

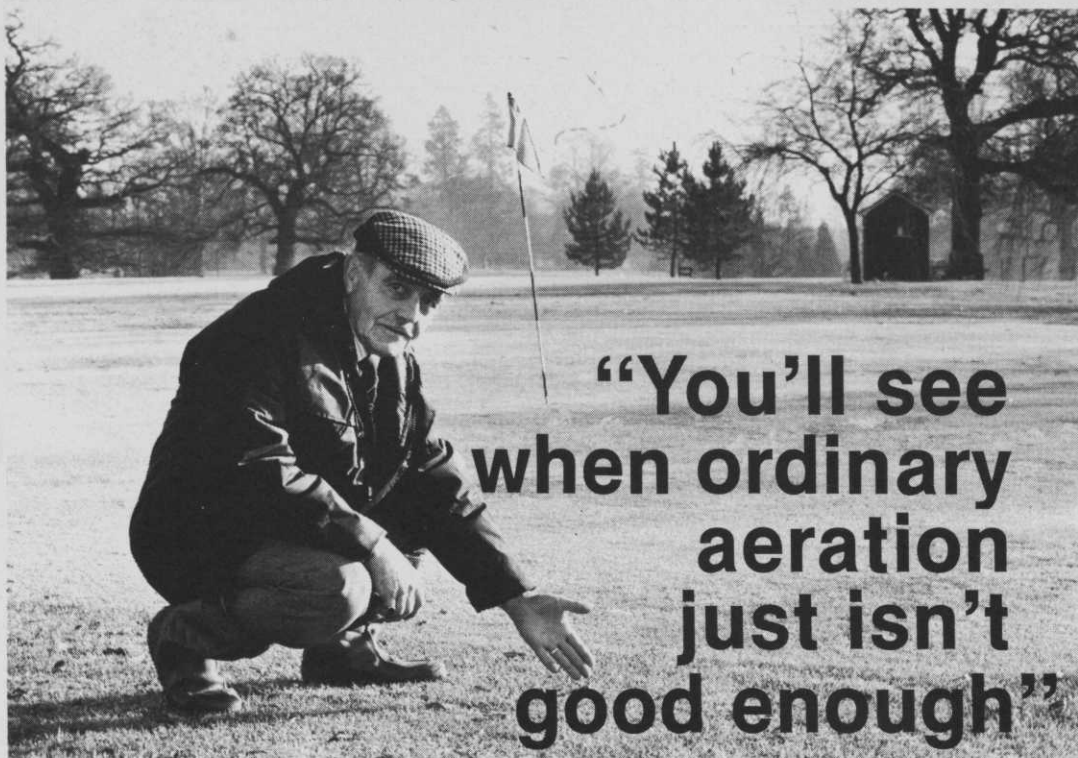
GOLF

GREENKEEPING and Course Maintenance

5

February
1987





The Ryan Range

Aerators

Greensaire 16in
Greensaire 24in with optional
Core Processor
Ride-Aire 19in ride-on
Lawnaire 19in
Lawnaire 3ft tractor towed
Tracaire 6ft tractor towed
Renovaire 6ft contouring
tractor towed

Scarifiers

Ren-O-Thin 5hp 18in
Ren-O-Thin 7hp 18in
Mataway 10hp 19in self propelled

Turf Cutters

J.R. 12in width.
Heavy duty 12 and 16in widths
with automatic chop off and
turf rolling

Purchase, hire or contract schemes available

Contact your nearest official
Ryan dealer for further
information

"You'll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

"What you can't see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result's the same. Water doesn't soak in properly. The soil is starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You've got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn't going to solve it.

"Hollow tine aeration is the answer. What the Ryan people call Core Cultivation.

"In fact, I reckon that for most heavily used sports areas, Core Cultivation should be a routine part of any turf maintenance programme. Not just a problem solver. Obviously, how often you use hollow tining varies according to different soil conditions. I find once in the Spring and Autumn is about right.

Cores of soil and thatch



"So what's this core cultivation all about?"

"First, hollow tining actually removes cores of soil—and thatch of course. That obviously relieves soil compaction far better than a spike or slitter. As a result, it opens up the soil giving better movement of air, water and fertilisers. If the soil is good, breaking up the cores, either by a scarifier or a Ryan core processor, separates the thatch, which can then be removed easily.

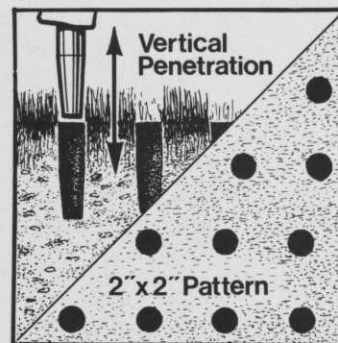


New vigorous growth after hollow tining

"Why do I think Ryan hollow tine aerators are the best?"

"Well, they've got some very special design features.

"Look at the Greensaire for instance. There's the core pattern created by the tines. A close 2 inch by 2 inch up to 3 inches deep with a 24 inch swath. On a green of say 6000 square feet that's 3 cubic yards of core material. And you can do that in well under an hour.



Ryan's unique design features

"Then there's the way the tines actually penetrate the soil. Ryan have a really clever design which makes each tine go in and out absolutely vertically. Unlike other makes, where the tines sort of rock to and fro which can damage the surface.

"It's that sort of thing that makes Ryan aerators the best. In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It's the best you can buy".

RYAN

Turf Care Equipment

Distributed in the UK by
Victa (UK) Limited



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Daneshill West
Basingstoke
Hants RG24 0QY
Tel: (0256) 50301
Telex: 858282

Scotland

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Cumbria, Lancs, G. Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire, Derbyshire, N. Yorks (W), W. Yorks (W)
Fletcher-Stewart (Stockport)
061-483 5542

S. Yorks, Humberside (N), N. Yorks (Cen. & E), W. Yorks (E)
Sewards Agricultural Machinery
0904 704121

Clwyd, Gwynedd, Shropshire, Powys
Walker Engineering 069-186 2447

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Lawnmower Services (Lincoln)
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R Johnson (T.E.S.S) 0708 28811

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Brophy's Lawn & Turf Machines
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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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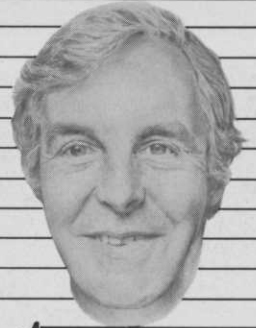
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Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

THE SEARCH BEGINS

Some years ago there was a popular monologue emanating from across the Atlantic attempting to define 'What is a boy', with a sequel asking the same question for the opposite sex. It went something like this. 'A boy is tousled haired with short pants and dirty knees. He likes getting into scrapes, ice cream, kicking a ball, throwing stones and stamping into puddles. He dislikes, girls, washing his neck, going to bed, school dinners and doing as he is told.

The first task of the BIGGA Committee is to appoint an Administrator for the Association, but before that can be done a similar specification must be produced for the person who will ultimately be appointed to take on this most exacting role.

Unlike other appointments to head and represent an Association the applicants for this job needs to have very special qualities. The greenkeeping profession has a long and distinctive role in the game even before Old Tom Morris which has often, and not without foundation, been described as more akin to a disease or a religion. Those who play and those who produce the fields for combat are invariably totally dedicated in their efforts to seek the ultimate in perfection. Few succeed, but this is never regarded as a deterrent. There is always tomorrow, when improved skills, additional determination and a little slice of luck will produce the results that evaded them today.

First and foremost the General Administrator must have a total understanding of the work of the greenkeeper. The long hours spent, often in adverse weather conditions, tending over one hundred acres of turf. To many laymen one blade of grass is, much the same as another, but the greenkeeper knows far better. Only he can distinguish the desirable species and the best method of cultivation.

To lead the greenkeepers to full recognition, the Administrator must also be aware of their working conditions, present educational facilities, and more important, the lack of them, and often, the total incomprehension by some Club Committees, to understand the greenkeeper is a professional. To maintain their golf course, he should be given the authority, facilities, status and salary to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities. The Administrator will need to have the diplomacy of a Foreign Secretary, the political awareness of a Prime Minister, the drive of a Captain of Industry, the meekness of a Mother Superior and the stamina of a Royal Marine Commando.

An ideal job, perhaps, for Prince Edward, if only he played golf.

Whoever receives the accolade of recognition from this appointment he is certain to be taking on a job where there will be more brick-bats than bouquets, more criticism than praise and appreciation more likely to come after his demise than during his tenure of office.

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Next Month

A Guide to the 1987 Greens Mower
Building new greens. Latest techniques and methods of construction
Report on the Phoenix Convention

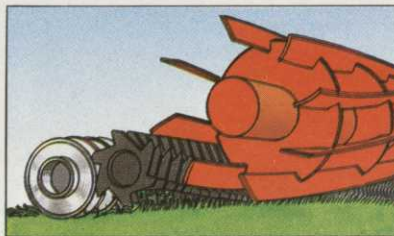


Stroke for stroke, the best in the business.

