

GOLF

GREENKEEPING
and Course Maintenance

October
1986



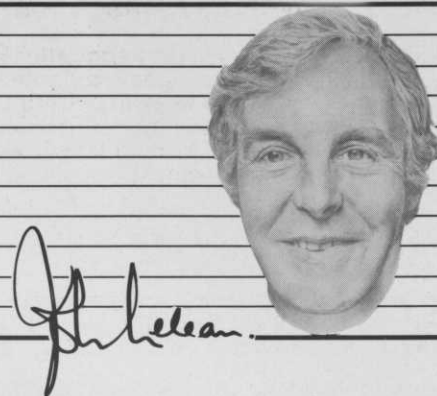
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The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

Greenside Comment...



OVER THE FIRST HURDLE

The way is now clear for the three British Golf Greenkeepers' Associations to join together as one corporate body, ending a long period of dissension between the BGGGA, SIGGA and those greenkeepers who formed their own Association under the EIGGA banner after the abortive Worksop AGM in 1982.

Following a series of Sectional Meetings of the BGGGA on the 1st October and the postal voting through the Electoral Reform Society an eighty percent majority voted in favour of an amalgamation with the Scottish Association and those south of the border who broke away and set up EIGGA four years ago.

EIGGA, who also held a postal ballot, recorded a ninety percent majority in favour of amalgamating the three Associations. SIGGA also report a unanimous resolution to join together, following their meeting in Stirling.

Full credit for initiating, what must be a sound and sensible decision, is due to the recognised world authority in golf, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, who have already offered to finance the setting up of an Association representing all United Kingdom Golf Greenkeepers and to put such an Association on a professional footing.

For too long the Greenkeepers have been the forgotten and neglected ingredient of a multi-million pound industry on both the professional and amateur sides of the game.

Like so many other sports, the popularity of golf has been enhanced in Britain because of two factors. Above all, golf has become a spectator sport through the development of colour television, bringing the skills of the world's finest exponents into the living room. With the drama building to a climax between the contestants has come the beauty of the stage. Surely in no other sport can one enjoy not only the game, but the constantly changing scenery, with its varying shades of greens and browns, complemented by the blues and greys from lakes and streams. It is this stage, the essential factor, where the contribution of the Greenkeeper is now fully recognised.

Because golf is such a unique game, through its handicapping system its popularity for the amateur, who can compete regardless of age or ability has made it not only a spectator sport, but one of enormous growth for the participant.

Golf course development started to expand at the end of the last century as groups of enthusiasts formed clubs to acquire tracts of land regarded as unsuitable for agriculture. The land was cheap, labour plentiful and a new society of wealth was growing through the country's expanding economy. What better place to meet and relax among equals than the local golf club.

Because golf was founded in this manner, with a committee structure managing the majority of clubs, the lot of the greenkeeper has been neglected.

Wages have always been based on agriculture rates, as it was from those ranks the greenkeeper was recruited. His job was seen as an extension of the work of the farm labourer - growing grass and cutting it. If he also showed the ability to play the game well, he was appointed to the position of professional, acting as the maintainer of the course during the working week and a teacher of the game at weekends.

Despite radical changes in almost every aspect of life, the committee structures have remained and unfortunately so have the attitudes for expecting the maximum amount of work for the minimum financial return. Only where golf courses are run on commercial lines has the greenkeeper been recognised and rewarded at his true worth.

In what other industry has the employee been expected to finance his training in his own time?

Throughout the late 1960's and '70's almost all industry in Britain received encouragement and grants for the personal training of employees from the shop floor to the most senior of management, but not the greenkeeper. It is now totally accepted work skills for staff are the responsibility of an employer, but this concept has not been accepted universally by golf clubs.

Many still refuse to allow young trainees the time off to attend college courses to study for the basic City & Guilds Certificate and because numbers are so low it has not been possible to develop these greenkeeper courses nationally in specialist areas, with the result that part of the course includes areas of horticulture, not particularly suited to the greenkeepers' necessary skills.

A classic example of the 'Chicken and Egg' syndrome.

A corporate body of Greenkeepers, backed morally and financially by the R & A must be the basis for change to take place. Until that happened there was no way forward.

Fear has already been expressed in some quarters that a united association of Greenkeepers will lead to a militant trade union attitude. Nothing is further from the truth. It will be a professional association with professional attitudes, obviously with the aim of enhancing the status of its members, but through a greater awareness of the need to improve the playability of the golf course throughout the year. That includes the management of resources incorporating men, money and materials and the knowledge to put those resources to the best possible use.

Attendance at numerous one day seminars organised by sections of the BGGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA during the past twelve months is proof of the overwhelming desire of Greenkeepers to learn as much as possible of the new techniques and for that matter the original skills of agronomy.

Agreement to form a joint association is but the first hurdle. There must now be sensible discussion without acrimony, on the method adopted to make the Association work for the benefit of all the members.

Four members of BGGGA, SIGGA, and EIGGA will be meeting in November to discuss the draft Constitution, consider a venue for the headquarters, appoint a salaried administrator and decide how, or who, will publish a magazine. These issues, the corner stones of a successful Association, did not feature in the agendas of the Steering Committee Meetings. Had they been included it is doubtful if the progress made to date would have been achieved. Whether they should have been items for debate will remain to be seen.

OVER THE FIRST HURDLE — Continued

Throughout all the protracted negotiations there has been a strong resistance to what has been seen as outside interference by individuals, who no doubt with the best intentions, wanted to exert some influence on the proceedings. Perhaps their motives could have been interpreted as commercial or self aggrandisement rather than altruistic, but on all counts they were rejected. The Greenkeepers have said from the outset they wanted to conduct their own affairs.

This is a perfectly noble sentiment, but it must not be so completely rigid they will not listen to and take advice on matters of organisation where others may have a better understanding.

The greatest danger now facing this fledgling, hatched by parents from an arranged marriage would be to push it from the nest before it had the strength to take flight.

The R & A suggested the new Association should be fully functional by the beginning of 1987. To insist on such a meagre timescale will be to condemn the entire project to failure, setting back everything so far achieved for a period so long, most of the present membership will never reap the ultimate benefits.

At the various sectional meetings and when Greenkeepers have joined together the topic of conversation has centered on the draft Constitution. It is a sensible and well thought out document, but it still needs honing and in places amending for total acceptance. That must be the first task of the twelve representatives.

The other matters can only be agreed after full, frank and exhaustive discussions and that includes a study of the workings and organisation of similar Associations. There is no point in trying to re-invent the wheel when examples of a streamlined version are already available.

It is in this area that the new Committee must be prepared to listen to advice from without and not reject out of hand, such offerings as interference.

Similarly the person who will ultimately head the new Association need not necessarily be a Greenkeeper by profession. He or she must have the interests of the Association at heart and understand golf, greenkeeping and the needs of the members, but one does not have to be a greenkeeper to meet these objectives. An ability to organise, communicate, influence and project the image of the Greenkeeping profession are the essential attributes.

These are exciting times, the amalgamation has been welcomed from all sections of the golfing world. A united group dedicated to the improvement and growth of golf courses, and themselves, deserves full recognition. We wish them well.

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Amalgamation Progress Discussions
Golf Course Drainage
Jacobsen Report Tournament

GOLF GREENKEEPING

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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GUY CATCHPOLE Sales and Marketing Director RETIRES

Guy Catchpole, Sales and Marketing Director of the Ipswich based grass and farm machinery manufacturers Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, retired in September after 38 years with the group.

Guy, a long serving Vice-President of the B.G.G.A., joined Ransomes under a special apprenticeship scheme in 1948 after service with the Rifle Brigade. Following an intensive course of training in the factory he joined Ransomes distribution company in Edinburgh where he gained his commercial experience.

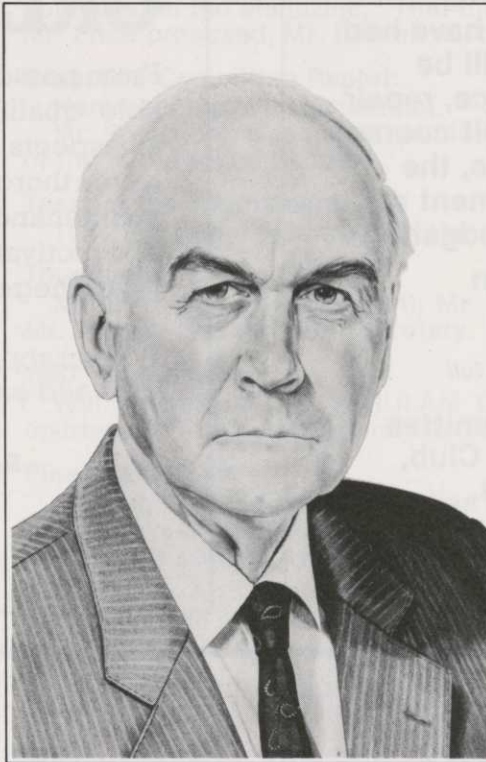
After seven years in Scotland Guy Catchpole moved south to operate in the South East as farm machinery representative.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Despite his deep interest in farm machinery he jumped at the opportunity in 1960 to become Lawnmower Sales Manager to begin 26 years of his association with greenkeepers. He was following the family tradition as his father, Stanley Catchpole, had been Ransomes lawnmower representative in the South East.

