of the Golf Greenkeepers' Associations

COME FLY WITH US TO PHOENIX AND STAY IN



Golf Greenkeeping have arranged a fantastic trip to Phoenix, Arizona for the 58th Annual Convention of the American Golf Course Superintendents'.

For an all in cost of £579.00 you will be able to fly from London Heathrow to Phoenix by TWA stay in the ultra modern Westcourt in the Buttes Hotel for seven nights and have all your transfers from Airport to hotel included in the price!

This fabulous deal has been negotiated through the London Travel Agents Hep Travel Ltd. with Trans World Airlines.

The flight is via New York, as no flights operate directly to Phoenix from Europe, but the transfer is within the TWA terminal and there is no need to handle your luggage. It will be booked direct to the airport at Phoenix.

Phoenix in January is high season and we believe no one - but no one can beat this trip of a lifetime, for either price or the standard of accommodation offered by the brand new 'Westcourt in the Buttes', which opens at the end of this year.

PURE LUXUY for only £579

The price is based on twin accommodation, with a supplement for a single room.

Our flight will leave London at 13.30 hours on Tuesday, 27th January arriving at Phoenix at 21.19 taking into account the six hour time difference between the USA and the UK.

We return on Tuesday, 3rd February, leaving Phoenix at 09.15 arriving at Heathrow at 05.55 Wednesday, 4th February.

Throughout the week, a series of lectures and seminars on a variety of subjects can be attended by registering at the Conference on arrival. The cost of the seminars, are not of course, included in the package price of the flight and hotel. On Saturday, 31st January one of the world's largest exhibitions of golf course equipment opens in the Phoenix Civic Plaza and continues until mid-day on the 2nd February.

The 300,000 square feet of golf management equipment will feature the most up to date machinery and act as a launch pad for all the innovations for 1987.

In addition to conference speakers from the world of golf including Alwyn Y.C. Tai, the Course Manager of the Chung Shan Hot Spring Golf Club in mainland China, our own Jack McMillan from Sunningdale, Howard Swan of Golf Landscapes Ltd. and Jim Arthur have been booked to present papers at the Convention.

On Monday, 2nd February, the week of activities and festivities closes, with the GCSAA Banquet and Show in the Phoenix Civic Plaza Ballroom when the 'Old Tom Morris Award' is presented to the famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones.

The cabaret to follow the gala dinner and awards ceremony, features the dynamic Marie Osmond and the Osmond Brothers.

DOING IT IN GRASS? — DO IT



Schedule of Meetings and Seminars...

The Convention consists of a series of twenty-eight seminars, throughout the week, backed by over seventy concurrent educational sessions.

The Exhibition opens on Saturday morning, 31st January to be followed in the afternoon by a series of lectures under the auspices of the International Golf Course Management the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the National Golf Foundation. Pick the subject and speaker of your choice.

On Sunday morning the major speaker sessions are held between 8.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. leaving the afternoon free to see Phoenix or maybe a swim in the pool.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 7:00 Seminar Registration & Check-In Scholarship & Research Meeting/Interviews
- 8:00 One Day Seminars
 - Familiarisation with Accounting Procedures
 - Negotiating
 - History & Function of GCSAA
 - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 - Newsletter Editors Seminar
 - Two-Day Seminars
 - Irrigation II: System Design & Management
 - Turfgrasses: Qualities, Uses & Sources
 - Golf Course Construction & Project Management
 - Basic Horticultural Methods
 - Disease Identification & Control

12:00 Seminar Luncheon

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

- 7:00 Seminar Registration & Check-In Scholarship & Research Meeting/Interviews
- 8:00 Two-Day Seminars Continue One-Day Seminars
 - USGA Golf Course Rating System
 - Effective Business Writing
 - Budgeting & Forecasting
 - Managerial Productivity
 - The Assistant Superintendent: Functions & Responsibilities
- 9:00 Certification Preparation Course
- 11:00 Registration Opens
- 12:00 Seminar Luncheon Certification Preparation Course Luncheon Past Presidents' Luncheon
- 1:00 Half-Day Seminar
 - Practical Tree Management for Golf Courses
- 5:15 Opening Session/Kick-off Address/Reception

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

- 7:00 Registration Opens
- 8:00 Concurrent Educational Sessions
 - Practical Golf Course Management I
 - Fairways: Changes & Practices
 - Construction Techniques in Renovation
 - New Products & Technology
- 11:00 Distributor Preview
- 11:30 Certification Luncheon
- 1:00 Concurrent Educational Sessions
 - Practical Golf Course Management II
 - Your Spouse, Your Family & You
 - Organisational Management
 - High-Tech Turfgrass Management Through Computers
- 5:15 Members' Briefing/ Meet the Candidates

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

- 7:00 Prayer Breakfast Registration Opens
- 8:00 Sports Turf Managers Association Workshop
- 9:00 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/ TRADE SHOW OPENS Certification Examination
- 12:00 Voting Delegates' Luncheon
 - 1:00 Concurrent Educational Sessions
 - American Society of Golf Course Architects Conference
 - National Golf Foundation Workshop
 - International Golf Course Management

Voting Delegates Check-In

- 1:30 Certification Open Forum
- 4:00 Golf Course Builders of America Annual Meeting
- 7:30 Golf Course Builders of America Banquet

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 7:30 Registration Opens
- 8:00 Concurrent Major Speaker Sessions
 - Rita Davenport
 - Jack Kaine
 - Dr. James Melton
- 9:00 Trade Show Opens Voting Delegates Check-In
- 11:30 Sunday Brunch/Keynote Address
- 1:00 Half-Day Seminar
 - How to Use the USGA Turfgrass Information File

Voting Delegates Check-In

- 2:00 Government Relations Committee Meeting
- 4:00 Musser International Turfgrass Foundation Annual Meeting
- 6:00 GCSAA Presidents' Reception (By Invitation)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 8:00 Trade Show Opens (Closes 1:00) USGA Green Section Conference
- 9:00 Certification Examination
- 1:30 GCSAA Annual Meeting
- 5:45 VIP Guest Reception (By Invitation)
- 6:00 Banquet Reception (Cash Bar)
- 7:00 GCSAA Annual Banquet & Show

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One of the main criticisms levelled against the majority of modern fine turf swards, especially on golf course turf, is the over prevalence of Poa Annua. But why is Poa Annua hated by some and tolerated by most?