Greens King® IV Diesel.

Now, you can approach the green with the finest tournament-quality triplex greens mower and cut your fuel costs virtually in half. Because the innovative Jacobsen Greens King family introduces another industry first: *Diesel*.

The new 16½-hp. diesel Greens King IV provides more power for climbing and cutting. Plus, this diesel model has many standard features you'll only find as options elsewhere. Like full floating and pivoting reel units that steer through turns without scuffing or marking; full hydraulic drive with dynamic braking for greater control: just let up on the pedal to slow down; and, variable speed control which allows the operator to select the precise ground speed and frequency of cut for greens while still allowing full speed for transport.



By cutting horizontal runners and removing thatch, the patented Turf Groomer™ attachment creates faster, truer and healthier greens *without* lowering height of cut.

If you prefer a gas engine, both 14-hp. and 16-hp. models are available. Giving you the broadest selection of riding greens mowers in the industry. With more options, to help you meet your greens care needs more precisely.

Like the revolutionary, patented Turf Groomer™ attachment for faster, truer greens. *Without* lowering height of cut.

And, the unique *performance monitor* which digitally displays all speeds, including cutting frequency, so the operator can evaluate mowing performance, instantly.

What's more, every Greens King is backed by the most extensive support network in the industry. So, contact your Jacobsen distributor to arrange a free demonstration. And see for yourself why the Greens King family is the best in the business.

JACOBSEN
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NEWS Round-up

FIRST TRAINING COURSE HELD IN PURPOSE-DESIGNED BUILDING



Service engineers from Huxleys' nationwide network of Cushman turf-care equipment dealers receiving instruction at the inaugural service course held within the new, purpose-built training centre at Huxleys Grass Machinery's premises in New Alresford, Hampshire.

The inaugural service course held within the new training centre at Huxleys Grass Machinery's New Alresford, Hampshire premises has been voted a resounding success by all who attended the two day event either as instructors or to receive instruction.

Taking place in mid-December, the course was planned and staged specifically for engineers from Huxley's appointed Cushman Turf machinery dealers throughout the British Isles. Entitled 'A service course for experienced staff', it attracted nineteen dealer representatives to the first event held within the new 1,200 sq. ft. building, purpose-planned and built

by Huxleys at their New Alresford factory for both training and visitor reception purposes.

Training Manager, Mr. Terry Cooper, said the primary aim of the service course had been to improve the diagnostic ability of all those attending.

In addition to providing an excellent centre for the many local authority, golf course and industry visitors to their New Alresford premises, it will be used regularly for sales, service and operator training on the professional equipment ranges manufactured and distributed by Huxleys Grass Machinery.

SWAN RE-ELECTED TO NTC CHAIR

The recent annual general meeting of the National Turfgrass Council elected Howard Swan to a second term as Chairman, and with the retirement of Neil Gilmour, John Holborn of the National Playing Fields Association, was chosen as Vice-Chairman. John Shildrick was re-confirmed as Secretary.

Howard Swan, Managing Director of Golf Landscapes Ltd. said he looked forward to leading the Council for a second year, out of what have been difficult times, towards a recognised place as The united voice in the industry, acting as the umbrella to all constituent members. "We have received tremendous support from the major Associations, particularly from the Institute of Groundsmanship, in pursuing this aim, and I see that we can, within a 3 year period, move positively and successfully forward", added Swan.

FARMURA ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

"New products and a new name are the changes at Farmura, designed to ensure that the Company continues to lead its sector of the market", commented Sales Director Jonathan Harmer. "The change of name to "Farmura Environmental Products" of the marketing company is intended to reflect the widening of our product range - a one stop shop range of organic, environmental and landscaping products that will be of practical benefit to both specifiers and users".

Building on the proven Farmura range of Liquid Organic Fertilisers, the Company has launched three new products with others launched under development.

First seen at Windsor, Farmgran is a spreadable seaweed soil conditioner and improver which can be used on its own or incorporated in top dressings and has uses from fine turf to land reclamation. In fact, any area where there is a "fertility gap". Easily spreadable, Farmgran is packed in 25 kilo bags.

Pre-planting Root Dip to aid the re-establishment of trees and shrubs and to reduce losses to a minimum. Like Farmgran, Root Dip is an organic product which, when made into a creamy paste, is easy and quick to use. Root Dip is packed in easy to handle 15 kilo tubs.

Finally, Aquatain, a specialist water retaining compost containing organic nutrient for indoor landscaping, hanging baskets or where watering is a problem. Aquatain is supplied in 10, 20 and 40 litre bags or in bulk.

Farmura Environmental Products are at Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU. Telephone: 023376-241

MOUNTED HYDRAULIC MOWER TO FOLLOW GOLF COURSE UNDULATIONS



A special version of their TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower has been developed by Huxleys Grass Machinery specifically for golf greenkeepers with exceptionally undulating fairways to maintain.

Based entirely on the current Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' mower, the latest introduction features a fully-floating top link to replace the standard tractor link and has a contour-following castor wheel at the rear. These two additional components work totally in harmony when grass cutting, allowing the mower's frame to move and 'float' independently of the tractor despite the fact that the unit is still fully-mounted on the tractor's three-point linkage.

Being tractor-mounted provides a number of benefits: It enables the mower to be lifted for fast, convenient movement from site to site; it allows the complete unit to be raised instantly out of work when turning at the end of a mowing run and it produces a compact, well-balanced grass-cutting combination which minimises the risk of turf damage from rutting or scuffing.

BRITISH SEED HOUSES SUPPLY GRASS FOR ST. MELLION

British Seed Houses Ltd have supplied the grass seed for the New Championship Golf Course at St. Mellion, which was designed by Jack Nicklaus.

The course was sown down in the Spring and Autumn of 1985 when straight Penncross Creeping Bent was sown on the greens and tees and the fairways were sown with the standard BSH A12 Fairway Mixture which contains the well known variety of Chewings Fescue Frida.

The course was said to be in excellent shape for the opening ceremony last Autumn.

The addition of a floating top link and castor wheel to the Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower enables the fully-mounted machine to move independently of the tractor in work to follow most ground undulations.

Price of the Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower complete with floating top link and castor wheel is £6,825, exclusive of VAT.

Huxley Hydraulic Reelmowers are available from appointed tractor dealers nationwide and from Huxleys Grass Machinery branches at:

The Dean, New Alresford, Hants.
SO24 9BL, England.
Tel: (0962) 733222; and Hillside,
Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey,
TW20 8JG, England.
Tel: (0784) 38666. Telex: 894426.

TURFSCAPE '87

An indoor exhibition is booked to be held at the Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin on 4th and 5th March.

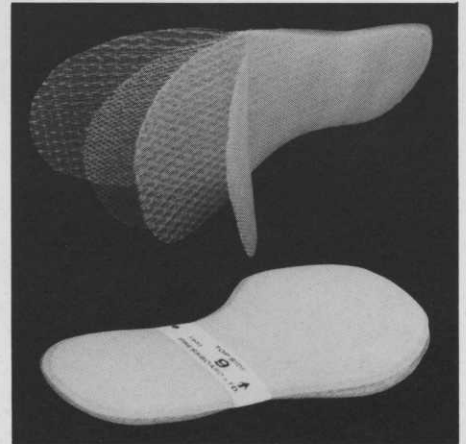
TURFSCAPE '87 is the second in the series and follows the successful launch of the Turfscape Exhibition held at the Belfry Golf and Country Club in February last year.

The dates chosen, timed to coincide with the arrival of spring - a season when the industry is considering the purchase of new machinery and supplies their current year end and planning yearly budgets.

The exhibition organised by TURF MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT comprise a team of professionals experienced in the organisation and promotion of specialised trade exhibitions and conferences.

TURF MANAGEMENT will also be organising a series of seminars to run concurrent with the exhibition and has the full backing of Kinsealy Research Institute at Malahide who will be providing some of the speakers for the seminars.

MILITARY INSOLES Now available for all outside activities



Supa Soles the unique "air conditioning" insoles made from layers of interwoven plastic mesh by Pressboard Limited.

Supa Soles, the civilian version of the plastic mesh insoles used by the British Army, are now available for anyone who has to spend a great deal of time outdoors in all weathers.

Because they are particularly effective for use in non-porous, synthetic and rubber boots and waders, Supa Soles are invaluable to anybody who has to spend hours in cold, wet or marshy conditions. They are ideal for leisure pursuits in the open air, such as fishing, shooting and riding.

Initially designed for military use, these tough insoles keep feet cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Thousands of tiny insulated air pockets in each Supa Sole both protect from the damp and cold and also ensure foot comfort. They are impervious to perspiration, washable and almost indestructible.

KUBOTA TAKES A LEAD ON TRACTOR SAFETY

A deep concern in the number of accidents at work has led the Kubota (UK) Ltd. to publish a new booklet on tractor safety.

At least 70 fatal accidents happen in agriculture and amenity turf each year. It is a sad fact that the vast majority of these accidents could have been avoided by attention to detail and the use of commonsense.

