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May
1987

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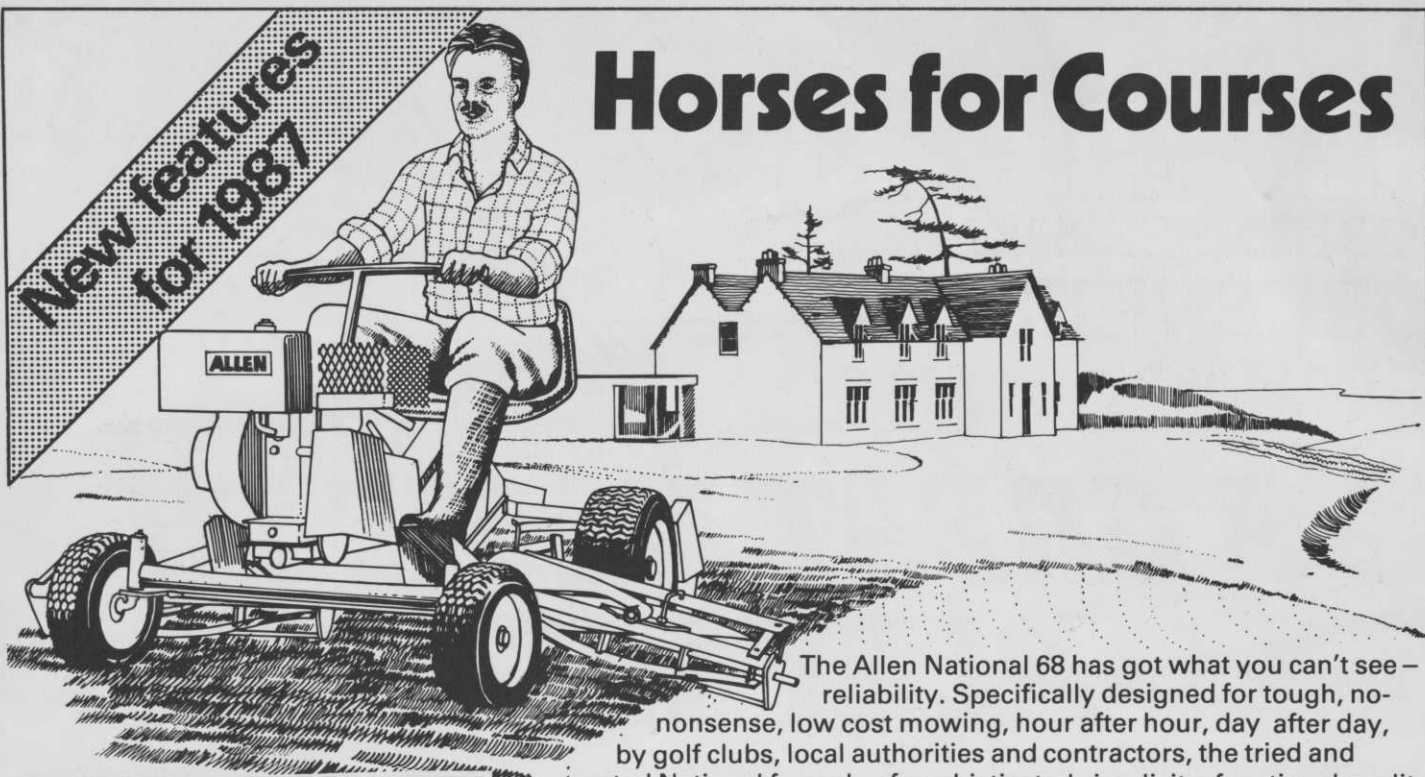
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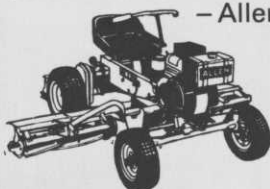
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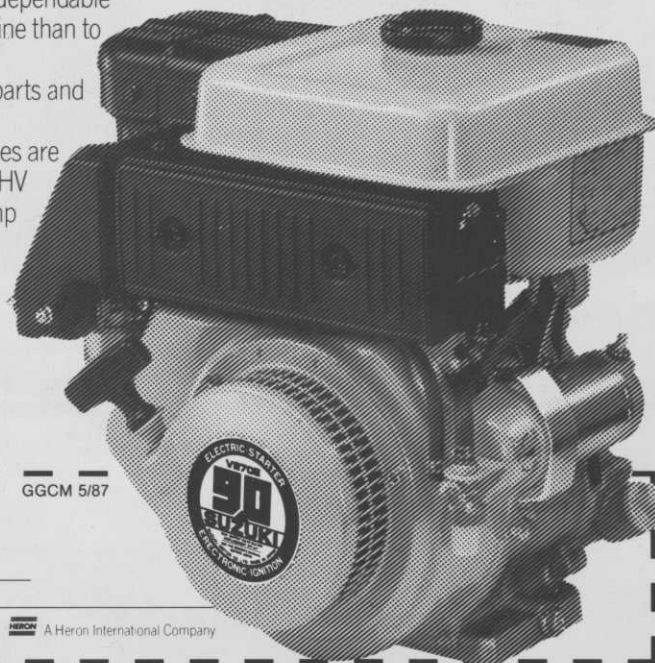
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GREENKEEPING

