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and Course Maintenance

May
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The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

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GOLF GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance
The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers'
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Founded 1912

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English and Welsh Golf Unions

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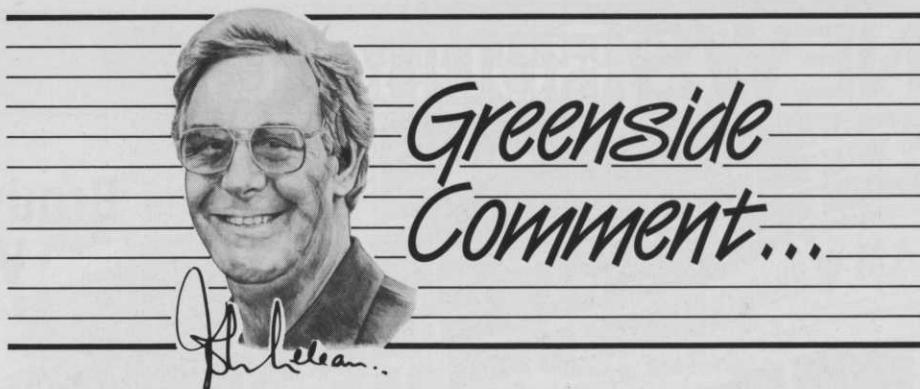
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TREASURE HUNTERS CONVICTED

Last December we drew attention to the case before local magistrates concerning four young Birmingham men, accused of stealing 448 golf balls from lakes on the Brabazon Course at the Belfry. This was no ordinary ball scavenging affair but a highly organised operation with two men in wet suits scouring the bottom of the six foot deep lakes at night with two others, knee deep on the lake edge, with nets.

The presiding magistrate, realising the legal implications, decided to send the four accused on to the Crown Court for trial by jury. The outcome already widely publicised in the national press was a verdict of guilty, but as two of the accused had outstanding fines from other courts, the Recorder, Mr. Jonathan Goldring said he had decided not to add to their financial commitment, but gave all four a conditional discharge. Strange as it may seem a 'conditional discharge', where someone is found guilty but no punishment imposed is a conviction, despite the appearance to the general public that they have 'got away with it'.

The legal precedent now set, will outlaw the organised mass reclamation of lost golf balls on private property, but is unlikely to be used as a point of law against small boys finding the wayward drive in the woods.

After the verdict a spokesman from the Law Society was quoted as saying "It will be up to each court to look at individual cases, but picking up odd balls on a golf course is not likely to be regarded as a criminal offence".

The court ruling refers only to private courses and a situation arising from a similar foray on a public course could produce a different result.

St. Andrews, one of our best known public courses already has a local bye-law covering the searching for abandoned golf balls.

As we have said before, lost golf balls have always been regarded as one of the few perks for greens staff. Those who climb over the fence specifically to hunt for balls are dishonest whether the law says so or not. Without realising, many of these 'scrumper' are putting themselves in grave danger and it is unlikely that any golfer's insurance would pay out to someone who was proved to be trespassing with intent to steal by finding, even if they did receive a fatal injury from a well hit ball.

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Chinese grass carp. Nature's way of removing pond weed
Looking for a new Job?
How to prepare your curriculum vitae and compose an application letter

NEWS Round-up

Brouwer's new Outdoor Vacuum Cleaner



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Huxleys
Grass Machinery
The Dean
New Alresford
Hampshire
SO24 9BL
Tel: 096273 3222

Turflands's Managing Director, Chris Watmore may not be a betting man but it could be said he 'cleaned-up' at Aintree after the Grand National.

Turfland Professional Equipment were called in by the contractors to help remove the vast amount of litter left by a multitude of race-goers, with the BROUWER VAC and, needless-to-say, it ran first in the 'sweepstakes!'

With the Grand National over for another year the Ground Staff were faced with 60 tons of litter and debris to clear-up but in true Brouwer fashion the VAC came to the rescue.

This unique machine, with a loading capacity of 335 cu ft, was launched onto the UK market towards the end of 1985. Specifically designed to collect fallen leaves, grass clippings, twigs, paper, food containers etc, it is now making a 'cleansweep' of all the jobs it encounters. Greenkeepers find it invaluable for disposing of thatch left by verti-cutting and it's also a huge success with Turf Producers - a large capacity machine, capable of removing damaging wet grass clippings.

Fitted behind a 34-45 HP tractor, it is very manoeuvrable and operates quickly and efficiently.

Just like 'West Tip' - no hurdle proved too big for the BROUWER VAC at this year's Grand National, and would seem an ideal machine to 'sweep' the course after a major tournament.

Details on this and the complete range of Brouwer Turf Machinery from:-

Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd.,
Redhouse Farm, Barker's Hollow Rd,
Dutton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4LL

Telephone: Aston (09286) 272 & 336

Ask for:

Chris Watmore or Denise Cowell

New Ground Driven Fertiliser Spreader



Wessex Farm Machinery Sales Co. have introduced a new trailed fertiliser distributor suitable for professional or domestic use.

The new 'Mini-Spreader' has a spinning disc distributor plate, with four deflector blades, protected by a special anti-corrosive finish. The spinning disc is ground driven through heavy duty bevel gears immersed in an oil bath. The wide profile pneumatic tyres have a turf tread pattern to minimise compaction on fine turf areas.

The conical hopper holds approx. 70 kgs (150 lbs) depending on the type of fertiliser, and has a corrosion resistant paint finish. The hopper is mounted on a sturdy tubular frame, with the drawbar adjustable according to the position of the tow hitch on the tractor. The Wessex 'Mini-Spreader' is suitable for use with most compact tractors, and specially suits diesel engined ride-on mowers such as the Kubota G3HST.

The 'Mini Spreader' can be used for granular and powdered fertilisers, grass seed, and salt. Spread widths range from 2m (6ft 7in) - 8m (26ft) depending on ground speed, with application rates from 52 - 410 grammes per square metre for granular fertiliser.

The Wessex 'Mini-Spreader' costs £265.00 + VAT.

New Secretary for the British Turf Irrigation Association

The British Turf Irrigation Association, founded eight years ago, has appointed John Shildrick as Secretary.

Mr. Shildrick, currently Assistant Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute and Secretary of the National Turfgrass Council, will be serving the BTIA in a part-time capacity. He brings to the post a long experience in the UK turfgrass industry, and an independence of trade interests which the Association hopes will be the foundation of vigorous development in the next few years.

The BTIA Chairman, Bill Hawthorn, said, "We have for some time wanted to have an independent Secretary to whom anyone with a serious complaint could write to in full confidence that the problem would be sorted out quickly and fairly. We intend to strengthen and improve our set minimum standards, both for golf courses and soon for other irrigation work. An essential basis will be a Secretary with no ties to one company, but with the interests of all at heart, in maintaining the good name of the Association".

Further information on the British Turf Irrigation Association can be obtained from:-

The Secretary, BTIA,
3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ

Daytime telephone: Bradford (0274) 565131
Evening telephone: Cullingworth (0535) 273188

BGGA SECTIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT DIARY

MAY	14	Sherwood G.C. (E. Midlands)
MAY	19	Notts G.C. (Sheffield)
MAY	22	Steeley Vitax Tournament Whitchurch G.C.
MAY	22	Ormskirk G.C. (N. West)
MAY	22	Arkley G.C. (Mid Anglia)
MAY	22	Whittington G.C. (Midlands)
MAY	27	S. West v. Secretaries, Filton G.C.
JUNE	3	Welsh Section v. Secretaries Southerndown G.C.
JUNE	10	Broadstone G.C. (S. Coast)
JUNE	17	Greenkeepers v. Vice-Presidents Leicestershire G.C. (E. Midlands)
JUNE	18	Cavendish G.C. (Sisis Tournament)
JUNE	19	Garforth (Northern)
JUNE	25	Westonburt G.C. (S. West)
JULY	8	Ashridge G.C. (Mid. Anglia)
JULY	10	Isle of Purbeck G.C. (S. Coast)
JULY	10	Dinas Powis G.C. (Welsh)
JULY	16	Roses Match Preston G.C.
JULY	29	Midlands v. Mid Anglia, Tewkesbury G.C.
AUG.	11-12-13	NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - Billingham G.C. (Entries close 30th June)
AUG.	14	Easingwold G.C. Invitation Day (Northern)
AUG.	21	A.R.M.S Tournament (Open Event) Filton G.C. (S. West)
SEPT.	4	S. Coast v. S. West, Wells G.C.
SEPT.	9	Matlock G.C. (Sheffield)
SEPT.	11	Langland Bay G.C. (Welsh)
SEPT.	25	Basingstoke G.C. (S. Coast)
OCT.	2	Longcliffe G.C. (E. Midlands)
OCT.	8	St. Pierre G.C. S. West v. Welsh
OCT.	14	Fulford G.C. (Northern)
OCT.	21 or 22	Cotswold Edge G.C. (S. West)

All entries must be made in advance through Competition Secretaries.

See current Sectional notes for further details concerning fees and starting times.

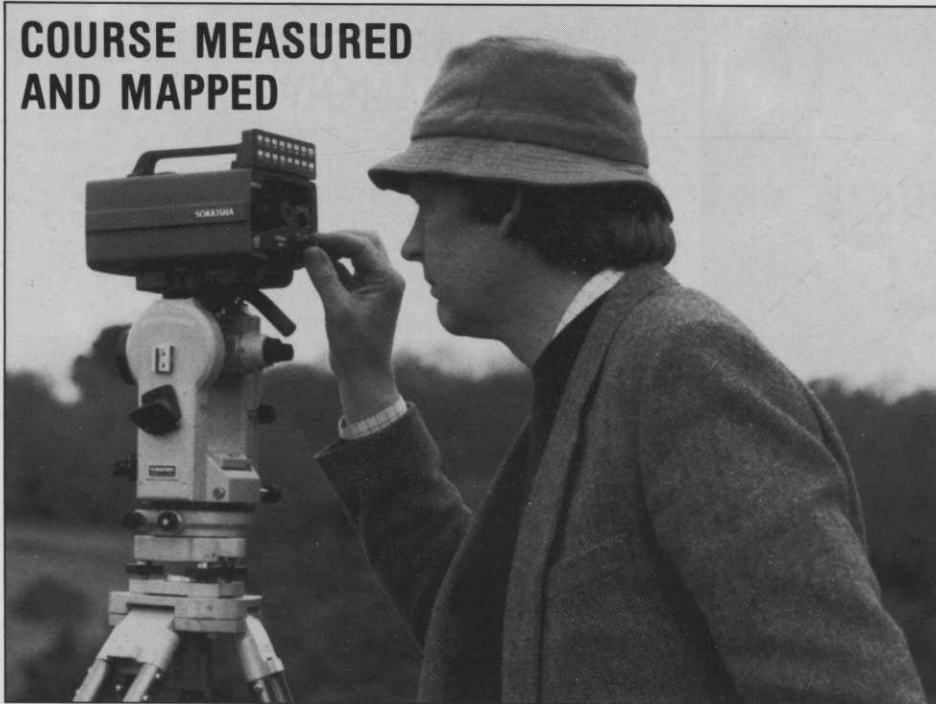
A revised tournament diary will be published throughout the season. Would Secretaries please inform the Editor of new dates and venues as soon as they are available.

Grass maintenance machinery for Compact Tractors

WESSEX

WESSEX FARM MACHINERY SALES CO.,
NEWMAN LANE, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE.
TELEPHONE: ALTON 88848. TELEX: 858755.

COURSE MEASURED AND MAPPED



Based on experience gained first hand, during the first year of running his own golf irrigation consultancy, Phillip York has now expanded the services his business provides by adding a golf course measuring and mapping facility.