Available free from Kubota UK Limited - the booklet entitled 'Tractor Safety Code' covers the ten basic rules of tractor safety, showing clearly and concisely how simple commonsense will ensure safety of operation.

The booklet also covers the safety points for mowers, rotary tillers, dozer blades, trenchers, backhoes and loaders.

Clearly printed and illustrated, everybody concerned with the operation of tractors should read and take heed of this publication from Kubota.

'Tractor Safety Code' is published by Kubota (UK) Limited and is available free on request from their headquarters at Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3UN.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL GOLF SHOW

19-22 FEBRUARY, 1987 BARBICAN, CITY OF LONDON

Opening by Henry Cotton, MBE

Keynote of the Second International Golf Show, at the London Barbican from 19-22 February is visitor participation. Apart from being able to examine and try out the latest equipment from the major golf club and ancillary products manufacturers, there is a host of other activities for not only the experienced golfer but also beginners and their families.

The Show is sponsored by the Daily Mail and supported by the PGA European Tour, whose professionals will be there daily, giving free 'clinics', with the use of golf nets, video and other electronic equipment to analyse your swing and help correct faults.

Recognising that today's juniors are the Ryder Cup and Curtis Cup players of tomorrow, 'Golf World' is sponsoring a special Junior Golf section. Here, junior size clubs will be available for youngsters to take tuition and be assessed by professionals; to learn what golf offers as a career and how to start.

Long driving and putting competitions are being organised and a number of try-your-skill events will be offering golfing holidays as prizes.

The Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund will be bringing in stars of stage, TV and cinema to compete against visitors in putting competitions to raise funds for their charity.

One section of the Show is devoted to a display of golf history and memorabilia and there will be a continuous showing of films on the rules of Golf and Open Championships.

Another section covers the newest fashions in golfing wear, from the latest spikeless shoes to headgear. And for those who want to get away from frozen greens and closed courses, there is a wide selection of golf resorts, hotels, villas and apartments for sale on a time-share basis in various parts of Europe.

Each day the Show features a full programme of events on stage; fashion shows, demonstrations and clinics, and the golf 'antiques roadshow'. There will also be an on-going club making workshop.

Another new feature will be Junior Club Corner, being sponsored by 'Golf World'. This will be an area designed specifically for youngsters where they can have golf instruction from professionals, have their swing analysed, see videos and take part in competitions. It is planned to have junior clubs available from various manufacturers that can be tried including putters for use on a specifically constructed putting green.

There will also be an opportunity to have valued by a leading auction house, the set of clubs your grandfather left you. Old golf clubs, balls, equipment and literature are much sought after and fetch very high prices at sales. To encourage golfers to bring along their own old keepsakes, it is planned to run the Golf Show's own 'Antiques Road Show'.

The Show is being opened by Henry Cotton, MBE. Opening hours are: 10 a.m. - 7.30 p.m. Thursday, 19th February, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd February.

Admission prices are £3.50 including the Show catalogue (Children under 14 and OAP's £2.00).

JOHNSONS NEW STYLE J RANGE BROCHURE 1987

Johnsons Seeds has just issued the 1987 J Range brochure listing the 7 standard Turfgrass mixtures and 3 Masterblends recommended for sports and amenity areas.

The new brochure has been completely re-designed to simplify mixture selection. The proportions of individual components in each mixture are clearly set out, together with recommended Sowing Rates and Mowing Heights in both metric and imperial measures.

The recommended uses of each mixture are boldly specified and are grouped under 4 main headings which describe their common characteristics.

Fine and Tough Turf include 3 species mixes which are best able to tolerate, respectively, Close Mowing and Heavy Wear/Trampling.

Flexi Turf covers 3 mixes which vary in the degree to which they can tolerate both these primary 'man made' stresses, whereas Tolerant Turf offers various combinations that are best able to withstand an extensive range of environmental stresses.

Mixture descriptions have been carefully revised providing key facts

so that users can choose the best mix for their individual needs simply, quickly and with confidence. Further guidance is available on the back cover where an A to Z List from Airfields - West Soils advises on mixture selection.

The use of Nurse species White Clover and/or Annual Ryegrass in association with standard or special mixtures is featured prominently, the benefits being clearly given together with Sowing Rates and management requirements.

Another innovation for 1987 is the detailed description of turfgrass cultivars used within the J range totalling 18 plus on Pages 7 and 8 with a resumé of Johnsons J Range service and complementary seed services claimed to be the most comprehensive and widely used in the UK - the only national seed house engaged in plant breeding and wild flower seed production.

Copies of the J Range brochure are available free on request from G. S. Taylor, Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston, Lincs. PE21 8AD.

APPOINTMENTS



Richard Williams, has been appointed Sales Engineer by Birds Grasscare. Richard, 31, will be based at the company's West of England Centre at Willsbridge, near Keynsham.

Richard Williams brings a wealth of experience to the position having worked as both a greenkeeper and Service Engineer within the Golfing World, before joining Birds a year ago. Acting as a mobile engineer over that period, Richard has built up a close working relationship with the customers in Gloucestershire and Gwent. Now he is looking forward to playing a wider role, advising on equipment as well as ensuring its maximum performance.

TORO'S UK GENERAL MANAGER TO HEAD BITA

Peter Roberts, General Manager at Toro Irrigation Ltd., was elected Chairman of the British Turf Irrigation Association at its recent AGM, with Robin Hume of Turf Irrigation Services Ltd. Vice-Chairman.

Roberts, one of the leading figures in the industry, with 15 years' irrigation experience throughout the world, pledged to "widen awareness of the importance of irrigation to all types of turf areas, not just golf courses; and to promote the professional approach to design and installation".

In pursuing these aims, his most immediate task will be to lead his committee - to draw up proposals for minimum standards for irrigation of all kinds of turf and landscape. The BTIA has already published minimum standards for golf course irrigation in its widely welcomed free booklet "Your Guide to the British Turf Irrigation Association", and the plans are now to extend this. It is hoped to have the enlarged Guide out by the end of 1987.

Roberts concluded the meeting by underlining his confidence and commitment to expanding the Association, now composed of 19 members actively practising in the industry, towards true recognition as the professional body in the field.

GCSAA CONVENTION IN PHOENIX

As this issue goes to press, the Editor will be on his way to Phoenix in Arizona with a party of greenkeepers from Britain to attend the week-long conference and exhibition staged by our American Greenkeeping colleagues.

Included in the party are Peter Shaw from Preston Golf Club and John Stiff Course Manager at Tracey Park, near Bristol who have been invited to Phoenix by the Jacobsen Textron company and will attend the international Jacobsen Dinner in the Phoenix Hilton. This is always a memorable occasion because of its truly world wide representation. It is to be hoped both our greenkeepers have acquired sufficient fluency in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese before leaving Heathrow on the 15 hour trip.

The March issue of *Golf Greenkeeping* will carry a full report of the conference together with the latest items of equipment and technology launched at the largest indoor exhibition of turf grass equipment in the world.

SNOW BOUND

The blizzards that swept in across the North Sea last month put the Jacobsen company at King's Lynn, completely out of operation.

General Manager, Chris Smith told *Golf Greenkeeping* the snow was so deep none of the staff could get to their Bergen Estate headquarters and the business was forced to take an extra week's holiday.

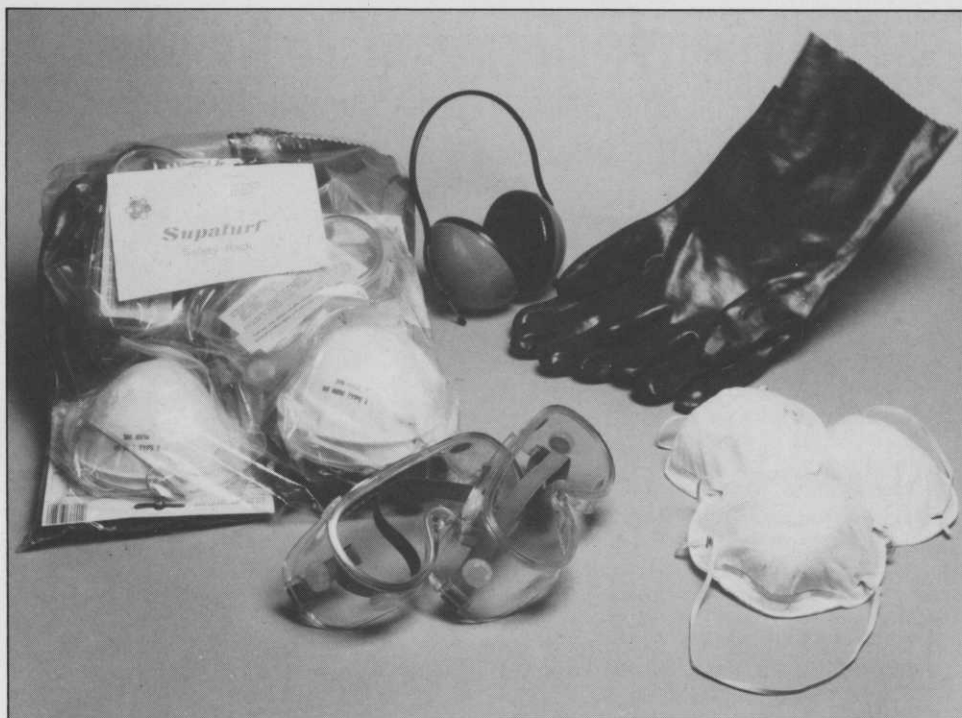
As the whole of the UK was in the grip of one of the worse winter weeks on record it is highly unlikely there was a golf course in England, Scotland or Wales open for business in any case.