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

Editor & Publisher
John Lelean

Editorial Contributors:
F. W. Hawtree, Martyn Jones

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Greenside Comment...



John Lelean

the INDEPENDENT

Last month the managing board of the BIGGA considered proposals for their official magazine. The magazine publishing industry were circulated with a specification, but only two companies were prepared to submit proposals, ourselves and Fore Golf Publications Ltd.

The production of a specialist magazine with a narrow base is a hazardous financial undertaking requiring tight control and low overheads. The managing BIGGA Board in addition to specifying a minimum editorial paging also required the publisher to supply the publication without change and totally fund the packing and postage to members.

This additional cost on top of editorial and printing charges, combined with other restrictions did not make economic sense, particularly as the work of the greenkeeper is governed by the seasons and this in turn by the support of the turf grass manufacturing industry.

Our competitor was prepared to meet the requirements and fund the free distribution of his publication, amounting to around £750 a month and as a straight forward business decision this was the proposal the management committee accepted.

Golf Greenkeeping is an established journal, with a recognised standing in the industry. It circulates where golf is played throughout the world and currently has subscribers in twenty-five countries, including mainland China. Such support from our readers and advertisers cannot be lightly dismissed. We have been told there is room for more than one publication in the golf course industry, particularly a magazine completely independent, free to comment on matters of interest to greenkeepers, course management and the controlling bodies in golf.

Golf Greenkeeping, although no longer representing the Greenkeeper's Association will continue publication, though over the next few months significant changes will take place concerning content and presentation. Greater emphasis will be placed on golf course design, construction and planned maintenance whilst still retaining up-to-date product news and features on the personalities in golf.

When necessary, there will be no 'shying away' from controversial issues. As the only independent publication we will speak openly and frankly, without fear or favour, but at all times attempt to produce a balanced editorial, opening our columns to anyone who has a view to express.

For the past five years we have campaigned for three main issues on behalf of our readers.

An improved education and training scheme for greenkeepers, financed by the employers, a united association for British Greenkeepers to improve the image and status and a realistic salary scale reflecting the importance of the greenkeeping profession in the overall multi-million pound golf business. There is still a very long way to go before these three objectives are achieved, but attitudes are changing and progress has been made towards these aims.

Golf Greenkeeping will continue its support of all these worthwhile causes.

Next Month

Oulton Hall
Leeds City Council's ambitious plan
to build a 27 hole Championship
Golf Course

Collingtree Park
The £50m golf and leisure complex
for the Heart of England

Communication Systems
Keeping in touch with staff out
on the course

Contents

News Round-up	5,6,7,8
Ponds and Streams	11
New Golf Course in Dubai	12,13
Literary Review (Part III) - Fred Hawtree	14,15
Southport '87 Exhibition	17
Sectional News	18,20,22
Appointments	19,22
Trade Directory	23

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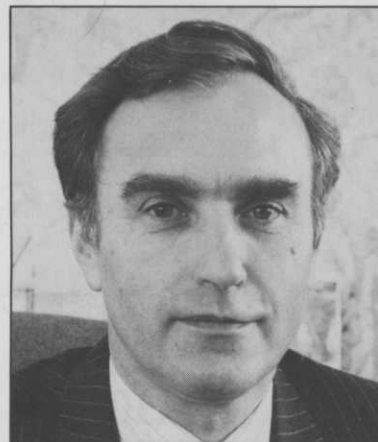
NEWS Round-up

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR RANSOMES

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the Prime Minister's recommendation that the Queen's Award for Export Achievement be conferred this year upon the Grass Machinery Division of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies PLC.