"I have been surprised at the lack of detailed information available at some clubs" he says. "An accurately measured and detailed course map is essential when clubs are considering expensive innovations like the installation of an irrigation system. Without it, work will be carried out on a hit-and-miss basis with final costs being higher than originally envisaged".

Phillip York's new service offers clubs, contractors, architects and agronomists a professionally certified course measurement plus the complete mapping of courses, pre-development surveys and staking-out.

By using the latest electronic surveying equipment - a course can be accurately measured (+15mm vertically, +30mm horizontally) in the time it takes to complete an average round of golf, at a cost comparable to a good set of clubs.

Measurement certificates are issued to clubs and meet the criterion laid down by the Council of National Golf Unions.

Turf Tyre Protectors

Punctures - costly, time-wasting and annoying hazards for those working on grass - are dramatically reduced by a new range of tyre protectors from two English companies - Axleline Eastern Limited, of Boston and Moplant Limited, of Poole.

Turf tyres, which are necessarily of thin construction to avoid damage to the grass, have these thick rubber protectors placed inside the tread and held in place by the tube, providing an extra strong layer to absorb thorns, etc., and helping greatly to reduce punctures.



Demonstrating the simplicity of fitting one of the new range of tyre protectors now available from Axleline Eastern of Boston and Moplant of Poole, Dorset.

Maintain and Renovate Fine Turf from the Seat of a Compact Tractor

Huxleys Grass Machinery have produced a fully-mounted, powered Fine Turf Scarifier for use behind most compact tractors.

Designed specifically for surface renovation work, scarifying and thatch control on all areas of fine turf, the Huxley TV36 Fine Turf Scarifier has a working width of 914mm (36in) and can be used with a tractor producing between 16 and 24hp.

Positive drive for the TV36's 52 double-edged, long-life blades is transmitted from the tractor's power take-off shaft. Blade spacing can be varied to suit surface conditions, down to a minimum setting of 16mm (5/8in).

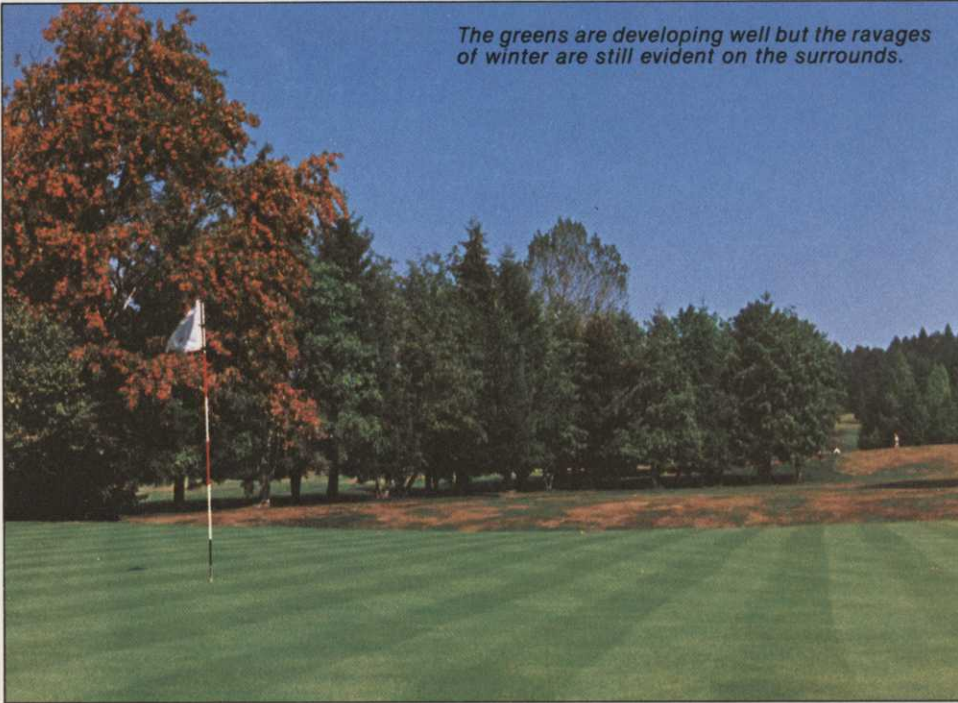
Front and rear rollers which can be adjusted quickly and easily up or down on threaded hangers. Maximum working depth is 19mm (3/4in).

The TV36 Scarifier is priced at £1,295 plus VAT.



Greenkeeping in Switzerland

The greens are developing well but the ravages of winter are still evident on the surrounds.



I recently read Fred Hawtree's article on Greenkeepers abroad and as one of the emigrants who took the plunge and left England to gain experience in foreign fields it was not only of great interest, but offered advice, others with similar ideas would be foolish to ignore!

Five years ago at the age of twenty-two I was given the chance of work at the Lausanne Golf Club as a Supervisor responsible for the work of ten staff. It was a very demanding position, but after two months I was offered the position of Head Greenkeeper. However for various reasons I turned the job down and returned to England to work at the Moor Allerton Golf Club near Leeds. For the next two years I applied for numerous Head Greenkeeper positions, but at the interview stage the story was always the same - I was too inexperienced and too young for such a responsible job.

Frustration forced me to the conclusion that if I was to make anything of my life, then I had to go abroad again.

To cut a long story short, incredible as it may seem, Lausanne were not satisfied with the Head Greenkeeper at that time and once again I was offered the job. This time I accepted and so began three of the happiest years of my life.

I would like to tell you a little about my work here in Switzerland and a few of the problems I have faced. Some of them, Greenkeepers in England will recognise as similar to their own, but there are others unique to high altitudes and extremes of temperature.

Lausanne Golf Club is sixty-five years old, constructed in 1921, at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level. It is an eighteen hole Championship Course covering a total of 160 acres. The Swiss Open Championship has been staged three times, the Swiss Amateur on numerous occasions, the World Amateur once and this year we will host the European Seniors Championship.

The most incredible aspect of working as a Greenkeeper in Switzerland is the climatic extremes. Taking last year as an example, the temperature during the winter months dropped as low as minus 40 degrees centigrade and in a twenty four hour period we had four feet of snow. At the other end of the scale during the months of July through to October, the temperature ranged from 80 to 100 degrees on the Fahrenheit scale and in this period we had only two days when it rained.

British Greenkeeper Ian Tomlinson tells of the three years at Lausanne

By British standards our golfing season is comparatively short, more like the Canadians, April until October or November dependent upon when the snow melts and then begins to fall again.

One of the most important jobs at Lausanne G.C. is applying a long duration fungicide to the greens just before the first snowfall to protect them from snow mould. Mistime this little operation and you will probably be looking for another job!

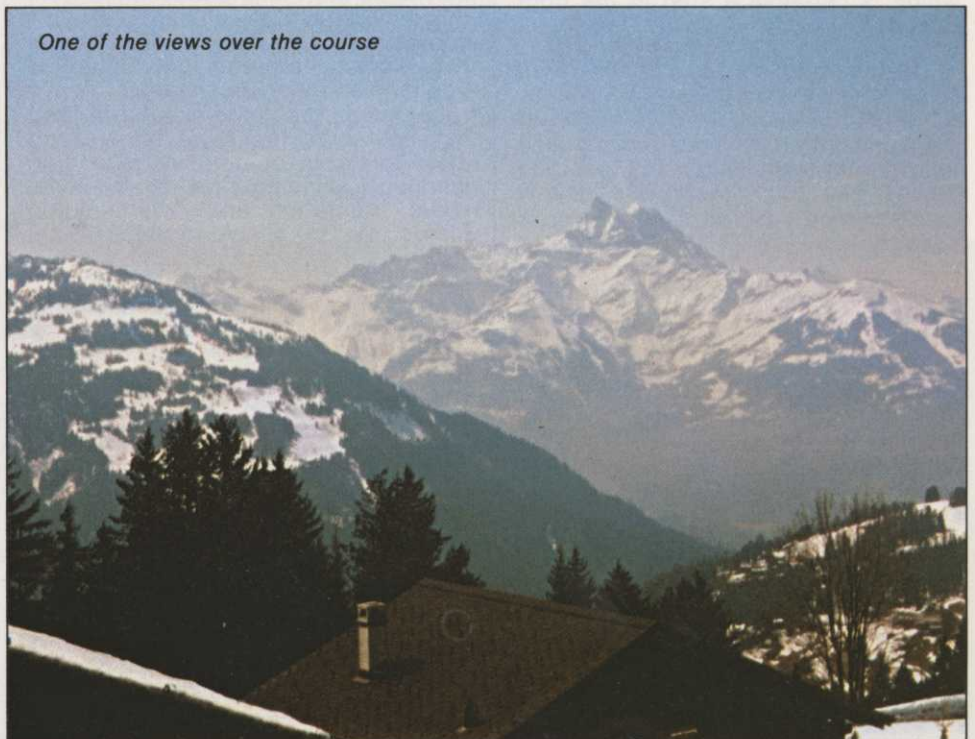
It is normal for the course to be under a covering of snow for three to four months of the year. Around mid-March I dig the greens free of snow and this hardens them off as I prepare for the start of the new season.

Once the snow has melted the real work of maintaining the course begins. Left behind are diseased fairways, uprooted trees, hundreds of broken branches and a mass of other debris left from the winter. The bunkers look as if a squadron of tanks have carried out extensive desert manoeuvres. All this has to be put right in just a few short weeks to be ready for the Summer Competitions.

But what about the greens?

They have been asleep for months under a blanket of snow and we must now attempt to encourage growth to withstand the onslaught of the members and guests, all naturally looking for the perfect putting surface. Someone suggested 'yodelling' helps. It may do but it played hell with my tonsils!

One of the views over the course





Cupressus provide a fine backdrop to the sculptured green



Snow mould damage on the green apron

My main concern on taking over at Lausanne was the soil ph of the greens which registered 8.0. Undesirable grasses were flourishing and the greens suffered badly from disease, though over the past few years regular applications of iron and ammonia has slowly brought down the ph to 7.0, which is certainly a step in the right direction.

The next problem I had to solve with the greens was root growth, in my case a lack of it. Regular aeration as a turf management programme had not been followed for many years. The most the greens had received was a hollow tining once a year, which produced a situation of virtually no root growth at all on some greens and even the best of them showed only about an inch.

As an apprentice at Scarcroft Golf Club in Yorkshire where we were taught the traditional methods of green-keeping by Mr. Jeffery Mawson, we handforked the greens. I tried this method for the last two years at Lausanne, forking to a depth of twelve inches with extremely good results. Although I may not have appreciated it at the time I saw the results of handforking at Scarcroft and how it encouraged deep rooting and this was the only method available. This year we are hoping to purchase a Verti-Drain, which is certainly a relief to me and probably more so to the staff!

Staff was a problem in my first year at the Club. Unfortunately they were a rather unruly bunch, who had been allowed to do almost as they pleased for the four years prior to my taking over. The final straw came on the eve of a major competition, when they downed tools and refused to work. Inevitable staff changes resulted from this incident and my present staff now consists of two Swiss, one Italian, two Portuguese and one qualified Englishman as my Assistant.

Language problems existed at first, but French is the local tongue and after trying to communicate in sign language, semaphore and morse code, sheer frustration and determination forced me to speak an acceptable version of the local Swiss French.

One of the Swiss employees is a full time qualified mechanic and he is absolutely invaluable. We have a fully equipped workshop containing hydraulic worktable, oxy-acetylene equipment, and an electric welding set-up.

With such a short season, you might wonder when alterations and improvements are carried out. Not in the winter, that's for sure. New constructions are done side by side with the general mowing and maintenance right through our season. This produces considerable difficulties when the primary objective is to keep the course in a first class playing condition, but it has to be done even to diverting staff to build new tees during the month of July.

As at home, the golfers will soon let you know when the rough is too long; others will complain about the work rate when tee building and there is always the man who can never understand why the course is being dug up at the very spot his ball hits the fairway. He never appreciates the final result is for his benefit anyway.