It is the most common unsown grass species found on British turf surfaces. Poa Annua occurs as two major types each having their own characteristic growth form - one species is a very upright growing plant that flowers and sets seed very quickly, under good conditions in less than 60 days, and produces a reservoir of dormant seed. When conditions are right the seeds will germinate and fill any gaps in the turf.

The sub species are Erecta, mainly found in arable land and Reptans which inhabits golf and bowling areens.

It will withstand close moving. Golf greens are being continually defoliated and Poa Annua will happily exist in these conditions. It grows in almost every type of soil.

It can survive with a shallow root system and exist in sour, wet soil overlying very compacted below surface soil. It will also grow on very compacted ground where other grasses will not grow. Poa Annua, or annual meadow grass, is unwanted on a golf course because:-

> It is frequently in flower and often has poor colour, especially when under stress, i.e. under drought conditions, nutrient starvation and in winter when frost is about.

> It is very susceptible to disease, particularly Fusarium patch

It competes strongly with other grasses. As very quick growing grass, striving to flower, seed and germinate, Poa Annua, by virtue of its name, will rapidly colonise bare areas cramping the style of the more desirable, but perhaps less aggressive, grass types.

It slows down the playing surface. Poa Annua, indeed any grass, will produce an open straggly sward if not kept in check by management practises. Putting green turf grasses are actually existing in the most unnatural state - think of Bonsai. There is no such thing as a miniature oak

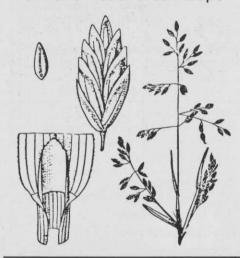
It produces thatch quicker than festuca and agrostis and requires relatively higher nutrient levels.

Having heard all that, it sounds like commonsense to try to work towards a Poa Annua free turf - but this is easier said than done.

Agronomists say you can rid your turf of Poa Annua in a couple of seasons by frequent slitting, scarifying and by a minimal watering, but, in my opinion, these people are living in cloud cuckoo land. It is a long slow process even if you use only nitro-genous fertilisers and iron, keep your turf on the acid side, aerate and verticut at regular intervals and irrigate very sparingly.

ANNUA

can we live with Annual Meadow Grassasks ALAN GAMBLE Pannal's Head Greenkeeper



By ensuring the drainage on your greens is first class will go a way to controlling Poa Annua. This treatment will also encourage the establishment of the festuca and agrostis grasses that need cultivating to improve the putting surfaces.

My personal opinion, and probably the view of most practising, informed, and intelligent greenkeepers, is that if you don't get your drainage right you will never control Poa Annua or irradicate the spongy thatch we hear so much about, spoiling winter play. I am convinced, however, and it will take a great deal of fresh evidence to change my opinion, that bad drainage contributes more to spongy greens

than does Poa Annua. It is no good slitting and spiking to let the water through the top 6" of soil if the water continues to lie below the surface instead of draining completely away. I believe that if all the Poa Annua were to die overnight on British golf courses there would be hundreds of golf greens without much grass cover and there would be many conscientious greenkeepers looking for work, for the simple reason they would not be able to provide a decent putting surface.

The climatic and soil conditions are such that greenkeepers would find it very difficult to get a good cover of festuca and agrostis from over seeding in most parts of the British Isles.

I stated earlier that it was advantageous to use only nitrogenous fertilisers, the reason being that research workers have found that the continued use of phosphate contributes to rapid seed production and fescues will thrive quite happily on a low potash count.

Golf club management, should judge their greens on performance and not on colour. All greenkeepers have been told at some time that their greens are putting well when they are lush and look well in bright emerald green but, when the colour goes, even when the surface is first class, the golfers say the greens are not as good as they were two weeks previous.

It is very easy for a greenkeeper to take the easy option with a liberal dose of fertiliser and water when the Committee are complaining, but he probably would not have a decent green for them to play on after 4 or 5 years.

There is far more to making a golf course a place people can enjoy, than waging a constant war on Poa Annua.

By controlling thatch and keeping greens well aerated, you can have good greens despite a small percentage of Poa Annua but what is more important - you will provide a good putting surface and give a great deal of pleasure to a large number of golfers, who after all are the paying customers.



NEWS Round-up



The President, J. Hamilton Stutt, Chairman, George Malcolm and Hon. Secretary, Mr. Walter Heeles would like to extend to all members of the B.G.G.A. A Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for 1987



AWARD FOR STRI HEADQUARTERS DESIGNER

The new Sports Turf Research Institute offices and laboratories at Bingley, opened officially in July by the Chairman of the Sports Council, Mr. J. W. Smith, has won a top award for the architect in charge.

Thirty-one year old Richard Crookes, employed by the William Walker Partnership has been awarded the Architect under 40 prize by the Yorkshire region of the R.I.B.A.

Sheffield trained, Mr. Crookes was presented with his award last month. His wife is also an architect.

