

GOLF

GREENKEEPING
and Course Maintenance

April
1987

**Troon village showing
overseeded fairways and
dormant bermuda grass.**

Read Jonathan Franks' article on p17.

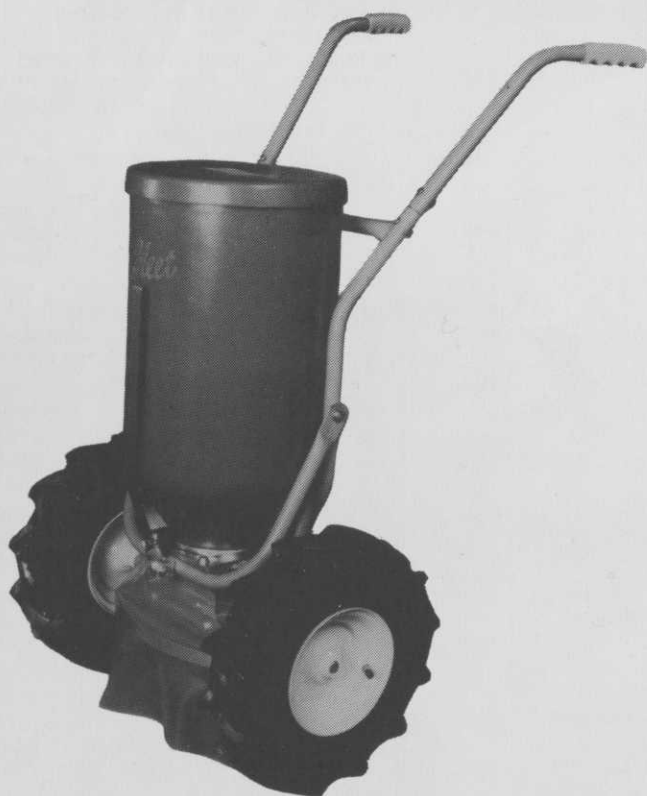


Circulated to all members of the
British & International Golf Greenkeepers' Association

FLEET LINE EVERY TIME

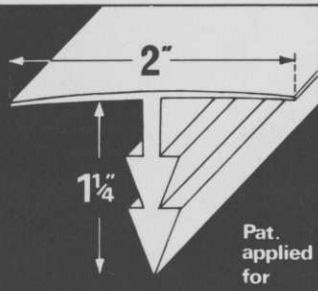
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LAWN AND TURF IRRIGATION

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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John Lelean

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Next Month

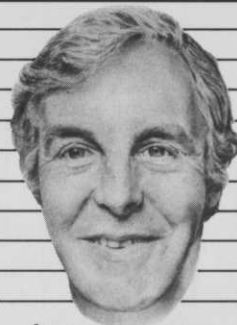
Review of Southport Show

Maintaining Ponds and
Water Courses

Seminar Reports

B.I.G.G.A. News Update

Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

A Levy / Grant Scheme for Greenkeeper Training

For many years this magazine has continuously campaigned for a radical improvement in the facilities for Greenkeeper Training and makes no apology for returning to this theme once again.

It is not only the organisation that needs changing, but the attitudes of the employers, in the main the Committees, who control the private clubs in the United Kingdom. As we have said many times before, the commercial golf clubs, that is proprietorial courses and hotel complexes, do recognise the need to maintain high standards requires highly trained staff. It is the members club, anxious to keep subscriptions at a rate equal to, or below the level of inflation, who view the training of staff as an unnecessary expense.

Peter Alliss, a former President of the BGGGA and a champion for a better deal for greenkeepers, recently suggested subscriptions to golf clubs were far too low. As expected, this produced an irate letter to Golf World from a reader who said this would turn the clock back to the beginning of the century when golf was a game that encouraged exclusivity. He went on to suggest a membership fee of £10.00 a week would be beyond the means of most members.

He might well be right if the income of the majority of members was within the salary range paid to greenkeepers, which a recent survey showed averaged £7,000 a year for the south of the country and under £4,500 for the northern areas.

At last month's excellent Mere Seminar, two of the more enlightened executives in golf, the R&A Secretary, Michael Bonallack and Commander Bill McCrea, the Secretary of Walton Heath, returned to the theme of greenkeeper training and put their weight behind a completely new attitude to the development of golf course staff.

Bill McCrea said training of his staff was budgetted within the amounts set aside for wages, but he put such importance on employee development this figure in future would be split and the club would have a specific training budget.

He went on to say the only way forward was to have a training levy on all golf clubs, so the cost of greenkeeper development could be shared. This would finance highly competent individuals, at all levels, ready to move into promotion positions, not necessarily with their own club.

There is nothing new in this idea. The Industrial Training Act of 1964 empowered Government to set up industrial training boards to cover every industry in the country. Although an agricultural Training Board was formed and farmers paid a training levy and were given grant aid out of the fund for training staff, nothing has ever been done for greenkeepers.

It would not be too difficult for the Golf Unions to instigate such a scheme. They already levy all golf clubs around £1.00 per member to finance inter county matches and other matters of self indulgence that rarely benefit the average golfer. This money, in the main, goes to a handful of very low handicap players, representing less than 1% of total club membership.

Pressure on the Unions will have to come from the R&A who admittedly have no direct control on the way Unions run their affairs, but no one will persuade us, they don't have a hell of a lot of influence.

Contents

Exclusive Nationwide Tractor Survey	5,6,8
News Round-Up	10,12,13,16
Literary Review (Part II) - Fred Hawtree	14,15
A Seedsman's View	17
Encouraging Wildlife on Golf Courses	18
Appointments	19
B.I.G.G.A. Annual Golf Tournament 1987	21
Irrigation Systems John Lelean	22,23
Sectional News	24,26
Trade Directory	27

Ford Compact Tractors - compact design, big performance.



The Ford Compact Tractor Range, the 16hp 1210, 26hp 1710 and 32hp 1910, has the power, manoeuvrability and versatility to handle all kinds of work.

The fuel efficient 3-cylinder diesel engines have power that asks you to sacrifice nothing

when it comes to torque reserve. The fully live hydraulics have impressive lift capacities. The controls for the PTO, hydraulics and ground speed are within easy reach. Individually controlled rear wheel brakes help you make tight turns

and the pedals latch together for road use.

The range of optional equipment includes a compact 'Q' cab on 1710 and 1910 models, four wheel drive on all models and on the 1210 a dual range hydrostatic transmission.

See your local Ford New Holland Dealer for full details and a demonstration.



Golf Greenkeeping reports on exclusive golf course Tractor survey.

Greenkeepers throughout the country have replied to a questionnaire seeking information on tractor usage. This report analyses the responses.

A massive £5 million is expected to be spent on golf course equipment replacements for Britain's golf courses this year, according to an exclusive survey conducted by Golf Greenkeeping in February, and more than half this sum will be for the purchase of tractors.

Head Greenkeepers throughout England, Wales and Scotland were sent a detailed questionnaire seeking information on the quantity, manufacture, age and type of tractor used on their golf courses. They were asked to help with information on safety equipment, the type of ancillary equipment used with the tractors and whether it was intended to purchase or replace during this financial year.

The response that was received from the one thousand questionnaires sent out to Greenkeepers was extraordinary. Enough to make most market survey operators 'green with envy' For that, we at Golf Greenkeeping would like to express our most sincere thanks to all our readers who responded to the questionnaire and we trust you in turn will find the overall results interesting,

Kubota Compacts have at least half of the total market for small tractors on the golf course

useful and may be assist you in future purchase policies.

We would also like to thank the greenkeeper with a Scottish postal address who used the envelope to return his message that read 'MINED YOUR OWN BUISNES'.

As a non contributor of information it is unlikely he will wish to read further, but for the rest of you - read on.

Throughout the United Kingdom the number of tractors of all types currently in use averages 2.5 per course. The nine hole course often has just one tractor or may be an extra old model kept just for emergencies. Eighteen and thirty-six hole courses will have at least two, more likely three.