If there are any greenkeepers who managed to keep the golfers moving we would be very interested in hearing from them.

TRACTOR SURVEY

As in previous years *Golf Greenkeeping* will be publishing a survey on golf course tractors in the April issue. The manufacturers have been asked to provide up to date information on their current ranges together with prices, but this year we are taking the survey a stage further by enlisting the support of Head Greenkeepers to provide the Editor with information concerning the equipment you are using on your golf course - Now.

Enclosed with this copy of the magazine is a form asking you to take a few minutes of your time to provide valuable data to make this survey meaningful. Not all copies of the journal contain the questionnaire, but readers who have been selected are asked to help the Editor by noting the information and returning as soon as possible in the stamped addressed envelope provided.



SUPATURF SAFETY PACK

With the ever increasing use of chemicals as essential tools in the management of turf and amenity landscape and the introduction of new regulations concerning the use of pesticides Supaturf Products Ltd have introduced a safety pack for the spray operator. The pack comprises of protective gloves, goggles and masks all conforming to British Safety Standards and retail at £21.50. First time purchasers will be able to obtain also a **FREE** pair of hearing protectors.

RESIGNED AND NOT RETIRED

W. H. (Bill) Heath, a Vice President of the Midlands Section has bent the Editor's ear to point out the item referring to his retirement from Supaturf Products in the October issue was inaccurate.

He said he resigned from the company to start up his own agency and consultancy for turf grass products.

Bill is now operating from his home at Laurel Cottage, Seabridge, near Newcastle under Lyme and can be contacted by telephoning 0782/627780.

NEW ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING AT YORK

Jack McMillan, the BIGGA Vice Chairman, presided over a seven member meeting of the Committee at York last month to further the progress of the amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations.

Both Walter Woods and James Kidd were snow bound in Scotland.

The main business on the agenda concerned the appointment of a full-time administrator to handle the affairs of the Association. As reported in December a consultant has been appointed to advise the Committee and he met the members to put forward recommendations.

Advertisements will now appear in a number of golf and greenkeeping publications (see page 18 - Situations Vacant) for a suitable person to fill the position, at a salary stated to be around £16,000 per annum. It was also confirmed the headquarters of the Association, as predicted, will be within the offices of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley St. Ives.

Arrangements have already been made to use the computer facilities at Bingley to record details of the existing greenkeeper and trade members of BGGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA. At the beginning of March, letters

will be sent initially to the greenkeepers and later to trade members inviting them to become members, or associates of BIGGA with a request for payment of subscriptions.

The formation of Sections or Regions was also discussed and it was agreed some flexibility was necessary and members were to be offered the opportunity to choose the area with which they wish to be associated.

Discussion also took place on a new logo and blazer badge for the Association and this matter was put into the hands of Leicester Committee member, Paddy McClaren.

Arrangements had already been made for the BGGGA National Tournament to take place from the 17th - 19th August at Verulam Golf Club at St. Albans, Hertfordshire and this will now be adopted as the venue for the 1987 BIGGA National Golf Tournament.

Walter Woods, the BIGGA Chairman told *Golf Greenkeeping* he was very pleased with the progress made to date, particularly the enthusiasm already shown by the various Sectional Committees, who by word and deed, have demonstrated their willingness to ensure the new Association succeeds.



Birds & Words

by
Fred Hawtree

While he was waiting for the golf to start in the last tournament at Sun City, one of our more stimulating golf reporters turned to the local bird life to make up an extra paragraph or two.

He started like this: 'The Bul bulls are dead spraucy, full of bunny and take diabolical liberties. Know what I mean?' And went on to explain that these thrush-like birds would even ravage the breakfast tray on his balcony unless he defended vigorously.

Well, frankly, I did not know what he meant. Unless he was making fun of the local patois, I was lost. I had heard of Bul bulls because they comprise one third of my knowledge of South Africa, on the wing; Turkey Buzzards and Lilac-breasted Rollers make up the other two-thirds. But 'spraucy'? A mixed pedigree? Perhaps:- Sprightly plus Springy times Bouncy plus Raunchy? But neither am I sure what the last word means.

Then there is the other half of the puzzle. What about a Bul bul 'full of bunny'. The turkey buzzard could handle a fair-sized rabbit but not the 7" Bul bul. Or am I being too literal again?

The same writer is both intelligible and entertaining when he is writing about golf itself although like his *confreeres* he may occasionally spice his accounts with novel terms from the leading edge of the developing golf idiom. I have learned not to wince when I read that a player 'carded' a 70' even if it causes confusion in a Yorkshire woollen mill. I also go along with the verb 'to bogey', after a certain initial resistance. Once its implications become clear, it is more precise than the old vague distinction between bogey and par. If one thinks about it, a scratch player's 18 pars will halve the match under handicap with the 24 man's 18 bogeys. That is as tidy as any calculation about handicap can ever be.

But what about 'spraucy'? Can we apply it to golfers too? Too late! Golfers do not spraucy anymore. Those with more shelf life beyond the sell-by date marked on my tin are too young to have seen Alfred Perry, professional at Leatherhead Golf Club. When Bernard Darwin described on the wireless the manner of his winning the 1935 Open, it was obvious, even without the benefit of television, that Perry *sprauced* down the 18th to take the title. Dai Rees also had a considerable spring in his gait. But there was so much less of Rees from the knees up than there was of

Perry that he hardly qualified for true sprauceness. Perry even might have been described as paunchy though not, I am sure, raunchy.

Professional golfers have not only lost their spraucy. We no longer see in the lists of their scores, those romantic parenthetical labels after their names. '(Reddish Vale)', '(Beau Desert)', '(Luffenham Heath)', '(Whittington Barracks)', - all names to conjure with and salutary reminders that even the man who scored in other worlds still played alongside humble club players when at home. Golf clubs lost something of their lustre when hotels, knitwear and air lines took their place for a time between the brackets. Now even the brackets have disappeared.

In case you remain unmoved by the nostalgic regrets up to this point, let me remind you of just one more feature that has faded from the annals of golf - perhaps the most grievous of all. When they redesigned and condensed the text of the annual 'Golfers Handbook', while it was still a hard-back, they wiped two thousand names from the records. They retained the name of the secretary and the professional at each listed club but they dropped the name of the greenkeeper into the bin. A tradition dating back to the earliest golfing annuals, deep in the 19th century, was quietly ended without a whimper, a grumble or even, as would have been appropriate, a riot.

I have since protested to Mr. Laurence Viney who edits the smart new paperback edition of this valuable publication but what would you do, honestly, if you were asked to alter two thousand alphabetical entries already neatly parcelled to fit the space allotted. BIGGA must therefore take up the running as the first test of its new clout. If two thousand greenkeepers decide that they can do without this extremely useful annual and persuade their clubs accordingly, you may find that you too are 'full of bunny' if that's what it means metaphorically.

Your monthly ration of gourmet reading is this month being prepared in France where the appetite for change in golfing matters is less obvious. I suspect it has always been thus because the terms they employ are already novel being foreign. Consider the following:-

- The tee - *Le tee*
- The green - *Le green*
- The rough - *Le rough*
- The dog-leg - *Le dog-leg*