Bob Dodsworth, Chief Executive of the Ipswich company said "he was delighted that the hard work and financial investment put into expanding exports of grass machinery have been recognised in such a manner".

Over the years exports have been consistently a significant part of Ransomes Grass Machinery Division's turnover, with sales to over seventy different countries. The expansion of exports is due to the continued advances made in product development which have enabled the Division to improve its performance in well established overseas markets as well as achieving a more rapid development in the highly competitive U.S.A. market.



A delighted Bob Dodsworth to receive Queen's Award for Ransomes' Export achievements.

Accommodation Details for NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

HOTELS

Prices: Bed and Breakfast
Single Double
o/night o/night
per 1 per 2
person persons

Ardmore House , 54 Lemsford Road, St. Albans Tel: 59313 or 61411	£19.55- £31.05 en suite	£27.60- £36.60 en suite
Care Inn 29/31 Alma Road, St. Albans Tel: 67310	£9.00	£18.00
Cleveland's 35/37 Alma Road, St. Albans Tel: 30692	£20.00- £32.00 en suite	£35.00- £32.00 en suite
Glenmore House Hotel , 16 Woodstock Road, North, St. Albans Tel: 53794	£14.37	£26.45
Ellenbeigh Guest House , 33 Alma Road, St. Albans Tel: 33393	£13.50	£25.00
Haven Hotel , 234 London Road, St. Albans Tel: 40904	£36.00 (Mon-Th) £26.00 (Fri-Sun)	£50.00 (Mon-Th) £40.00 (Fri-Sun)
Lower Red Lion , 36 Fishpool Street, St. Albans Tel: 55669	£17.00- £18.00	£28.00- £36.00 (Family Room)
Melford House , 24 Woodstock Rd Nth St. Albans Tel: 53642	£19.55- £33.35 en suite	£27.60- £36.80 en suite
Noke Thistle Hotel , Watford Road, St. Albans Tel: 54252	£56.00 + (Mon-Th) £25.00 p.person B & B	£64.00 + (Mon-Th) £46.00 (Fri-Sun) B & B
Pré Hotel Redbourn Road, St. Albans Tel: 53356/55259	£35.00- £38.50	£48.00- £54.00
St. Michael's Manor, Hotel Fishpool Street, St. Albans Tel: 64444	£42.50 £38.00 (Fri-Sun)	£56.00 £46.00 (Fri-Sun)
Sopwell House Hotel Cottonmill Lane, St. Albans Tel: 64477	£45.50- £47.50 £30.00 £35.00 Fri-Sat	£59.00- £45.00 £30.00 £35.00 Fri-Sat
Town House , 20 Upper Culver Rd., St. Albans, Tel: 57898	£9.00	£18.00
White Hart Hotel , Holywell Hill, St. Albans Tel: 53624	£40.00- £48.00 (Fri-Sat) £25.00	£50.00 £55.00 (Fri-Sat) £35.00

SURROUNDING AREA

Glen Eagle Hotel , 1 Luton Road, Harpden Tel: Harpenden 60271	£40.00- £45.00 (Fri-Sat) £30.00 £35.00 + b'fast	£47.00- £52.00 (Fri-Sat) £30.00 £35.00 + b'fast
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GUEST HOUSES and PRIVATE RESIDENCIES