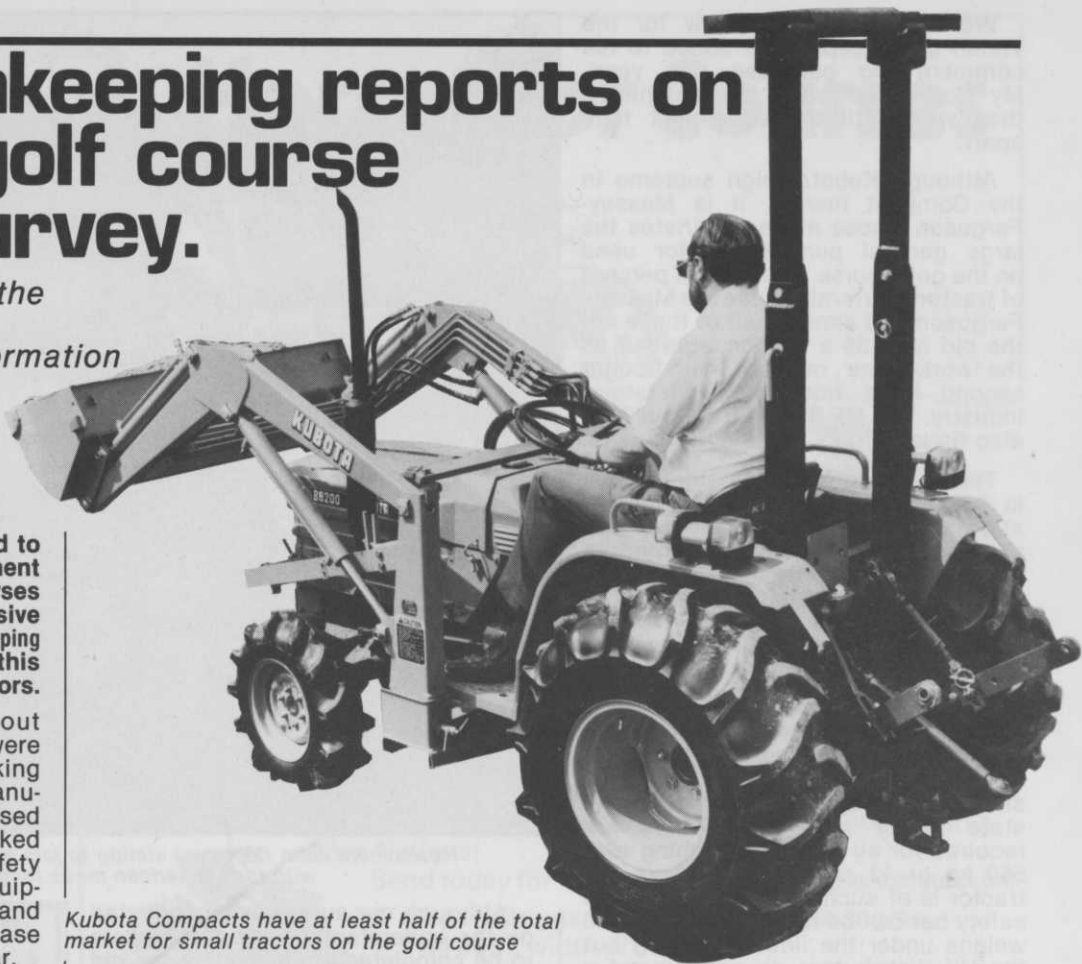
Almost half of the tractors used on Britain's golf courses - 48%, were purchased second hand which points to a lack of budget planning by golf course management, needing to replace a tractor during the season, because of an unexpected breakdown. Perhaps not so much unexpected, but because replacements of aged equipment had not been foreseen. This conclusion has been highlighted by the average age of tractors on the golf course. An analysis of the questionnaires, in three separate batches, showed a consistent false conclusion, because, included in the average age are the recent purchases of the new generation of compact tractors.

The purchase trend of golf courses is towards the predominately manufactured Japanese Compact, dominated by Kubota. Kubota have 50% of the market, followed by Iseki with 20% and the new Ford Compact with 15%. All of course, made in Japan.

Just over one in three courses intend to purchase a new tractor or ancillary equipment spending an average amount of £7,000 during 1987.

The survey showed 19% have bought either a new or used tractor in the last three years, 9% bought in the last twelve months and 36% intend buying during 1987, though several of the questionnaires added the rider 'If we can persuade the Committee to find the money!'

Continued overleaf



Ford have taken third place after Iseki in Compact popularity

We felt particular sorrow for the Welsh greenkeeper who added to his comment 'no purchase this year'. My Committee won't buy anything - they wait until the equipment falls apart.

Although Kubota reign supreme in the Compact market, it is Massey-Ferguson whose make dominates the large general purpose tractor used on the golf course. Thirty-eight percent of tractors currently in use are Massey-Ferguson and almost half of those are the old MF 135 a tractor regarded as the 'work-horse', many of them bought second hand from the agricultural industry. The MF 35 and the Ford 3000 also figure largely in the survey.

The survey took a particular interest in the safety factor requesting information on the use of roll-bars, and safety cabs. We hoped that all tractors would have been fitted with a safety device, but found that one tractor in every twenty had no safety feature whatsoever. Twenty-six percent had roll-bars, 69% were fitted with safety weather cabs but 5% had nothing.

One of our correspondents raised an interesting issue on his questionnaire and asked whether his Iseki 2160 should have a roll-bar. The regulations state safety cabs or roll-bars are required for all tractors weighing over 550 kg or 11 cwt, except where the tractor is of such an age no approved safety bar can be fitted. The Iseki 2160 weighs under the limit at 540 kg but the UK distributors do recommend a safety feature should be fitted particularly if the tractor is to be used on slopes.

Because of the age of a large proportion of the tractors in use on our golf courses the safety regulations do not apply. Breaking down the figures supplied for safety cabs and weather cabs, we find 54% have safety cabs and 15% weather cabs. The weather cab is not necessarily built with safety in mind and some operators could well be imagining they are protected but if an accident occurs the consequences could be serious.

This situation will only be rectified once the vintage tractors are phased out, but we would strongly advise Head Greenkeepers to examine the safety features of their equipment and produce a written report to the Green Chairman or club management on any shorfalls.



Newcomers John Deere are aiming to join an already competitive market with their American made range of Compacts

Although our survey was conducted on the understanding the forms were to be completed anonymously, we did divide the responses into a North/South category to see if the so called 'affluent south' were more likely to be buying new this year. To our somewhat surprise this was not the case and the buying intentions are virtually in proportion to the North/South responses.

And what type of tractor is to be bought this year? Compacts are certain to dominate and almost without exception these will be bought new or as ex-demonstration models. Sixty percent of those intending to buy have indicated it is their intention to purchase a Compact, 40% said a larger model or did not specify the type.

Whichever model is eventually chosen it certainly seems to be a very buoyant time for the manufacturers, importers and dealers in tractors this year.

TRACTOR SURVEY STATISTICS

Average Tractors per club	2.5
Average age of Tractors	11 yrs
Bought in last 3 years	19%
Bought last year	9%
Expected purchases	36%

PRESENT MARKET SHARE:

Massey-Ferguson	37%
Ford	24%
IH/Case/DB	13%
Kubota	11%
Leyland	6%
Iseki	4%
Yanmar	2%
Deere	1%
Others	2%

COMPACT MARKET SHARE:

Kubota	50%
Iseki	20%
Ford	15%
Yanmar	7%
Massey-Ferguson	5%
Others	3%

Continued on Page 8

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We'll give you the cutting edge in the rough and on the smooth.

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Horses for Courses

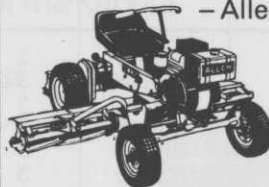


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for 1987**

The Allen National 68 has got what you can't see – reliability. Specifically designed for tough, no-nonsense, low cost mowing, hour after hour, day after day, by golf clubs, local authorities and contractors, the tried and trusted National formula of sophisticated simplicity, functional quality performance and durability, makes the choice of the professional clear – Allen National

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"Please send me details of how Iseki can help my course"

Name

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Application

ISI/5/87/GCCM

	Model	Engine Power HP	Cylinders	Number of Gears	Wheelbase (m)	Price £
JOHN DEERE <i>John Deere Ltd., Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT Tel: (0949) 60491</i>	655*	16	3	Hydrostatic	1.29	5,280
	755* Compacts	20	3	Hydrostatic	1.45	5,970
	855*	24	3	Hydrostatic	1.62	6,420
	1550	44 (DIN)	3	8F 4R	2.05	9,624
	1750	50 (DIN)	3	8F 4R	2.05	10,527
	1850	56 (DIN)	3	8F 4R	2.05	11,361
FORD <i>Ford Motor Co. Ltd., Tractor Operations, Cranes Farm Road, Basildon, Essex Tel: Basildon 3000</i>	1210	16 (DIN)	3	10F 2R	1.40	5,308
	1710	26 (DIN)	3	12F 4R	1.60	6,206
	1910	32 (DIN)	3	12F 4R	1.68	7,136
GREENS (HINOMOTO) <i>Green's Fergus Square, Arbroath, Angus DD11 3DR Tel: (0241) 73841</i>	C142	15 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.29	3,800
	C172	18 (DIN)	3	9F 3R	1.29	4,395
	C144 (4WD)	15 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.29	4,135
	C174 (4WD)	18 (DIN)	3	9F 3R	1.29	4,895
ISEKI <i>Iseki UK Ltd., Bydand Lane, Little Paxton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE19 4ES Tel: (0480) 218100</i>	TX 2140F (4WD)	14.5 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.28	4,825
	TX 2160F (4WD)	16.5 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.28	5,150
	TX 2160F-HST (4WD)	16.5 (DIN)	3	Hydrostatic	1.38	5,740
	TE 3210F (4WD)	21.0 (DIN)	3	12F 4R	1.50	5,970
	TE 4270F (4WD)	27 (DIN)	3	18F 6R	1.65	7,915
KUBOTA (UK) LTD <i>Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3UN Tel: (084) 4214500</i> <i>*(Gear box options)</i>	B5100	12 (DIN)	2	6F 2R	1.18	3,315
	L275	27.5 (DIN)	3	8F 7R	1.69	5,850
	B6200 (4WD)	15 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.4	5,165
	B6200 (HST) (4WD)	15 (DIN)	3	Hydrostatic	1.5	5,990
	B7100 (4WD)	16 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.25	4,995
	B7200 (4WD)	17 (DIN)	3	6F 2R	1.4	5,750
	B7200 HST (4WD)	17 (DIN)	3	Hydrostatic	1.5	5,750
	B8200 (4WD)	19 (DIN)	3	9F 3R	1.53	6,250
	B8200 HST (4WD)	19 (DIN)	3	Hydrostatic	1.53	*7,850
	L275 (4WD)	27.5 (DIN)	3	8F 7R	1.69	*8,600
MASSEY FERGUSON <i>Massey-Ferguson (UK) Ltd., Stareton, Near Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LJ Tel: (0203) 304500</i>	MF 1010	16	3	6F 2R	1.29	4,488
	MF 1020	21	3	12F 4R	1.44	5,248
	MF 1030	26	3	12F 3R	1.56	6,090
	MF 230	38 (DIN)	3	8F 2R	1.89	7,200
	MF 1010 (4WD)	16	3	6F 2R	1.29	4,882
	MF 1010 Hydro (4WD)	16	3	Hydrostatic	—	5,457
	MF 1020 (4WD)	21	3	12F 4R	1.44	5,749
	MF 1030 (4WD)	26	3	12F 3R	1.56	6,694
MITSUBISHI <i>E. P. Barrus Ltd., Launton Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 0UR Tel: (0869) 253355</i>	MT 372D-T (4WD)	15	2	6F 2R	0.96	4,970
	MT 180D-T (4WD)	18.5	3	6F 2R	0.97	6,170
	MT 180 HD-T (4WD)	18.5	3	Hydrostatic	0.97	6,570
	MT 250 D-T (4WD)	25	3	9F 3R	1.275	7,295
	MT 300 D-T (4WD)	30	3	9F 3R	1.41	9,195
YANMAR <i>*(Note New Address)</i> <i>John Croft (Machinery) Ltd., Thorpe Willoughby, Selby, N. Yorks. Tel: (0757) 210222</i>	165A	16	2	6F 2R	1.20	3,920
	186A	18	3	9F 3R	1.35	5,510
	165 DA (4WD)	16	2	6F 2R	1.20	4,765
	169 DA (4WD)	16	3	6F 2R	1.25	5,400
	186 DA (4WD)	18	3	9F 3R	1.35	6,675