The first major move by the company to become a world leader in mechanised grass machinery for the professional user was made in 1964 when, after careful market research, the Motor Triple was introduced. Another significant advance was made in 1968, following a worldwide study, when the Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower was put onto the market. This was the first machine to be totally hydraulically operated. Both the Motor Triple and the Hydraulic 5/7 are still in production and continue to sell successfully today. It was from these two units that Ransomes further developed their range of self propelled and tractor drawn cylinder mowers to occupy a dominant position in world markets.

Feedback from the field continued and while new products were being created by the engineers, new overseas markets were being exploited. Guy Catchpole's philosophy was that export markets can only be built up with a strong home market acting as the springboard for success overseas. "You have to make sure when you move into a new market" said Guy Catchpole "that the right products are going to be available and staff are there to give the distributors adequate back-up in the field". These have been the basis of Ransomes export successes with overseas sales in 1985 accounting for 60% turnover.



*Illustration by
Stephen Spellman
for Golf Greenkeeping*

APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

In his capacity of Sales and Marketing Director, he was appointed to the Executive Board in 1977 and the Main Board three years later. He has also served on Ransomes subsidiary company boards in the U.S.A., Germany and France. He organised the transfer of the Australian company to Victa and sales to that market exceeded £1 million in 1985.

One of his great interests has been the growth of the Group's business in North America. The opportunity for a total plan for the U.S.A. came when Guy was approached at the Portland Show in 1977 and was asked if he could assist in the overseas distribution of a range of rotaries made in the U.S.A. This approach resulted in Ransomes acquiring the rotary manufacturer and forming Ransomes Inc. Based on a 40 acre site in Wisconsin the American company distributes the Group's products in the U.S.A. The machines made by Ransomes Inc. are, with the exception of North America, marketed worldwide from Ipswich.

An important change, he feels, is the emphasis now being placed by local authorities throughout the world for cost effective turf grass maintenance. This has caused us, he says, to develop, in conjunction with these authorities, high workrate machines such as the Motor 213D and the Motor 350D as well as triple mowers for golf greens maintenance. These all incorporate technology learned as a direct result of the Motor Triple and Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower introduced some 20 years ago.

GRASS MACHINERY A MAJOR PART OF THE BUSINESS

In 1960 grass machinery contributed barely 25% of Group turnover. Today it is nearly 80% and the 1970 turnover of £3 million had grown to £47.62 million in 1985. "This has been a team effort and we would not be where we are today had it not been for the major contribution and hard work of everyone in the Ransomes Group and the support of our dealers in Britain and Overseas", said Guy.

Three years ago he took on the additional responsibility of Sales and Marketing Director of the Farm Machinery Division. A re-organisation under his guidance has already resulted in a significant share of the plough market in the U.K. being regained and the beginnings of new developments in the campaign to gain more overseas business.

Described by some as a workaholic Guy Catchpole has certainly been dedicated to Ransomes and hearing the Company's name taken in vain is an anathema to him. He has not been known for doing things by half. Once he gets his teeth into something he sees it through to the bitter end.

GOLF, FISHING AND WALKING

During his well earned retirement Guy Catchpole will continue living in Ipswich where he and his wife Myra, whom he met whilst in Scotland, will be able to spend more time together. They enjoy golf, and visiting their friends in Scotland for golf, fishing and walking.

A great supporter of Greenkeepers, Guy has taken every opportunity possible to meet Association members both on their courses and at Association meetings.

Members of the BGGGA would like to express their thanks to him and his staff for the help and encouragement always freely given and wish him a very active, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

APPOINTMENTS

DOWNES CREDITON GOLF CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The person appointed will have had formal training and will be responsible for maintenance, repair and construction on the golf course, machinery maintenance, the instruction and management of junior staff and course budgeting

No accommodation

Salary negotiable

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Downes Crediton Golf Club,
Hookway, Crediton,
Devon EX17 3PT

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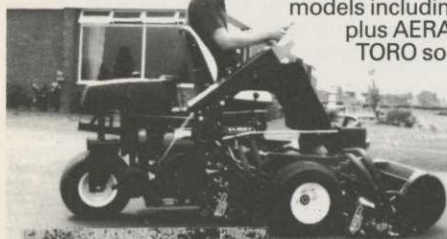
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SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Administration:

This year has been a very busy time for meetings from November to June, many of them in respect of the amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations. Our Chairman (Mr. E. R. James), must have travelled many hundreds of miles including a journey from Bournemouth to St. Andrews to attend the International Tournament and Symposium on our behalf and surely must be feeling in need of a well earned rest. Thanks are due to Eric for all his efforts and for the work he has put into the Association during his year of Office.

Mr. G. Malcolm of the Cleveland Section now takes over the principle office, and I am sure he will carry out his duties as National Chairman with the same enthusiasm as his predecessor.

Last year saw our Hospitality Caravans at the Belfry, the Southport Show and the Windsor Show, these were open to all Greenkeepers and proved most successful.

The Kubota Trophy this year was won by the Greenkeeper team, and I understand was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Teams from England and Wales represented the B.G.G.A. at Ransomes International Tournament.

A very successful Symposium was held at the Belfry, and Sections continued their good work with local Seminars.

I feel that it would be remiss of me if I did not mention the Greenkeeping Staff under the Leadership of Derek Ganning for their marvelous efforts in preparing the course for the Ryder Cup.

Executive Members continued to represent the Association on the National Turfgrass Council, the Greenkeeper Training Committee, and the Turfgrass Advisory Committee.

The membership continues to grow with almost a hundred new members during the past year.

For many years Addington Court Golf Club have contributed the proceeds of the Harry Bennett Tournament to our Benevolent Fund and our thanks are made to them for their support.

The Sectional news outlines the many activities and continued growth of the Sections, and thanks are recorded to all Section Committees for their support and hard work. And to all members for their participation and support.

Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting

held on Monday, 11th August 1986 at approx 3.00 p.m.
at The Clubhouse, Billingham Golf Club,
Sandy Lane, Billingham, Cleveland.

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. E. R. James On opening the Meeting the Chairman asked all Members to rise and observe one minutes silence in memory of all the members who had passed away during the year.

Minutes of last A.G.M.

The Chairman asked that as the minutes of the last A.G.M. had been published in the Magazine, "That they be accepted and taken as read". Mr. Price proposed, Mr. Burnell seconded.

Executive Committee Report:

Nomination of Vice Chairman.

Mr. P. Fitzjohn was nominated for the ensuing year by the Committee of the Mid Anglian Section.

Tees for the Tournament:

Tees left to the discretion of the Head Greenkeeper.

Tournament Committee:

Mr. E. R. James (Chairman), Mr. M. Sheehan, Mr. J. S. Richardson, Mr. A. Kite, and the Hon Secretary.

1987 Tournament:

Will be held at the VERULAM Golf Club at ST. ALBANS by kind courtesy of the Members and Committee.

Financial Report:

Although the Balance Sheet has shown a loss of £698 over the past financial year, you will see on the Income & Expenditure Account this was mainly caused by the following large Expenditure.

MAGAZINE: An increase to the Editor from 25p - 35p from Jan. 1986. This cost the Association £718 more than was received from the Members.

COMMITTEE EXPENSES: This year £2,015, last year £913 an increase of £1,102 caused through all additional meetings.

MANAGEMENT INCREASES: Management increases from £700 - £2,000.

RANSOMES INTERNATIONAL: Cost of sending English and Welsh teams Speakers Expenses, (in previous years this tournament cost has been offset by sponsorship of the symposium).

HOSPITALITY CARAVANS: At I.O.G. Windsor, Southport & the RYDER CUP.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:	
President:	J. Hamilton Stutt	J. Webster	R. Shaw
Chairman:	G. Malcolm	B. Burnell	A. Gamble
V. Chairman:	P. Fitzjohn	H. Herrington	R. Goodwin
Hon. Sec/ Treasurer:	W. Heeles	H. Walsh	B. Embury
Executive Committee:	As nominated by Sections.		
V. Presidents:	en bloc.		

At Approx. 4.00 p.m. the Chairman closed the meeting

Following the A.G.M. the Chairman reconvened the meeting to discuss the business appertaining to the E.G.M. called to discuss the proposed Amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations. The Secretary explained that the Postal Vote that had taken place was not a resolution but a means of obtaining the views of the Membership, also no official resolution had been put forward to the E.G.M. which had been called to obtain Members views and for discussion to take place.

After discussion and question, it was agreed unanimously that talks should continue, also a Postal Voting card be sent to all Greenkeeper Members together with the proposed constitution.