Mrs. Bond 'The Nook', 8 Upton Avenue, St. Albans, Tel: St. Albans 66552 One Double £16.00, One Single £7.00
Mrs. Burroughs 25 Ridgmont Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 62755 One Twin, One Single £7.50 per person
Mrs. Cavalier , 484 Hatfield Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 54895 One Twin, one Single £8.00 per person
Mrs. Cullingford , 5 Cunningham Avenue, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 57388 One Twin £15.00, One Single £10.00
Mr. Cocks , 5 Approach Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 51166 or 52471 One Twin £8.00 per person
Mrs. Dougherty , 30 Clarence Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 66881 One Twin £7.50 per person Non-smokers only
Mrs. Douglass , 2 Stanhope Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 68661 One Double, One Single £8.50 per person
Mrs. Fothergill , 4 Guernsey Court Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 56832 One Double, £7.00 Single (Continental B/f) £8.00 Single (English B/f), £12.00 Double (Continental B/f), £14.50 Double (English B/f) No Children
Mrs. Goodall , Larchwood House, 274 London Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 61611 One Twin, One Family £7.00 per person (Ladies & Married Couples only)
Mrs. Jameson , 21 Upper Lattimore Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 65498 One Twin, One Single £8.00 per person Children over 7, Non-smokers preferred
Mrs. Lew , 24 Beaconsfield Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 55540 One Single, One Double, One Twin, One Family, £12.00 per person Children over 2
Mrs. Luke , 69 Sandpit Lane, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 58444 One Twin (en suite) £18.00 (£12.00 Single)
Mrs. Manderfield , 1 The Limes (off Spencer Gate), St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 32067 One Twin £8.00 per person Non-smokers only
Mrs. Mitchell , 2 The Limes (off Spencer Gate), St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 31080 One Twin £8.00 per person Non-smokers only
Mrs. Morris , 21 Jennings Road, St. Albans Tel: St. Albans 61851 One Twin, One Family £7.50 per person

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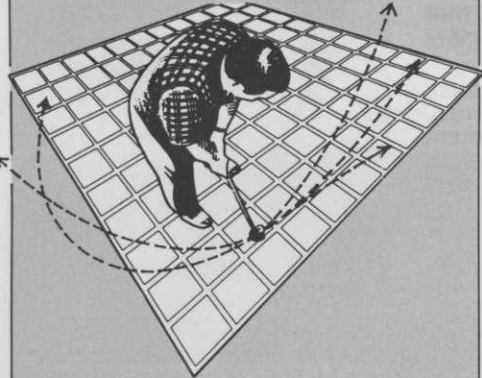
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**PAR-T-GOLF
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As a sequel to the article in the March issue on the Incredible Golf Machine, ParTgolf, the video golf game that gets you into the picture we now hear this golf simulator has been installed on the QE2.

The whole apparatus including a 12 foot by 8 foot screen on to which is projected each of the 18 holes at Pebble Beach, in sequence can fit easily into the area taken up by a squash court.

Players drive off from the tee using normal clubs and balls. Three cameras follow the shot and the picture on the screen changes to show where the ball has landed. A computer monitors the distance the ball has travelled and the yardage registers on the digital panel.

Golf has been a shipboard feature on cruise liners for many years, either with a practice net or just hitting shots off the deck into the ocean. Now with ParTgolf, QE2 passengers will have a course to play and they won't be losing their balls!



**NEW ICI PRODUCT
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 MANUAL**

A superb full colour pocket size product manual is now available from ICI Professional Products.

The booklet contains a wealth of technical information on all ICI products for the protection and control of weeds, diseases and pests in sports and amenity turfgrass, landscape and total weed control situations. A colour coded index enables you to find at a glance the information you require and full colour weed illustrations assist you in identifying the problem.

To obtain this free excellent pocket manual, contact:

Customer Services Department,
 ICI Professional Products,
 Woolmead House East,
 Woolmead Walk,
 Farnham, Surrey.
 Telephone: (0252) 724525

or any ICI Professional Products Regional Distributor.



**FLORANID RECRUITS
 NEW WEST MIDLANDS
 DISTRIBUTOR**

BASF United Kingdom Limited have appointed Hodges & Moss Limited as distributors of their Compo Floranid fertilisers in the West Midlands.

Based at Shrewsbury, the recently formed Industrial and Amenities Division of Hodges & Moss Limited has rapidly established itself as a major supplier of products and services to the amenity market in Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

The high quality range of Floranid fertilisers compliment the products and services Hodges & Moss offer to their customers and increases BASF's distribution in an important geographical area.