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**YOU WON'T FIND A MORE
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Keeping a course in condition all year round requires all the greenkeeper's dedication, experience and skill.

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Take up the Kubota challenge, and compare the Kubota range with the competition. Take into account Kubota's attractive finance packages—up to 100% at just 1¼% for 12 months or longer at very competitive rates, subject to acceptance.

You won't find a more versatile range anywhere on course.



L4150—two or four wheel drive, with a smooth 5 cylinder 45hp engine and finger tip hydraulic shuttle shift. Also two wheel drive available with mechanical shuttle transmission and dual clutch. Perfect for gang mowing



G3HST—with hydrostatic transmission and 44" mid-mounted mower, that makes short work of light rough. Highly manoeuvrable, with miserly fuel consumption and minimal maintenance.



B7100HST—4 wheel drive has a powerful 16hp diesel engine, controlled by hydrostatic transmission, which includes creep speeds as standard.



B8200—with a 3 cylinder, 19hp engine (and the option of hydrostatic transmission), this is the perfect machine for heavy duty work.

**MORE POWER.
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Please send me full details of your range of tractors.

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Pushing not pulling saves golf balls



Grounds technician Bernie Johnson sweeps the Bellerive Country Club driving range with the club's unique front-mounted ball picker

With a little ingenuity, the Bellerive Country Club has drastically reduced the number of balls lost on its driving range.

Not only has this saved money, it has enabled the club to provide a better service for driving range users by ensuring balls are readily available, even on the busiest weekends.

The Bellerive Country Club at St. Louis, opened in 1962 and in 1965 hosted the U.S. Open, won by Gary Player in a play-off with Cal Negel. The club today has close to 400 members, and its 18-hole course accommodates about 20,000 rounds of golf each season.

The club's driving range issues 400-500 dozen balls in an average day. At busy weekends they sometimes require up to 900 dozen balls. Keeping available the supply of golf balls to meet these demands is no small task.

Last spring, under the direction of Golf Pro Gary Fee, the club's maintenance shop rigged up a unique idea to retrieve more of the balls from the driving range.

They took a standard ball picker, but modified the hitch so the unit could be front-mounted on a Cushman Haulster utility vehicle. The idea has paid off well.

"When we changed the ball picker from 'pull' to 'push' we increased by 50%-60% the number of balls we were able to pick up, even when the turf is soft. On harder ground, we get nearly all of them", said resident professional Gary Fee.

"Too many balls were crushed into the ground when we used a pull-type picker. Those never get retrieved".

Being able to retrieve more of the balls also means fewer trips over the driving range.

"During the week, we can usually keep an adequate supply available by picking up the balls every evening. On weekends, though, we usually have to run over the range once or twice during the day, plus again in the evening".

Fee says it takes an hour to an hour and a half to "sweep" the fairway area. Two or three days a week they also sweep the rough, which takes about another 45 minutes. The front-mounted picker works well there, too.

The ball picker rig is mounted on a standard Cushman 452 Haulster vehicle, equipped with a cargo box and tailgate so it can be used for other hauling chores.

The cab was modified by replacing the right-hand door with a steel mesh covering, and covering the left-hand window area with steel mesh for operator protection. A plexiglass windshield was installed, too.

The picker unit itself is a standard mechanical ball picker, with wheel-mounted rubber fingers that pick the balls out of the turf. As the wheels rotate, the balls are "brushed" out of the fingers and drop into six wire baskets ahead of the picker wheels.

"It's really a simple innovation", says Fee, "but it has certainly proved worthwhile for Bellerive Country Club".

ROLAWN TURF FOR FESTIVAL

An exclusive contract to supply 50,000 square yards of purpose-grown turf to the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival, has been won by a Yorkshire firm of turf growers.

Rolawn of Elvington, near York, began in Scotland 12 years ago with just half an acre. They are now Europe's largest growers of turf.

The company cultivates over 1,000 acres in various parts of the country and sells over 2m rolls a year to the general landscaping market, domestic gardeners and top sporting clubs.

The latest order, for the 120-acre Clydeside garden festival site will be supplied over the next 12 months. The company is also contributing £18,500 in sponsorship.

The £35m. festival opens next May for five months. The site will be used later mainly for housing.

INTER SEEDS EXPAND THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Inter Seeds, managed by Jeremy Howarth, have announced the appointment of main distributors for their PRO-Range of grass seed mixtures and PRO-FLORA range of wild flower seeds across the U.K.

The north is covered by Trident, based at Poplar Site, Knutsford Road, Lymm, Cheshire.

In Scotland the agency has gone to McNab Sports Supplies, based at 32 McBain Place, Kinross, Fife, under the control of Mr. Duncan McNab, at one time with Sports Turf Surfaces before setting up on his own.

In Northern Ireland the agency has gone to Samuel Stewart (Belfast) Limited, based at Glengormley Park.

The decision was taken to link with these companies because of their strong existing customer contact. In addition, Jeremy Howarth, was particularly impressed with their efficiency and organisation which he feels will be welcomed and appreciated by the professional amenity customer.

The extensive PRO range of grass seeds include mixtures of sport, landscaping and reclamation work. Varieties used include the highly rated Lisabelle, Lisuna and Lilotta perennial ryegrasses, Lifalla and Lirouge Chewing's fescues and NFG Theodor Roemer Creeping Red Fescue. In addition special mixtures can be formulated to suit individual requirements.

The PRO-FLORA range includes mixtures of wild flowers for acid neutral and calcareous soils as well as heavy soils, sandy soils and shady environments. A new mixture for 1987 exclusive to Inter Seeds is the PRO-FLORA VIII-"Old English Meadow Mix" which is the result of harvesting a natural meadow.

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(Approx. 30 miles north of Montpellier, South of France)

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**HEAD
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Exciting opportunity for involvement with newly constructed 9 Hole course (plans in progress to extend to 18 holes) set in the beautiful landscape of southern France.

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the right applicant

*Apply in writing, stating age and
previous experience to:-*

The Director
Maylands Golf & Country Club
Colchester Road, Harold Park,
Romford, Essex RM3 RAZ

(Exit 28 from M.25)

Moors Valley Golf Course

HEAD GREENKEEPER

A qualified Greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance is required for the challenging task of maintaining this newly constructed 9 hole course.

The golf course, which is part of the Council's Country Park Development, will open in the spring of 1988 and there is a possible extension to 18 holes.

The council offer a generous package of terms and conditions. Salary circa. £9,000 plus some overtime, and a package for relocation expenses.

Full details and application form from the Personnel Office, Wimborne District Council, Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne, Dorset. Telephone (0202) 886201 Ext 257 and returnable by 1st May 1987.

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GREENKEEPER JOINS RIGBY TAYLOR

Martin Dignam has joined Rigby Taylor Limited and will be responsible for direct sales in the North.

Martin, 29, started his career in Greenkeeping at Phoenix Park Sports Club, Bradford and later moved to Woodhall Hills Golf Club as first assistant, where he obtained City and Guilds in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. This subsequently led to his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Knaresborough Golf Club.

A keen golfer he has won several major competitions including the B.G.G.A. President's Trophy, and last year qualified for the Jacobsen National Finals held at Hunstanton Golf Club in Norfolk and finished a commendable 9th.

He is welcomed to his new position at Rigby Taylor by John Holt, the Bolton based Sales Manager and a single figure golfer himself.