NEW DISTRIBUTORS FOR 'LONGLIFE'

Scottish Agricultural Industries have a new arrangement for the sales and distribution of the 'Longlife' range of turf products in England and Wales to ensure wider availability.

With immediate effect the range will be supplied through the existing ICI Professional Products distributor network.

Within this new agreement, support for the range in England and Wales will continue to be provided by Chipman Ltd. The existing distributors.

Availability of the 'Longlife' range in Scotland will be unaffected as it is already sold by the distributors of ICI Professional Products.

COMPACT CARRIER FOR THE GOLF COURSE

Transporting loads of up to 500kg around golf courses can now be done quickly and economically using a compact general purpose diesel carrier, known as the Yanmar Karikart, from JCM Ltd of Kellington, North Yorkshire.

Being the only carrier of its size in Britain to use diesel, running costs for the Karikart are about half those of equivalent sized petrol driven carriers. Maintenance requirements are also kept to an absolute minimum by using an air cooled engine.

JCM supply versions of the carrier in three wheel and four wheel drive models. The three wheeler is highly manoeuvrable for tight spaces with a turning radius of only 2.4 metres. The advantage of the four wheeler is improved stability and the four wheel drive which can be engaged for rough or slippery ground. Both models also feature a manually operated differential lock for difficult conditions. There are three types of tyre available for various ground situations - conventional hard surfaces, rough terrain and soft areas. For golf course work low pressure wide profile tyres are recommended.

An engine driven hydraulic system supplies power to tip the body up to 75 degrees for efficient discharge of loose loads.

Engine starting is electric, but with a recoil hand start back-up, and the Karikart is equipped with both foot and parking brakes. There is a power take off shaft for driving ancillary equipment.

Further information from JCM Ltd., Roall, Kellington, Goole, North Yorkshire Tel: (0977) 661700



Dear Sir,

As we approach the 75th Anniversary of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, who first formed themselves into an organised body in 1912, we have reached yet another milestone in our history with the decision by the membership to join the two other greenkeepers associations and form a national group under the banner of the British and International Greenkeepers Association.

For seventy-five years the BGGA has received the support of their members, the Vice-Presidents and the commercial part of the turf grass industry. Without their most generous assistance it would have been impossible to have reached the stage we have in our endeavours to promote the status of greenkeeping in general and provide the basis for those young men who will, we trust, benefit by improved training in the future.

The Chairman, and Executive Committee of the BGGA would like to thank all those, far too numerous to mention individually, who have had the interests of greenkeepers at heart and have given their time and their financial help in many ways to this Association.

In complete sincerity... We Thank You.

Yours sincerely WALTER HEELES. for the Executive Committee BGGA.

GUIDE TO THE GOLF COURSE

Two guides to the golf course are currently on the shelves of the better bookstalls.

The AA Guide to Golf Courses in Britain and McMillan Martin's Golf Guide, Where to Play and Where to Stay.

The difference between the two publications is primarily one of layout and presentation. The AA Guide lists the golf courses alphabetically, except where they are shown under the name of a city.

For instance London golf clubs cover from Wanstead to Wimbledon and Blackheath to Bush Hill Park, but if you need the details about Uxbridge it is shown under the appropriate letter - U. A great deal of information is provided, but it is in the form of AA codes, so the first task is to memorise pages 26 and 27 to ensure one understands the various symbols.

A useful feature is the inclusion of maps at the back of the book showing the approximate location of each of the clubs included in the guide. There is also at least one hotel described near

to the course.

Golf Guide - "Where to Play and Where to Stay" is a much more conventional publication. The courses are listed alphabetically in regions. Each region is prefaced with a short still by a least golf correspondent article by a local golf correspondent discussing the better known course with a touch of golfing history.

It also contains the vital information on how to get to the course. As most golf courses are tucked away from the main road, directions covering the last couple of miles are essential. Despite golf being such a popular sport it is unbelievable how many residents of a town do not know where their local course is situated. Try asking someone!

Can you afford a copy? The AA Guide is priced at £7.95, McMillan Martin's Golf Guide is £4.00 cheaper at £3.95 and must represent good value for money for the travelling golfer.

IOG SPRING EXHIBITION DOUBLES AVAILABLE STAND SPACES

The demand for stand space at the Southport '87 Sports and Leisure Exhibition has forced the organisers to double the exhibition space.

The areas set aside for demonstrations has also been increased so that visitors will be able to see the latest mechanical developments in action, in even greater numbers than before.

The Exhibition, will be showing such items as tractors, trucks and trailers; turf-care machinery and equipment; seeds, trees and shrubs; fertilisers and chemicals; outdoor furniture; and other goods and services of vital interest to the sports and leisure industry professional.

The IOG is well-known for its commitment to education, and a major section will again be devoted to education and training. Members of the IOG's own Education Committee will be present to give advice on the various courses which take place throughout the UK, and explaining the excellent opportunities which exist for the young people interested in entering a career in groundsmanship. In addition a number of leading colleges have been invited to take part.

The 1986 Exhibition was the first at Southport, and proved the need for a spring event. It brought to the North-West the whole range of equipment, services and techniques of interest to groundsmen, and greenkeepers.

The Exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Tuesday 12th May and Wednesday 13th May. Admission is by catalogue available at the gate, at a cost of £1.50. Extensive car parking will be available at £1, although coaches will be accommodated freeof-charge.

WALTER WOODS TO **HEAD NEW ASSOCIATION**

At the inaugural meeting of the newly formed board of management of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association held at the Royal Station Hotel, York on 19th November, Walter Woods, Links November, Walter Woods, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews was unanimously elected the Association's first Chairman.

Jack McMillan, Course Manager at Sunningdale was appointed to the position of Vice Chairman.