Last Autumn we had a complete new watering system installed by Watermation to serve the tees, greens, the surrounds and approached. This replaced a disastrous irrigation scheme installed some five years ago by a quite well-known company at a cost of £100,000.

They attempted to upgrade the previous system dating back some forty years, connecting the P.V.C. piping to the already corroding galvanised metal pipe and turning the system hydraulic. The old pipes could not cope with the pressure and began to leak. Sprinklers remained on and could not be shut off except by shutting down huge areas. On three of the greens one sprinkler head was considered sufficient to supply all the water needed yet others were provided with up to five sprinklers to cover the putting surface. You can see now why I called it a 'disaster'.

The only problem I can foresee for the future concerns the water supply. There are two lakes fed by a mountain stream which dry up in hot weather. We can use the town's water supply to replenish the lakes, but this is a very expensive operation. I would like to find another source of supply, but this is something for the future. It is just a relief to know that this year I should have trouble free watering, drought permitting of course!

The machinery we use at Lausanne is similar to the equipment used in the UK, the usual mowers and turf aerators supplied by such firms as Ransomes, Jacobsens, Toro and Cushman.

I have tried a variety of fungicides and fertilisers obtainable from Swiss distributors, but this year Supaturf will be supplying me with SSD for the greens and the May & Baker Rovral to counteract fungal infection. In addition I am including the Farmura range of products as part of my turf management programme.

Not many people realise the effect of air pollution on nature, but even here in Switzerland a number of our trees are slowly dying as a result of chemicals in the atmosphere. In the last two years thirty trees have died on this course some of which were less than twenty years old. It is a serious matter and who can tell what the outcome will be in another ten years if the problems cannot be solved.

As I said right at the beginning of this article my decision to come at Lausanne has given me three of the happiest years of my life, but it is a very demanding job and a great deal of hard work.

Mr. Hawtree is right when he advises caution before embarking on a new career abroad. It is a momentous decision and one that need careful thought weighing up the advantages against the disadvantages. In my case I felt I had nothing to lose and everything to gain by grasping the nettle. It was a decision I have never regretted.

New Hydraulic Cylinder Mower from Green's

GREEN'S have newly introduced to their range of professional grass cutting machinery a triple gang hydraulic cylinder mower for use on the smaller compact tractors from 16 DIN upwards. Called the triple "BANTAM" this mower is mounted on the tractor 3 point linkage and driven by a tandem pump on the PTO giving an 84" cut. Each gang unit is independently controlled to prevent each cylinder running when lifted out of work.

The outer gangs can be lifted while the gangs on the ground continue to cut, allowing manoeuvrability round trees, benches, etc. Cylinders are 7½" diameter and are available with 5 or 8 blades. Priced at £3,409.00 + VAT with 8 blades including a one year commercial warranty and free delivery.



GREEN'S machinery is distributed in the UK by:-

CLAYMORE GRASS MACHINERY

Fergus Square, Arbroath, Angus
Telephone: 0241-73841

37 Dulverton Road, Witton, Birmingham
Telephone: 021-326-7171

They will arrange demonstrations on this machine or any other items in the GREEN'S RANGE

Southport's Remedy for poor putting surfaces

Top-dressing and sand

Frank Garvey believes he has the remedy to overcome the frustrating problem of pock-marked and bumpy greens, aggravated by the coldest and wettest April in years - 200,000 tons of it!

Frank a keen and dedicated golfer is the managing director of Shuttleland Limited, owners of a sand quarry near Southport, Lancs., producing an extremely high quality soil formed from an accumulation of forest litter on glacial sand, which provided the foundation of the world famous links courses on the Lancashire coast.

Shuttleland Sand is a fine silica with over 95% of the particles between 0.10 and 0.60mm providing an ideal drainage material for golf courses.

Analysis has shown that the particles are rounded to sub-angular and weathered. Their pitted surface will enhance moisture and nutrient retention, giving a slight acid soil reaction. It also has a relatively high iron content.

The Company are producing two types of sand, Grade 5 silica ideal for greens construction, drainage and bunkers and Grade 6 silica for mixing with other material for top dressing.

Utilising the natural material from the quarry area Shuttleland produce what they call the Rufford Top Dressing, a mixture of Grade 6 sand and the shredded soil broken down over thousands of years from the accumulation of the forest litter.

Spread over greens, the top dressing can be used without further screening providing a healthy biological active rootzone material.

All three materials are supplied direct from the quarry at £5.00 a ton for Grade 5, £6.50 for Grade 6 and £19.50 for the Rufford Top Dressing, plus a scale delivery charge dependent on the distance the loads need to be hauled. Minimum load, ten tonnes.

Prices and samples can be obtained from Frank Garvey at:-

Nucks Wood Quarry,
Holmeswood, Nr. Southport
or give him a ring at:
Rufford (0704) 821314.

'FIRSTEE' all-weather Tees

Golf Clubs suffering from one of the wettest winters on record will be more than interested in the recent introduction of the revolutionary 'Firstee' all-weather tee-off surface from Chipman Limited of Horsham, West Sussex.

'Firstee' is a 12ft by 12ft Silica Sand filled artificial grass carpet providing a natural, firm foothold, which because of its porous nature, always provides a good tee-off surface even during the worst weather conditions.

It has proved popular with players as it responds like grass, readily accepts tee pegs, and is equally suited to irons or woods. Its large size allows ample room to vary tee-off positions and it is large enough to give players unrestricted standing room. Being level with the existing tee it eliminates the uncomfortable and unnerving feeling of having to step up or on to an artificially prepared surface.

Greens staff have found 'Firstee' ideal for those awkward tree shrouded tees where it is always impossible to keep a good grass covering. Installation is quick and simple and can be easily accomplished by the club's own staff. Maintenance comprises just an occasional brush over and top up with sand.

Chipman are marketing 'Firstee' not only as a Winter substitute tee but as an all year round alternative to natural turf.

Further details can be obtained from

The Editor,
Golf Greenkeeping,
P.O. Box 12, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire



ONE MORNING AT
OVERPAR GOLF COURSE

HOW'S IT
GOING, GEORGE?



TERRIBLE. THIS FERTILISER
HAS SCORCHED THE
GREENS, THE FAIRWAYS
ARE GROWING LIKE MAD...
AND I'M RUN OFF
MY FEET.

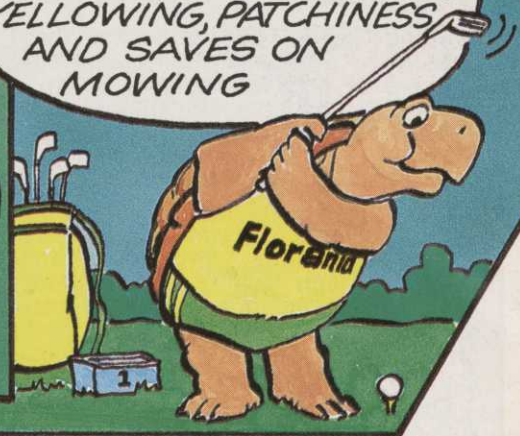


THAT
FLORANID'S
FANTASTIC!



YES, IT'S GOT
MORE SLOW RELEASE
NITROGEN THAN ANY
OTHER FERTILISER, AND
IT ONLY RELEASES WHEN
YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT
WEATHER CONDITIONS
FOR GROWTH

AND THAT
CUTS OUT SUDDEN
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CONVICTION AFTER GOLF BALL THEFT AT THE BELFRY

Four unemployed men from Birmingham were found guilty of theft last month after a two day trial at Warwick Crown Court which will be referred to as the Belfry Golf Ball Case in future legal argument.

The jury convicted them following a four hour deliberation after hearing how police apprehended the four in their car, drying themselves off.

Two men, Stephen Smith 21 and Christopher McGillivray 25 had been diving in the two lakes on the Ryder Cup Course wearing wet suits and two others John Forrester 24 and his brother Peter 22, waded knee deep along the edge of the lakes with ball nets. Their haul of 448 golf balls were claimed to be abandoned by golfers and they had not acted dishonestly by taking them. They all denied theft. Their defence counsel, Mr. Roger Smith said it was more like a modern form of scrumping.

The Recorder, Mr. Jonathan Goldring, imposing a conditional discharge said he had considered imposing fines, but because John Forrester owed £710.00 and his brother Peter £514 in fines from other court proceedings it would be wrong to add these outstanding penalties.

The prosecution in evidence submitted the four men, who all had

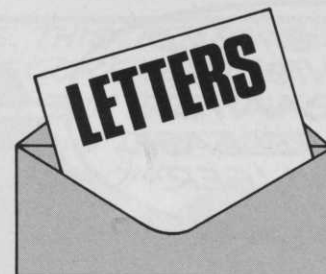
previous convictions for either theft, receiving or dishonesty had searched the bottom of the six foot deep lakes collecting lost balls and it was a straightforward case of theft.

The management of The Belfry stated the lakes were dragged twice a year to collect 10,000 lost balls and they sold them for charity. The 448 balls valued at £224 would now be returned to the Belfry to be auctioned.

After the trial Mr. Rene Brunet, The Belfry's General Manager, said he was delighted with the outcome of the case. He had been told this was a test case in the history of golf and he was sure everyone connected with the game both in the UK and across the world will be happy with the result.

He added "People picking up the odd golf ball are not a problem, but when it is 448, it is an important matter".

Editors note:
(See Greenside Comment)



Dear Sir,

The February issue of *Golf Greenkeeping* has recently come across my desk, a little late and I read with interest Jonathan Peck's article on F.E.P.A. Your editorial comment was also interesting and I hope your members have taken note.

However I cannot let by, your 'Catch 22' comment about us, the trade!

Synchemicals has established a reputation, started by the late Douglas Gooding, for providing a sound and reliable training and advisory service on the safe use of spraying equipment and chemicals with scant reference to our own brands.

The F.E.P. Act is a challenging piece of legislation. To meet that challenge, clubs will need to re-examine their systems of working and will no doubt require more help with training and deciding on products and systems.