Martin Dignam (left) about to set off on his round, is welcomed to the staff by Sales Manager John Holt

Fairway yardage markers

A subject certain to produce controversial discussion in the bar of any golf club, concerns fairway markers.

There are some who believe distance guides destroy the spirit of the game, taking away the visual estimate of which club to use. Others take the view they speed up play and as most keen members already carry detailed notes of distance marks at their own course paced out to within a foot of the pin position, an 'on course' marker would appear not to offend against the rules.

The experienced caddy on the major courses is expected not only to give the golfer yardages, but also advise the club to use and the line of approach, so for those golfers who do not have this advice or know the course, fairway markers would not seem unfair either.

Some clubs already put white marks on trees or plant easily distinguishable shrubs at the 150 yard mark, but an

American company have now come up with a completely new idea - white 'plastic mushrooms' let into the fairways.

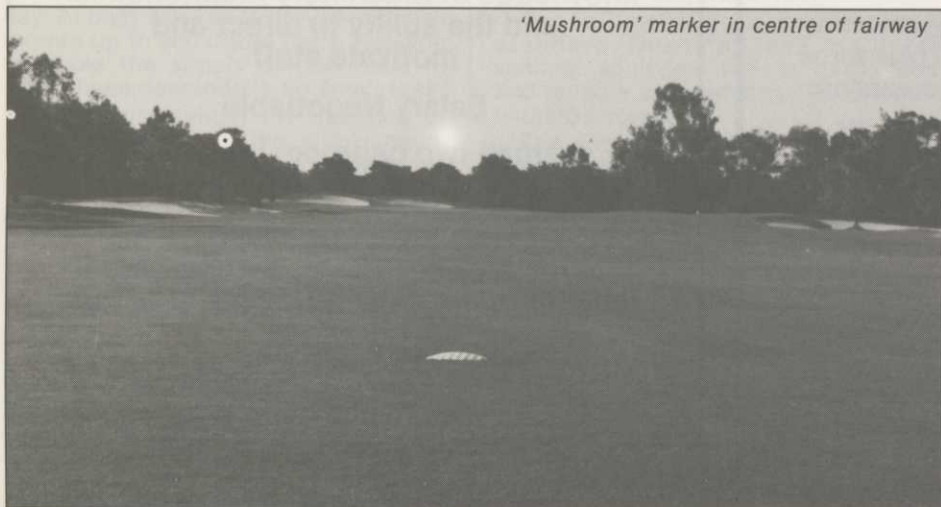
The inventor, Ed Carmen has designed the 'mushrooms' in such a way that the base is let into the ground and the top, standing slightly proud so it can be seen, is fitted on to the 'stalk'.

They do not have to be removed for fairway mowing, because as the mower moves over the top it is pushed flat to the turf level and completely misses the revolving cutters.

If white tops offend the eye they can be provided in red, green or blue or different colours used at varying distances down the fairway.

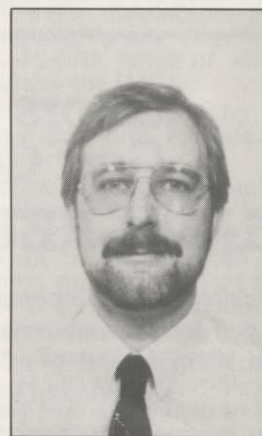
This system is not yet available in Britain, but if there are any distributors who might like to market the idea, Ed Carmen can be contacted at Fairway Products, P.O. Box 611, Elmer, New Jersey 08318.

'Mushroom' marker in centre of fairway



NEW APPOINTMENTS

AT **DABRO**
INTERNATIONAL LTD



*BRUCE CUSWORTH
Sales Manager*

Bruce Cusworth had joined the staff of Dabro International as Sales Manager.

He is married with two teenage children and lives near Shawbury.

He has an O.N.D. in Mechanical Engineering and C.&G. in Agricultural Engineering.

Bruce's interests include D.I.Y., Motor Sport, Sailing and Shooting.

Heading up the Sales/Demonstration Team is Andrew Smith who lives in Cholmondeley, Cheshire.

Mr. Smith previously employed by the Burgess Group for the last eight years, brings a wealth of experience to Dabro, especially in the field of Tractor mechanics and hydraulics.

Andrew is a very active sportsman and has a wide range of interests from Ski-ing to Parachute Jumping.

THE BLOWER VAC

A portable, easy to operate, blower vac is introduced by McCulloch. This not only cleans by blowing the debris away, but also converts quickly into a vacuum cleaner, sucking the rubbish up into a sturdy fabric bag with a capacity of 60 litres.

It has an air blowing velocity of 140mph with a 21cc engine and a mulching suction fan that reduces the volume of the debris. The VAC unit is designed to vacuum up leaves, small bits of paper, small twigs, weeds, grass clippings, etc. and comes complete with shoulder harness.

The blower vac weights 5kgs and comes in attractive four colour packaging. It is available at a retail price of £189.95 and is distributed by Markt (UK) Ltd.



WENTWORTH JOB GOES TO KEVIN MUNT

The appointment of Kevin Munt at present Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch to the prestigious position of Course Manager at Wentworth has now ended considerable speculation as to whom would succeed Gerry Coley at this world famous Surrey golf course.

The position was widely advertised to find the right person to fill the shoes of one of golf's most competent greenkeepers and it is understood the competition was more than fierce.

Details for the development of the new 'South Course' have also been finalised and work is due to start this summer to a design by John Jacobs in association with Gary Player and Wentworth's resident professional Bernard Gallacher.

It can also be announced that the consultants for the construction are the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, who will also act as consultant agronomists to the whole of the Wentworth golf complex.

The new course construction is expected to take at least eighteen months to complete, with an opening date sometime in 1990-1991.

Plans to renew the Wentworth Clubhouse have however hit an unforeseen snag. The building, generally accepted as ugly and by many as a monstrosity, has had a class 2 listed building regulation slapped on it by the Dept. of the Environment. How this has occurred no-one can envisage, unless a local resident or someone with a confused sense of architecture has made representations to the D. of E.

The owners will now have to go through the formalities of a planning approval before further progress is made.

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Literary Review and Educational Supplement

(Part II)

...by Fred Hawtree



When I stepped down from the soapbox last month, I promised to continue later with a survey of current trends in the art of education. But recently, things moved rather fast on that front. I myself got caught in the slip stream.

The Chancellor may not be personally involved in hammering the improving stuff into the Class A brains who now make it to the University in Oxford but the election of a new one in March, judged by the four candidates, should have reminded us that scholarship and achievement are not poles apart. Something is transferred at lectures and tutorials which stands the recipient in good stead when he tackles the wide world later. Those of you concerned with training and apprenticeship should clearly ponder how best the greenkeeping experience of one generation and even earlier ones may be passed on attractively and efficiently to the next.

One common gambit used by old hands in lecturing, is to start with an anecdote aimed at waking up the hard core of resistance in the back row. They then find it difficult to drop off again and acquire at least a taste of the tougher meat prepared to follow. That is not my main purpose in side tracking you with a real life drama for a few more minutes, just when you hoped you could stop pacing up and down impatiently. I have first to explain that as the result of the election mentioned, I am now vastly better qualified for the task in hand. No! It is very kind of you but, to the regret of academics everywhere, I myself was not elected Chancellor. Nor indeed, was I a candidate at all, although one only needs a couple of M.A. chums to sign a nomination. Nevertheless, in

the run-up to polling day, powerful forces were unleashed which gave my own C.V. a belated nudge in the direction of the higher echelons.

Devising job-creative titles is now an important industry and associations like our own produce some elegant devices. APFOLM (Association of Playing Field Officers and Landscape Managers) is my favourite, with UKASTA (United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association), a snappy second.

FRHS is another quantum leap. I myself qualified for it once. I found, while waiting at the gates of the Chelsea Flower Show, that a subscription to the Royal Horticultural Society paid there and then would get me in for nothing with the RHS journal for the rest of the year. I paid up and looked round that particular show with a sense of involvement that only another Fellow can understand. And it only cost a few quid.

I believe that the Zoological Society offers a similar enticement so with just two more subscriptions, your visiting card could read: 'A. N. Other, F.Z.S., F.R.H.S., M.B.I.G.G.A.' We can now see the wisdom of the Steering Committee in slipping the 'International' into the Association's title. The casual observer will interpret this initial as an Institute of some sort, a leap forward which translated the Groundsmen's Association several years ago from N.A.G. to I.O.G.

The objection to this type of qualification is the need to send off cheques every year to stay in the race. But those who disdain routine learning will just have to pay up and hope they can get it off their Income Tax. If they also disdain to write the cheques then there is nothing more I can do. They had better turn to Page 3, though not necessarily in this publication.

If anybody is still out there, let me warn them that in return for regulation studies even the one-off appendage is not always what it seems. Let us go back to that election in which, as you will remember, your man Roy Jenkins was successful. In fact, let's go back further still to 1938 when after three years of heavy research at the Frilford Heath Golf Course and at the Majestic Cinema in the Botley Road, I was allowed, through some superbly perceptive system, to add the letters 'B.A.' to my record. I flashed them around for a bit but people tended to shy off, so I soon gave them up.