It is understood, BGGA, Chairman George Malcolm was invited to accept the office of Vice Chairman but regretfully declined because of business pressures and the difficulty he might have in devoting sufficient time to the Association, particularly in the early stages of its formation.

A press statement issued shortly after the first meeting gave details of the constitution of the board of management and said that constructive discussions took place on the foundation of the new Association which effectively comes into being on 1st January, 1987.

It was also announced that Consultants are to be approached as a matter of urgency to assist in the appointment of an administrator, who would be capable and competent of handling the affairs of the Association.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

W. Woods - Chairman J. McMillan - Vice Chairman

Roger T. Robinson Royal and Ancient Golf

Club, St. Andrews. G. Malcolm E. James I. F. Scoones P. McCarron J. Kidd C. N. George K. Munt

Parkstone G.C. Long Ashton G.C. Leicestershire G.C. Gleneagles Hotel G.C. Lenzie G.C. Royal Dornoch G.C. Heswall G.C. Mannings Heath Murrayfield G.C.

Middlesborough G.C.

W. Lawson D. Ayling J. W. Neilson

TRUSTEES: Peter Wilson, R&A and English Golf Union Roger T. Robinson, Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

FOR THE GOLFER WITH EVERYTHING

Stuck for an idea for a present this Christmas?

The distillers of Jack Daniels, the Tennessee Whiskey, have produced a catalogue of gifts from the 'Lynchburg' Hardware Store and among the various sets of poker playing cards, hip flasks, saloon mirrors and presentation miniatures on offer is a 24ct. golf plated putter.

Even if you can't putt, for £56.00, this must be the ultimate in golf one-upmanship.

Statement from new Association Chairman



I feel proud and honoured to be elected Chairman of our newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

It has been two long years of Steering Committee meetings, involving discussion, sometimes sensitive, but necessary, to recognise the need for change to arrive at our present situation, sacrifices had to be made, but these were unselfishly overcome, with our thoughts set firmly on the future.

The new Management Committee brings together a group of enthusiastic members with one common ambition, to improve the status of the golf course greenkeeper.

Our first objective is to co-ordinate the framework of our Association to embrace education, finance, communications or any future developments. The Foundation is the most important facet of our operation to ensure that the brickwork is correct. No major decision will be made without formal proposals to the membership.

Our immediate aim is to enlist consultants to employ a qualified administrator and once employed it will be his duty to explore every avenue to discover the means to promote our Association.

Good communications are essential. The Association itself has a significant responsibility to communicate, in many directions through the golfing community and most importantly on a direct and regular basis with its members. The necessity for a well organised and informative magazine with interesting educational articles will play a major role throughout the entire golfing industry.

Over the next few years we will undoubtedly succeed but it will take effort and dedication similar to that provided to us by our predecessors. It took wisdom and foresight to show us why we were wrong to be divided. Together we can move forward to a more rewarding future.

To conclude I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Management Committee for electing me as Chairman and also to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club for their valuable assistance.

Walter Woods Links Superintendent - St. Andrews.



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This month's front cover features the highly attractive golf course signage by a new Lancashire based company, Woodblast Signs.

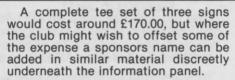
Some three years ago the Directors of Woodblast Signs visited a number of golf courses in the mid-west of America and were most impressed by the extensive use of wood signage around the courses. Wood in addition to its hard wearing qualities, blended well into the surrounds, providing all the information needed without being intrusive.

Cedar is chosen for several reasons. It reacts well to the sand blasting techniques, it is virtually rotproof because of the natural oils retained in the timber's cell structure and adapts perfectly to the special Scandinavian micro-porous paints which allow the wood to breathe, eliminating, peeling cracking or paint blistering.



All the golf club signage manufactured by Woodblast Signs are individually designed. The course is visited to see at first hand the location, layout and setting within the sur-rounding countryside. Each hole is surveyed and a design drawn up for each of the holes to be featured on the tee marker. Where required club crests and logos can be incorporated into the overall design.

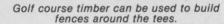
The timber posts are usually of oak, again because of the hard wearing weather resistant quality of the timber and fixed with coated steel brackets.



No matter how good the golf course, it is always the finishing touches that golfers remember and these signs from Woodblast give a touch of class and distinction to make the round memorable.

Out on the course, in addition to the directional signs to guide visiting golfers around the eighteen holes, the course manager needs to consider the areas of turf he would prefer not to be trampled on.

As well as being an expert in turf management he must also be an amateur psychologist. Why is it that despite all the informative signage that can be strategically placed golfers seem to consider that part of the game is to climb over any obstruction that is between them and the next tee?



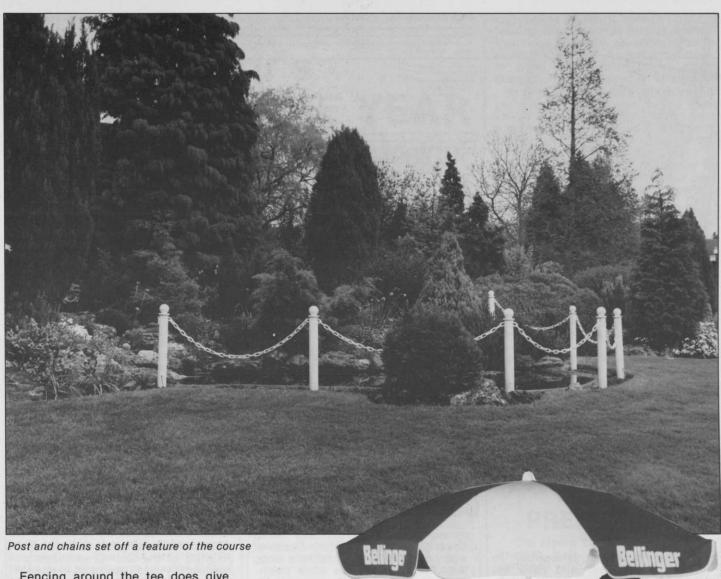
Post and rails and posts and chains are of no deterrent value whatsoever, only if the golfer is pulling his clubs on a cart.