The Chairman closed the Meeting

HEAD OFFICE

General & Benevolent Fund

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th APRIL, 1986

	1986	1985
FIXED ASSETS		
OFFICE EQUIPMENT at 1.5.85	940	1,080
Additions during year	—	95
	940	1,175
Less: Depreciation	188	235
	752	940
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Ties, Badges and Sweaters	634	603
Balance at: Britannia Building Soc.	21,386	22,796
Balance at: Bank and Cash	625	602
Balance at: Benevolent Fund Debtors	784	711
	125	158
	23,554	24,870
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	163	899
Provisions for Taxation	90	60
Monies Received in Advance	—	100
	253	1,059
NET CURRENT ASSETS	23,301	23,811
TOTAL NET ASSETS	24,053	24,751
REPRESENTED BY ACCUMULATED FUND:		
Balance as at 1st May, 1985	24,751	20,379
Less: Deficit for the year	(698)	4,372
	24,053	24,751

SECTIONS

General & Benevolent Fund

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th APRIL, 1986

	1986	1985
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture & Equipment		
At 1.5.85	220	240
Additions during year	75	34
	295	274
Less: Depreciation	46	54
	249	220
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	—	10
Stock of Ties & Badges	249	288
Balances at: Bank, Building Societies, Cash & Benevolent Fund	10,272	9,528
	10,521	9,826
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	—	35
Prepaid Subscriptions	515	—
	515	35
NET CURRENT ASSETS	10,006	9,791
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,255	10,011
REPRESENTED BY: ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance as at 1st May, 1985	10,011	8,410
Add: Surplus for year	244	1,601
	10,255	10,011



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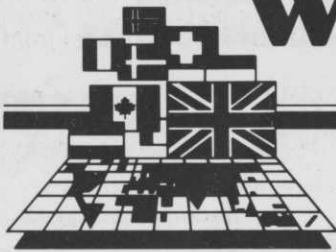


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ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: (0252) 724525.

WINDSOR SHOW

Review



For the second year in succession the International Sports and Leisure Trade Exhibition held on Windsor Race Course basked not only in September sunshine, but from an attendance even greater than 1985 and business enquiries described by many exhibitors as fantastic.

One of the fertiliser manufacturers said at the end of the third day as he sprawled exhausted at the rear of his tent "If no one had visited the stand at all today we would still have been highly delighted from the business on the first two days".

The official attendance figure of 33,800, some 500 up on last year's record again included several parties of overseas visitors. Americans, Australians, Japanese and many from the Continent were this year joined by an official party from mainland China. The foreign visitors were interested in the vast amount of new equipment on show, but so were the home buyers from golf courses and local authorities.

So what was new? So much it is difficult to know where to start.

From the greenkeeper's view point perhaps the main attractions were related to the new maintenance equipment, with diesel powered triplex greens machines from both Jacobsens and Ransomes.

Jacobsen now completely divorced from Morrison Industries, with their own UK distribution company at King's Lynn exhibited the Greens King IV in pride of place in the Jacobsen Pavilion. This 16.5hp diesel powered mower has full floating and pivoting reel units that steer through the turns without scuffing or marking. It has a full hydraulic drive with dynamic braking and a variable speed control so the greensman can select the precise ground speed and frequency of cut. Among the variety of attachments is the Turf Groomer which will cut horizontal runners and remove thatch without lowering the cutting height. Play can continue immediately after the Turf Groomer has been put over the green with a significant increase in putting speeds.

Ransomes new hydraulically operated GT triple greens mower. Powered by a horizontal twin cylinder water-cooled diesel engine, a digital readout calibrated in cuts per metre, enables the required cutting ratio to be selected and maintained on all the greens at speeds of up to 8km/h - 5mph.



Radio-controlled Kubota mid-mounted mower. With computerised programming let the greenkeeper cut grass from the comfort of his office?

The Diesel Greens King IV has been on trial since April at Hunstanton G.C. the home course of Chris Smith, Jacobsen's UK Sales Manager. Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy Reed is highly delighted and says his fuel bills have dropped dramatically. He can cut nineteen greens on a gallon of diesel, the machine is quiet, there is less intake of sand and debris into the filters and he is sure the diesel power will cut engine wear.

Ransomes again had one of the most impressive stands at the show, dominated by a massive powered gang mower capable of cutting Windsor Great Park before breakfast and Ascot Racecourse by lunchtime.

However their new diesel, the streamlined GT Triple Greens Machine attracted the attention of Greenkeepers. The 12hp Kubota engine drives two hydraulic pumps - one for hydrostatic transmission drive, the other for the cutting units drive and lift.



Electronics have also been introduced with a digital readout, calibrated in cuts per metre so the required cutting ratio can be selected and set for mowing speeds up to 5mph.

The machine also has a unique system for emptying the grass catcher on the rear (centre) by lifting the front of the machine. A latch is released and the operator's footplate and the steering console is raised giving complete access to the units underneath.

Apart from the new diesels the other main talking points at the show concerned Ransomes' move into turf maintenance equipment with the TMV 20, a market previously dominated by SISIS and Cushman. This three-wheeled dual truck maintenance power unit has hydrostatic drive to the rear wheels, a pto and hydraulic services. Ransomes are not producing attachments but have tied in with Dabro International of Whitchurch Salop. who are providing, slitters, a core tiner, turf scarifiers and drag mats. Due for introduction in early 1987 are a range of top dressers, turf drainers rollers, turf brushes and an all weather cab for the TMV 20.

Competition in turf maintenance equipment will be one of the features of next year not only from a number of economically priced power units from smaller British manufacturers such as Europlume, Mallard and Patisson, but from a new entry into the arena, John Deere, the American based agriculture and heavy duty tractor manufacturers.

A late entry to the exhibition and relegated to a section of the demonstration area they could not have made a more auspicious start - they won the best stand award!



JOHN DEERE LTD, were awarded the 'Gold Award for outstanding design and layout'. Managing Director, Douglas M. Walker (left) receives the certificate from R. J. Corbin, Vice-President of the I.O.G.

Nottingham based Doug Walker, Managing Director of the British end of John Deere announced the firm were now ready to move into the commercial turf care industry after establishing a substantial share of the agriculture business. They already have a range of compact tractors with a mid mounted mower and are ready to launch a mounted triple reel mower.

Beaver, trading as Polymark Beaver Equipment at Littlehampton, broke away from their distributors, Lely Import soon after Iseki left the St. Neots stable. They have now set up their own marketing operation headed by Bill Fisher. Bill in recent years has been with Swards at York, then Lely, moved to Iseki and is now Beaver's UK Sales Manager.

The company has always been a strong exporter and has strong ties with John Deere in the USA, so it was no surprise to see several items of Beaver Equipment attached to machines on the John Deere stand. Both companies were somewhat coy when asked if cooperation might become closer, but this observer's prediction for 1987, is that a John Deere/Beaver assault on the turf maintenance business will be launched within a few months.

NEW SISIS Mk. 2 AUTO-TURFMAN
Heavy duty, powered aerator for year-round use on fine turf tines.



Other new equipment seen around included a greenkeeper's runabout from the Cushman camp, marketed by Huxleys and a radio-controlled grass cutter powered by an 18hp diesel from Kubota.

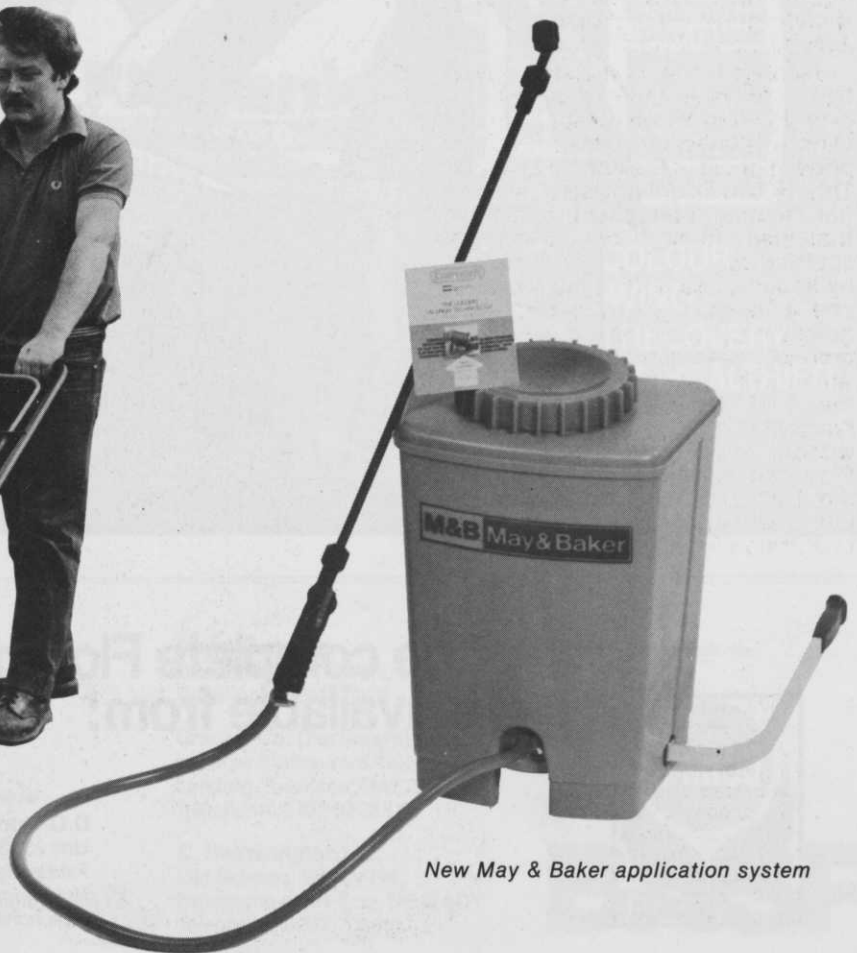
This futuristic mower with a 60 inch cutting width is for use on awkward or dangerous slopes where the driver may feel safer controlling the machine by radio rather than sitting on the seat.