Nevertheless, it was rumoured at the time that if one remained on the college books for a further period, at modest cost because not in residence, there were exciting possibilities for further advancement without the need even to attend at the Majestic Cinema. (No wonder it is now an MFI furniture store). So I stayed, as they say, tuned. But when the qualification period expired, the Imperial Forces of the Nipponese Emperor declined to let me out of Cycle Camp in Batavia to attend at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford and go through the appropriate motions. They said it was too far and in any case I could acquire the degree *in absentia* which is how they were dishing them out at the Yokohama Tech. Unfortunately, communications were poor, consisting mainly of one pre-printed post card each year on which one was invited to select a few statements, the choice being limited to something like:-

- I am well
- The Nipponese look after us very well
- I hope you are well
- Our Nipponese guards are very well
- I hope.....is well

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I did not consider it wise to add any witty postscripts in case my next postcard might be shorter still:-

I am not so well.

Thus, I stayed on the bottom rung of the ladder both then and for the next 49 years, in fact, until two months ago, just before the election in March.

As you may know, Lord Blake, the Provost of Queen's College, was a candidate and it was not unnatural that a letter should arrive from the college Bursar to let me know that voting would take place on March 14th & 16th. Unfortunately, an M.A. degree was the minimum qualification, but B.A.'s who had never gone that far need not be filled with remorse. They could be entered for a simple but moving ceremony on 7th March at which the Master's degree would be quietly pinned *in absentia* on the phantom breasts of those worthy of that distinction. To be worthy, you had to send in (*Wait for it!*) a cheque for £9.

What would you have done? Myself I went round to *The Feathers*, one of Woodstock's leading eateries, and studied the menu on the wall outside. What could I get for £9? The cuisine is *nouvelle anglo-américaine* which tends to confuse the customer into uncertainty whether he is eating the meat course or the fruit salad. There was nothing for £9. But for £12.50 I could have "Medallions of Monkfish served with a warm Raspberry Vinaigrette and garnished with slices of carrot and orange" (I warned you, didn't I?).

I came to one of those snap decisions which characterise the late developer. After a life-time devoted to the intellectual advancement of greenkeepers, it would be ungrateful to turn down the career-best available on March 7th and stupid to squander an extra £3.50 into the bargain... on RASPBERRIES! I went home and wrote to the Bursar. This long flirtation, just one year short of half a century, could now be brought to the altar and made official. Moreover I should not be one of those who peevishly returned the marriage certificate if my favourite fell at the last vote. This time it was for real.

We should now be coming to what I promised you, but I am sorry. I have not been watching the clock and the alarm has just gone to switch on the TV for the Open University course which is my next chosen hurdle.

The nuts and bolts of greenkeeping education will therefore have to wait until May. At least you realise now that it's not just any old hack that's feeding you the raw material. It's coming straight from the top.

So what's another month in the great school of life? And what, provided you get there in the end, are 49 years.

Part III next month takes you behind the scenes in the echoing halls of agronomy and exposes the secret methods as well as the passions and jealousies of the greenkeeping advisory world. RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW!

OBITUARY

Older Northern Section members and others, who remember Jim Ellis, will be sorry to hear of the sudden death of his widow, Edith. She died unexpectedly, on Monday 23rd March on her way to hospital for tests.

Jim had been Head Greenkeeper and also involved in the construction of the St. Ives course at Bingley, before moving to Stand G.C. at Manchester.

From there he took on the two new courses at Saint Nom La Breteche, near Paris, while it was still under construction.

Edith settled down magnificently to life in France and gave him every support. He brought both courses to perfection, but was then sadly killed in a road crash in France on 10th August 1961 while on his way to England for the Annual B.G.G.A. Tournament at Bridlington.

Edith is survived by her son Martin, her daughter Kathleen and three grandchildren.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

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YTS GIVES BRADFORD SCHOOL-LEAVERS JOBS ON THE GOLF COURSE

The Shipley College of Science and Technology at Bradford are currently running a two year YTS scheme for trainees in Horticulture and Green-keeping.

Bradford, to the non-Yorkshire man conjures up ideas of satanic, dark, damp woollen mills, working around the clock converting Australian sheep fleeces into cloth. Or perhaps a city now more associated with Karachi and Calcutta, brim full of an immigrant population complete with curry and their Eastern cultures.

Part of both these images are true, but Bradford is also surrounded by some of Britain's finest countryside, starting a mere mile or two from the centre of the city.

What better place to develop golf courses. Many of them, now overtaken by residential sprawl, which has had the unplanned advantage of dropping oases of countryside into urban development.

The Shipley College has fifteen golf clubs in the immediate area who have offered to provide placements for students taking the two year course. All these clubs have been approved by the MSC Assessors as suitable 'on job' training grounds for those young people who have expressed a desire to work in golf course maintenance.

The two year training course consists of twenty weeks of horti-

cultural theory, plus a proportion of continuing education. This takes place in the College spread over a number of one and two week blocks. The rest of the time is spent at the golf clubs under the supervision of the Head Greenkeeper.

There is an advantage for both parties. The trainee is able to learn at first hand the skills of amenity turf maintenance, the club receives an extra pair of hands, plus a Manpower Services Grant. And what else must not be forgotten, the Head Greenkeeper also gains a tremendous inner satisfaction from seeing the development of a raw callow youth into a skilled greenkeeper, under his guidance.

The YTS trainees at Shipley College follow the syllabus for the C & G Horticulture Phase 1 and 2 for two years and if successful can go on to take the C & G Groundsmanship and Sports Turf Management Course over the following year.

Last year the Department of Trade and Industry organised a national competition during 'Industry Year' and the only YTS scheme in the country to win an award was Shipley College in the 'Working with Small Business Section'. They were awarded first prize.

Many of the early young trainees have now found full-time jobs with golf clubs, several at the clubs where they were trained.

JIM ARTHUR TO EASE UP ON CONSULTANCY VISITS

In a statement issued by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews it has been announced that Mr. Jim Arthur will be reducing his work load and this in turn will affect his advisory role as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee.

The R&A point out that there is an 'ever increasing and closer liaison between the STRI and Mr. Arthur' and they go on to say a start is being made in the form of joint advisory visits by specialist golf agronomists employed by the STRI together with Mr. Arthur, to those courses hosting the qualifying competitions for this year's Open Championship.

Jim Arthur was asked by the Championship Committee sixteen years ago to advise them in the preparation of both qualifying courses and those chosen to host the Open Championship. At that time it was believed a greater measure of uniformity was required to produce similar course conditions and presentation.

The Open Championship is still regarded as the premier event in golf despite the incentive of massive prize money in other parts of the world. It is unique because it is the only major tournament played over the traditional Links. It is the intention of the R&A to continue producing true Links for all their Championship courses.

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LATE SECTIONAL NEWS

The Spring Tournament for the North East will be held over the Whitley Bay Course on 9th April. Teeing off between 9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Ponteland G.C. in the venue for the annual fixture against the Secretaries on 6th July, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

The Welsh Section have fixed their annual Secretaries match for Southerndown G.C. for June 3rd.

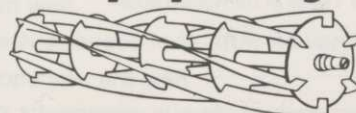
The Welsh team to take part in the inter Sectional Vitax Tournament to be played at Ferndown G.C. on Wednesday, 20th May has been nominated as follows:

Scratch - 9	Graham Cox, Mike Jones; Res. John Hopkins
10-18	Hugh Morgan, Philip Swain; Res. Ted Thompson
19-plus	Walter Jones, Colin Lewis; Res. Robert Kitchen

Would Welsh members please note the 16th April fixture is to be held at St. Mellons G.C. not St. Mellion as published in the Tournament Diary. *Cornishmen on alert to repel invaders, can stand down!*

Ransomes replacement cutting cylinders

Fit and balance perfectly for a top quality cut.



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Six years has elapsed since I attended the last American Golf Course Superintendent's Conference and on a cold damp morning I set forth from Heathrow with a party bound for Phoenix, Arizona, for the 58th Annual Conference.

Phoenix is a fairly modern city, literally cut out of the Arizona desert in the 1920's and covers some 476 sq. miles with a population of over a million people. This well organised conference was held at the magnificent Phoenix Civic Plaza which offered every possible facility and from the opening session on the Friday to the close on the following Monday we were kept busy with a continuous choice of lectures covering every conceivable subject connected with golf course construction and management. The exhibition was held in the main hall on the Saturday and Sunday and attracted large enthusiastic crowds.

Many of the lectures were given by staff from the various universities and polytechnic colleges which were well presented and made one realise how much research work is carried on by these academic institutions and also how much money is being made available for turf research purposes.

At the international session a number of speakers from as far afield as Japan and China treated us to some interesting facts of the enormous potential for golf in these countries. Rolf Loewgren of the Swedish Golf Federation, claimed that they could not build golf courses fast enough in Scandinavia to meet the enormous public demand.

Jack McMillan, the Head Greenkeeper, from Sunningdale Golf Club, and BIGGA Vice Chairman, gave an interesting talk, giving details of how he maintained his Surrey heathland course. He went on to give a short history of the role of the British Greenkeeper and he welcomed the amalgamation of the three old greenkeeper associations in the UK to form the new BIGGA, which he felt was a step in the right direction. He thought the new association would be accepted with enthusiasm by the majority of the British Greenkeepers.