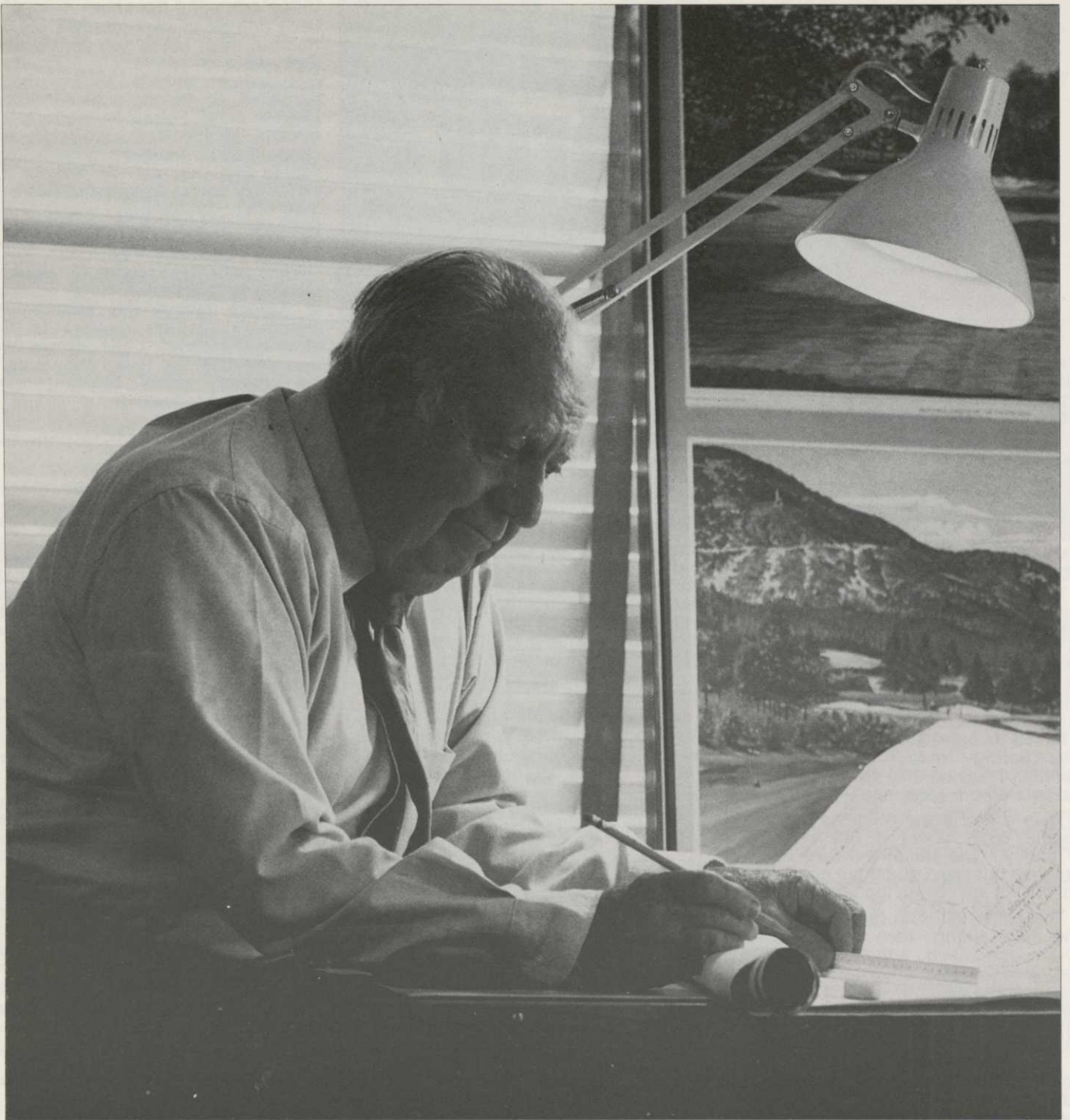
Only when it comes to the ball, *La balle*, (already a French word), does one hear the occasional frivolity such as '*Le ballon*' (balloon or football). In Britain, there were once facetious terms like sphere, orb, pill and the globe. 'Miss the globe' actually got into the glossary of golfing terms in the Badminton 'Golf' edited by Horace Hutchinson (whom you met here in past references to Westward Ho!, Pau and Biarritz). Nobody will regret their departure but there are other more honest, ancient terms which ought not to be lost.

1987 is sure to be a Conservation Year for (something) or Save the (something else) Year so we can now come to the educational content for which these articles are widely renowned. In order to see how far our golfing language has forgotten terms used a hundred years ago, I offer you a brief exercise in word power. Questions 1, 2 and 5 are obligatory for Scottish candidates. Pencils ready?

Here goes. Mark one box only against each word.

Word	Definition
1 Baffy	<input type="checkbox"/> A Describes golfers playing in snow <input type="checkbox"/> B Lofted wooden club with full brass sole plate <input type="checkbox"/> C Refreshment hut at 10th tee at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club.
2 Bisque	<input type="checkbox"/> A Stroke taken at option of receiver <input type="checkbox"/> B Metal counter used to mark position of ball <input type="checkbox"/> C Small oat-cake eaten by Scottish greenkeepers during Lent
3 Fluff	<input type="checkbox"/> A Tufted fringe of putting surface <input type="checkbox"/> B Failure to move ball significantly <input type="checkbox"/> C Used of attractive lady members usually with prefix 'little bit of'.
4 Fozzle	<input type="checkbox"/> A To remove silty material from land drains <input type="checkbox"/> B Ineffective stroke <input type="checkbox"/> C Large wading bird common in the Fens
5 Sclaff	<input type="checkbox"/> A Trim cut turf to even thickness <input type="checkbox"/> B To scrape the turf before striking the ball <input type="checkbox"/> C Convulsive exclamation after 'missing the globe'. (Horse-sclaff' when uttered by opponent).

If you have scored 5 points by marking B.A.B.B.B., congratulations!
 You are a fully qualified and spraucy greenmaster
 If not, kindly see me in my study next month.



ROBERT TRENT JONES Snr.

Winner of the 'Old Tom Morris' Award

Robert Trent Jones Snr. is the fifth person to be awarded the 'Old Tom Morris' Award by the G.C.S.A.A.

The courses designed by this talented architect represent an enormous contribution to golf and the future of the game.

Despite reaching the magical three score years and ten, this jovial bundle of energy still jets around the world designing an increasing number of golf courses, carved from such unlikely sites as desert sand in the Middle East, mountain sides in Japan and even a rubbish tip in Britain.

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Robert Trent Jones Snr.

A Maker of Memories

The golf course architect, Robert Trent Jones Snr., once described by the *New York Times* as the greatest in the world, is this year's nominee for the 'Old Tom Morris' Award from the Association of Golf Course Superintendents of America.

This rare and profound form of recognition is only given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the game of golf. Past recipients have included Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, President Gerald Ford and last year, the first lady of golf, Patty Berg.

Trent Jones, a lively rotund 80 years old still travels the world designing golf courses.

He has thirty under construction, including a second course for the King of Morocco, twenty in the planning stage and around 450 completed.

The 27 hole course at Moor Allerton nr. Leeds is his only finished course in Britain, but he is currently working on a public course carved out of a disused rubbish tip, seven miles from London Airport, which when completed will give superb views over Windsor Castle.

Jones, British born emigrated to the USA with his family when he was six. He landed his first job as a caddy at 12 and in 1927 shot the lowest amateur score in the Canadian Open.

Friends urged him to turn professional, but he had already made up his mind he was going to design golf courses, no doubt influenced by a man who had come into his life, Donald Ross already a renowned golf course architect and incidentally a student of old Tom Morris.

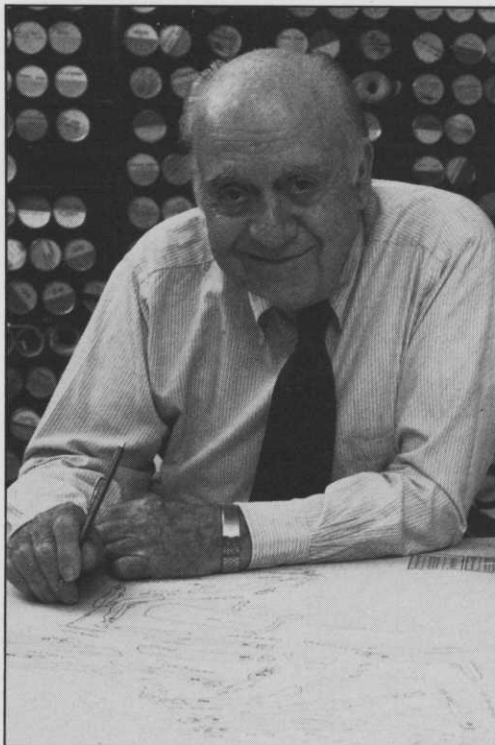
Robert Trent Jones is a firm advocate that managing a golf course is a profession. Greenkeepers must be able to diagnose disease, organise soil fertility and manage their staff to follow a prescribed programme of maintenance.

He believes the key to improved standards is better education, facilities for which are still sadly lacking in Britain, but advancing rapidly in the United States, with numerous Universities prepared to regard agronomy, as a pure science with degree courses for golf course managers.

As an architect he has a simple philosophy. 'Every hole should be a hard par, but an easy bogey!' His greens and tees are always big, water and sand his trade mark, but always placed to penalise the poor shot and at the same time add beauty to his designs.

'Every hole should be a hard par, but an easy bogey!'

He continues to log 300,000 air miles a year, briefly alighting here and there in teeming resorts and remote corners to oversee current projects.



During one recent week, he was in Texas and Florida. During the following week, he was scheduled to be in Boston, Spain and California. Between travels, he was at home in Montclair, talking nonstop about the vast new territory that he is turning into fairways and greens.

'I'll retire when they build that last bunker and put me in it'

All in all, Jones has 20 golf courses under construction around the globe and another 30 in various stages of planning. Assuming that these 50 projects reach full fruition, he will have created a total of 500.

Born in the British Isles (where incidentally, he has recently designed another golf course, in Wales), Jones moved with his family to Rochester, N.Y. At age 12, he landed his first job, as a caddy. Other duties in those younger days included cutting the greens every day with a Worthington mower. One boy pushed. Another pulled.