Floranid is suited to modern intensively managed areas which demand high, slow release content fertilisers. It is also able to resist the leaching caused by the region's relatively high rainfall.

VICTA TAKEOVER BY AUSTRALIAN GROUP

With effect from 25th March 1987, Victa (UK) Limited of Basingstoke, together with Victa Limited of Sydney, Australia, have become part of the Reil Corporation of Australia.

The companies have been acquired from Allgheny International USA and the agreement includes the purchase of Sunbeam Pacific Division of Allgheny International.

Mr. John Edmunds, Managing Director of Victa (UK) Limited said "This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop our already expanding and profitable grass machinery business in the UK and Europe. Our plans for further expansion can now be implemented and we can go forward with confidence".

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Jeffrey Perris

SENIOR ADVISORY APPOINTMENT AT STRI

Mr. Jeffrey Perris has been appointed Senior Advisory Agronomist at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Jeff joined the Institute's advisory staff in 1966 after graduating in agriculture from the University College of North Wales, Bangor. During the past 20 years he has advised on the construction and management of sports turf areas, ranging from small village bowling and cricket clubs, to larger projects.

Much of his work is undertaken in the West Country, but he also travels extensively in Western Europe. Mr. Perris will continue with his existing duties (including lecturing) and will help lead the development and the



Peter Bridgewater

SUPATURF APPOINT NEW REPRESENTATIVE

A new representative Mr. Peter Bridgewater has joined Supaturf Products Limited this month and will cover the Northern Home Counties. Customers can contact Peter on his home telephone number, (0993) 74419 or through Supaturf's Southern Branch Telephone: Iver Heath (0895) 832626.

extension of the Institute's advisory service, which is in ever increasing demand.

Married with two children, he is an enthusiastic sportsman, having played representative rugby in his younger days. For relaxation, he likes to walk in the nearby Yorkshire Dales and takes a keen interest in local affairs.



Guy Longbottom

EXPANSION AT ROLAWN

Rolawn Ltd, Europe's largest turf growers, have announced further expansion plans with the opening of two distribution depots and new appointments.

GUY LONGBOTTOM, 29, Rolawn's Unit Manager at Fenton Barns, East Lothian has been appointed Scottish Area Manager to oversee and develop Rolawn's operations north of the border. This includes a new depot situated by the M8 in the centre of Glasgow which is managed by newcomer to the company IAIN CAMPBELL.

KATHRYN ARTER, 22, Sales Administrator from Head Office at Elvington, York has moved to Leeds to run a depot on the Cross Green Industrial Estate serving South and West Yorkshire.

HA 1384



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NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL

The National Turfgrass Council is holding its 4th Residential Seminar at the Post House Hotel, Rye Hill, Allesley, Coventry, on 21-22 October 1987. The theme is "Water Management for turfgrasses".

Whatever your turf or amenity grass area, water is essential to it. You may have too much water, and simply want to get it away by the most effective modern drainage techniques. Your turf may sometimes be short of water, and you want to manage water features on your golf course or country park safely and effectively. All these aspects will be covered in the Seminar, by a first-class team of 13 speakers.

The Seminar promises to follow the successful tradition of the NTC's first three Conferences, in bringing together members of all parts of the turfgrass industry for up-to-date technical information in the conference hall and valuable discussion outside it.

The Post House Hotel, Allesley, is noted for its fine facilities, and located near Coventry in the centre of the country and easily reached by the motorway network. The cost is £96, for those booking in good time. This covers all expenses (accommodation, meals and Seminar proceedings).

Details from:

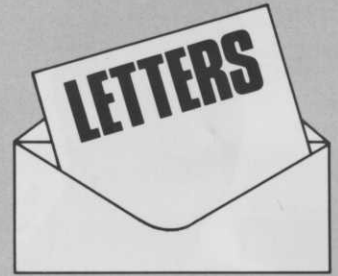
The Secretary, NTC,
3 Ferrands Park Way,
Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ

Last June we published an article on the use of Grass Carp as a means of clearing weed from golf course ponds. This fish a native of China is also known as the White Amur, and has been the subject of considerable research in Britain by various river boards and the Weed Research Division at Oxford before funding dried up and the section was closed down.