Howard Swan, the Managing Director of Golf Landscapes Ltd. and Chairman of the National Turf Grass Council, presented a well illustrated talk entitled *The British Isles - The Traditional Home of the Golf Course*, which must have made many Americans envious of our many traditional courses, which we are fortunate to have in this country.

The afternoon was rounded off by a spirited talk entitled *Common Sense and Technology* - by Jim Arthur, the Consultant Agronomist to the R&A, who put forward his well publicised theories on golf course maintenance in his traditional style.

On the first morning of the exhibition, I walked from my hotel in torrential rain bringing back happy memories of the Groundsman Exhibition at Windsor. I was therefore thankful that the exhibition was being held in a large, well lit hall, where just over 300 exhibitors were showing everything from the latest machinery and equipment to chemicals, fertilisers and of course grass seed. I was particularly

pleased to see Ransomes flying the British flag with a well laid out stand, the centre of attention. They are now obviously well established in the American market.

Traditionally the Americans have always used Kentucky Blue Grass (Smooth Stalk Meadow Grass) in large quantities on their golf courses, and I was interested to learn that the new turf type perennial ryegrasses are now favoured for use on many course fairways, particularly on those courses in the South, where they overseed Bermuda Grass with ryegrass during the cold season. The Americans use many of the same turf type ryegrasses that are now available to us in this country, including Barry, Loretta, Pennfine, Gator, Derby and Citation.

A Seedsmans view of the Phoenix Conference & Exhibition.

.... by Jonathan Franks

One of the many advantages of attending this major conference and exhibition is that one has a marvellous opportunity to rub shoulders with a wide variety of people who arrive literally from all over the world and they are all in some way connected with either the construction or maintenance of golf courses. Not only are there excellent lectures but I find that one also learns new ideas from fellow delegates perhaps at the bar of your hotel, or at one of the many receptions held during the week.

It was at one of these receptions that I met Tom Burrows of the Turtle Creek Country Club, who told me how he overseeded his greens and fairways using the Cushman Sprayer, which on reflection seemed to me a simple method which needed further investigation. Apparently they overseed the greens and fairways with straight Penncross once or twice a season, carefully mixing the seed with water in the tank of the sprayer and then simply spray the seed straight into the existing sward. The force of the water places the seed evenly in the ground and they also obtain a good germination by this method. Bent seed is very fine (12,000 seeds/gram), and they experience no trouble with blocking jets and obviously can cover a large area quickly and economically.

I have never heard of this method of overseeding in this country, possibly because we normally sow a mixture containing fescue and bents, but if a coarse nozzle were used and the seed applied under pressure I see no reason why blockage should occur. This simple idea might give one or two of our greenkeepers some food for thought.

The American Businessman's 'Working Breakfast' has always been a legend in this country and I was therefore very pleased to receive an invitation from Bill Rose, the President of the Tee 2 Green Corporation, to a special breakfast launching ceremony of their new creeping bentgrass called PennLink.

The breakfast was held at the Apache Room of the Phoenix Hilton Hotel at 7.30 a.m. on the Sunday Morning, when normally I must confess I am not at my best. However 200 guests were given a warm welcome and firstly we were treated to a magnificent breakfast consisting of strawberries, slices of melon, fried eggs, (easy over), Canadian bacon, Cumberland sausage, hash brown (grated fried potatoes), mushrooms, together with a doughnut, which we were invited to wash down with fresh orange juice or hot coffee. American kindness is never done by half and such a meal is certainly worth getting up for even on a Sunday morning.

We were then treated to several excellent talks, firstly by three golf superintendent's who told us how they had sown PennLink Creeping Bentgrass on their golf greens and fairways and had found this bent to give a considerably improved performance over earlier strains of bent grasses. Dr. Joe Dutch, from Pennsylvania State University, who is the breeder of PennLink, told us that he had been breeding bent grasses since 1984 and PennLink was the result of crossing some twenty-one creeping bents and the new strain gave a really upright dense sward with less thatch than Penncross.

PennLink, he claimed, had a strong colour and a good resistance to fungal disease and competed aggressively with annual meadow grass. PennLink had been sown on some 240 different golf courses throughout America and they had analysed the results obtained from 52 of these golf clubs, and were quietly confident that they had an excellent creeping bent for the future. Bill Rose explained that the supply position of bent grasses was likely to be limited for the 1987 season, but they were doing everything possible to increase the tonnage available from 1988 onwards. With the continued increase in the use of creeping bent in this country it will be interesting to see how the PennLink performs over here in the UK.

On my last day it was a great privilege to shake hands with one of the best known names in the golf construction business, namely Robert Trent-Jones, who was quite rightly selected to receive the GCSAA's most prestigious Old Tom Morris Award. This coveted prize is presented to the individual who through a continuing selfless commitment to golf has helped to further the game with dedication and inspiration. We were told that Robert Trent-Jones had constructed more than 400 golf courses in 42 American States and in 23 different countries, which is no mean achievement. He apparently claimed that he would only retire 'when they build that last bunker and put me in it', which shows the spirit of a great man and perhaps the spirit of American golf.

ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE ON GOLF COURSES

WOODLAND

Many golf courses have quite large areas of woodland within their boundaries. This section of the report looks at ways in which woodland can be managed to promote wildlife.

Woodland must be *managed* in order for a healthy habitat system to be maintained. Even remnants of the "ancient wildwood" (this refers to areas of woodland which have been in existence since 1600) that once covered much of Britain will have been managed: for firewood, timber, building materials etc. It is the decline of traditional woodland management which has led to many woodlands being dominated by older trees, producing a dense canopy which shades out light and so impedes the growth of newer saplings which are necessary for regeneration. Many people cannot understand that it is necessary to manage woodland and that this sometimes involves the felling of trees, as well as the planting of new ones. Such management work should be explained to people: on golf club house notice boards for example.

ANCIENT WOODLAND is very important to wildlife because of the continuity of its existence. Plants such as bluebells, wood anemone, dog's mercury and yellow archangel are generally regarded as indicators of ancient woodland. These plants all flower early in the year before the



leaf canopy develops to shade out the light. The wild service tree, which is rare in the South East, is similarly regarded as an indicator of ancient woodland: it can be found at *Arkley, Pinner, Muswell Hill, and Sundridge Park* golf courses, and possibly several more.

Badgers are a woodland animal that can live safely on golf courses. Sadly there is much abuse of badgers and golf course managers should act as "custodians" of this wonderful creature. A reduction in chemicals designed to destroy worms can help the badger population. Badgers eat large quantities of worms, and if these have been poisoned the badgers might also die.

Where badgers cause problems to greens and fairways advice should be sought from the local Wildlife Trust as has happened at the *Selsdon Park* course with a successful outcome.

Managing woodland means maintaining a full structural range: high canopy, sub-canopy, shrub, field and ground levels. Each component represents a separate mini-habitat supporting a wide range of different species. Together they make up the rich wildlife population of the woodland.

THE WOODLAND EDGE is where many flowering plants grow as light is present throughout the year. These areas support many butterflies and birds. Robins, tits, blackbirds and thrushes are common. A good example of sound woodland management can be seen at the *Trent Park* course in Enfield.

On golf courses this area is most under threat as fairways are pushed back, and plants cut down to enable golfers to retrieve their lost golf balls. If this is felt to be necessary it might be possible to create a new woodland edge within the woodland: sometimes this has happened accidentally as ground staff create tracks through the woodland to move maintenance machinery around the course. The opening up of such glades can increase the diversity of species associated with the woodland.

TREE PLANTING is generally regarded as good. But thought needs to be given to the species, the location and the grouping of individual trees. Trees planted in lines along the edge of fairways do little to support wildlife and are less visually appealing than small groups or copses. Careful consideration is needed as trees are a recognised part of golf course planning and only minor changes will be needed to significantly improve the wildlife potential of courses.

Before new trees are planted it is sensible to determine what species of trees are growing naturally in particular areas: these are the ones which will be most successful, and additional trees of the same species will be more successful and look visually more satisfactory. Native trees which should be considered, depending upon local conditions are oak, birch, willows, rowan, alder, wild cherry, hazel and hawthorn.

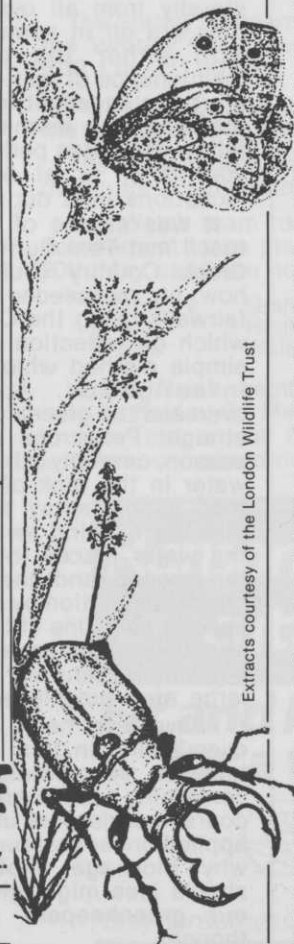
NATIVE TREES are recommended in preference to exotic parkland species. The British oak and native willows each support insect communities of over 400 different kinds, and these in turn are a food source for a great many birds and mammals. Sycamores, on the other hand, support only 30 different insects!