It was suggested that a greenkeeper could drive round the course setting the computerised programme as he followed a prescribed route. At the end of the day when the staff and golfers have left, the machine can be set out on its own to cut all night. Is this to be the future for golf course maintenance? With programmed machines the only addition required would be an electrified security fence around the course and a pack of fierce dogs. The greenkeeper would then be free to take on the Secretary's job!

On the fertiliser, herbicide and fungicide front the dominating producers such as ICI, May & Baker, BASF, Fisons and Rigby Taylor all reported an excellent response to their stands.

ICI have launched two new products, Tornado, a long-lasting worm killer based on carbaryl and Daconil, a new fungicide giving startling results in the treatment of Red Thread, Fusarium, Grey Snow Mould, Take-All Patch, Anthracnose, Brown Patch and Dollar Spot.

Among May & Baker's new products is Crossfire. Containing chlorpyrifos, it is aimed at the control of leather jackets and frit fly. M&B are also launching two application systems and a full support system for power sprayers.



New May & Baker application system



ONE MORNING AT OVERPAR GOLF COURSE

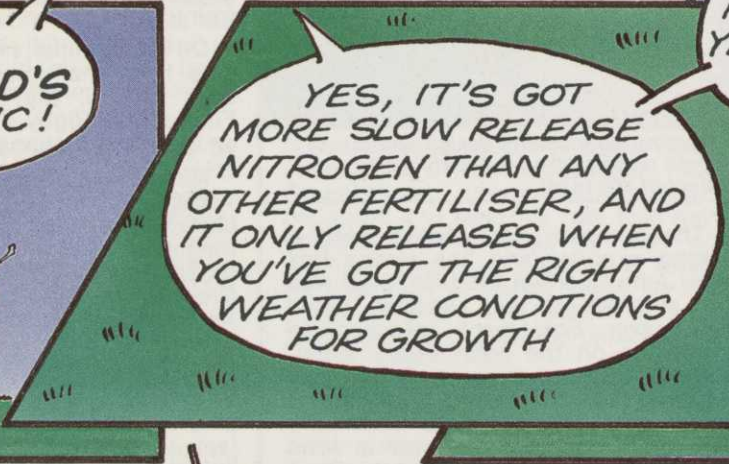
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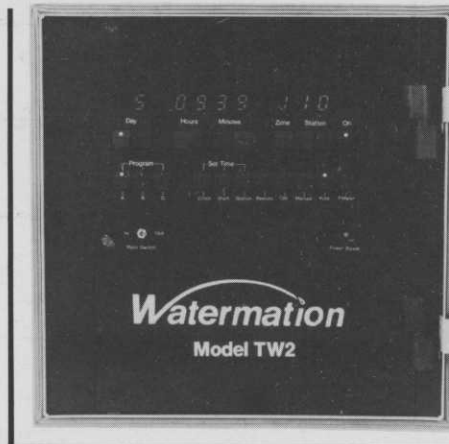
Floranid is a BASF trade mark.

BASF

NEWS Round-up

CUSHMAN EAGLE'S debut at SUNTORY.

Greenkeepers with the new Cushman Eagle out on the course during the Suntory World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth.



The new advanced, TW2 computer irrigation controller from Watermation will be on show for the first time in Scotland at the Scotsturf '86 Exhibition in Ingliston.

This all British designed and made controller has all the advantages of a low cost computer controller. The operation is extremely simple using prominent push buttons and it requires no previous computer knowledge.

The TW2 has been developed by Watermation from their TW1 two wire controller, which has been enormously successful, especially with golf clubs. It is capable of controlling 396 individual irrigation stations, which means it can handle a complete golf course scheme including greens, tees and fairways - all from one unit.

The TW2 will operate four different zones, each zone capable of having four different start times. In practical terms this means that given sufficient water and pumping capacity, four different areas could be operated simultaneously, or, in fact, any combination of areas. The timing, is computer accurate with set times as wide as one minute to ten hours, which makes it suitable for both drip and sprinkler irrigation. It displays "rain" when the rainstat has operated during the night.

This is a flexible, easy to use, irrigation system suited to all types of layout, soil, elevation and weather conditions.

GET THE FACTS RIGHT: JUST THE FACTS!

Last month we published an article on the Golfclub Beurberg following the editor's trip to Germany to meet Stewart Macintosh, (*Note the spelling*) the Lancastrian Greenkeeper in charge of this Southern Bavarian course.

During the course of the article's preparation, several letters were exchanged with Stewart to check the facts with the result that he has now written to say how pleased he was and that several of the club members who have read his copy were delighted to see their golf club featured.

Not so, concerning an article on Beurberg printed in Turf Management in September under the name of Lindsay Bransbury, another member of the press party sponsored by BASF.


For starters, lovely girl that Lindsay is, she committed the cardinal sin of spelling his name wrong - Stuart McIntosh (*Could it have been the Scotch the night before?*) Then, in discussing the need to incorporate finer quartz sand into the greens she suggests the size is from 0.3 to 3mm. *Imagine putting over particles of 3mm.*

To add insult to injury the next line reads - 'a lot of phosphates have been used on greens and fairways' - *No they have not.*

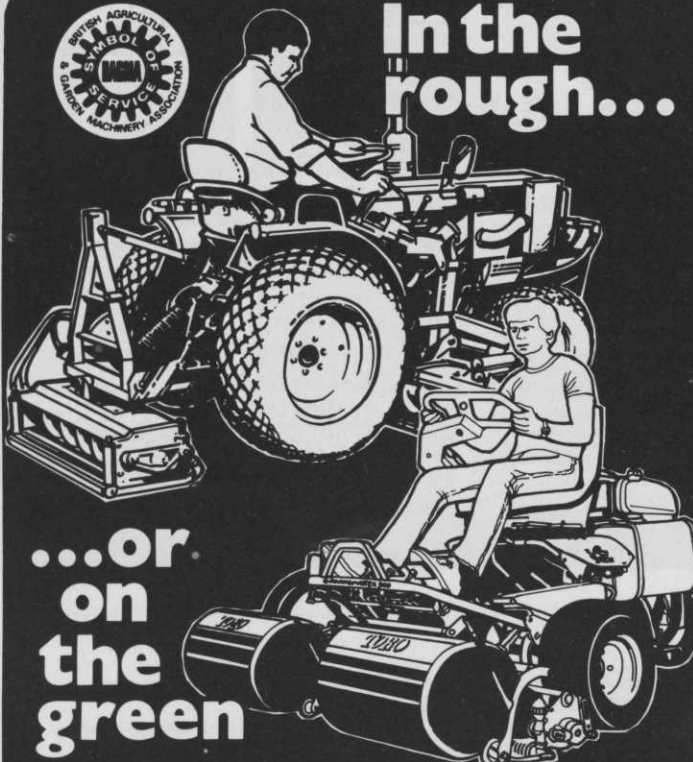
But then, and this must be a classic, she suggests - 'at the height of the season Beurberg supports 1,000 - 1,300 rounds a day!' Assuming the matches are played from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. to accommodate this number of players, they would have to tee off in three balls every one minute and 36 seconds and complete the eighteen holes in under 25 minutes. We all know the Germans are efficient but this is faster than Boris Becker can play tennis!

In a recent letter, Stewart, (*note the spelling Lindsay*) says 'What will people say when they read this. It made me feel a 'right Nana'.

To be fair the Turf Management article was professionally written, but Greenkeepers do get upset, with good reason, when the facts are wrong. Stick to Landscape writing Lindsay and leave the golf to the Greenkeepers.



In the rough...



...or on the green

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A BREAKTHROUGH IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Following an initiative by the National Turfgrass Council's Education Committee, a major breakthrough has been achieved in education and training for the sportsturf industry.

A tripartite working party representing the Council, the IOG and the Lancashire College of Agriculture - headed by Barrie Dickinson, Chairman of the Council's Education Committee - has devised a syllabus for a new Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) National Diploma in Turfculture. Subject to approval, it will be offered by the Lancashire College for the first time in September 1987.

The syllabus is intended to provide a model for other colleges: its modular format, with compulsory and optional units, is meant to encourage the development of other courses leading to the BTEC National Diploma. Full - and eventually part-time courses, catering for the particular needs of all those employed in the industry, are envisaged.

The full-time three-year course has been developed for young people wishing to make a career in the turfculture industry and to enable them, with experience, to hold posts of responsibility within local authority parks and recreation departments, golf courses and sports clubs. It contains a unique sandwich element which allows maximum integration between the college academic work and the highly practical industry it serves.

Two periods of industrial experience occupying one full year, usually in different aspects of sports turf, are included.

Established in 1894, the Lancashire College has a long and proud tradition and now has three teaching centres and five farms. Its diploma courses are currently based at Myerscough, and the college works closely with industry to ensure that the courses maintain the high standards required.