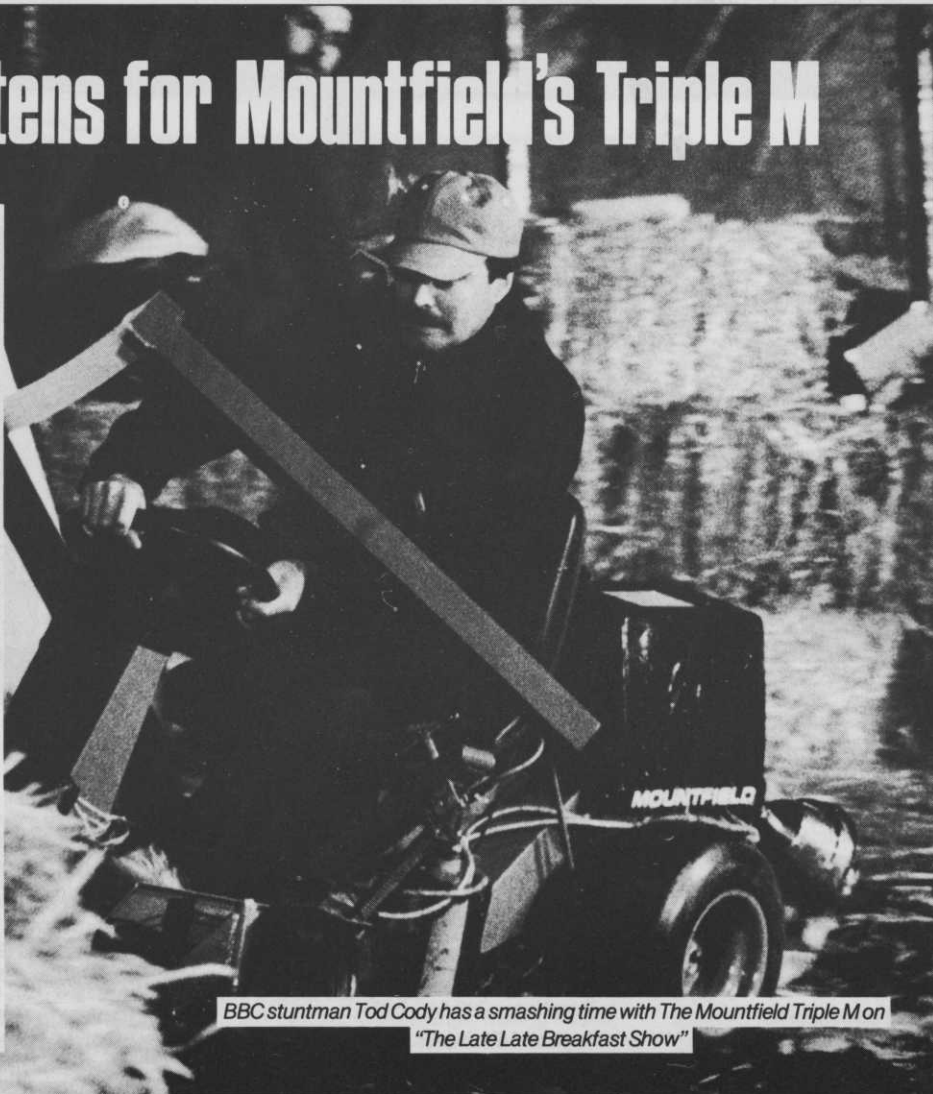
Yours sincerely,
SYNCHEMICALS LTD.
Jon Allbutt,
Technical Manager.

The pace hottens for Mountfield's Triple M

Addicts of the BBC's late Breakfast Show! might have spotted in the climax of Noel Edmond's recent Great Lawnmower Challenge, the unusual sight of a fiery Mountfield Triple M, wildly out of control and destroying all in its path, including the trophy display.

But disasters are not always what they seem. The crash was a stunt contrived to put a bit of visual life into the final race. The Triple used was not quite what it seemed either. Following some detail modifications, pre-race trials revealed it was capable of speeds in excess of 20 mph. Despite this potency, the Triple M was required to forget its usual impeccable good manners and *not* win the race, but rush around the track before staging a spectacular crash.

In its more sedate role manouevrability, speed and a competitive price have been the major selling factors. The 1986 models are more refined than ever, with options for electric start, and five or seven bladed cylinders. The new machines might not be capable of 20 mph but they will cut large areas of grass more quickly and economically than any comparable machine, and with a new production line geared to speed up supply, Mountfield has developed a formidable flagship to lead its equipment range at home and abroad.



BBC stuntman Tod Cody has a smashing time with The Mountfield Triple M on "The Late Late Breakfast Show"

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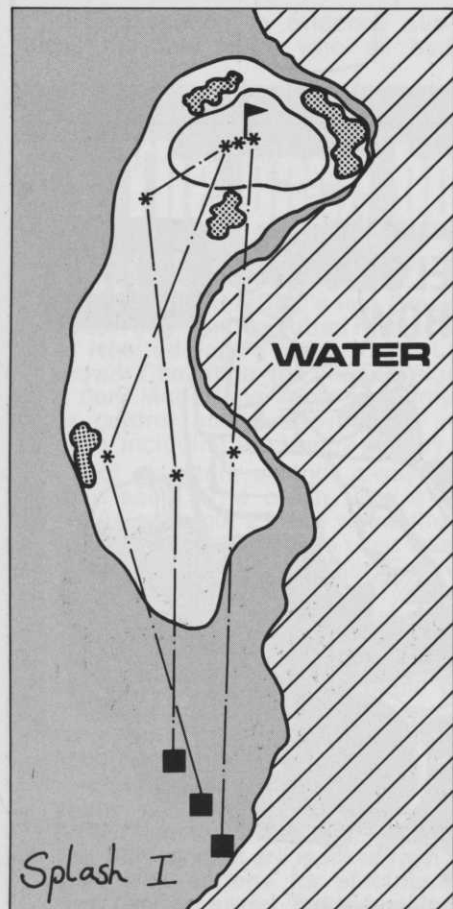
GGCM/5/86

Inland Waterways

Fred Hawtree navigates the devious channels of water hazards and advises greenkeepers how to jump in at the deep end.



Being responsive to current thought on golf course design and green-keeping, you will have noticed in your favourite magazine (after this one) that golf courses are slowly sinking beneath the waves. A few grassy islands remain above the water and these are preserved from erosion by sleepers, logs, or rip-rap. None of this increases the golfer's enjoyment but it boosts the publicity which the golf course must generate to attract buyers to the ranchos lining the fairways. These persons, like the ladies who knitted while the aristocrats' heads rolled from the guillotine, are able to exclaim, 'There goes another!' as splash succeeds splash.



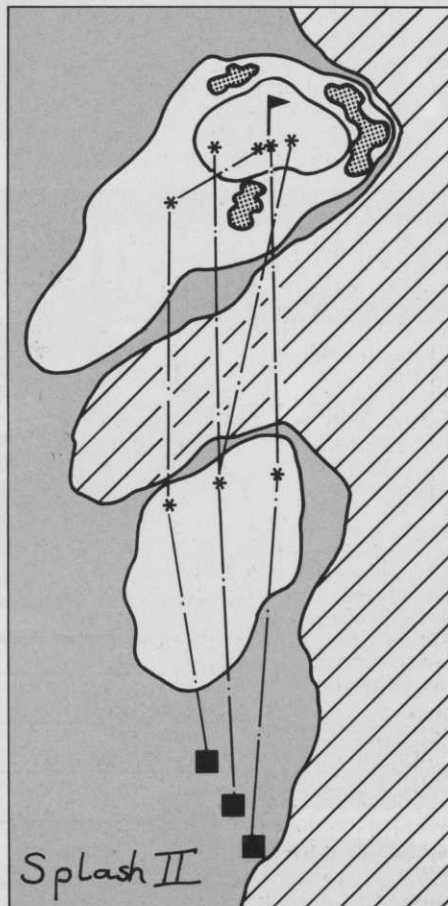
As you know, this tendency is not new but has accelerated lately because the new generation of American golf course designer, like his colleagues in the senior architectural profession, has discovered short cuts to top-billing. Each time the Press and T.V. announce improved figures for the number of golfers stretched off the 18th green in deep shock, another star is born.

Fortunately, you gentlemen, being of ultra-sound mind and mature judgement will not indulge in vulgar display when confronted by a request from the Green Committee for a new water hazard at the 14th. You will apply a process of logical analysis to the project and might decide to base this on three questions.

1. Will it improve the interest of the hole?
2. Is it feasible in practical terms?
3. Will it remain handsome throughout the year without excessive maintenance problems?

On Question 1., dare I suggest that if, like one recent course in the U.S.A., water also enters into play at 17 holes on yours, you ought not to round up that figure to 18 for the sake of rationalising your transport with water-borne vehicles.

Why? Well, apart from the age-old landscape principles of variety and surprise, what is the players' reaction? He is best stimulated by strategic thought. **Splash I** illustrates how he can select a line of play according to ability, safety, risk, advantage, and the price of a ball: If he ends up in the water, self reproach will not undermine his fundamental belief in natural justice.



Splash II, with no option, may be used with discretion but repetition gets under the skin and may cause blisters.

Splash III, the heroic, offers no option apart from walking on to the next tee. Even so, it is acceptable once or even twice provided the problem is presented from the tee. When used under the second shot at Par 4's, it is correspondingly more difficult to hand out a fair deal to all players.

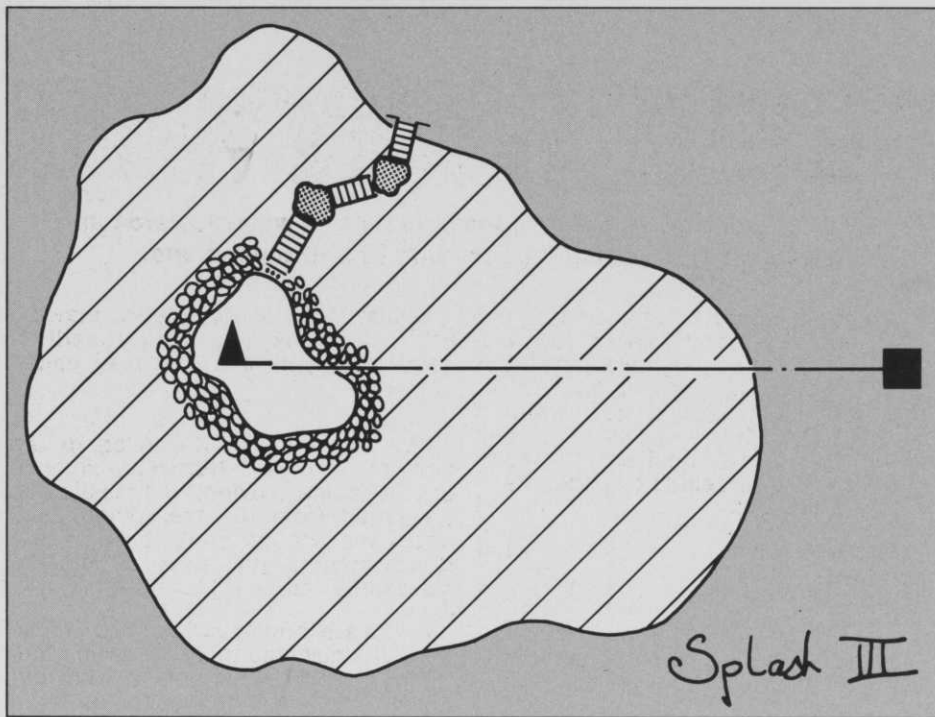
There are infinite variations on these three themes (and there are even other themes). I will leave you to work out the category of the proposal with which you have to deal and its viability in golfing terms.

Now, to the nuts and bolts. Is it feasible in practical terms? Assuming it will hold or can be made economically to hold water, your final assessment may be shaded by practical advantages, the most common of which guarantees the water supply. Calculate the volume contained, consumption, natural and artificial replenishment, evaporation. In a hot summer, neither your greens nor your members will be refreshed by a sea of mud. Water, if we are to have it everywhere, should at least be there all the time.

Other related advantages may accrue. Depending on use, catchment, outflow, and levels, the feature may provide an intermediate or final drainage receptacle. It may save flooding elsewhere by forming a holding area for flash floods to be released slowly later. If, however, you are entering on calculations of this complexity, you will need a civil engineer at your disposal. He is indispensable if you propose to contain any considerable volume.

As to maintenance, you can be sure that extra work will follow in the future, but forethought can keep it down. The Editor's Chinese Carp may jib at the British Bulrush and the thistle-down we see floating in the evening sun must often be a bulrush looking for a new home. Once it has found one, its mates turn up in droves. They will stay on the margins normally but if your pool is too shallow, expect considerable agitation amongst members as golf balls are swallowed up inscrutably, and still more amongst the local frogs who will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

You should also consider non-biological matters. Access to island greens will involve bridges unless a dinghy is provided. At Cannes (Mandelieu) they still cross one watercourse by boat but that is between holes not during one and there are bridges for equipment elsewhere.



Splash III shows how to limit the span required by building islets or eyots. Small spans also help to provide a rustic appearance. This in itself can be attractive but needs durable materials because the club's responsibility for safety is engaged. When the World Cup was played in the Indonesian capital, Djakarta, the calculations for constructing one bridge at least had not foreseen the weight of a large gallery following close on each other's heels. A number of paying guests therefore descended into the shallows and not all of them thought it was part of the fun. What is worse, this occurrence is said to have upset the players but it is not clear whether this resulted from alarm or from the usual reaction when people fall into a pool with their clothes on.