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**VERULAM GOLF CLUB, LONDON ROAD,
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17th, 18th, 19th AUGUST, 1987

*Those wishing to take part in the Tournament must complete the Entry Form
and return to Tournament Organiser:*

**K. BUNTING,
1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1LU**

1987 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Monday, 17th August: 1st Round of 54 and 36 Hole Competition
Scratch and Nett
Senior Division
Junior Division
18 Hole Coming of Age Cup

Tuesday, 18th August: 2nd Round 54 Hole and 36 Hole Event
18 Hole Medal Competition
Putting Competition

Wednesday, 19th August: 18 Hole Medal Competition
(Final Round of 54 Hole Competition)

PRIZE PRESENTATION AT 3.00 p.m.

(Entry in the Tournament Events is open to Full Members of B.I.G.G.A.)

*Accommodation details can be obtained from Ken Bunting - Tel: Little Gaddesden 3359
or Tourists Information Centre 99264511*

ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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GOLF CLUB: _____

SECTION: _____

HANDICAP: _____

- TICK BOX IF ELIGIBLE FOR UNDER 25 CUP
- TICK BOX IF ELIGIBLE FOR COMING OF AGE CUP (Age 60 or over)
- TICK BOX IF REQUIRING TROLLEY

ENTRY FEE: £10.00

(Cheques payable to B.I.G.G.A. to be enclosed with entry form)

**Return to: K. BUNTING, 1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1LU**

(CLOSING DATE 30th JUNE, 1987)

RELIABLE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS are not a bargain basement investment says John Lelean

Irrigation systems, like hedgehogs are inclined to winter hibernation, but there the comparison ends. Whereas our spiny friends emerge unscathed and ready for a summer's foraging, the irrigation system is affected from the ravages of the winter and when needed most, suffers the inevitable breakdown.

Now is the time to test the system, ensuring all the sprinklers are working correctly and the underground pipes and electrical controls are functioning to full efficiency.

During the winter months, course maintenance is such, greens, may be reduced in size, the cutting regime is drastically curtailed and sprinkler heads become buried. A complete survey of the whole system is a must during the month of April to avoid unnecessary expense later in the year.

There are few courses in Britain that have not installed at some time an irrigation scheme, though many of the early installations are now out of date compared to the modern computerised schemes available from the major manufacturers.

An update of the existing system or the installation of a completely new one is fraught with danger if care is not taken. Because the irrigation scheme is likely to be one of the largest capital expenditures any course is likely to make, price often becomes critical and there is a tendency for clubs to cut corners and take the cheapest option.

The major suppliers of irrigation schemes have recently formed an Association - The British Turf Irrigation Association, under the chairmanship of Peter Roberts of the Toro Company. Their aim is not only to protect the good name of the irrigation industry

but to maintain the high standards necessary to produce systems which will not only work, but give service throughout the life of the scheme.

In a recent statement a leading manufacturer has criticised the cost conscious attitudes of some green committees for accepting quotations purely on price without regard to the needs of the course. Efficient irrigation is a scientific engineering operation, not something that can be given to the local plumber!

An acquaintance presently working in Tunisia on the development of a new course has discovered this to his cost. Because of the shortage of foreign currency, local materials and labour were used rather than the equipment specified. It does not take much imagination to realise what happened. The pressure required to put sufficient water on the tees, greens and fairways, blew the system. Unfortunately there will be many similar 'cowboy' operations in this country if price is regarded as the dominant factor.

The problem, according to Peter Roberts, is based on the fact that club secretaries and greens committees are not technically aware.

"How can they judge if an automatic watering system is hydraulically sound? How can they tell if underground pipe joints are capable of standing water pressure put through them or that the pumps specified are man enough for the job? The simple answer is that they cannot - yet they are the ultimate decision makers!"

"We are spending more and more of our time improving or up-dating other people's handiwork these days but when we negotiate with clubs seeking their first, new watering

system, we find that the bottom line figure seems to be more important to them than the long term quality of the system!"

"If my designers thought that cheap plastic sprinklers were the answer to a golf club's needs we would specify them. The fact that we do not must surely be significant" he says.

What about the B.T.I.A. standards? we asked. Most golf course watering systems are designed to standards laid down by the Association.

"Yes they are" says Roberts. "But these standards have to be interpreted on a local basis. What is good enough for one club's system is not necessarily good for another. It depends on the course location, soil structure, prevailing winds, existing water resources and other factors like the quality of installation work and subsequent re-instatement". We have a found a recent case where a local council accepted a 'lowest price' quotation - from a local plumber!"

"Club secretaries should view the B.T.I.A. standards as a minimum requirement but experience indicates that although many system designs adhere to these principals they do not take into account local conditions which quite often call for a much higher specification, if the system is to be really efficient. As it is, a lot of systems rely on natural rainfall to get by. When the weather suddenly turns dry over a few weeks the problems become evident as greens become hard and green, turf changes to straw..."

"Unless golf clubs are prepared to look beyond the bottom line figure I'm afraid that quite a few of them are going to end up with just an expensive collection of pipes, pumps and sprinklers".

CAMERON INTRODUCE NEW RAINBIRD RANGE

Cameron, the horticultural, sports turf and amenity division of Wright Rain Ltd., are using a new range of Rainbird products, for which they are the sole U.K. distributor.

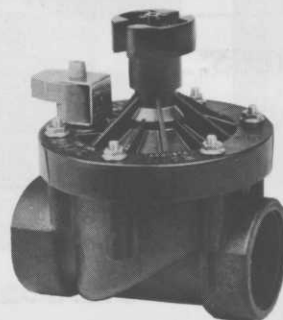
The 95DR valve-in-head electric rotor is ideal for irrigating large turf areas such as football pitches, lawn bowling greens, golf courses and parks. The 95DR combines part and full circle operation capability in one unit, its unique circular or wheel impact drive resulting in a slower and more even rotation speed for longer life. This water lubricated impact sprinkler has a precision moulded power nozzle to maximise radius of throw, while its low 23° angle of trajectory provides superior wind resistance.

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Rainbirds new 95DR
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Electric Rotor.



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from clogging system

PES valves are available in two sizes and can also be ordered with an optional pressure regulating device, the PRS-2 which senses inlet pressure and maintains constant outlet pressure despite fluctuations in mainline pressure. This ensures better sprinkler performance and saves water energy. PES valves have a brass flow control stem and manual on/off capability. PES valves provide brass valve features including high pressure operation at economical plastic valve prices.



Launched in October last year is a new advanced, TW2 computer irrigation controller from Watermation.

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.

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ISS Ask Gary Parker for more details - he will be pleased to show you how...

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Unlike sprinklers containing corrosive metal working parts, Toro Sprinklers are engineered with hi-tech plastics such as 'Cyclocac'® and 'Delrin'®. This eliminates corrosion whilst making each sprinkler highly resistant to impact damage. (It also saves expensive mower blades from accidental damage!)

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3. SELF PROTECTION

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4. WET SPOTS

Check Valves also eliminate the problems of 'low head drainage' and the need for gravel sumps on low lying areas.

5. INDIVIDUAL CONTROL

The valves also enable greens staff to use sprinklers individually - applying larger or smaller amounts of water on selected parts of the course...

6. EASE OF MAINTENANCE

Toro Sprinklers are designed to make servicing simple. Repairs can be carried out on the spot - no need to take the sprinkler away to a workbench!

7. IMPROVED WARRANTIES

Toro now offer increased Warranty protection for large size sprinklers - in some instances these have been given twice the length of validity - there's confidence!

8. WHO USES TORO SPRINKLERS?

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Midlands, North, Scotland & Wales

Turf Irrigation Services, Sandbach. Tel: 04775-255

Enjoy twice the performance!

SECTIONAL News

SOUTH COAST

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

For the Section's last winter lecture held in March, members had the pleasure of Geoff Yelland, Technical Manager for Rigby Taylor. Geoff showed a number of slides on turf diseases and also talked on the new pesticides legislation. Our thanks Geoff, for ending our winter programme of lectures and thanks also to Mark Wilton for his assistance.

The Section's A.G.M. was then held with the Secretary giving the Annual Report and Financial statement.

A report on the Section's Tournaments during 1986 was given, and a report from the Board of Management by our Chairman, Eric James.

I am also pleased to report that the vacancy of Tournament Organiser has been filled by Mr. Joe Burdett. Joe volunteered his services and in the absence of any other nominations was unanimously elected. Our thanks to Joe for taking on this job, and we look forward to meeting you at our various Tournaments and Meetings. For information, Joe is Hon. Secretary of the National Association of Public Golf Courses and joined the Section last year.

A tournament in which members can represent their Section is planned for later in the year. This is the Annual Match against the South West Section. The venue will be HIGH POST GOLF CLUB and the date is September 3rd, 1987.

Members who would like to take part in this tournament are invited to let Joe Burdett know, so that team selection can be spread among the Section's membership.

Details for the Spring Tournament are:-
Venue: Stoneham Golf Club
Date: Thursday, May 28th, 1987

Competition: 36 Hole Medal Competition

Members wishing to play only 18 holes will be entered in a 18 hole Medal Competition.

Members aged over 50 can also compete for the Nita Stimson Trophy.

The entry fee is £8.50 per person (cheques and postal orders to be made payable to the B.G.G.A. South Coast Section).

Members who intend to play should send in a written entry, **giving name and address and their current handicap**, together with the **entry fee**. Please also state whether you wish to enter the 36 or 18 Hole Medal Competition, and the Nita Stimson Trophy.