PRIZE LIMIT CHANGES FOR AMATEURS

The R & A in response to the increasing number of sponsored events used by commercial enterprises to promote their business through golf have announced changes to the rules of amateur prize limits to take effect from 1st January next year.

The limit for a prize, in an event of more than two rounds, has gone up to £170, an increase of £20. This, however, applies only in Britain and Ireland. The rest of the world will be able to give prizes worth 400 dollars (£285), an increase of 50 dollars (£35) on present rates.

The Royal and Ancient states: "It is appreciated that the current prize limits of £150 or 350 U.S. dollars do not equate to the market exchange rates. It has, however, been decided to continue on this basis and use the same ratio".

For most club golfers who play in competitions of only one or two rounds, there will be a reduction in the value of prizes. For 36-hole competitions or less, the maximum prize will be £110 in Britain and Ireland.

There was previously no differentiation regarding the length of tournaments.

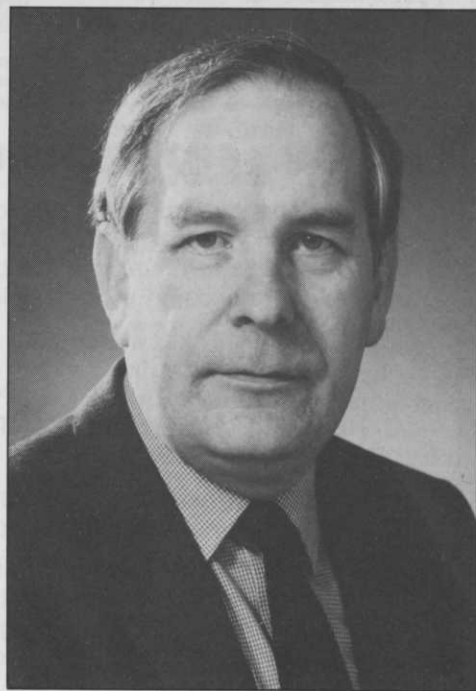
Sponsors will, in future, be allowed to pay the expenses on behalf of a player or team to compete in a handicap event approved by the governing body.

It will, however, no longer be permitted to win a prize of an expenses paid trip to take part in a golf competition.

The Royal and Ancient are making another attempt to ensure that the winner of a prize voucher does not handle any cash. In future the voucher may only be handed to a retailer in exchange for goods purchased and the retailer will send his bill to the committee for payment.

A player waiting reinstatement as an amateur may take part in a competition solely among the members of a club of which he is a member. He may win a prize, but this is for his club to decide.

APPOINTMENTS



KEIR WYATT

GUY CATCHPOLE'S SUCCESSOR

Keir Wyatt, who joined Ransomes Main Board in June of this year, has taken over from Guy Catchpole as Ransomes Sales Director.

As a farm machinery dealer and tractor manufacturer, where he held senior positions in the marketing and servicing of products through a UK and overseas dealer organisation, Keir Wyatt has brought to Ransomes a wealth of experience and fresh ideas.

Keir Wyatt had no doubts about the future being challenging. Nevertheless, he accepts it with confidence, particularly as he has the backing of an organisation with financial strength and the support of an enthusiastic and able staff.

Aged 43, Keir Wyatt is married with two sons and includes golf, music and motor sport amongst his hobbies.

GREENKEEPERS HELP TO RAISE OVER £2,000 FOR CHARITY

Filton Golf Club was this year's venue for the 1986 A.R.M.S./B.G.G.A. Charity Golf Tournament and although there were fewer players this year the total cash raised for the A.R.M.S. (Action for Research into Multiple Sclerosis) Charity was over £1,200.

The South West Section of the B.G.G.A. and Peter Hampton again organised this popular event, which has raised over £4,400 in 3 years for A.R.M.S., with the help from the following companies who donated prizes and cash towards this event:-

Bristol Garden Machinery, Barrus Bunton, Charterhouse Turf Machinery, Rocraft Engineering, Garden and Lawn Equipment, Lely, Toro, Heron Suzuki Power Products, Ritefeed Organic Turf Products, Chelwood Tool Company and Bridges Pennants. Peter A. Hampton donated the Match Sponsor Draw Prize and covered the administration costs of the event.

Filton Golf Club have recently rebuilt the Clubhouse and the group were honoured to be one of the first societies to use it. Special thanks are due to Don O'Leary, Club Secretary, for insisting this Charity Tournament be held at Filton, also to the Committee for allowing the players the courtesy of the course and for providing wine for the meal.

The Mid West Friends of A.R.M.S. Chairman Tony Williams and Filton Golf Club Vice-Captain Peter Deadman officiated with the prizes and draw.

THE SPONSOR PRIZE DRAW

1st Prize:	D. Gardner	£100
2nd Prize:	C. Walton	Flymo
3rd Prize:	M. Vincent	Watering Kit
4th Prize:	Mr. Lawes	Rake

WINNING AMATEUR PLAYERS

1st	Stuart Phipps, (Kingsdown G.C.)	Nett 65	Clock & Trophy
2nd	John McFarnon (Clevedon G.C.)	Nett 66	Ikra Strimmer
3rd	Peter Deadman (V. Capt., Filton G.C.)	Nett 68	Wheelbarrow Suzuki
4th	Les Kemp (Clevedon G.C.)	Nett 69	Coat

WINNING GREENKEEPERS

1st	Colin Shutt (Chipping Sodbury G.C.)	Nett 67	Clock & Trophy
2nd	Barry Reeves (Clevedon G.C.)	Nett 69	Braun Shaver
3rd	Bill Curtis (Kingsdown G.C.)	Nett 71 (Back 9)	Barbeque
4th	John York (Ashley Wood G.C.)	Nett 71	Ritefeed Coat

A presentation Tankard, provided by Mrs. Lesley Hampton, was presented to George Pearce (Steward at Long Ashton Golf Club) for the highest sponsor ticket sales - again!!

Other donated prizes were auctioned to raise an extra £142 from the table.

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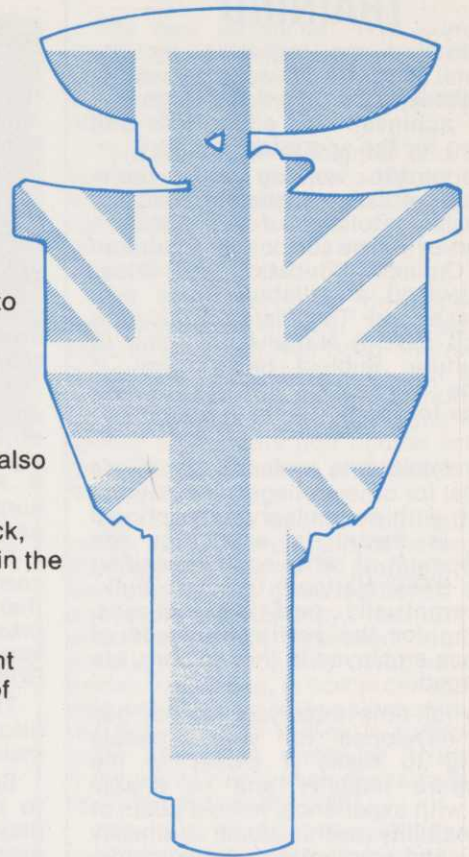
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SECTIONAL News

MID ANGLIA

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

Congratulations to Ken and Bec Bunting who became proud parents on August 14th with the birth of Emma Louise.

Ken will buy the champagne at the Christmas Invitation Meeting which will be held at South Bedfordshire Golf Club on Thursday, 11th December over 18 holes. Please bring a small prize.

This is a popular meeting and entries must be sent to Ken Bunting by 17th November together with the partners name, handicap and £22.00 per couple.

Christmas Dinner will be served about 5.30 p.m. and anyone who would like to come to Dinner only should phone Ken at Little Gaddesden 3359.

Well done the Mid-Anglia lads who did so well at Billingham, Roland Hughes, winner of the Ransome Cup and Gerald Bruce who took the Golf Illustrated Cup. Commiserations to Dick Bowie who's 75 on Monday would have been good enough for the coming of age if he had known what age qualified for entry.

Congratulations to the North West for their narrow victory in the Jubilee Cup thanks to the consistent scoring of anchor man, the "Mere Miracle"

Congratulations also go to our new President, J. Hamilton Stutt, who also has the unusual distinction of being elected a Vice President.

CLEVELAND

Hon. Ass. Sec: Roger Shaw,
12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8AJ

Our Section was proud to host the Annual Greenkeepers Tournament. Harry Lees and the staff at Billingham G.C. had the course in, as usual, fine condition.

The three day event was felt to have been a great success, especially by some of our local members, notably Roger Shaw and Mark Hodgson who won the Best Nett and Gross respectively.

Two trips have been organised this year, the first to Bingley on Oct. 16th and the second, to the Scotsturf Exhibition on Nov. 12th for which the Section is providing a luxury coach. Pick-ups are at Middlesbrough, Billingham, Darlington and Ferryhill, hoping to reach the exhibition by approx. 10.00 a.m.

The A.G.M. is booked for Oct. 1st to be held at Billingham G.C. starting at 8.00 p.m. A buffet is provided. Class E Members are entitled to attend but not to vote.