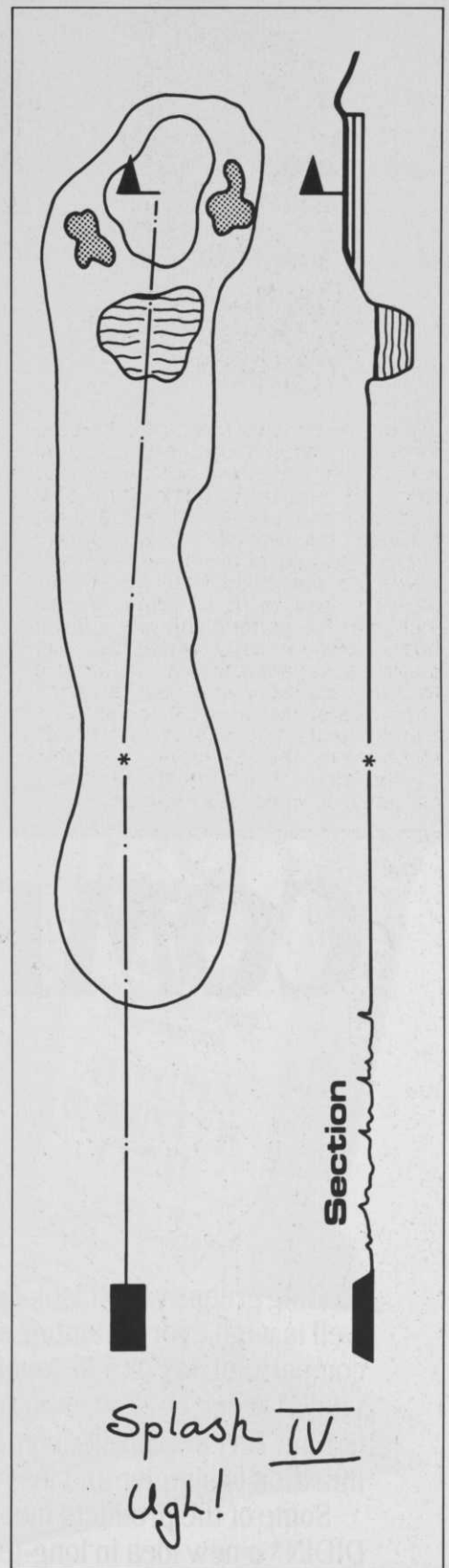
Still in Java, the Savoy Homann Hotel in Bandoeng was running a gastronomic week during my last visit. The delicacy I fancied, but could not bring myself to order was Fried Goldfish with something else less memorable, but certainly not chips. Cultivated on a big enough scale, your pool could brighten up the luncheon menus in the clubhouse and earn you an Egon Ronay commendation. And that brings us naturally to my final point. Will your water hazard look agreeable throughout the year?

It will not look anything at all if you cannot see it from the point where you are playing the relevant shot. **Splash IV** shows the worst type of proposal. To deprive the player of seeing the splash as his ball disappears is the final indignity. Moreover the calculations which engage his personality while he is playing the shot are frustrated if the pool is invisible. A small pool is often wasted in flat land unless immediately in front of the tee. Playing uphill, you will also see nothing and the effect will be further stultified if there is a retaining bank on the downhill side. But there are a number of bonus points available if your pool is well sited. A continuous input of fresh water from spring or stream will not only help to keep your pool clear but enable you to design

attractive cataracts or waterfalls on a modest scale. These will help the aeration that is essential in hotter climates preferable on the whole to the fountains or jets which are sometimes necessary in pools not naturally refreshed, to avoid soaring temperatures and associated algal growth.

You will have provided a general depth of 1½ metres to achieve some kind of balance and restrict plant growth but this involves crucial decisions on the margins. Water inevitably attracts small children anxious to sail a log across the stormy seas or to put curious things in their jam jars. They will also put themselves in the pool from time to time. A gentle slope down to the water's edge, rather than an abrupt drop, will enable them to climb out and do it again next week. It will also allow you to mow right down to the water. But this shallow grade produces a wider intermediate "tidal" area. If there is any significant variation in water level and if the pool is waterproofed with a butyl rubber liner (which you can have constructed to any shape and dimensions you require) the edges have to be taken above the high water mark and turned down into a trench which is then filled. You must therefore camouflage the last few feet with suitable plant material or a stable stone layer or both. There are useful diagrams and suggestions in *Landscape Construction* by M. F. Downing (E. & F. Spon Ltd., London).

The totally natural appearance will only finally appear after careful forethought and a few years of assistance by Nature. When the swans and ducks have puddled the grass round the edges into a mire, when the herons have gobbled up all your fish, when the seagulls, taking winter refuge, have shed their plumage all around to the confusion of golfers seeking their golf balls, then you can reckon you have done a good job; but by that time you will have shed your own and be earning the rich rewards in Higher Places which are your just due after a lifetime devoted to virtuous, honest, caring service to mankind.



Footnote:

If you saw the Masters Tournament on TV last month, it may have occurred to you that the Augusta water hazards have not contrived to look natural in something over fifty years. I am not sure whether this is due to a mistaken conception of the origins of golf or because they move them about every year in the hope that one day they will get them just right. I mention this to warn you again that if you are fussy about this sort of detail, you are embarking on a long haul.



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First Southport Turfgrass & Sports Exhibition

More than 80 companies - including major British firms and leading overseas enterprises have already confirmed that they will be exhibiting at the first ever Sports and Leisure Exhibition to be held at Southport's Victoria Park on 13th and 14th May, 1986.

The Exhibition, organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship, in association with the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, will be showing such items as tractors, trucks and trailers; turf-care machinery and equipment; seeds, trees and shrubs; fertilisers and chemicals; playground equipment; outdoor furniture; and other goods and services of vital interest to the sports and leisure industry professional, including golf courses.

A major section of the Exhibition will be devoted to education and training, with Members of the Institute's own Education Committee giving advice on various courses which take place throughout the UK, and explaining the developing opportunities which exist for young people interested in entering a career in groundsmanship. In addition leading colleges - including Cheshire College of Agriculture, Evesham College of Further Education and Hampshire College of Agriculture, Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture and Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture - will be taking part.

A large area has been set aside for practical demonstrations, so greenkeepers will be able to see and experience the latest mechanical developments in action.

This unique gathering - the industry's first such event in the North-West - will enable visitors to see and discuss the whole range of equipment, services and techniques of interest to groundsmen, greenkeepers, landscape architects, Local Authority amenity staff and sports centre administrators.

Special complimentary admission tickets have been sent to sports and clubs and associations, schools and colleges throughout the North-West, and some 4,000 visitors are expected. Catalogues will be available at the gate at a cost of £1.50, and extensive car parking facilities are available at £1.00 per vehicle, though coaches will be accommodated free-of-charge.

The Exhibition will be open from 10 am till 7 pm on Tuesday 13th May, and from 9 am till 4.30 pm on Wednesday 14th May.

To celebrate the event of a festive programme is being mounted which will include a reception for exhibitors at the Scarisbrick Hotel on Sunday evening, 11th May; an exhibition Golf Tournament at Royal Birkdale in aid of local charities on Monday 12th May; a Civic Reception in Southport's Floral Hall that same evening; a visit to the Exhibition by The Mayor and Mayoress of Southport at 11.30 am on Tuesday 13th May; and special awards for outstanding stand design and layout.

Provisional dates for the 1987 Southport Sports and Leisure Exhibition have now been announced: 12th and 13th May 1987.

Where to stay for the National Tournament

This year's National Tournament at Billingham Golf Club hosted by the Cleveland Section, offers to visitors and contestants the opportunity to explore one of Britain's most attractive areas.

Within a few miles of the golf course are the coastal resorts of Redcar, Staithes, and Whitby. From the popular Ship Inn at Old Saltburn on the A174 to Whitby, the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast stretches thirty-six miles almost to Scarborough.

Inland the North Yorkshire Moors of open heather rise to 1,400 feet above sea level. These extensive areas of moorland separated by deeply incised dales give the area its distinctive character. Castles and Abbeys abound for those who are intrigued by the history surrounding these ancient buildings.

There can surely be no better place than Cleveland for a base from which to visit the many attractions of the North of England. Spectacular countryside and historic towns are all within easy reach of the county.

Cleveland offers a wide variety of accommodation to suit all budgets, and it is sure to appeal to the more discerning visitor who prefers to avoid the headache of finding somewhere to stay in the more crowded traditional tourist centres.

Accommodation

There is a wide choice of accommodation in Cleveland, ranging from modern hotels to traditional guest houses. There are a number of caravan sites in the region, most of which provide facilities for touring caravans and camping.

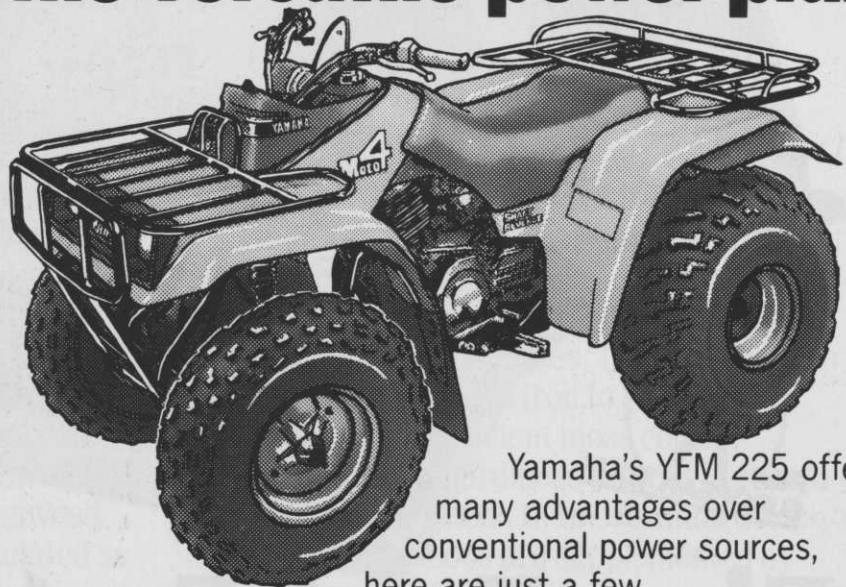
Although there are many hotels and guest houses to the east of Billingham most of the tournament contestants prefer to stay within a few minutes of the golf course because of the early morning starting times and as a guide to accommodation in the Stockton and Billingham area we are listing addresses with price ranges supplied by the Cleveland Tourist Office.