The secret is to keep the obstructions close to the ground and placed in a staggered pattern so if one those 'less time on the course, more in the bar' golfers does decide to pick his way through, there is every likelihood of him tripping up.

Cheap plastic covered hoops pushed into the ground will suit the purpose ideally.

There is only one other way to keep the golfer off areas of turf subject to heavy wear and that is to accept that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line and build paths leading away from greens to the next tee as direct as the landscape will allow.





Fencing around the tee does give that aesthetic feel to the overall pleasure from a round of golf, but it should also be functional. Not only got the terms are but will get it define the teeing area but will act as a bar to trolleys on the tee and separate the golfer teeing off from those observing or yet to play.

As shown in the illustration many clubs have areas of woodland that can be utilised by cutting pieces of timber and building your own fencing. They look good, are easy to maintain or replace and if constructed with a little thought can also be used by the golfer to either sit on or rest a bag. A sitting area is particularly important at the par 3 holes as this is inevitably the holes where the greatest hold-up occur, but again apply the psychology and build the seat away from grass areas which could be subject to heavy wear or difficult maintenance.

For those who do not have either the time or the timber to build a seat a number of manufacturers produce an excellent hard wearing and weather-proof bench. One of the best known in the trade is Barlow Tyrie of Braintree, Essex, who use teak and timber without equal for the manufacture of outdoor furniture. Teak if left untouched will weather to a silvery grey, but can be maintained in its original colour by a regular application of light teak oil.

Cast iron benches will last a lifetime as long as the vandals are kept at bay and they are given an annual coat of paint, preferably anti-rust.



The new range of patio furniture from Bellinger Ltd.

MEMORANDUM

Subject:

(but you'll find out if you read on).

From: The desk of Fred Hawtree II in Puncknowle.

To: Greenkeepers, course managers, greenmasters, turfmasters, ground staff, superintendents, custodians and curators.

After a short sabbatical to recharge the cells and ease the writer's cramp, I hasten back to these pages in response to agonised appeals from readers with acute withdrawal symptoms due to my absence.

Where were we....?

After a wild day on the Churston Golf Course in Torbay with Gordon Child, Devon & Cornwall Chairman, his wife, Marion, had thoughtfully decided to dine us on roast beef. This delicacy does to tissues what sabbaticals do for the battery, but Gordon was only half way back to full charge when the telephone called him from the table.

The rest of us were a slice of beef and two roast potatoes ahead of him when he finally returned but his conversation had obviously pleased him. By the time we reached the chocolate gateau, he led us by a Yorkshire pudding. I was about to say 'by a short head', but, where horse-back is concerned, Gordon prefers hacking to racing and keeps his mare in the field behind his home so that he wastes no time on other forms of travel.

It was surely no accident of fate that the news of BIGGA's impending birthday on 1st January 1987 came while I was in the company of a man who reminds me in many ways of the earliest stalwarts of the Golf

Greenkeepers Association, 75 years ago. I am unfortunately rather a long way from my archives while down here in Dorset, (It's pronounced 'Punnel' by the way), but I can remember Alf Whitall, one of those at the very first meeting which my father called at the London Stone Hotel in Cannon Street in 1912. He became Chairman later, as did Arthur Lacey (Burnham Beeches), George McNeice (Banstead Downs) and Tom Bridges (Addington and later Royal Liverpool). It was mostly southern in those days, the natural predecessor to EIGGA.

The Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association may even pre-date this era and there was a brief marriage with the other party when the BGGA was jointly formed together with its Welsh Section and a number of venerable local associations like Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham. But distance in those days, and doubtless, expense led to a separation either side of the

In 1929, the Board of Green-keeping Research was set up at Bingley and my father was active in reconciling greenkeepers to this potential threat. For a time he chaired a Practical Advisory Committee with representative green-keepers from all over the country who met annually at Bingley and aired their views. Tom Mason from Hendon used to enjoy these meetings and write about them.

Tom who contributed to the early Journals of the Golf Greenkeepers Association which appeared in most years up to 1929 when W. H. Smithers (Shirley Park) was Hon. Secretary. Then George Philpot, once an editor of Golf Illustrated, started the monthly 'British Golf Greenkeeper' which became a vital link between members and sections. It all landed on my desk when George died. The three Scottish sections used it for monthly news until they started their quarterly 'Turfmaster', but there was no reconciliation.

Having neither typographer, sub-editor, nor reporter, the 'Golf Greenkeeper' took a lot of time and thought but it survived profitably for some 12 years until the demand for colour and a larger format obliged moving it on to professionals. After Reigate and West Horsley, it is now back near Leeds where one hopes it will settle.

Meanwhile, in the lifetime of these associations, greenkeeping has come from horse-mowers to hydraulic gangs from 14 inch Certes (£11-15-0d in 1929) to ride-on triplex mowers (Don't ask how much). There have been a few mistakes on the way. We have learned from them and got it right in the end. And we can learn from the history of GGA, SIGGA, BGGA, and EIGGA too. There have been a few hiccups but with generous help, they too have got it right in the end. Let's keep it that way. The next 75 years will be a

The Editor's REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past twelve months for the turf grass industry has not been without its fair share of news for magazine publishers to offer stimulating tit-bits to interest their readers.