In an interview with Clay Loyd of Golf Course Management he said, "I didn't know anything about golf, but I used to emulate the pros who

gave exhibition matches there - British players like Henry Vardon and Ted Ray".

For 50 cents, Jones bought his first golf club in the pro shop - a 2-iron - and used it for every shot. By age 16, he set a record for the course. "In the morning, I carried my own bag and shot a 77", he recalls. "In the afternoon, my friend carried my bag, and I had a 69".

In time, he talked Cornell University into allowing him to take a hodgepodge of academic courses of his own devising. Simultaneously, he enrolled in the Rochester School of Art, and to this day his sketch pad is never far from hand.

"You can't be a great golf course architect without a knowledge of all golf shots", says Jones "You can build a golf course, but you can't build a great one unless you know the golf shots and have the feel. That's what makes my courses harder to play for the pros; I know what's a good golf shot and what's not a good golf shot - and I make it fair".

What is it like working with the man the *New York Times* has called the most famous golf course architect in the world? GCM asked one prominent GCSAA member golf course superintendent who was in from the beginning of one course's construction.

"The Jones organization allows you (the Superintendent) to have some creative input, to expand a little on what they're trying to do. They are trying to create modestly priced golf today. Jones is more inclined to work with what nature has given him, as opposed to moving massive amounts of earth. He tries to enhance what's there as opposed to drastically changing it. He's done that very well where we are".

That sounds strangely similar to the way some earlier architects designed golf courses. Among them was Old Tom Morris of Saint Andrews. He selected natural green-sites, plotted holes on these sites and arranged them into a circuit - all the while favouring the natural contour of the land. Jones' style, as he describes it, is having a "feel" for golf course design and "knowing how to take the terrain and route the golf course through it, then designing the holes according to strategy and the terrain that you find on the individual holes".

"Too many architects are trying to emulate the dunes of Scotland", says Jones. "Unfortunately, that is not easy to do - and it's frightfully expensive. What's more, they wind up with a mishmash of mounds that look like a bunch of ugly chocolate drops, and a golf course that isn't much fun for the members to play".

Next on Jones' busy agenda: He plans to write a book. "I'd like to pick my Top 100 golf courses". Jones, who started a book years ago but never completed it, plans to solicit input from professional and amateur golfers, golf news media and other appropriate sources to provide a "solid base" for his picks.

We are indebted to Golf Course Management and Director of Communications, Clay Loyd of the GCSAA for the material in this article.

RUFFORD TOP DRESS SUPPLIES ACQUIRE A SILICA SAND QUARRY.

The Lancashire coast is famous for its fine quality sand. Blackpool built its holiday reputation on the sea washed deposits, some of Britain's greatest links courses were carved out of the dunes.

Now a twenty five acre, thickly forested site near Southport adjacent to the Fylde coast recently acquired by Rufford Top Dress Supplies, part of the Rowcroft-Hambro Group has been found to hold deposits of one of Britain's finest silica top dressing sands.

The litter from thousands of years of decaying vegetation has also produced a bonus of decomposed leaf mould, ideal for mixing with the sand to produce one of the country's highest quality top dressings for sports turf surfaces, particularly suitable for golf courses.

Surveys have shown that in addition to the hundreds of thousands of tons of sand in the quarry there is also a huge deposit of valuable peat, as yet,

untouched. Analysis has shown it is regarded as an ideal planting peat as it has been formed from a mixture of bark and sedge because it too lies under the forest.

The quarry owned by the Rowcroft-Hambro (Group) Limited, based in Manchester and the new owners are now determined to break into the top dress market in the UK. They believe they have a number of very real advantages over most of their rivals in the top dress business.

Firstly, with complete control they can extract and process the product and guarantee total consistency of quality. Secondly, they also guarantee to deliver to practically every corner of Great Britain within forty-eight hours and indeed within twenty-four

hours to many areas. Lastly, considering the high quality of the product the Company believes it is priced extremely competitively.

The Company has invested heavily to bring the quality of processing up to a high standard. As both sand and soil deposits are lying under a forest, removing brambles and twigs proved difficult, but now at last this has been totally overcome. The final product is a very fine and easy to apply top dress.

As it is a single product with a single price the Company believe it would be advantageous for organisations such as manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural machinery as well as, of course, companies already involved in the marketing of top dress to act as their agents.

They plan to install a bagging plant in the coming weeks and currently deliver loads from five tonnes to twenty-five tonnes in bulk to most parts of the country by road, especially to the North-West, North-East, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cumbria which are the main areas already supplied. A fleet of contract lorries is on call to ensure delivery when the top dress is needed.

The Company has already had many glowing reports from golf clubs stating their entire satisfaction with both product and service.

It is the Company's hope that 1987 will be a significant year for them and hopefully by the year end they will have made their mark and will no longer be regarded merely as newcomers but rather as an established name.

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As the quarry has been under a forest for over one hundred years the sand is covered by a layer of soil which is in effect an accumulation of forest litter which is now a rich decomposed leafmould. When the fine sand and this soil are processed together they produce a top dress of the very highest quality.

The Company is now very well situated and totally determined to make a major impact on this market and this is surely a unique opportunity for suitably qualified agents to join us in what would undoubtedly be a long term financially rewarding joint venture.

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GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE

new ways to install piping



Installing 35mm pipe with a trenchless machine pulled by a track vehicle.



Laying drainage pipe on the parkland course at Redditch Golf Club

Wet, soggy fairways and greens are among the most frequent criticisms made by Britain's golfers. Criticisms perfectly justified, which should not arise if Green Committees only recognised the solutions are readily to hand, though at a price.

Tom O'Brien, Royal Birkdale's Head Greenkeeper had problems with standing water shortly after his appointment to the club. His comments on how to handle the job are simple and to the point. "First find your outlet. There is no point in ripping up the course and installing drainage if there is no place for the water to escape. Only by working back from either a running stream an existing pond or a fully working drainage exit can the problems be overcome".

There are courses where none of these solutions are available and it may be necessary to excavate your own pond. Not such a difficult or expensive operation with the type of mechanical equipment now available on contract hire to the greenkeeper.

Many of our courses were constructed around a hundred years ago on land rejected by the farming

community as unsuitable for either cultivation or feeding cattle. They may have installed land drains and if they had most of them have either caved in or become blocked with silt and debris. Although the golf course may have occupied a position of splendid isolation on the fringes of habitation, because of the growth of personal transport, in the form of the car, those isolated sites overlooking golf

continued on page 16

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courses became the desirable homes for those that could afford to move away from the needs of public transport.

People need water, thousands of gallons a year, most of which is poured into the drains or on to the land. Roads were built, collecting even more concentrations of rainwater much of it allowed to run on to the only open space nearby - the golf course.

No wonder our courses appear at times to be miniature versions of the lakes of Northern Ontario until by evaporation or seepage into the clay subsoil the surplus water disappears.

A number of drainage contractors now have techniques to install course drainage without the previous upheaval of deep trenches and mounds of earth that take weeks to replace.

A Land Drainage firm at Shipston-on-Stour, D. W. Clark are now specialising in golf course work using polypropylene pipe.

A small percentage of their contracting work has always been involved with the drainage of recreational areas, but as the volume of this work increased, they could see the need for a more specialised approach to suit the particular problems associated with sports field surfaces. The major problem is to disperse surface water as quickly as possible which requires drains laid as closely as economically possible, and without disturbance to the playing surface. This can be achieved by installing a drainage system at 6 metre to 10 metre spacings and cross gravel banding with 50mm wide slots at 1 metre to 2 metre spacings, but the installation of the basic drainage system is both expensive and causes major disruption.

To minimise these problems they have developed a 35mm diameter drainage pipe, which can be laid in the bottom of each gravel slot, eliminating entirely the need for

larger diameter pipes. Any collector drains can normally be kept off the playing area, for instance at the edge of the rough on Golf Fairways.

In conjunction with the 35mm pipe they have also developed two machines for installation, one machine excavates a trench to a true gradient, controlled by laser, elevates the soil directly into a trailer, lays the pipe and installs the gravel fill in one pass - this machine is ideally suited for areas where gradient is critical. Where gradient is not a problem, a simple trenchless machine is available which draws a slit through the ground and injects the pipe and gravel fill as it passes. As the majority of golf courses enjoy good slopes this system is ideally suited to the drainage of most fairways.

continued on page 20

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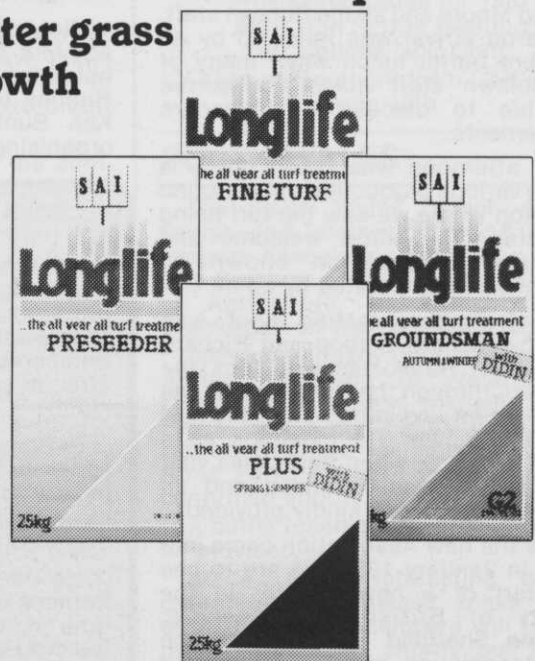
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SECTIONAL News

CLEVELAND

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

The annual trip to Scotland this year went to Ladybank and Scotsraig. The team enjoyed a fine weekend and also earned an honourable half in the match against the Scottish greenkeepers.