Further details can be obtained by writing to the Northumbrian Tourist Board at:-

9 Osbourne Terrace, Jesmond,
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or the Tourist Office for Cleveland at:-
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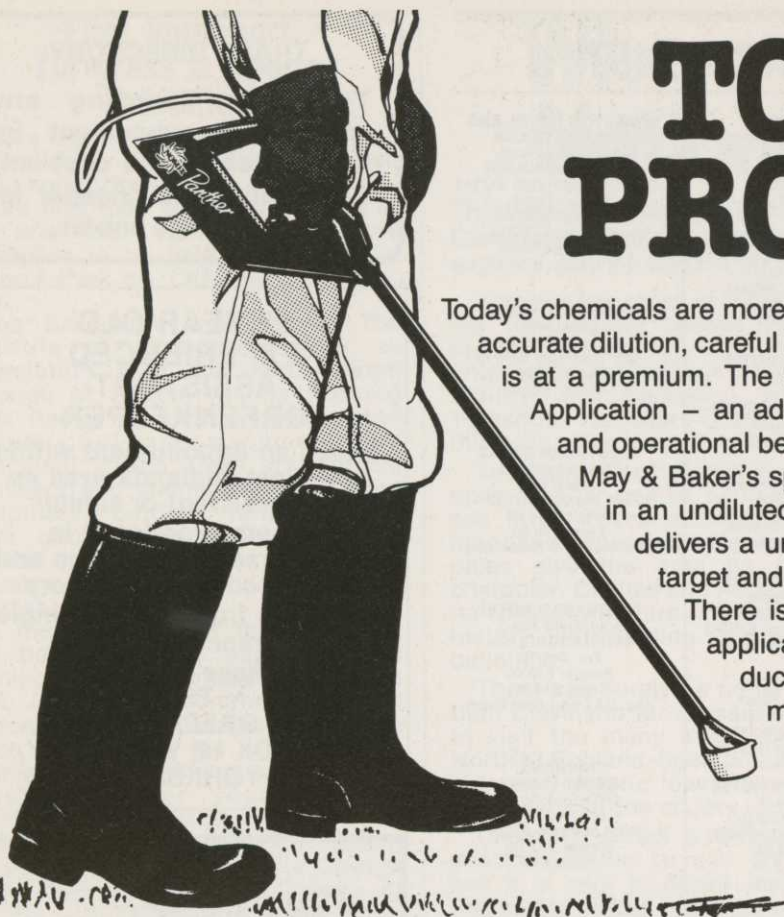
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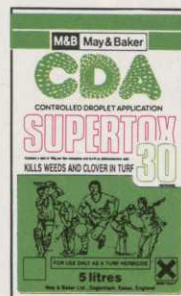
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WALTER WOODS

St. Andrew's Links Superintendent

The Preparation of a CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

What makes a great championship course? I doubt very much if it's length, when you consider that Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle and Seve Ballesteros can hit the ball well over 300 yards off the tee. Perhaps it's character. That is a possibility, when you see the ruggedness of Royal St. George's or the serenity of Turnberry. Then it might be beauty, such as St. Andrews at evening when shadows are at their longest.

Fred Hawtree, the Golf Course Architect and one of the foundation stones of the British Greenkeepers Association, once remarked "A Golf Course is made famous not by what is there, but rather by what happened there". If you study his remarks you will be able to analyse his logic.

There is an abundance of great courses throughout Britain - Hollinwell, Woodhall Spa, Blairgowrie, Hunstanton or Gleneagles are a few examples. Unfortunately geographical location dictates their suitability or lack of it. Such questions as:- is an airport located in close proximity; has the course access by road and rail; is there sufficient car parking; is sufficient space available for a tented village, are all part and parcel of organising today's tournaments.

Last year we watched Oakland Hills and Augusta on television. We envied the ability of their Superintendents, Ted Weorhle and Bill Fuller. We admired the excellence they produced. However, we too could acquire this excellence, if we constructed our Golf Courses in Botanic Gardens and made costs so prohibitive that only a few could play. For us golf has become a national sport, accepted by the public as a recreational game, which anyone can play at a reasonable cost.

Club Management is well aware of "pounds and pence". This virtually dictates that courses be played, on normal greens and tees, for as many days as possible throughout the year. Championships are also important. They project the courses that they are played upon. They also promote the game of golf and encourage a large manufacturing industry in golf and golf related products.

Great players from around the world acknowledge that the traditional British golf course has stood the test of time. If golfing skill is to be encouraged, it is essential that Green Staff maintain surfaces in a traditional manner, while making use of modern science and technology.

The "OPEN", is the ultimate golf championship and provides the greenkeeper with an opportunity to present his course in the best possible playing condition, taking into account the delicate balance of history, golfing records and modern ability, coupled with traditional fast fiery surfaces.

A well managed championship course will always be kept in reasonable order, working at 70% efficiency and requiring only 30% more effort to have it in peak tournament condition.

Walter Woods is the Links Superintendent for the four courses at St. Andrews, the Old Course, the New Course, the Eden and the Jubilee. He is a long standing member of the BGGA, and an honorary member of the GCSAA. This year as well as being the Director of Education for SIGGA he has taken on the mantle of President. An accomplished speaker, he has lectured in the United States and Canada, on the maintenance and history of British Golf Courses.



Walter Woods instructs his apprentice on the 18th green

When Mr. Keith MacKenzie, past Secretary to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, approached Muirfield to accept the 'Amateur' at short notice, he asked Shaig Logan the Head Greenkeeper how long it would take him to prepare the course. Shaig replied, quite seriously, "Would two weeks be too long Sir?"

To prepare for the "OPEN" takes a little longer, however, and the R&A would normally approach the venue concerned some 2 or 3 years in advance. Once arrangements have been made the Greenkeeper will organise his work schedules for each area, taking into account even the smallest detail.

FAIRWAYS

There is no precise definition in the Rules of Golf for the term 'fairway'. The term 'through the green' encompasses both the fairway and rough.

Density, uniformity, smoothness and firmness are the components of quality fairways. Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and many more great players advocate short, uniform grass and firm surfaces. The firmer the surface the more backspin they can apply, making the game, more of judgement and control.

Links fairways are regarded as terrain which God provided for golf. The undulations and mounds, the bounce and roll test a player's character. Maintaining these surfaces can be equally demanding, sometimes even exasperating, to the greenkeeper. To create uniformity, everywhere should be equal, yet mounds and high spots dry out quickly, while hollows receive water and become soft and lush encouraging larger divots.

Aeration is divided into categories: hollow-coring, verti-draining, and slitting. Sand is spread in the hollows and fen peat onto the higher areas. Overseeding takes place annually with particular attention paid to weak areas or spectator routes - with strong creeping red fescue cultivated into existing grasses, and these areas protected by post and rope.

Prior to the tournament, fairways are made narrower by allowing the semi-rough to grow, then they are cut back in areas dictated by the championship committee. After the tournament they are reinstated as soon as possible to their original state, which is necessary to speed up play, to cater for the thousands of amateurs from all over the world who want to play at St. Andrews.

Picture courtesy Ransomes

BUNKERS

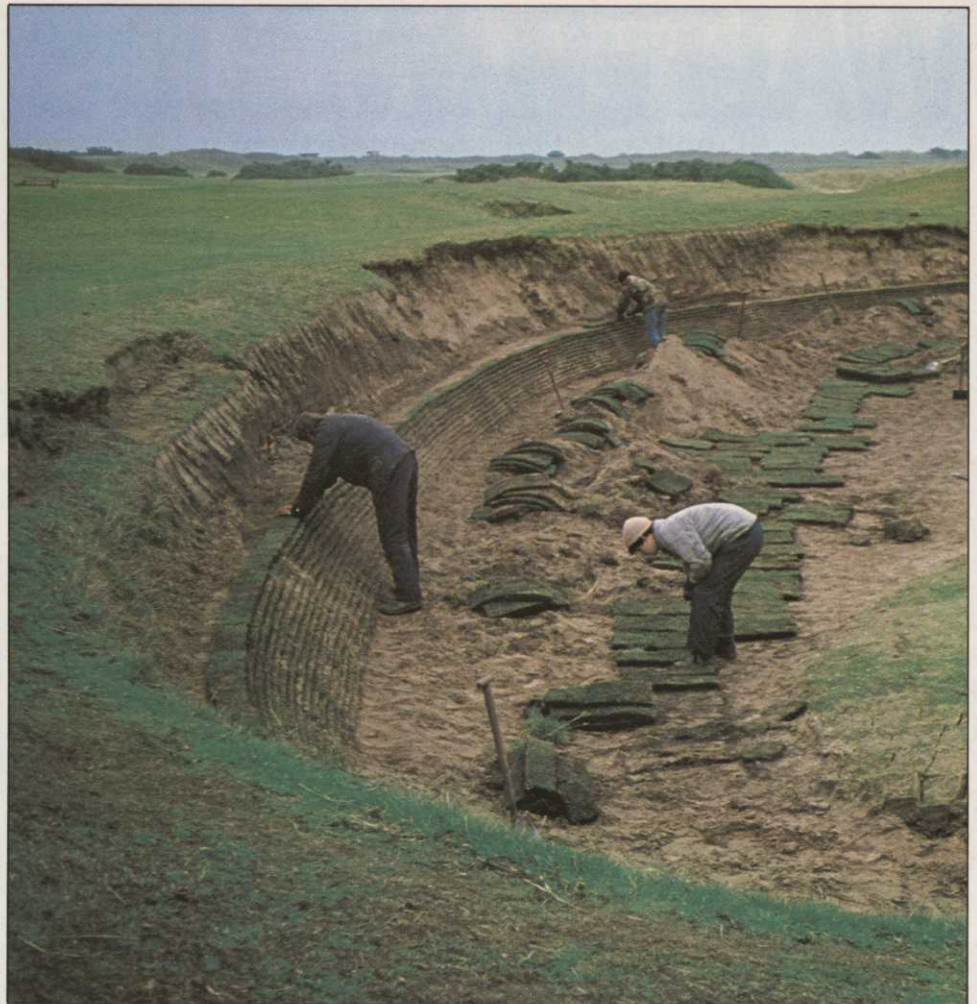
Bunkers are a feature of St. Andrews - copied all over the world - sometimes unsuccessfully. Bunker facing or revetment is a skilled job adding character to the course. The deep, frightening faces, which confront the wayward golfers, are constructed in such a fashion to prevent sand blowing away. All of the bunkers are named, Hell Bunker, Cockle, the Principal's Nose, Beardies and the Road Hole Bunker, each has played its part in history, the latter being no exception. Doug Sanders pitched out dead, for his four in 1970 only to three putt the last, then lose out in the play-off the following day. Tommy Nakajima, the Japanese golfer, after leading in the 3rd round of the 1978 championship, took five shots and finished with a nine - five over par. Some of the locals have renamed this bunker "Nakajima Sand".

TEES

Tees are maintained exactly as greens, adopting the same method of maintenance. They are aerated, fertilised, irrigated, top-dressed, and scarified in a similar fashion.

We have ladies, forward mens, competition and tournament tees. Tee positions and pin locations are organised to constantly change the walking-off routes. Regularly, tournament tees are firmed up by allowing the public to play on a rotation basis. Fescue and bent grass is encouraged, allowing lower cutting heights similar to those for Greens.

During any tournament our first tee is used as a practice putting green area to allow competitors a few putts to relieve tension before they tee off.



Above: Bunker facing or revetment is a skilled job. The deep faces are constructed to stop sand blowing away.

Below: The fourth green at St. Andrews looking over the town.



GREENS

Most criticism is reserved for greens. Although greens represent only about 2% of the golf course area, they play a role in 75% of all golf strokes, assuming a par round. Any professional golfer scoring par rounds would be well down the money league. So putting is the area which separates the men from the boys.

Good quality greens are the most important part of the golf course. Greens receive more discussion in the clubhouse than any part of the course. More golfers blame greens rather than their own ability. How many times have you heard the comments 'The greens are too slow', 'The greens are too bumpy'.

The finest quality greens I have ever seen and ones which would immediately suit championships are Muirfield, Gullane, Elie, Kilspindie, Sunningdale and the Merion in Philadelphia. What do all these greens have in common? The answer is that they contain a large amount of fescue and bent grass. Why the Merion and not Augusta - simply because of the climate. Augusta's greens are total Pencross Bent and require warm temperatures to survive. The Merion, with a similar climate to Britain, is maintained with traditional British greenkeeping methods and although a relatively short course, it promotes skill rather than relying on green speed only.



Championship greens can only be kept for short periods. To expect perfect greens every day of the year is asking the impossible. Good greens are expected and great greens should be appreciated. Never can the greenkeeper explain his ability to the members. For like most things it is taken for granted. Golfers everywhere fail to understand the frustration of aeration or top-dressing or why pin positions are kept deliberately on the perimeter of the greens. Fine grass playing surfaces can change from one season to another and require constant attention.