A letter has now been received from Bill Whiting a fish breeder in Arkansas which challenges some of the research conducted in this country.

We are publishing Bill's letter, because of the amount of interest this article created at the time and the correspondence it generated.

...Editor.



Dear John,

Much enjoyed the article on the Amur fish you published, and it was especially nice to realize that your Govt., experts are no better informed than ours.

Basically the information they gave you is correct except items such as *filamentous algae is their more favored diet*. The main reason we have our fish in most of the golf course lakes. There is virtually no submersed weed that they don't like and even cattails and lilies will one day be controlled when the more preferential vegetation is in short supply.

I think that who ever told you the fish was poisonous was really misinformed as they are bringing top dollar on the market and a great number of our catfish farmers are putting more ponds into Amur production than ever. The fish is rated only second to the Red Snapper in food tests at a University in Georgia.

At least your information was pretty good, but we are hearing from some 'experts' that the fish don't eat algae and many of the submergent type vegetation, that we raise our fish on.

I was under the impression that only in this country could a man become a 'Govt., expert' and still not have enough sense to "pound sand in a rat hole". We opened up in several more states this year so now we have just about won the battle of common sense, although every so often, up pops an ignoramous.

I have shown your magazine about and it was much appreciated, you have done a fine job with it. I am taking intense golf lessons, and will one day be ready to come over to your country, look up some lost relatives and if you will give me two strokes per hole, take all ties, we'll play for lunch.

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Public Authority Contractor Student Other

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Daconil *turf* contains chlorothalonil. Read the label before you buy. Use pesticides safely.

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NEW FOR 87

THE Irrigation Controller

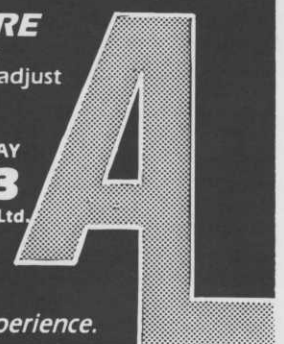
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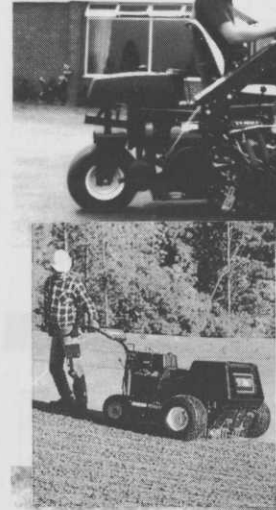
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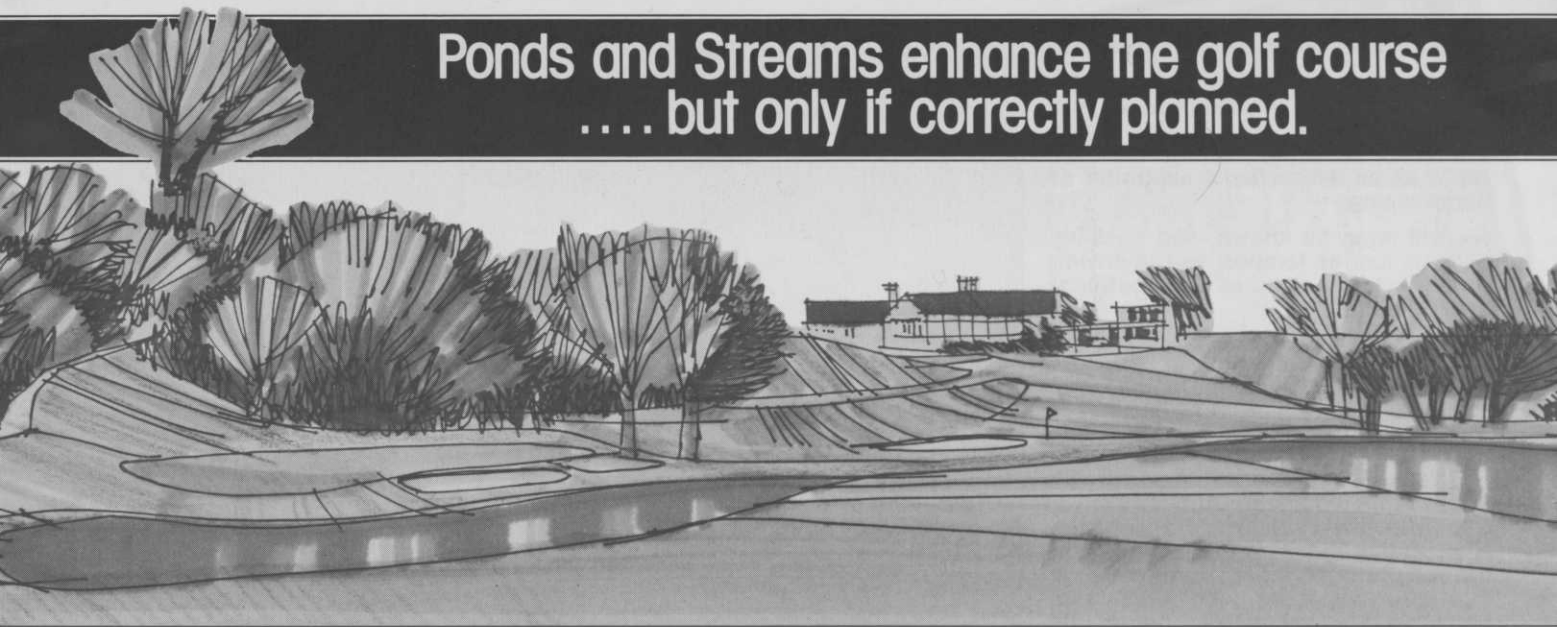
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Ponds and Streams enhance the golf course but only if correctly planned.