Our thanks to the Scots and the clubs for their courtesy and their hospitality.

The section organised transport to the Scotsturf Exhibition on the 12th November. This was well attended and apart from a few problems with the bus it all went well. Several members made the most of the two hours delay in returning home from Edinburgh and this may well become an annual event in the future.

A talk by Gills, the Massey-Ferguson dealers has been arranged for the end of January/start of February. This will be an evening lecture, details later in the newsletter.

Our National Chairman, George Malcolm gave a talk on the 15th January at Brass Castle.

SHEFFIELD

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

The winter lectures got under way with a visit by our Section to Rolawn Ltd. at Elvington near York in November (See picture Dec. issue).

The day proved to be a complete success which was due entirely to Mr. Rod Moore and all the Rolawn staff. Coffee on arrival was followed by an excellent buffet lunch when many of the Rolawn staff made themselves available to discuss greenkeepers requirements.

The afternoon was taken up by a visit to various production units around Elvington where we saw the turf being harvested. The warm welcome and excellent organisation shown by Rolawn was appreciated by us all.

Our December lecture spot was filled by Richard Bishop and Richard Patchett of Ransomes who took the members through the Ransomes range of equipment and in particular the new G.T. triple mower. The meetings, as is always the case when Ransomes visit us, was very well attended and an excellent buffet was kindly provided.

Now the new Association came into being in January 1987, we are to see the start of a new chapter in the history of British Greenkeepers. We, the Sheffield Section wish the new Association every success and hope that every member will lend their support so that greenkeepers can at last achieve the improvement in pay, conditions, and standing that we have strived for, for so many years.

MID ANGLIA

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

Our final fixture of 1986 was the Christmas Invitation at South Bedfordshire Golf Club on 11th December, and with 72 competitors playing a "TEXAS SCRAMBLE", the event proved to be most enjoyable despite the cold, wet weather.

Paul Lockett and the Green Staff had the Course in superb condition, especially so late in the year, and this helped provide some very low scoring.

The winning combination of Paul Fitzjohn, J. Droy, John Wells and D. Matthews with a score of 65 took the decanter's and momentoes. R. Hughes, J. Booth, J. Nesbitt and R. Lucas, scored 67 to take a carriage clock each, and M. Green, M. Gobey, J. Chapman and A. Burden on 68 won a figurine.

Our thanks to Mr. Joe Spinks who provided the Winner's Prizes and Mommersteeg International who presented a prize to each member of the winning team.

We are also indebted to Mr. Norman Ward, Parkers Ltd., Rigby Taylor's (South) Ltd., Ransomes Ltd., and Mr. Derek Prior for their contribution to the prize fund.

Some 86 members and guests sat down to a splendid Christmas Dinner after which the Club Captain presented the prizes and welcomed all to South Beds. The Section Chairman in reply thanked the Captain and all the Staff for the courtesies extended to us throughout the day.

We are also most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Smith for selecting and obtaining some of the prizes, Roland Hughes for a prosperous Raffle, and Ken Bunting for his hard work in organising the Competition.

ON THE MEND

Greenkeepers nationally and Mid Anglia particularly will be pleased to hear that Bob Goodwin, Head Greenkeeper at Ashridge Golf Club at Berkhamsted is on the road to recovery after a session under the surgeon's knife.

Bob was taken ill suddenly in mid-November and rushed into hospital, but we now hear he has been regaining his strength aided no doubt by the left-overs from the festive season.

He is expecting to be back in harness in mid-February, though for a time it will be light duties. Some judicious replacement of the tee markers, flag-pole painting or preparing an update inventory of the equipment should keep him occupied until the advent of Spring.

SOUTH COAST

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

I am pleased to report that members turned out in force to listen to Derek Ganning when he spoke at our November meeting. Members were very interested to hear all about the Belfry courses and Derek did not disappoint with his very interesting and enjoyable talk. Among the audience were a number of guests including Ron Whitehead, Head Greenkeeper at La Moye Golf Club, Jersey. Ron told me that his last chance to attend a Section Meeting was over ten years ago, when he was a member of the Sheffield Section.

Also making a difficult journey to attend the meeting were several of our members from the Isle of Wight. Members support for these evenings is very much appreciated by your Committee and plans are now being made for the next year's programme.

On the golfing side of the Section I can report that thirty-five members and guests took part in the Turkey Trot competition. This new event, which it is hoped will become an annual competition, is sponsored by Rigby Taylor & J. T. Lowe.

This year's venue was the Royal Winchester Golf Club and our thanks to Reg. Varlow, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for all their work in preparing the course.

Results were as follows:

1st	Peter Marsh (17)	39 points
2nd	Terry Patchin (13)	39 points
3rd	Kevin Unsworth (11)	38 points

Turkeys were also won by Phil. Wentworth, Bob Walker and Paul Drodge. Top guest's prize went to our President, Jim Fry with 35 points.

Our thanks to Nick Clarke of J. T. Lowe and Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor for arranging and sponsoring this event.

The final winter lecture will be on Wednesday, 4th March, 1987, when Mr. Yelland of Rigby Taylor will be giving a presentation not only of his firm's products but also an update on the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986. This important new legislation has implications for all users of chemicals and if you are not sure now about Certificates of Competence make a note in your diaries regarding the date.

The Section's AGM will follow Mr. Yelland's talk and this is *your* chance to put *your* point of view and hear of the Section's plans for the next twelve months.

Finally, a welcome to three new members: Kevin Cue, Petersfield G.C., Nicholas Deakin of Stanley West, A. F. West and Keith Jenman of Jenman Engineering Services.

NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

At last the course is resting, bound up in the grips of a frost, the keenest on record since Ian McAskell's birthday, the coldest recorded January weather since Queen Victoria left her throne, and certainly the coldest in our shed since we bought a thermometer four years ago. As these very words are penned the sub-zero temperature is creating elegant feathery plumes on the glass pane before my eyes, as I pause and gaze outwardly for inspiration; ah, how magical!

The big (BIGGA) bang took place, presumably on January 1st. It must have been a very controlled explosion, our knowledge to date being extremely scant, but as information is released all possible will be done to ensure you are kept up to date.

A most enjoyable evening was spent on December 11th in the company of Mr. Mike Canaway of the Sports Turf Research Institute. Mike who is Senior Research Officer at STRI spoke very ably on the work of the Institute, outlining its historical origins through to the services available and research work in progress today. This very good talk provoked some excellent discussion, the overall result being a really worthwhile evening. Thanks Mike, your services were really appreciated.

Our Moor Allerton Turkey Trot on December 16th attracted an intrepid troupe of turkeys, who, needless to say enjoyed every foot-squelching minute of it. Although quite cold and incredibly wet underfoot in places, the day held dry till about 3 p.m. allowing all players to make home, happy, but tired. That chap from Pontefract, Collins, I think his name is, ambled in with a 72, and that was after a 10 on the 1st! Colin Garnett from Garforth took the 2nd Division 1st with a creditable 73. Well done to you both and all. Thanks as always to Moor Allerton and Colin Geddis for lining us up - We are greatly obliged.

Now that we are officially international our plans have moved accordingly and thus are pleased to announce that on February 26th Ian Tomlinson, Head Greenkeeper at the Lausanne Golf Club, Switzerland will be flying in to present an account of his work there. Please make this evening a success by filling the club house.

On March 19th we have with us Mr. Ray Hawkins of May & Baker. The subject under the hammer will be chemicals: herbicides, pesticides, fungicides. Two films will be shown relating to the handling, care and usage of toxic chemicals, together with a talk on the recently introduced Food and Environmental Protection Act; and how it affects the greenkeepers. Also on the stocks is a visit to STRI - details later.

The article in the last Journal on Poa annua by Mr. Alan Gamble was first presented at the seminar "Are you

getting the best from your course?" on November 20th, 1986. This creditable paper formed part of an impressive programme of speakers and subjects and is a Northern Section copyright article*.

Good fortune to you all this New Year but don't forget - Carry on spiking!

Editor's Note:

Alan Gamble's article was supplied and printed with his full permission. Further articles would be more than welcome.

NORTH WEST

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

Seminar '87

Just a reminder for members that tickets are now going fast for March 12th at Mere Golf & Country Club. Don't be disappointed send your cheque now, made out to B.I.G.G.A. North West Section.