Once we are informed that we are to receive the Open Championship I allow the year before to work to my advantage. It provides an excellent opportunity to prepare for the following year. During the summer I would deliberately keep fertiliser to a minimum and if applied it would be to experiment with timing for use prior to the tournament the following year.

Artificial watering would also be kept to a minimum, with the philosophy that a good drought will get rid of any undesirable grass which might be present. If any grass colour is required one way to achieve this would be to apply Sulphate of Iron.

Above: *If we constructed our golf courses in Botanic Gardens such as Augusta few could afford to play.*

Aeration would also be more intensive, followed with sandy top dressings and in the event of some of the weaker grasses dying these would be replaced with grass which will succeed. This can be achieved in the Autumn by plugging with a 6 inch diameter hole cutter and replacing with suitable turf from the Turf Nursery. One particular green at St. Andrews has received over 10,000 of these turfs over the last 10 years. This treatment might appear drastic but it is successful. Over the winter months it does not take long for it to blend into the surrounding grasses.

Bent and fescue will provide a much better density of grass texture

Bent and fescue are tolerant and once established will provide a much better density of grass texture, uniform and smooth and from then on less expensive to keep. The 'playability' factor will also improve with more trueness of ball roll. Resilience or bite will be discovered and less plug marks will be noticed.

Winter months are critical. The weather can assist or oppose you. Aeration, bunker and turf repairs should all be completed early. Spring quickly approaches and nothing should be attempted that will disrupt the surfaces. Delegation of duties will be necessary to allow you to operate and concentrate on the course.



Left: *The 18th green and the headquarters of the R&A.*

The 1st tee duals as a practice putting green prior to the major tournaments.

Most of the contractors will arrive at this time. First to appear will be the stand erectors. Nineteen or twenty stands, which contain seating capacity for over seventeen thousand people daily, have to be erected at prime viewing locations around the perimeter of the course. Next to arrive will be the telephone, electricity and water companies. Miles of pipe and cables have to be ploughed underground. To accompany them will be television, fencing contractors, plumbers and joiners. Each day involves meetings to provide them with available routes and information so that they can conduct their own particular operation in harmony and eliminate fear of extensive damage.

Fertiliser can be applied to the greens and tees at the first sign of growth

The first sign of growth allows an opportunity to spread fertiliser to greens and tees. Organic liquid feeding through the sprayer can commence to fairways and semi-roughs. Irrigate more regularly if the weather gets warm. The intention now is to create grass cover using discretion. Growth is necessary to repair aeration and turfing marks. It will also allow maintenance duties such as the application of light top-dressings every two or three weeks without smothering. Verticutting, particularly the flat areas should work hand in glove with top-dressings. Regular rolling with the heavier tee mowers fitted with smooth rollers will be required to firm up the top surface.

Weedkilling takes place in every area when sunny weather permits, particularly patches of clover which might exist in the semi-roughs. Greens usually require two applications to eliminate broad and small leaved weeds such as Daisies or Mouse-eared Chickweed. Chemicals have a knocking or stressful effect on the grass so special care should be taken with timing. Constant supervision and written instructions will be important to eliminate human mistakes.

Watering agents can be added with the weedkiller when applied to the greens and this will assist the grass to stand up to more prolonged periods without water.

Hole positions during this period can be located around the perimeter of the greens with the intention of saving the ideal locations until required. Sand screened through a fine mesh will be placed into the bunkers well in advance, firmed up and constantly raked to ensure no lips or edges are apparent.

Fertiliser is again applied to greens and tees approximately 5 weeks before the event. Timing is essential to have the fertiliser well past its peak. Better putting surfaces are a reality when the turf is on the lean and hungry side.

If Triplexes are used, daily checks, morning and evening, to hydraulic hoses and joints are essential - the last thing you want is oil spillage or petrol leaks. Hold your course back during this period, just like a jockey with his racehorse waits for the last furlong and sight of the winning post.

Occasionally, cut with pedestrian mowers set at around 3/16ths of an inch to allow for the bedding-in of the cylinders and blades. Two weeks before the tournament you will begin to realise the benefit of your past work and the efforts of your staff. No motivation is necessary - they are just as keen and equally proud of the course. Turn off your irrigation system with the intention of allowing surfaces to dry out. Then only water lightly with discretion if temperatures are high.

Give greens the last verti-cut then remove Triplexes altogether. Reduce the height of cut down a fraction on pedestrian mowers then start cutting the greens once per day.

The press will be inviting comments to create a sensational story

This is when the professionals arrive to practice. They will be more relaxed and will be liable to make comments. The Press will be present and they will invite remarks hoping to create a sensational story. Cut everything, which will promote tidiness - the sides of your tee banks and around bunkers to encourage the ball to roll into the middle rather than lodge on the edge. Reduce the cutting height of your fairway mowers. If they have steel wheels have a spare set of rubber tyred wheels on stand-by. In the event of very hot drying weather steel wheels will leave unsightly scorch marks.

Receive short and long term weather forecasts. The evening before the tournament remember to switch off the electric to your irrigation systems - it would really be chaotic if the pop-ups came on during play. Give each of the greens a light brush then cut them in two opposite directions. Cut them again the following morning and from then on twice daily, morning and evening. Day to day decisions will be required however regarding speed in the event of wind. A Stimpmeter can be a valuable tool to measure the speed and create uniformity throughout the 18 greens (plus your practice green). Some greens might require extra cutting and brushing; some might require less cutting - at least it gives a measure of uniformity of putting speed.

Hole locations will be decided each morning - usually at dawn. The Championship Chairman accompanied by the Head Greenkeeper will decide on the best pin positions taking the weather into account. No tricky positions are necessary. Once selected, the hole is extracted and the cup inserted at least three quarters of an inch below the grass surface. Loose grass around the perimeter of the hole is then trimmed with scissors. After completion the immediate area is firmed up by pressing on a board and the earth part painted with a quick drying paint.

On the second day of the Championship you can relax..... but keep out of the way!

Over the next few days the course will be abused with machinery. Fairway mowers will almost be cutting roots

and scalping mounds. Greens will quickly deteriorate under the stress of cutting and rolling. Skilled cutting operators will be required to cut using instinct; cutting lines will be difficult to see or read. The mechanics will be busy with minor repairs to mowers and damage created by traffic. All the Head Greenkeeper has to do is co-ordinate, mainly to reduce panic when things go wrong.

After the second day of the championship you can relax. The professionals will be too busy concentrating on how to score. Keep well out of the way - all you have to do now is pray for dry, breezy weather.

To produce a quality course where fairways and tees are cut and attended daily and greens cut twice per day is a luxury few clubs can afford, but by careful budgeting and good management of resources there is no reason why quality conditions should be denied. In the wake of the event and resulting from the television exposure which the course has enjoyed visitors will arrive and more than financially compensate for any extra expenditure incurred or revenue lost.

After the tournament is finished all that remains is history. The winner's name will be mentioned regularly, he will become financially secure - and he certainly deserves to. But there will be many losers and the Greenkeeper will probably be among them. He too will be rich, but not financially, only in the knowledge and satisfaction that what he accomplished took more skill and effort than that of all the players put together.

Golf Greenkeeping is available by subscription to Club Secretaries, and Green Chairman

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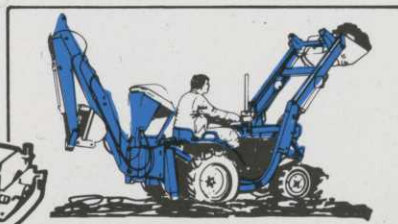
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HUNSTANTON TOURNAMENT

Later in the clubhouse a philosophical Trevor said, "I seem to have a hang-up approaching the eighteenth on every course where the green is in front of the clubhouse windows. I don't know why because I am fully insured against breaking the glass!"

Ron Hughes a left hander from the Mid Anglia Section, hit the ball superbly all day, knotching up 18 points on the outward nine mostly head on into a biting easterly wind gusting up to 50 mph. He too was on the 18th tee with 30 points under his belt, but because of problems with a loose insert in the face of the driver, decided to use the three wood for safety's sake. He topped the drive, took another two shots to the edge of the green and despite a delicate chip, the ball shot four yards past and his putt ran out of steam inches from the hole.

Masters for the opportunity to play a championship links course, but this was a pleasure he had to postpone. Venturing on to the east coast links

still in the grip of winter would have been a certain recipe for a bout of pneumonia, for someone who only hours before had left a sunny Racine basking in temperatures around the high 70's.

Among the guests at the presentation dinner were Mr. Jeremy Thompson a past Captain and present Green Chairman, the Club Secretary, Mr. G. H. Allen, the Head Greenkeeper, Mr. Jimmy Reed, the professional Mr. John Carter and the Editor of Golf Greenkeeping, Mr. John Lelean. The proceedings were hosted by Morrison Industries General Manager, Mr. Chris Smith, who even provided some choice New Zealand wine (Morrison's are an Antipodean Company) to round off an excellent menu.

This tournament was the final of the 1985 Jacobsen Competition postponed from last year because of the change in dealership to Morrisons, announced at the Windsor Show. During the next few months a series of regional events will be held, culminating in a 1986 Tournament which is planned to be played once again over the Hunstanton links.

Peter Shaw was told by Curt Kimpfbeck presenting his prize of a stereo radio, he would also receive an invitation to attend an educational conference organised by the GCSAA to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in February next year.

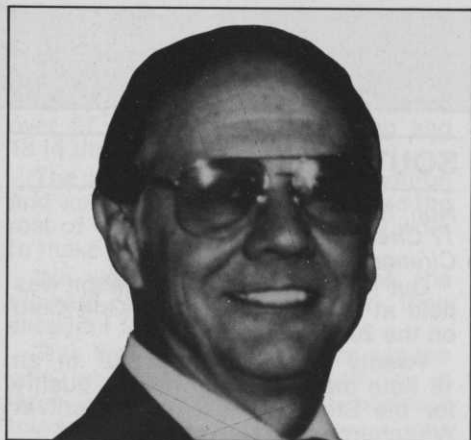
Responding, Peter thanked everyone involved for arranging such a superb final and said how much he had enjoyed the golf despite the conditions. He had a special word of praise for Jimmy Reed for the excellent preparation of the course, particularly the greens, which played fast and true, when so many other courses were still in the grip of a long hard winter.

Footnote

Peter had a double reason for celebration that night. He was told during a telephone call home, one of his sheep had given birth to twins!

Jacobsen Tournament Stableford Scores

31 points - P. Shaw (6), 30 - T. Bennett (11); R. Hughes (9); 28 - D. Collins (12) North; 27 - G. Payne (7) S. Coast; 26 - W. Curtis (8) S. West; S. Wood (12) Midlands; 25 - K. Heaney (9) Sheffield; D. Jones (11) Welsh; 24 - R. Whyman (11) D. & C; A. Partridge (12) N. East; J. Chapman (17) Mid Anglia; R. Wentworth (18) S. Coast; 23 - T. McCreadie (6) Midlands; P. Henderson (18) N. East; 22 - M. Hopkins (17) E. Midlands; C. Crocher (15) Cleveland; N. Root (18) E. Midlands; 21 - L. Miller (4) S. West; M. Hannam (7) North; A. Naisbitt (12) Cleveland; M. Fry (12) Welsh; 18 - M. Digman (18) North; 17 - T. Tench (12) N. West; 16 - D. Taylor (18) Sheffield.



Curt Kimpfbeck, Jacobsen's Vice President of Sales, flew across from Chicago to make the presentations.

Peter Shaw, the Course Manager at Preston Golf Club and a playing member of Clitheroe Golf Club won the Jacobsen Tournament over the windswept Hunstanton course last month, just a single stableford point from Trevor Bennett of Trevoze Golf Club and Ron Hughes the Course Manager at the Little Hay Municipal Complex.