The Autumn Tournament this year was held at Blackwell, on Sept. 30th. Results in next month's issue.

Further details of trips, etc. are available from your Secretary on Darlington 57891 (office hours) or 489297 (home).

NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

Our October evening meeting will take place on the 23rd at 7.30 p.m. at Moor Allerton. The Industrial consortium, North British Maritime will present talks and films on their operations with the emphasis on North Sea salvage.

Congratulations to Paul Nicholas, assistant at Calverley Golf Club on attaining a distinction in his C&G phase 2, year two. Similarly to all other scholars who did well in their academic endeavours - Stay with it.

A piquant golfing interlude took place at Easingwold Golf Club in August, the venue of our 1986 Invitation Tournament. Reports were highly favourable on every aspect of both course and facilities. Our thanks to Easingwold's Committee for their kindness and hospitality.

NOVEMBER 20th:
Moor Allerton Golf Club

We ask ("Are you getting the best from your course?") and invite you to come along and ask with us. Not only are we asking but also telling. Providing the words and action, will be Malcolm Campbell, editor of Golf Monthly, Norman Bey, Green Chairman, West Bradford Golf Club, Rodney Foster, International amateur golfer and Walker Cup Player, Nicholas Park, author and greenkeeping principles analyst and Peter Wharton from the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs.

Greenkeepers will also present short papers entitled the Professional Greenkeeping View. All wrapped up with coffee, lunch and notes at an inclusive fee of £15 per delegate. Definitely worth a speculate.

Get your Staff, Green Chairman, Secretary and Captain to join us.

This summer has been a time for arrivals and events. Committee man Bob Lupton is now the proud father of a second daughter. Mick Tattersall, assistant at West Bradford and Alan Whitaker 1st Assistant at Bradford Golf Club have taken the matrimonial plunge. Best wishes to you all and congratulations to the ladies involved.

A comment made last month implied that the R&A had imposed courtesy sanctions on greenkeepers at St. Andrews. This information, although partially founded was incorrect insofar as the R&A takes no part in the running of the Links of St. Andrews, and therefore has nothing to do with this latest piece of policy making. The Links management made this decision though for what reason it is difficult to understand.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
7 Elm Close, Underwood Estate,
Llanmartin, Newport,
Gwent NP6 2HT

Telephone: Newport 413227

On Thursday, 11th September we held our Autumn meeting at Langland Bay Golf Club on the Mumbles coastline. We were treated to some excellent weather, yet again.

The tournament was a close run affair with an encouraging attendance by our members.

Winner of the President's Shield by ½ a shot was Graham Cox, 111½, who won a glass rosebowl donated by Rigby Taylor.

Second came Huw Morgan with a score of 112 for a bottle of whisky donated by Ted Thompson.

Third was Ted Thompson - 114½ winning a bottle of white wine - donated by Brown's of Bristol.

Best Gross: Huw Morgan - 124.

Aggregate Gross: Henry Fry - who takes the Salver.

Aggregate Nett: Winner of the Rose Bowl - Ted Thompson.

We would also like to thank Paul Robinson, Robert Litcher, Alex Cambell, Caerleon G.C., John Hopkins and Henry Fry for their donations to our prize table.

Our Christmas competition at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club will be held on December 11th at 11.00 a.m.

All competitors to bring a prize. Entry available to trade members as well as greenkeepers.

Please give me prior notice if you are entering, to help with the catering arrangements.

OBITUARY

WILLIAM BARTLE

It is with regret that we report the death of Mr. Bartle. Mr. Bartle was a Northern Section Honorary Life Member and Honorary auditor.

His working life included spells in greenkeeping at West Bradford and Wilmslow Golf Club. He gave long distinguished service to the Sports Turf Research Institute working on the plots alongside the former Frank G. Smith and later as advisory officer, visiting golf clubs and sports installations in South Wales, the South West and North East.

Bill was also heavily involved with STRI's first Director R. B. Dawson in the compilation of the classical "Practical Lawncraft". His services to the Northern Section were greatly valued, spanning several decades. His solid, sensible approach and interest is a sad loss to our Section.

Our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

NORTH WEST

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

N.W. Section B.G.G.A.
versus

N.W. Stewards Association

In the first match between the two Associations held at Bramall Park Golf Club, Stockport we unfortunately lost 4½ - 3½. This result again highlights the problem of not fielding a full team.

We won the Battle of the Roses because the Northern Section were men short but this time the boot was on the other foot and this was a shame as the day was a great success.

In very good company and on a very good course the seven teams did the Section proud. Our thanks to Duncan McGillvray and his staff for the presentation of the course.

The meal was excellent and for once the greenkeepers were upstaged by the Stewards 'comedians' team. The 'after dinner speaking' could have gone one into the early hours. I hope that this will become an annual event between the two Associations as the members who played thoroughly enjoyed the company.

The B.G.G.A. team were sponsored on the day and at very short notice by Rigby Taylor's of Bolton, so a special thank you to Keith Dickinson of Rigby Taylor for his continued support to this Section.

The Reg. Vickers Trophy

A special day for us all who remembered Reg, took place at Warrington Golf Club, Cheshire on September 15th. In summer conditions thirty-six members played for the silver trophy.

The Section were honoured to have Mrs. Anne Vickers to present the prizes.

I would like to thank the Warrington Golf Club where Reg last worked for their help and support on the day. The Secretary, Captain, Greens Chairman and Head Greenkeeper all played in what for them was a special day in memory of a lovely man.

The club's Ladies Section presented Mrs. Vickers with a bouquet and the Section donated the raffle income to the Friends of Wigan Hospice for whom Mrs. Vickers still helps. It was also a pleasure to see so many of Reg's family at the presentation and we sincerely hope that this trophy will become a major day in the Section's golf calendar.

One of Reg's closest friends John Bond has already offered to host the 1987 Tournament by courtesy of Dean Wood Golf Club, so I am sure the efforts of all concerned in instigating the day were well rewarded. The course and facilities at Warrington were first class and from our Section may I thank everyone, who made the day so memorable.

Winner:

HOWARD ROBERTS (73-8-65)
(Altrincham G.C.)

2nd:

DAVID BERRY (68 Nett)
(Bury G.C.)

3rd:

DEREK HUTCHINSON (68 Nett)
(West Derby G.C.)



Mrs. Anne Vickers present Altrincham greenkeeper Howard Roberts with Reg Vickers Trophy

SOUTH COAST

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

Details of the Sections Winter Lecture programme is as follows:-

November 5th

Mr. Martyn Jones

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

December 3rd

Mr. Derek Ganning

THE BELFRY COURSES

February 4th

Mr. Paul Watson

RANSOMES GANGMOWING EQUIPMENT

March 4th

Mr. Mark Wilton

RIGBY TAYLOR PRODUCTS

followed by

SECTION A.G.M.

All meetings will be held at Alresford Golf Club commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Members are reminded that guests are very welcome to attend our Meetings. Please support our speakers with your presence. Why not bring along your Chairman of Greens or Club Captain? It will give them the chance to understand the complexities of Greenkeeping.

Your Committee have invited the Winchester Branch of the Institute of Groundsmen for our first Speaker. Martyn Jones is a regular contributor to our Journal and well known as a Consultant Agronomist. Don't embarrass your Committee by allowing Groundsmen to outnumber Greenkeepers!

Holidaying on the Isle of Wight during August gave me the opportunity of meeting Section Members not normally seen. Arrangements are in hand to see if they could attend some of our Winter meetings! Yes it is possible, or so I am assured by Peter Fleming at Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club. In fact it is long overdue for one of our Summer Tournaments to take place on the Island. Why not July 1988?

One new member since my last report:-

Ian Hatch,
Fleming Park G.C., Eastleigh

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: G. Brammah,
302 Redmires Road,
Lodge Moor, Sheffield S10.
Telephone: (0742) 302526

Please note the change of Section Secretary. Frank Barrett has now retired from this position after five years of sterling work. We will all miss Frank's honest, straight forward approach and his often humorous dities in his section reports. We all wish you and your wife good health and happiness in the future.

On Tuesday, 9th September we held our Autumn Tournament at Matlock Golf Club. The weather was warm and sunny, the course in excellent condition thanks to Roy Ward and his staff. Our thanks to all at Matlock for their warm and friendly welcome.

The winners were:-

1st: I. Mathews	Notts. G.C.	41pts.
2nd: D. Wadkin	Hallamshire	41pts.
3rd: G. Brammah	Hallamshire	40pts.
4th: P. Unwin	Hallamshire	39pts.

Tony Wadkin managed a hole in one which for everyone who knows Tony was a very special achievement indeed.

The weather was even warmer when our section took on the night of the Northern Section on September 30th at Hallamshire Golf Club. This epic battle was preceded in the morning by our own 9 hole competition, The Coach Cup which was won with an excellent score of 21 points by David Chappel.

In the afternoon the 18 hole match play saw Sheffield convincingly win 4-2 and the Slater Trophy returned to its rightful place! at last we have found a course where guile and skill (with a little local knowledge) can defeat the long hitting Northern men. well and enjoyed a good game of golf. An excellent meal and a warm and friendly welcome by the Captain and members of Hallamshire Golf Club made it a very successful day. We look forward to returning soon.