Perhaps one of the major stories of the year, despite the fact it affected small proportion greenkeepers was the announcement by the St. Andrews Links Committee that it had withdrawn the playing privileges to greenkeepers over the St. Andrews Courses, a concession which had been in existence for about 150

Later it transpired the Committee, very conscious of the pressure on the courses by visitors from all over the world, had decided to bar all non-fee paying golfers the majority of whom were members of the PGA.

Let us hope the St. Andrews Links Committee will review their decision and allow genuine greenkeepers an opportunity to play a round over the links. It has been a privilege, which to our knowledge, has not been abused.

The main event of the year must be the successful efforts by the R&A to bring together the three Greenkeeper Associations. The PGA proposals in 1985 which would have brought green-keepers into the ranks of the pro-fessionals, but in a subsidiary role, was the stimulation that was needed for someone to act. Greenkeepers are a proud and independent body of men, but because of the nature of their job they lacked the negotiating and organising abilities to solve what was essentially personality differences within the separate Associations.

Then there was the saga of the lost golf balls 'stolen' from the ponds at the Belfry. Local magistrates refused to hear the case and sent four young Birmingham men to the Crown Court, where after a three day trial they were convicted by a jury of stealing 448 golf balls, by diving into the lakes near the ninth and eighteenth greens in frogman's suits. The golf balls were eventually returned to the Belfry Hotel management who sold them for charity.

Nothing unites a family closer than an outside threat to one of the members. This was certainly the case after an industrial tribunal in Dundee had confirmed that the sacking of the Head Greenkeeper at Carnoustie was 'fair' after hearing evidence that he had applied phosphate fertiliser to the fairways against the advice of a consultant agronomist and by so doing had encouraged the growth of annual meadow grass.

Greenkeeping and course maintenance policies are now the subject of considerable debate, with differing view points taking into consideration available labour and equipment, finance, playing pressures and what the members want or what is regarded as good for them.

Unfortunately, most greenkeepers are subjected to directions from people in authority who have little scientific or practical knowledge and are put in the invidious position of either ignoring the orders in the interests of the playability of the course, or do as directed and suffer the complaints when the problems arise. There is a name for it - Catch 22!

Introduced this year was the first phase of the new Pesticide Legislation. This journal and others have attempted to emphasise just how far reaching are the laws governing the application of agrochemicals in European countries. So far this enabling legislation is not biting deeply into the major practices of UK greenkeepers, but in the future it will. Be prepared. Advise Green Committees of the need to set aside finance for brick built storage, proper washing facilities and training for those responsible for applying turf grass chemicals.

In July this year the Sports Turf Research Institute opened its new offices at Bingley St. Ives. In recent years the finance for research has come from football and racing with little from golf. This is now changing and the importance of scientific trials, particularly into improved drainage and sand based surfaces has been recognised.

The introduction of diesel powered greens mowers by both Ransomes and Jacobsen created considerable interest and obvious comparison between the two machines. Ransomes, in Guy

Catchpole's final month before retiring, also launched several new turf machines including an optional three or four wheel turf maintenance truck, in what would seem to be direct competition with Cushman and Sisis.

Morrisons, the New Zealand manufacturer and Jacobsen based near Chicago, split after less than a year together in their King's Lynn depot. Since then Morrisons have been bought out by a competitor.

Iseki also left the Lely home at Huntingdon and set up on their own at nearby St. Neots with John Hawkins as Managing Director and Colin Gregory in charge of sales. Toro machinery with Graham Dale overseeing the sales stayed in the Lely

A management buy out by a team led by Trevor Martin took Vitax away from the Steetley organisation. Launched in 1939 the Vitax business has endured a succession of takeovers, forming a small part of other business interests. Now the business has turned the full circle to be independent once again.

The retirement of Derek Phillips, the Chairman of Rigby Taylor Ltd led to a complete management shake-out after Bernard Hedley took over the top job. Within weeks, their Sales Director Richard Lawrence had departed, only to emerge as the new Managing Director of Trident.

1987 PREDICTIONS

'Old Moore Lelean' gazing into the crystal ball, sees an American company with a UK base making a major move into the amenity turf market. With agriculture in a mess through over production they could well see sports turf as a growth area. And don't be surprised to see a takeover bid for a well-known British firm to achieve it.

Watch the compact tractor market. Others could be emerging as major competitors to those who have already established a firm foothold.

And finally It will be a cold damp winter with deep snow in places. Spring growth will be non existent, the Summer confined to ten days in October and the greenkeeper blamed for the missed putts of 1987!

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SECTIONAL News

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: David F. Golding, 38 The Grove, Flixton, Manchester M31 3JH Telephone: 061-748-8592 Seminar 1987

Mere Golf and Country Club is again the venue for the annual Seminar. On Thursday, March 12th, a varied selection of speakers will combine a series of lectures under the theme of 'Are you up to date?'

Tickets are priced £15 (see separate programme of day on page

Early application is advised to secure a place on the day. Cheques made payable to BIGGA N.W Section, should be sent to Section Secretary.

BIGGA

It is hoped that a days golf will be arranged early in the Spring for all Greenkeepers in the North-West. This will be seen as a joining together of all Greenkeepers under the banner of BIGGA.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chairman and Committee to wish all members and their families,

A Happy Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year.

NORTH EAST

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

On the 2nd October we held our Annual Match against our friends from over the border at Goswick G.C., Berwick.

We were treated to some fine but windy weather and I would like to thank George Thompson and staff for presenting the course in such fine fettle.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and also to Stewarts of Edinburgh for providing the prizes for the winners and losers.