**Entries to: Mr. Joe Burdett,
948 Castle Lane East,
Bournemouth BH7 6SP
(Tel. No: 0202 483017)**

to arrive not later than the 18th May.

Will trade members requiring meals also contact Joe by that date.

PLEASE NOTE:

No late entries will be accepted.

SHEFFIELD

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

As we emerge from the cold winter months we look forward to what promises to be a milder spring than of recent years. So, with the long hot summer days in mind, the Section enjoyed an excellent and informative talk given by Watermatation's Service Manager - Mr. Jack Wheeler. Armed with a table full of equipment he demonstrated the workings and maintenance of various items including sprinklers, valves and controllers. Mr. Wheeler's presentation was practical and workmanlike, encompassing design, installation and fault finding and we look forward to a future visit perhaps on pump design and maintenance. Thank you again Watermatation for your support.

Attendance at the winter lectures has been very good and I am sure the summer's golf events will be well supported, however there must still be some greenkeepers who are not members of the Association. So, come on you Head Greenkeepers encourage all your staff to join and support the new Association -

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!

Our April visit will be to Bingley Research Institute on 1st April.

CLEVELAND

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

Our thanks go to Allan and Dale from Gills, the Massey Ferguson dealers, who gave us a very interesting lecture using video's about the various tractor ranges from the compact to the larger machines.

The video on the 3000 series drew a lot of attention featuring the Auto-tronic and Datatronic range of tractors, showing that not in the too distant future computerisation will reach most greenkeeping machinery.

Also in February we had a lecture from Mr. Graham Munroe of Burtts & Harvey featuring two video's which are probably very well known now, which helped a little to explain the complex problems that will be encountered with the new Pesticide Act. After the lecture, the jokes told from one table to another could be the subject for one lecture on its own!!

By the time you read this the seminar at Houghall College will have been held. There are over fifty greenkeepers chairmen and secretaries already booked so it seems as if there will be a good attendance.

The Spring Tournament is being organised along with our usual summer matches, details will be published later. So please make the effort to enter for these events, please contact either myself or Roger Shaw for your availability, otherwise what is a solid social side of our Section will founder.

MIDLANDS

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

Fixtures for 1987 Golf Tournaments are as follows:-

Spring Tournament, Robin Hood G.C.

May 14th

Summer Tournament, Ladbroke Park G.C.

July 1st

Autumn Tournament, Brocton G.C.

September 21st

Christmas Tournament, Lilleshall G.C.

December 7th

The match against the Mid-Anglia Section will be played as an away fixture this year at Berkhamsted G.C. on July 9th.

Entry forms for golf tournaments will be sent out by Arnold Phipps-Jones.

The lecture scheduled to be given by Watermatation in January at Moor Hall Golf Club was cancelled due to bad weather, when our speaker was unable to attend, however the members who did arrive spent a pleasant evening watching videos of our golf tournaments.

We were more successful with our February lecture with a good attendance by members to hear Mr. Dennis Mottram of Reaseheath College of Agriculture, Cheshire talk about Man Management and Health and Safety. Our thanks are extended to Moor Hall Golf Club for the use of their clubhouse.

Our Section Committee met on Wednesday, March 11th to discuss the formation of B.I.G.G.A. and how it will affect the Midland Section as we know it.

SEMINAR SUCCESS

The Seminar at Houghall College was a great success, thanks to Jack Macmillan for chairing the seminar and to the various speakers, and also to all the greenkeepers who travelled from all over the region from as far as Alnwick and Carlisle to show that we are on the way to achieving a more united association. I am sure that those who did not attend missed a very educational and informative day. It is hoped to hold it again next year.

A total of 68 greenkeepers, chairmen attended.

Future Dates:

June - Billingham

July - Dartington

August - Eaglescliffe

September - Brancepeth

Actual dates are to be confirmed

Spring Tournament

Saltburn Golf Club,

Guisborough Road,

Guisborough

Tee off 1.00 p.m. Monday April 27th
Please arrive early

Bill Matthews, Superintendent,
Parks & Gardens,
Thanet District Council, Kent.

Geoff Sadler, Head Groundsman,
Talbooth Hotel & Restaurant, Essex.

David Jones, Superintendent,
Parks & Gardens, City of London.

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Bill Matthews was looking for strong, even growth sustained throughout the season. “Floranid more than lived up to my expectations. It produced the hard wearing grass that I needed and also gave me vigorous, healthy shrubs with good colour and appearance.”

Geoff Sadler considers that he has already saved money. “Our grass has to look good. Floranid gave us good colour and rapid recovery even after hard wear but without any excessive growth. Floranid has certainly worked well for us.”

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FORTHCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

<p>APRIL 16 St. Mellion G.C. (Welsh) 27 Saltburn G.C. (Clev) 30 Moor Allerton G.C. (Rufford Top Dress Invitation)</p> <p>MAY 14 Robin Hood G.C. (Mid) 20 Vitax Tournament Ferndown G.C. 21 Bury G.C. (N.W.) 28 Stoneham G.C. (S.C.)</p> <p>JUNE 3 Keighley G.C. (Northern) 16 Horsforth G.C. (Northern) 17 Arkley G.C. (Mid Anglia) 18 Southerndown G.C. (Welsh)</p>	<p>JULY 1 Ladbroke Park G.C. (Mid) 9 Berkhamsted G.C. (Mid Anglia versus Midlands) 13 Welwyn Garden City G.C. (Mid Anglia) 16 Lee on Solent G.C. (S.C.) 22 Saddleworth G.C. (Roses Match)</p> <p>AUGUST 17-18-19 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT Verulam Golf Club</p> <p>SEPT. 3 High Post G.C. (S.C.) 21 Brocton G.C. (Mid) 23 Woodlands G.C. (Mid Anglia) 24 Cowdray Park G.C. (S.C.)</p>	
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Contact Sectional Secretaries for entry forms

DEVON & CORNWALL

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

Once again without the benefit of yours truly the section managed to come together for our penultimate meeting of the season at St. Enodoc G.C.

I am reliably informed the course was in superb condition with weather to match. Two trophies were in contention and the results were as follows:

May & Baker Assistants Shield

1st P. Newcombe (Exeter G.C.) (1)	34 pts.
2nd A. Woolnough (Teignmouth G.C.) (12)	12 pts.
3rd J. Parr (Exeter G.C.) (5)	33 pts.

Supaturf Cup (For Head Greenkeepers & Trade)

1st G. Hargrave (Sidmouth G.C.) (16)	37 pts.
2nd M. Pike (Elfordleigh G.C.) (18)	31 pts.
3rd R. Battisill (St. Mellion G.C.) (16)	30 pts.

I have been asked to thank Stuart Dymond, the head greenkeeper, for giving the non-golfers an informative tour of the course and a first class history lesson.

After a sumptuous lunch the afternoon was taken up by an update of the progress of the B.I.G.G.A. from Gordon Child and a general discussion.

I would like to conclude by congratulating Richard Wisdom of Okehampton Golf Club on gaining a distinction in his City and Guilds exam at Bicton College.

SECTION SECRETARIES

The Editor would appreciate all items for the Sectional News Pages for inclusion in the May issue to be submitted not later than 18th April.

Please give details of Golf Events to be published in the **TOURNAMENT DIARY**

The Scottish Sections are also invited to submit details.

ROMAN CITY VENUE FOR FIRST BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Mid Anglia Section of BIGGA are pleased to welcome members to Verulam Golf Club for the Annual Tournament over 54 holes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 17, 18, 19th August.

The Verulam Golf Club is situated just outside St. Albans, the Roman city of Verulamium.

The Catuvellauni Tribe had a 'oppidum' or settlement at Prae Wood extending down the hill to the banks of the River Ver.

The original timber fort built by the Romans, around which the first town grew, was destroyed in Boudicca's Revolt in A.D. 60-61, but afterwards the town was rebuilt in grand style.

In 1905, the Verulam Golf Club was opened. Among the early members was Samuel Ryder, the St. Albans Corn-Merchant who presented the Ryder Cup for the professional golfers of Gt. Britain and U.S.A. to compete for bi-annually.

While the Course measures just under 6,400 yards, the 71 S.S.S. is a fine test and many of the approach shots to the Par 4 holes need to be

played with a degree of precision if a good score is to be achieved. Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Smith, and his thoroughly competent staff, provide excellent greens - always a pleasure to play on.

Most of the Green Staff are keen golfers and very hard to beat, especially when a friendly wager is at stake on the outcome.

Hotel accommodation and Guest Houses are plentiful in and around St. Albans. A list of addresses and approximate cost has been compiled and is available from Tournament Organiser, Ken Bunting, Telephone: Little Gaddesden 3359 or write to the address (to be found on Entry Form), or contact the Tourist Information Centre, 37 Chequer Street, St. Albans, Herts. - Telephone: 99264511.

The centre of London can be reached by car or train in minutes and a wide range of entertainment is available with very little travel.

It is intended to hold a Dinner on Tuesday evening, 18th August, and further details will follow.

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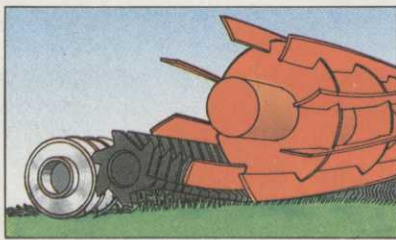


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