WINTER LECTURES

November 5th:

Visit to Rolawn Ltd. at Elvington

December 3rd:

Ransomes Grass Machinery

NORTH EAST

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

On the 25th September we held our Autumn Competition at the Hobson G.C. surely on one of the hottest days of the year. A good turn out of members, forty in all, who all agreed that the course was in excellent condition thanks to Gordon Palmer and his staff.

My thanks on behalf of the section to the following companies for their excellent support towards the prizes:-

STEWARTS, RYTON GRAVEL CO., BLAND SHORT, MAXWELL HART, LLOYDS, PATTISSONS, PARKSIDE, GREENLAY, RANSOMES, TOOBYS, SUPATURF, SISIS

RESULTS:

Best Gross - Salver & Whisky
C. HANDYSIDE (Gosforth G.C.)
76 + 38 Total 114 (27 holes)

Best Nett - Ransomes Cup & Watch
I. JOHNSON (Stocksfield G.C.)
83-14 = 69 45-7 = 38 = 107 Nett

Greenlay Cup - Decanter
B. CONSETT (Seaham G.C.)
84-12 = 72 42-6 = 36 = 108 Nett

Fewsters Shield - Decanter & Glasses
R. BLACK (Ponteland G.C.)
92-15 = 77 41-7½ = 33½ 110½ Nett

9 Hole Competition - Sisis Tankard 0-11
R. HENDERSON (Newcastle Utd. G.C.)
37-3½ = 33 Nett

9 Hole Competition - Sisis Tankard 12-24
J. HAGEN (Whickham G.C.)
44-8 = 36 Nett

Other Prize Winners:

S. Pope (Tyneside G.C.)	82-7 = 75 + 35½	110½ Nett
R. Henderson (Newcastle Utd. G.C.)	84-7 = 77 + 33½	110½ Nett
J. Richardson (Whickham G.C.)	79- 6 = 73 + 38	111 Nett
J. Hagen (Whickham G.C.)	91-16 = 75 + 36	111 Nett
A. Fiddes (Warkworth G.C.)	90-16 = 74 + 39	113 Nett

On the 16th September we had a joint competition with the Cleveland Section at Brancepeth G.C. kindly sponsored by Mr. Frank Garvey (R.H.). Top marks to Roger Shaw and his staff for the superb condition of the course. A credit to you Roger.

The leading scores were as follows:

1st	G. GAINFORD	N.E.	(Prudhoe G.C.)	40pts.
2nd	R. SHAW	CL.	(Brancepeth G.C.)	36pts.
3rd	S. POPE	N.E.	(Tyneside G.C.)	35pts.
4th	R. WILSON	CL.	(Brancepeth G.C.)	34pts.
5th	B. WILSON	N.E.	(Stocksfield G.C.)	34pts.
6th	I. JOHNSON	N.E.	(Stocksfield G.C.)	33pts.

EAST MIDLANDS

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

This year we are having a new venue and a change to our normal type of dance for the Annual Prize Presentation. We are holding a Country Dance & Supper on Saturday, 15th November at the Glen Hall on Hillsbrough Road, Eyres Monsell, Leicester. It will be an informal evening, dress to be casual (western style if preferred).

I am quite sure this will be a night not to be missed but we need your support to make it a success. Tickets are now available from your Secretary, priced at £5 each.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to Richard Barker of Longcliffe Golf Club for scoring a Nett 59 off a 7 Handicap to win the Fison's Trophy on the Wednesday of the Annual Golf Tournament, also to Steve Goode for second place in the same competition carding a Nett 64 off a 12 handicap.

MIDLANDS

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

The Annual match against the Secretaries played on Thursday 28th August, at Drayton Park Golf Club, Tamworth, produced an overwhelming victory for the Section.

Once again we had a wonderful afternoon's golf followed by an enjoyable and entertaining evening in good company. The Midland Secretaries kindly provided the wine to accompany an excellent meal. Our sincere thanks to the Captain and Members of Drayton Park Golf Club for allowing us the use of their facilities.

We have now reached the semi-final stages of the Rigby Taylor Greensomes Cup Competition. The last four pairings being:-

John Hughes and Derek Ganning,
Arnold Phipps-Jones and Geoff Porter,
Trevor Morris and Eric Thomas
Steve Wood and Tony Jesson.

On Sunday September 28th at Walsall Golf Club the Annual Chris Gough Memorial Trophy was played. An event where members of Sutton Coldfield Police Club are paired with a greenkeeper from the Midland Section in a Fourball Better Ball Competition. The result was a win for Barry McDonald and Tony Jesson with a nett score of 61.

The Section would like to congratulate Mick Hughes on winning his club championship at Sandwell Park Golf Club and going forward to represent them in the champion of champions at Edgbaston Golf Club.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Harry Drewitt, who died aged 90 on the 24th of May. Harry was one of our longest serving members and will be sadly missed.

Our sympathy to his relatives and friends.

On Friday 5th September, Burrows G.M. held their Annual Tournament at Brockton Hall Golf Club. The winner was John Humphries from Oswestry Golf Club. Following the golf we returned to Burrows premises to enjoy their exceedingly generous hospitality.

After a series of break-ins at a number of greenkeeper's sheds in the Midlands region, my own club included, please be security conscious and check all doors and windows. Remember some things are irreplaceable, such as my driver and putter.

The Rigby Taylor Final will be held at the Berkshire Golf Club week commencing October 20th**.

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THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EVERGREEN

by Simon Gidman

Holds a degree in Landscape Architecture and is currently employed by Hawtree & Son, Golf Course Architects and Consultants

....some thoughts on golf course planting.

There are few more depressing sights than a mass of recently planted evergreen trees - all of the same species, all equidistance and all the same height. Imagine the prospect in 10 or 15 years time - a wall of dark green vegetation, unchanging from one year to the next in height and spread - little growth below the canopy, no understorey, no change in colour with little if any wildlife. Whether these be groups of pines, firs, larch or (God forbid!) Cupressus, their very presence in such numbers suggests a lack of understanding of landscape and a single-minded view of the golf course. Fortunately this happens more often on upland slopes in Scotland and the foresters there are being given a hard time as a result.

But evergreens are often planted on golf courses in response to function rather than beauty - to hide a dismal view - to create screens or to protect boundaries. Even though planted small, they will grow quickly and provide year-round protection and isolation.

But function is not the only task that trees perform on a golf course. What of the brightness of spring flowering trees, the subtle shadows of leaves contrasting in shape and size? What of the beauty of autumn colours heralding the season of winter foursomes.

Trees, handsome in themselves, give just as much to a golf course as those doing a useful job. There is also an argument that the two must work in harmony, why not combine evergreen and deciduous plants? This diversity of species and growing patterns distinguishes our woodlands. Sometimes it is lacking on our golf courses.

The protagonist of the evergreen argues for speed of growth. Evidently conifers are mostly fast-growing. The Scots Pine and Spruce, planted at 1.0m. high, will reach 12 metres in 20 years and the European Larch, 16m. in 20 years. So within a short space of time, cover can be provided. But what of native deciduous trees? Willows (20 metres in 20 years), Birch (10 metres in 20 years), Wild

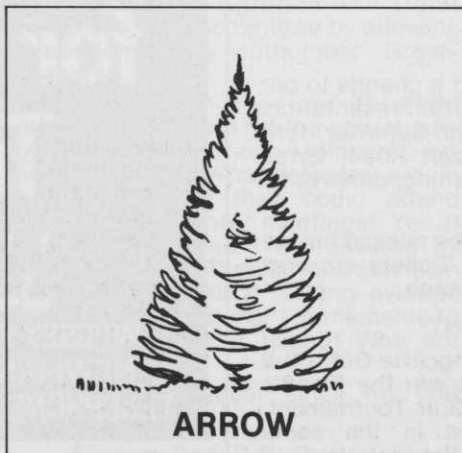
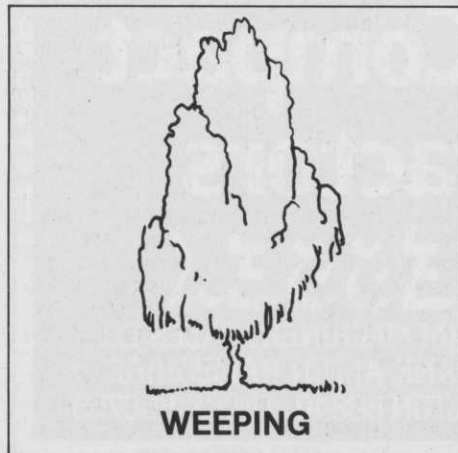
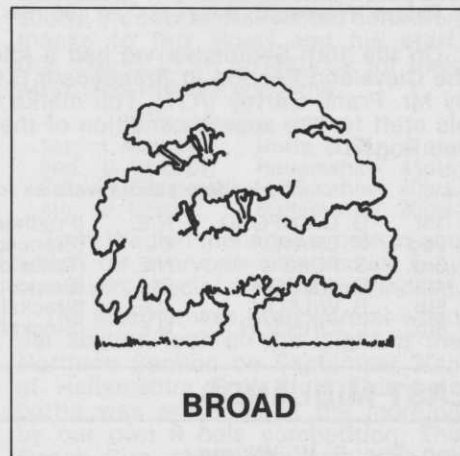
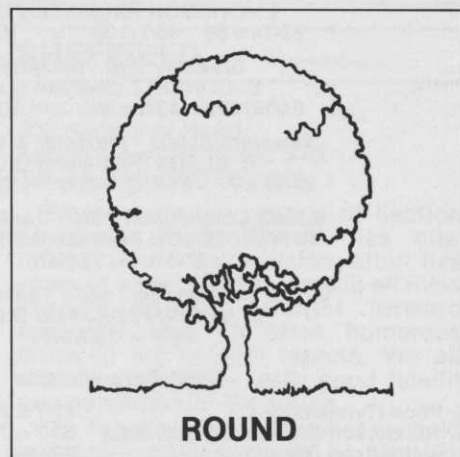
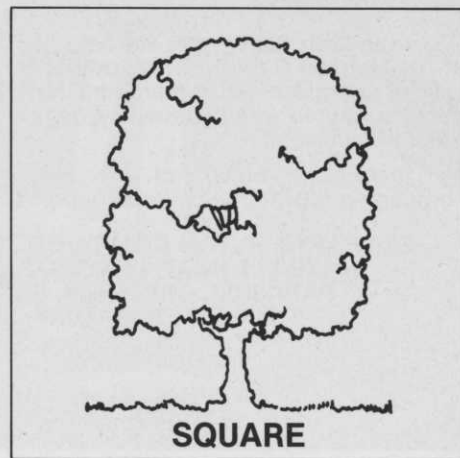
Cherry (15 metres in 20 years), Poplars (15 metres in 20 years), Field Maples, Alders, Hornbeam and Hawthorn are all fast growing given the right space, planted at the right size and given occasional maintenance.