Peter Shaw, Preston Golf Club's Course Manager receiving the winner's trophy from Curt Kimpfbeck

His score of thirty one points off six handicap was a superb performance in the testing conditions, as were the scores of the two runners-up. In the traditions of all good finals the winning score came from the last putt on the eighteenth green where Peter's second shot, a pitching wedge to the pin, ran three yards past and he holed out for a birdie three.

Playing immediately behind, Trevor Bennett, a member of the Devon & Cornwall Section, stood on the eighteenth tee with thirty points on his card. He hit his best drive of the day well over three hundred yards down wind and needed only a sand wedge to the green. What happened then we will never know, sufficient to say the ball did not respond and he took two more to make the putting surface and another two to get down.

Accepting the rub of the green, in the true spirit of all Greenkeeper Tournaments, Ron confessed to a truly great twelve months golf, including three major prizes at the National Tournament and membership of the victorious Greenkeeper's Team at the Belfry.

Despite the wind and rain with temperatures only short of freezing, the warmth of the reception in the clubhouse from both members and staff, quickly thawed the most frozen fingers, leaving a lasting impression of Hunstanton's generous hospitality to the twenty-five competitors, supporters and guests.

Jacobsen's Vice President of Sales, Mr. Curt Kimpfbeck, flew in from Chicago to perform the presentation ceremonies, foregoing a visit to the

SECTIONAL News

SOUTH COAST

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

Section members will be pleased to read that arrangements for the Summer Meeting are as follows:-

Venue: Isle of Purbeck Golf Club

Date: Thursday, 10th July 1986

Cost per person: £8.50

The competition, consisting of a member and partner from their Club, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better ball, commencing at 1.00 p.m.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the correct fee, should be sent to:-

Mr. Ian Rickman,
53 Woodroffe Drive,
Basingstoke,
Hants. RG22 6NH
Tel: Basingstoke (994) 463587

Please note that the closing date will be Friday, 27th June 1986, and that you must be a paid up member to play in the Tournament.

Members will know that subscriptions become due as from 1st May, and details of the new subscription rates were printed in the April Journal. However, for this Section will members please note:-

- (i) Class 'E' members subscription fee is £10.00
- (ii) Class 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' members please add a Section Levy of £2.00 to your subscription, as agreed at the recent Section A.G.M.

Your prompt payment of Subscriptions will be much appreciated.

MID ANGLIA

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

The Summer Tournament will be held at Ashridge Golf Club on Tuesday, 8th July, over 36 holes.

This meeting is for Section Members only and Entries together with Handicap and £10.00 fee must reach Ken Bunting the Competition Secretary by Monday, 30th June.

A Draw will be made on 1st July, so no late entries will be considered.

The Competition will begin at 8.30 a.m. prompt, so please arrive early to assure the smooth running of the Tournament.

Annual Subscriptions are now overdue and should be sent to the Treasurer, Les Wakerell without further delay.

EAST MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: R. W. Willars,
27 Condor Close, Broughton Astley,
Leicestershire.
Tel: Sutton Elms 283053

SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Our Annual Spring Golf Tournament is being held on Wednesday May 14th at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, Mansfield, Nottingham. The first tee will be booked from 12 noon.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Our Section A.G.M. will be held on Monday May 19th at the Leicestershire Golf Club, Evington Lane, Leicester and will start at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

GREENKEEPERS V. VICE-PRESIDENTS GOLF MATCH

This year's annual golf match between the Greenkeepers and Vice-Presidents will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at the Leicestershire Golf Club, Evington Lane, Leicester.

Teams for this event will be selected by the respective Captains and the participants will be notified in due course.

AUTUMN GOLF TOURNAMENT:

The Autumn Golf Tournament is being held on Thursday October 2nd at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough, Leics. The first tee will be booked from 12 noon.

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: Steve Wood
58 Guerne Road,
Beechdale, Walsall
Telephone: (0922) 611380

Our last lecture of the season presented by Bob Bolland at Great Hay G.C. covered the topical subject of 'Spraying and Calibration', together with the safety aspects of this potentially dangerous activity.

Bob also emphasised the strict new Pesticide Legislation Regulations controlling not only spraying chemicals but their safe keeping as well.

He pointed out all personnel using chemical sprays are now required by law to be adequately trained and qualified before they are permitted to handle agro-chemicals.

Following an extended question period, members were shown one of the hi-tech sprayers in action out on the course. All were impressed with its capabilities, accomplishing all it set out to achieve.

Should any club require the services of the hi-tech sprayer, Bob can be contacted through E. T. Breakwell.

There are still one or two problems to solve concerning dates for the Summer and Autumn Tournaments, but as soon as these are finalised members will be informed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

29th July

Midlands v. East Anglia at Tewkesbury

Will those wishing to play in this match please contact A. Phipps-Jones (Tewkesbury 292892).

If over subscribed the team will be named by selection.

SOUTH WEST

Hon. Sec: P. Worster
17 Chesterton Grove,
 Cirencester

Our first meeting of the season was held at Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club on the 20th of March.

Twenty members took part in an 18 hole medal competition to qualify for the Steetley-Vitax Tournament at Whitchurch in Wales on May 22nd.

It was a cold, windy day and at times it was like battling through the desert in a sand storm. Perhaps this had some effect on the attendance which was best described as sparse.

The greens were in marvellous condition for the time of the year and extremely quick.

The winners were:-

1st	K. Millar (Weston G.C.)	66
2nd	C. Chambers (Unattached)	70
3rd	J. King (Clevedon G.C.)	76

The team for the Steetley Tournament is:-

Scratch to 9
K. Millar, J. Kane (Res. W. Curtiss)

10 - 18
J. Thomas, I Scoones (Res. L. Johnson)

19 +
P. Cox, R. Gates (Res. L. Johnson)

C. Chambers qualified for the 19+ group, but had to withdraw as he ceases to be a member after April.

We wish him the best of luck in his new venture in the holiday business at Weston-S-Mare, and we are sure he will do well with his gentle, good natured approach to everything.

Notice to all Sections:

The A.R.M.S. Charity Tournament which is jointly run by the South West Section and Peter Hampton is to held on Thursday 21st August 1986 at the Filton Golf Club, Bristol.

Open to all sponsors and other section. Please contact:-

PETER HAMPTON,
Telephone Trowbridge (02214) 5864
for entry forms and further details.

WELSH

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

The Welsh team to play in the Steetley-Vitax Competition is as follows:-

Scratch to 9	Mike Jones, John Hopkins (Res. Graham Cox)
10 - 18	Dennis Jones, Philip Swain (Res. Henry Fry)
19 plus	Graham Wissett, Colin Lewis (Res. Tia Garland)

An additional fixture planned is the match against the Secretaries. This will be played at Southerndown G.C. on the 3rd June 1986, starting at 1.00 p.m.

Our condolences to Henry Fry and Dennis Jones who braved the elements at Hunstanton in the Jacobsen Tournament. Although unsuccessful they enjoyed the experience and fought well in the toughest of conditions.

On Thursday, 17th April, we held our Spring Meeting at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club. The Competition was played over 27 holes, 9 in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

The course was in excellent condition and we must thank Tia Garland and the rest of his boys for all their hard work to make the course so good.

We would also like to thank the steward and stewardess for their excellent food and service.

This first competition of the season was well attended and won by a large margin compared to previous tournaments.

Winner of the Cardiff Cup was Kevin Moore with a nett score of 104. He also took a Stuart crystal vase donated by Rigby Taylor

In second place was Lawrence Walter with a nett score of 109.

Third came Graham Cox with a score of 109½.

John Hopkins with a score of 113 occupied fourth place.

A raffle was held to help swell the funds which was well supported by everyone present. I would like to thank Ken Chatwin for cracking the whip on the wallets.

On behalf of the Committee and members, I would like to pass on our congratulations to our President on celebrating his Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

The Committee were most grateful to those who donated prizes for both the golf tournament and the raffle.

Messrs. Cogan Engineering, Rigby Taylor, Dennis Archer, Keith Pike, Harry Smith, Paul Robinson and Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club.

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8AJ

On Tuesday, 22nd April we held our Spring Tournament at Goswick G.C., Berwick-on-Tweed.

We would like to thank the Committee for giving us the courtesy of their course and club.

Thanks go to the Steward and Stewardess for looking after us so well. Also to Head Greenkeeper, George Thompson and his staff for the superb condition of this excellent links course, truly a good test of golf.

Unfortunately the weather was windy and wet which sent the scores rocketing.

We acknowledge the generosity of those companies who donated the prizes.

Stewarts, Turf Care Supplies, The Ryton Gravel Co., Bland-Short, Sisis, Greenlay, Pringle of Scotland, Supaturf, Lloyds, Rigby Taylor, Farmura, Bridges Pennants, and S.A.I.

I would also like to thank Terry Charlton of Turf Care Supplies for his donation of a portable T.V. for nearest the pin at the short 9th, which was won by Alistair Holmes of the host club.

RESULTS:

Best Gross:	D. Jennings	78	(Newbiggin G.C.)
Best Nett:	K. Fennell	98-24-74	(Bedlingtonshire G.C.)
Assistants Cup:	A. McDonald	101-20-81	(Chester-le-Street G.C.)
	B. Weddell	90-12 = 78 nett	
	W. Holden	88-10 = 78 nett	

Thirty-one others received prizes.

I would also like to welcome to our Section the following new members:-

P. Anderson (Newcastle Utd. G.C.), J. Hagan (Whickham G.C.), J. Rippon (Whickham G.C.), D. Scott (Newbiggin G.C.), D. Weddell (Alnmouth G.C.), K. Jones (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), C. Fennell (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), B. Mitchell (Bedlingtonshire G.C.), D. McNeil (Wearside G.C.), B. Walker (Wearside G.C.),

NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

An excellent evening was enjoyed by all those who attended the Annual Dinner and Dance held last month at Otley Golf Club.

To use a Yorkshire expression it was a 'Reight good do'. A first class meal was leisurely followed by a disco session to rival the talents of Legs & Co.

Our thanks to the Committee of Otley G.C. for their kind hospitality in allowing us the use of their Clubhouse and to the catering staff not only for the presentation of the dinner but the accompanying service.

Unfortunately the Spring Tournament due to be held at Northcliffe G.C. at Shipley on May 8th has had to be cancelled because the steward was unable to cope with the event. The A.G.M. fixed for the same day commencing at 7.30 p.m. will take place in the Northcliffe Clubhouse.

1986 FIXTURES:

Presidents Day	
June 19th	Garforth G.C.
Roses Match	
July 16th	Preston G.C.
Invitation Day	
August 14th	Easingwold G.C.
Autumn Tournament	
October 14th	Fulford G.C.



NORTH WEST

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

SISIS TOURNAMENT:

Entry cards are now available from myself on the Competition Secretary, Bert Cross.

Wednesday, June 18th is the day we travel to the Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton. A very welcome return for those who played last year. Our President will present the trophy and I know those members who enjoy fast greens will not be disappointed.

A word of warning though for those playing, keep one eye open for a land-rover!

On the Move:

Our new Chairman, Brian Moss has recently moved from Gatley G.C. to Davyholme Park G.C. We all wish Brian every success in his new post.

Congratulations:

Preston Golf Club's course manager Peter Shaw won the Jacobsen National Final last month held at Hunstanton Golf Club. Well done Peter. The sponsors Morrisons (Jacobsen) will be holding the 1986 final later this year so maybe Peter will have a North-West Section companion. Qualify by winning a section regional event later this year at a venue to be arranged.

New Golf Events:

The Committee are now finalising details for a golf match against the North West Stewards Association and a new annual golf tournament is being arranged to play for the 'Reg Vickers Memorial Salver'.

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