All Applicants should be addressed to the Secretary. We expect the seminar to be a memorable day for several reasons but not least we hope to have the first President of the B.I.G.G.A. Mr. Walter Woods with us on the day.

Golf '87

Our golf committee are new finalising an exciting programme of golf for the forthcoming season, so members are advised to get their clubs out, clean their shoes and start practising. More details will follow next month of the venues.

Germany bound

Preston Golf Club Course Manager, Peter Shaw is leaving to take up an appointment in Germany at a course close to Munich, to be a near neighbour of fellow section member Stewart Macintosh.

Peter has been a very active member of the section and was to have taken over as Chairman in May, but travelling expenses are likely to be too exorbitant on section funds!

I know members will join the committee in wishing Peter a successful career in Germany. Don't forget to leave the trophies behind Peter! We understand there are plenty to win in Bavaria.

Popular Trident representative Ron Parry sadly died just prior to Christmas after a short illness.

Formerly a very successful greenkeeper Ron always worked hard for the Association especially in recruiting new members. He will be sadly missed and our condolences are extended to his family.

Mick Bottomley is leaving Rossendale Golf Club to join Barry Gregson travelling the world for the Dave Thomas organisation. Mike's first contract looks like taking him to Pennina, Portugal.

With two stalwarts leaving active participation in the section, the way is now clear for the young pretenders to emerge into executive office.

WELSH

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

Telephone: Newport 413227

On Thursday, 11th December we held our Christmas competition for the Vitax Shield. This was well attended with a total of 30 members present.

The competition was a closely fought affair with the eventual winner on 39 points being L. Walter who took the Vitax Shield, a bottle of Whisky donated by Colin Murphy and a golf glove and balls from the prize fund.

Second was Mike Norfolk with 37 points, winning a golf umbrella donated by George Clarke from Southerndown Golf Club.

Third was Paul Long with 36 points taking a John Deere Umbrella donated by Frank Sutton Agricultural Engineers of Raglan.

Ted Thompson with 34 points won a crystal glass rose bowl donated by Rigby Taylor, in fourth place.

All other competitors received a prize donated by the members playing down to 18 points.

On behalf of our committee I would like to thank the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course and club facilities throughout the day.

We would like to thank Paul and the rest of the greenstaff for preparing the course in such excellent condition.

I would like to send my belated Christmas and New Year greetings to all our members.

With the new Association now formed I would like to thank all the members for their help in the past 3 years.

I hope that we can go from strength to strength as one Association and look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

Provisional Dates for 1987

April 16th Spring Meeting
St. Mellons Golf Club

A.G.M. at Southerndown Golf Club
June 18th

SOUTH WALES

The South Wales branch of The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association will stage a One Day Seminar at the Pencoed College of Agriculture, Nr. Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan on the 15th April 1987.

Speakers already confirmed are, Mr. Archie Patterson of Watermaton, David Jones, Course Manager at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club, Tony Horne, Grounds Manager at Cardiff Arms Park. A fourth speaker will be confirmed shortly.

A buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

An extremely interesting day is guaranteed so please make every effort to attend, members will receive more information shortly but in the meantime, further information can be obtained from:

Raymond Hunt, 9 Esplanade Avenue,
Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3YS.
Telephone: (0656) 771335.

DEVON & CORNWALL

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

On Wednesday 17th December we held the Christmas meeting at Okehampton Golf Club. In the morning some 30 members played a greensome for the P. J. Flegg Trophy. Most were lucky to complete before the rain set in for the day, and that in itself is unique for this Winter.

It was noted however that over half made their annual visit to the river by the 12th green.

The results were:-

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1st: | R. Whyman (Bude G.C.) | |
| | M. Pike (Elfordleigh G.&C.C.) | 39 pts. |
| 2nd: | P. Newcombe (Exeter G.&C.C.) | |
| | J. Mills | 37 pts. |
| 3rd: | T. Blackburn (Downes Crediton) | |
| | R. Parker | 34 pts. |

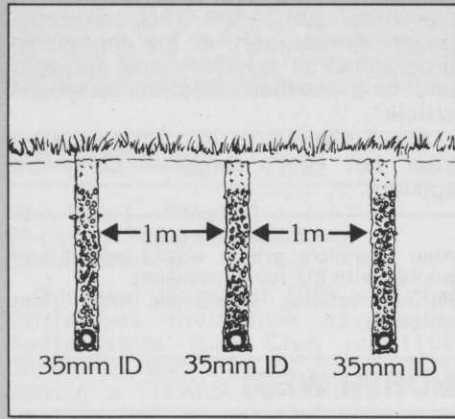
Golf was followed by a splendid Christmas dinner for a full house of 70, after which we were entertained by Hercules Britain's funniest strong man. The day ended with the raffle draw, by which time we were all full of food, good fun and Christmas spirit. It only leaves me to thank all who made this day one we will all remember. The staff at Okehampton G.C. P. J. Flegg and Iseki for the golf prizes. D. O. Hunt for the wine at the tables. All members and trade for raffle prizes, and to Browns for the Christmas hamper.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Christmas meeting (did anyone notice?) and I would like to thank Gordon Child and Brian Summers who stepped in and ran the meeting so well for me.

The annual match versus the Secretaries will be at Teignmouth G.C. on Tuesday 24th February 1987, the team will be notified by our Chairman.

One final point, if Mr. Bert Flack happens to be reading this, thank you for your Christmas card, please send me your address so I can reciprocate in the future, also you are often asked about at our meetings so any news would be appreciated.

Happy New Year to you all.



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A typical situation was encountered at Redditch Golf Course, which enjoys a very attractive undulating setting, partly in old parkland and partly woodland. At the time of construction an excellent job was made of the course layout, irrigation system and, of course, the Club House, but little or no attention was paid to under drainage. The course is constructed on Red Marl and the lack of drainage has caused serious problems with maintenance and even playing on the course in particularly wet periods. Over the years various attempts have been made to improve the situation by installing odd drains into the wettest

areas and mole ploughing complete fairways. None of these treatments was particularly successful and the mole ploughing caused an unacceptable amount of disturbance.

The Club decided to allocate a budget to drainage on an annual basis and starting with the wettest fairways, drain the whole course over a number of years. The whole course was examined, planned out and costed. It was found that the problem in the woodland areas was mainly a complete lack of soil structure coupled with very thin top soil, whereas in the old parkland the soil was in generally much better condition but the old existing drains had been broken in the construction of the course. A decision was taken to install drains with the trenchless machine at 2 metre spacings and to treat the whole of the wettest fairways within the budget available.

The first phase was installed in the early summer of 1985 during a fairly wet period; disturbance was minimal and in fact most players continued to use the fairway whilst the work was in progress. The system performed very well over the 1985-86 winter and the second phase was completed in dry conditions in 1986.

The cost of draining a fairway varies considerably depending on length and width etc. but the total cost of the two phases completed was £20,000 and eight complete fairways have been improved, so an average cost per fairway is around £2,500.

SEMINAR FOR THE NORTH-EAST

A distinguished line up of speakers has been booked for a one day seminar on Tuesday 17th March at Houghall Agriculture College by the Cleveland Section of the Greenkeepers' Association.

Jack McMillan the BGGVA Vice-Chairman and Sunningdale's Course Manager will preside over the proceedings which will commence at 9.00 a.m.

Among the speakers are Nick Bissett from Askham Bryan College, who will discuss Greenkeeper Training, Robin Hume from Turf Irrigation Services and Eddie Sims of Par 4 on Irrigation for

the Golf Course, Derek Gannon, the Belfry's Course Manager on Preparing a Championship Course and an up date on the latest Pesticide Legislation by a spokesman from the Ministry of Agriculture.

There will be an opportunity for questions to the panel at the end of the session.

The total seminar fee of only £6.00 includes, coffee, lunch and a set of notes.

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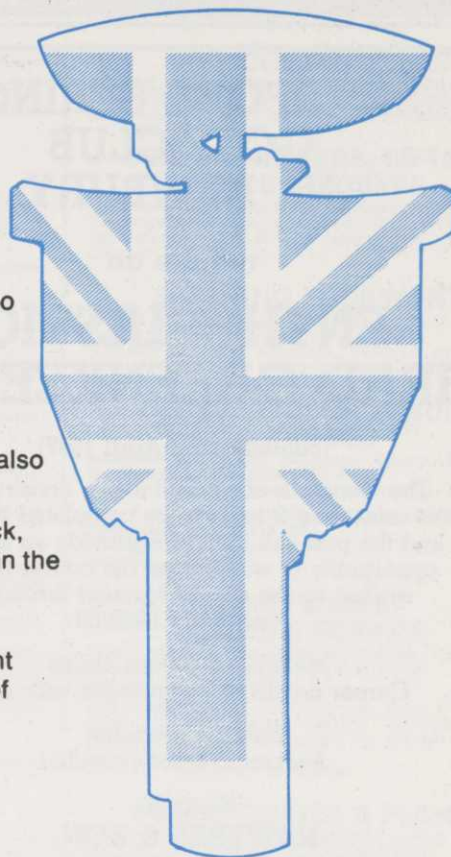
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