Sometimes it is also thought that conifers are the only family that will grow successfully in exposed areas as shelter belts. That argument has a certain truth but evergreens are not the **only** plants that grow well in poor conditions. In most planting the conifers will act as a nurse species, protecting the young deciduous plants from the vagaries of weather. Once they have reached a certain height and the deciduous trees are fully established, the evergreens can be thinned out, leaving some as a backcloth to lighter deciduous trees. Local authorities who are always pleased to advise on such matters rarely advocate a ratio higher than 25% of evergreen to deciduous. The remaining 75% should be a mixture of some of the faster growing deciduous plants and slower growing species like Oak, Beech and Ash. The species chosen will depend on the site, natural soil conditions and longer term planning requirements.

Finally some will say evergreen trees make their presence felt throughout the year and are always an obstacle to the golfer. This argument, at least, is irrefutable.

But beyond these initial considerations, what we are trying to achieve is a reflection of the local landscape and vegetation to create a natural harmony of the golf course with its surroundings. As Walter Hagan said "You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way". Though this should not be interpreted as an excuse to plant exotic plants with standard roses around tees and greens, its message is clear. Golf offers us the opportunity to savour the countryside and appreciate the changing seasonal faces of the landscape.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF TREE FORMS





Natural use of existing trees to frame the Belfry's 9th green

Where massed conifer planting has taken place, there is little else that can be used as a guide for tree selection. So what can we use for inspiration? At the outset this should come from two sources both related to "association". Association with local character and soil.

When establishing local character we must assess local tree species, their natural habit of growth, their groupings, how they are spaced and how these groups are interrelated. In nature, single stands or monocultures are rare so they should not be seen newly planted on golf courses.

Secondly one must look at the association of soil. All soils and landscape situations have typical plant associations from which one can almost identify the soil types and their pH. The Oak, Hazel and Holly all thrive on heavy clay soils, the Beech, Whitebeam, Wayfaring Tree, Spindle and Blackthorn on chalk hillsides. Pine, Birch and Heather occur typically on the thin acid soils; Field Maple, Hornbeam and Crab occur abundantly on limestone.

That of course is just the beginning. Having established the main species that will provide our medium and long term planting programme, the next

aim is to decide on the shapes, means and overall policy of the planting. Are we trying to connect two belts of woodland at either end of the course, or to develop from this woodland, gradually thinning out the density of trees to create a mixture of parkland and woodland? Is there a water course running through the site which requires its own special treatment or are there extensive vistas which should be retained? The questions are numerous and particular to each site. If the course and its surrounds are relatively bare of trees, local inspiration still requires great care and planning. That should not entail a rash of evergreen plants.

So far we have not mentioned golfing criteria in planting. These have been documented in much more detail in other articles and books and there is not enough room here for a repetition of such criteria. For successful establishment, a knowledge of leaf size, the spread and depth of roots and tree positioning vis à vis the tees, fairways and greens are all critical and must not be overlooked for a successful solution. But if we are to bring back sincerity into some of our golf courses then first an appreciation of the landscape, soil types and local character is essential.

Finally a personal plea. In natural woodland, there is no clear transition between tall woodland trees and the field (ground) layer. The edges favour smaller light-demanding trees and shrubs in an area described by ecologists as the Ecotone, - "mixed communities in the transition area". In these areas, wildlife and plants can thrive.

There are some places on the golf course where such planting is inappropriate - around greens and tees where air circulation would be obstructed and perhaps where poor tee shots land and balls are lost, delaying others on the course. But elsewhere, gradual reduction in height from the main body of woodland to the rough margins of the fairway gives naturalness to the view.

Nobody should damn the use of evergreen trees outright, either in the landscape or on our golf courses. With discretion they can add considerably to our options. In that sense at least they make the job easier. But don't think it is all that easy. The best landscaping schemes were never seen by those who planned them. We have to look fifty to a hundred years ahead. Let's hope we who choose and plant the trees will be remembered kindly.

Henry Cotton, that grand old man of British golf, eighty this year, has a plan for the improvement of junior golf, worthy of someone half his age.

After a lifetime fighting for the recognition and status for the professional golfer he has now turned his undoubted influence towards a better deal for the young beginner.

'The way forward is backwards', said Henry Cotton in an interview with the Editor of *Golf Greenkeeping* at the Windsor Exhibition.

"Young beginners at the game are not welcome in many of the established golf clubs. Their mode of dress reflecting the current trends is open to criticism, they do not understand the rules, the etiquette of golf has not been explained or understood, they hold up the senior members during play and their enthusiasm often leads to a show of temperament not acceptable in golfing circles".

Club throwing, shouts of anguish and football type reactions to the good and bad shots are all symptoms of teenage enthusiasm among beginners. Conduct, certainly not acceptable to the mature golfer who resents the intrusion of juniors into his weekend relaxation, which may well have cost him several hundred pounds in annual subscription.

If we are to continue to be a force in international competition, then something needs to be done to give our future golfers the opportunity to learn the game, the rules and golfing behaviour before admission to established golf clubs, maintains Henry Cotton.

The existing municipal courses are insufficient in number to meet demand and local authorities do not have the finance to build new ones. Available cash for leisure is now put into Sports Halls maximising a fraction of the land area needed for a golf course.

Golf started on the links. Land unsuitable for agriculture or for that matter anything else. A flat area was chosen as the putting surface and the grass cut short, first by grazing sheep and as golf progressed, by the early hand mowers.

Initially the teeing area was alongside the last hole played and the fairway, the ground between the greens.

Six holes and later nine were the norm, playing the course twice or three times to equal a round.

The first Open Championship played at Prestwick in 1870 over 36 holes was completed by three rounds over a twelve hole course.

Henry's idea is that golf for beginners should return to the same early principles. Cut out the frills of a fully



THE WAY FORWARD IS BACKWARDS

says Henry Cotton, advocating a new plan for the development of junior golf

© Golf Greenkeeping 1986

furnished Clubhouse and expensive new course development and layout a basic tee to green construction to suit the land available, whether it will accommodate six, nine, or twelve holes. Leave out bunkers and use the existing trees, rough and natural contours as the hazards. Over such a basic golf course the beginner can learn the rudiments of the game.

Learning to swing the club, manufacture shots from a limited bag of clubs, understand the rules of golf and how to behave in company with fellow golfers. All this for a minimal charge of about 50p.

Henry Cotton wants to encourage local authorities to look at their existing parks and unused land with the intention of providing these minimal maintenance areas. Private land owners with country estates or race courses with huge tracts of unused land are to be encouraged to do the same.

Maintenance of such a basic golf course would be a fraction of the cost of the traditional eighteen hole variety, confined to the cutting of greens, tee and fairways at regular intervals. A changing hut with a coffee machine would suffice instead of a Clubhouse.

Once the junior has achieved a reasonable standard of play and an acceptable handicap as well as learning the rules and etiquette then he or she would be ready to apply for membership to the established club.

Miss Leslie Atwood the Secretary of the Golf Foundation welcomed any ideas for increased golf facilities for young people, but said funds were limited if developers were seeking any form of grant aid.

She added that all available money from the Foundation was at present channeled into coaching both in schools and through clubs who welcomed the junior members. Clubs, she said, were now encouraging the young beginners and with almost 2,000 golf courses in Britain this country was far better off in terms of existing facilities than other European countries.

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