RESULTS:

North East S.E. Scotland B. Wilson, won 5/4 T. Rodgeson R. Black C. Hildersley J. Richardson, halved A. Holmes K. Archibald G. Gainford, with W. Holden, halved R. Bulluck, with I. Johnson (One vs. Two) R. Henderson, won 2/1 J. Paton G. Atkinson G. Millican S. Pope, won 4/3 D. Herd A. Fiddes J. Nielsen S. Dickson 7/6 C. Yeaman K. Rutherford, lost R. Creane

The North East retained the trophy by three matches to one, with two halved.

Our congratulations to Richard Creane on his appointment as course manager at Gosforth Driving Range and Parklands Golf Club.

Congratulations also to Peter Henderson, appointed first assistant at the new 18 hole Slayley Golf and Country Club.

DEVON & CORNWALL

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

On Wednesday, November 19th forty-eight stalwart members struggled through storms, gales, tempests, hurricanes and floods to reach the Elfordleigh Hotel and Country Club.

Although the competition was reduced to nine holes, due to the weather everyone agreed the course was in remarkably good condition thanks to Mike Pike and his staff.

After a first class lunch the D. O. Hunt Ltd, trophy was presented to Roger Battishill from St. Mellion. Second was Gerald Ayliffe and third Nigel Stone both from Staddon Heights

Also decided were our two representatives to go into next Autumn's Jacobsen national competition.

They are:-

G. Ayliffe (Staddon Heights G.C.) J. Lawton (St. Austell G.C.)

The afternoon's talk was given by Martin Jones and must definitely rate as one of the best we have had, it certainly provoked one of the liveliest question times we have ever had. Our sincere thanks go to Martin who drove down and home again from Preston to give us the talk.

The Editor thanks all Section Secretaries for their reports during the year.

> The next issue will be February 1987. Copy by 10th January

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: Steve Wood 37 Holford Avenue, Bescot, Walsall Telephone: (0922) 611380

On Friday, November 7th the Midlands Section played the East Midlands Section for the Rigby Taylor Salver at Walsall Golf Club.

Match result: Midlands 11pts, East Midlands 4pts.

We must thank Dave Morgan and Rigby Taylor for a splendid day and look forward to the return match on East Midlands soil next year.

Congratulations to Trevor Morris and his wife for becoming the proud parents of their daughter Stephanie.

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Oxley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 26th November. Once again we were unfortunate with the weather having to suffer, hail, rain, and a strong cold wind for much of the day.

RESULTS:

Tony Jesson Tucker Ryder 1st 36pts. 2nd 35pts. 3rd John Hughes 34pts. Roger Pullen

We must thank Brian Cash of Dévere Hotels for providing us with the first prize of a Weekend for Two at the superb Belfry Golf and Country Club complex.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Jack Broady in November. It was Jack who initiated the Christmas Prize at the Belfry and he will be sadly missed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, January 12th, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Lecture by Watermation, at Moor Hall Golf Club.

Monday, February 9th, 7.00 p.m. Dennis Mottram of the Cheshire College of Agriculture on the subject of Man Management at Moor Hall Golf Club.

Friday, March 20th, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Lecture and on course demonstration by Midland Tree Surgeons, Telford Golf and Country Club.

MERE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST NORTH WEST GREENKEEPERS SEMINAR

The luxury clubhouse of the Mere Golf and Country Club will again be the setting for the all day seminar on greenkeeping techniques for the third consecutive year.

The theme 'Are You Up To Date' presented by a formidable array of invited speakers, will cover a variety of subjects from club management to chemicals.

Among those expected to present papers are the Secretary to the R&A, Mr. Michael Bonnalack, the Secretary of Walton Heath Golf Club, Commander W. McNea and Mr. David Lucas, the Course Manager of the nearby Tytherington Golf and Country Club, and of the newset and most embiliary. one of the newest and most ambitious developments in recent years.

Other speakers booked to appear include, Mr. Tony Gentil, a lecturer in Arboricultural subjects, Mr. Malcolm

Evans, ICI's expert on horticulture chemicals and Mr. Martyn Jones one of Europe's best known agronomists. Not to be missed is the Section's own Mr. John Lowery, Course Manager at Ringway G.C. who has chosen as his subject "Making your own compost".

The total cost of £15.00 includes morning coffee on arrival and a three course lunch.

The date is Thursday, 12th March, commencing at 9.45 a.m. with coffee served prior to the start of the proceedings. The seminar is expected to close at around 4.30 p.m. with a Question Time to the speakers.

Prior booking through David Goulding (061) 748 8592, or write to his home address at 38, The Grove, Flixton, Manchester M31 3JH. Cheques made payable to North-West Section BGGA.

GREENKEEPERS VISIT ROLAWN



Sheffield Section with President Kenneth Arnold, centre front, at Rolawn Ltd, Elvington, York.

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The Sheffield branch of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association visited the headquarters of Rolawn Ltd at Elvington near York on Wednesday, November 5th, to view the turf nurseries and discuss the needs of greenkeepers.

Rolawn, which now has four turf production units in Britain, has been supplying the professional market for over ten years and pioneered the production of purpose-grown turf on a large scale. The visit was organised by Gordon Brammah, Secretary of the Sheffield section and Head Green-keeper of Hallamshire Golf Club. Members were shown around the Yorkshire unit by Robert Laycock, Technical Manager and, Rod Moore, Sales Manager Sales Manager.

MID ANGLIA

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

The Autumn Tournament was held over 27 Holes of Stableford play at Woburn Golf and Country Club on 28th October, with a large entry of 44.

Scoring is never easy on the fine Championship "Dukes" Course and the 34 Points scored by Geoff Smith was good enough to win the prize for the best 18 Holes in the morning.

The afternoon 9 Hole event was played over the "Duchess's" Course and Steve Denton's 20 points took the second prize.

The President's Cup and Watch was won by Martin Lay one of our most steady players, with a 27 Hole score of 31 + 22 = 53 closely followed by another experienced campaigner, with a bit slower swing these days, Bob Plain 31 + 20 = 52.

Well done Bob, hope you are saving the Brandy for a cold day, and to Bill O'Haulon who won the Body Warmer with 33 + 18 = 51.

We were pleased to have our President, Don Reeder, available to present the prizes.

Our thanks to the Prize Donors:-

Mr. D. Reeder (Rogers Engineers), Choppers of Cambridge Ltd, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., Rigby Taylor Ltd., Supaturf Ltd, Parkers Ltd., Maxwell Hart Ltd., C.M.W. Equipment Ltd., Town & Country Ltd., and Mr. G. Pitcher (Vice President).

We would also like to thank the Woburn Golf and Country Club for providing their superb facilities throughout the day.

Neil Whittaker and the Greenstaff provided us with 27 Holes of most interesting golf on two very fine courses, plus an exceptionally high standard of subsistance from the restaurant staff.

The first meeting of 1987 will be at St. Neots Golf Club on Monday, 19th January at 2.30 p.m. when Jon Albutt of Synchemicals will give a talk on the latest Legislation concerning the use of Chemicals.

The new laws are extensive and the opportunity to listen to Jon should not be missed.

Martin Lay has arranged for the sandwiches and liquid refreshment to be available until 2.00 p.m. so please come early, and bring along the Chairman of Green of your home club, to this most important lecture.

NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam, 12 Moorfield Avenue, Menston, W. Yorks.

Telephone: (0943) 72008

In a bid to curb a wave of mole workings a trap was purchased and set on Thursday. The trap was sprung sometime Saturday and disappeared by Monday morning. Obviously we are being watched by Greenpeace or the local animal rights movements. Does anyone have a man trap?

A similar run of bad luck hit the November 13th evening in the shape of a projector failure. Just about the last thing that could have been anticipated. My apologies to all involved for such an abbreviated performance.

Please note though, that the event is now re-scheduled for January 22nd, 1987, same place, same time, complete with Dynasty-type recap, before the main feature.

A jolly bunch of landlubbers took to the high seas with the ocean salvage firm United Towing on October 23rd, for what turned out to be a very fascinating insight into the skills and danger of world-wide salvage. Very many thanks to John Illingworth of Joseph Bentley Ltd. for arranging the speaker, Mike Lacey of United Towing and Alan Jones of North British Maritime. It's a damn good job more people were not present otherwise the boat might have capsized!

Our Seminar "Are you getting the best from your Course" on the 20th November attracted over eighty interested delegates. This proved to

be a respectable number in the light of the early response in the run-up period. Apart from more technical obstacles than were wanted at the time the various speakers presented their paper in professional fashion bringing together an overall programme of fine merit, which dovetailed very well.

Many valuable points were highlighted and although the event was tailored principally towards the golf club officer, attendance was dominated by greenkeepers - the same perennial faces, I might add.

Congratulations to Paul Cole a trainee at Rawdon Golf and Lawn Tennis Club, who gained a distinction in his exams at Askham Bryan.

Reports indicate that were are due to become B.I.G.G.A. at the beginning of 1987. There was talk of subs falling due at that time also, but no directive has yet been received. One feels that this would be an excellent way to lose the membership at one blow. However, we'll see. No matter, the President, Chairman, Secretary and Committee of the B.G.G.A. Northern Section extend Seasons Greetings to all colleagues and their families and wish all a healthy and peaceful New Year.

The Publisher and Printer of GOLF GREENKEEPING extend their good wishes to all members in the formation of the new Association.

SOUTH COAST

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

It is pleasing to report that a packed Clubhouse was in attendance for the November Meeting, when Mr. Martyn Jones spoke to members and guests. Martyn is, of course, well known to many members of the Section, and his talk "British Courses, are they on the right course?" will have made many who were present re-consider their maintenance programmes.

Only the intervention of our Chairman prevented the evening from becoming an all night sitting! Although many were still going strong when your Secretary had to depart.

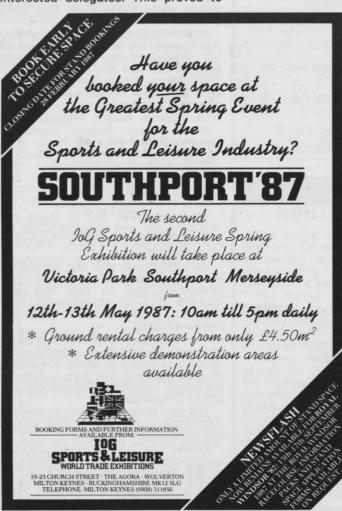
Thank you Martyn, we look forward to a follow up lecture, next year.

Looking ahead, as one must with these notes, please support our next meeting on the 4th February, 1987, when Mr. Paul Watson will be talking to members on Ransomes Gangmowing Equipment.

Please note that the Section's A.G.M. will be on the 4th March, 1987.

Resolutions and Nominations for the position of Tournament Organiser which lan wishes to relinquish, should be sent to me by 12th February, 1987.

On a more seasonal note - your President, Jim Fry, Chairman, Eric James, and Committee, wish all members A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR





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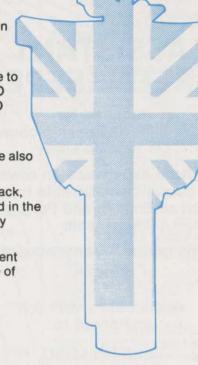
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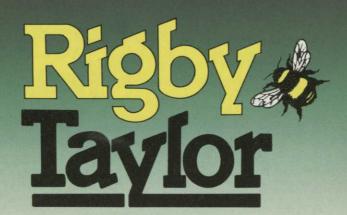
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