Ponds, brooks, becks and streams, set with thought into the golfing landscape can do nothing but add to the pleasure of the course. That is, with the proviso they are correctly maintained and do not become an overgrown aquatic paradise for weeds and a breeding ground for midges and mosquitoes.

Perhaps in this country insufficient use is made of water as a hazard, both for the drive from the tee and as a thought provoking obstacle for the approach shot to the green. Many of our existing ponds and streams are there because they have always been there, part of the natural landscape, serving as drainage areas for the land in the days when it was used as meadow pasture or for arable crops.

In some instances the golf course architect has made use of the water course, positioning the tee in such a way it will penalise the bad shot. Similarly ponds have been opened out or re-sited to act as a hazard to the left or right of the green.

Most British inland courses were developed in the early 1900's, often with little money and sadly not a great deal of thought. Golf course architecture was in its infancy mainly dominated by the professional golfer who doubled as greenkeeper. The truly great courses have been in existence for far longer, constructed on land the farming fraternity regarded as useless for agricultural purposes, but with little reconstruction became the links and heathland courses now names to conjure with around the world. Men like James Braid, Willie Park and J. H. Taylor, true professionals, also had the natural ability and flair to design monuments to their name.

The true architects often with engineering and botanical backgrounds like Dr. Alister Mackenzie, Fred Hawtree, Sen, Donald Ross, Harry Colt, Wetherhead and Simpson, emerged when golf was increasing in such popularity players, wanted a course on their own doorstep so they could indulge in their passion every weekend, rather than travel the breadth of the country to the Fylde coast, West Country or the Scottish links.

Such men were in tremendous demand and no doubt unable to cope with the calls on their services, with the result it is not too difficult to find a golf course where one wonders just what was in the mind of the designer when it was laid out. There are some which could be regarded as a blatant affront to the Health & Safety regulations, where safety helmets and substantial insurance cover should be a pre-requisite before venturing on to the first tee.

Like a redoubtable claret a golf course should mature with age. Because of their initial construction it is often necessary to make improvements, adjustments and replacements. It must not be forgotten either, the game has matured as well, with clubs manufactured to hit the ball further and balls themselves bearing little resemblance to the feathery, gutta percha and india rubber balls.

Streams criss-crossing the fairways in the 1930's providing a hazard for the poor second shot are now often in range from the tee. There are also the reconstructions introduced by green committees to lengthen the course, though why such obeisance is paid to the pagan god of standard scratch is a mystery, unless the club 'big hitters' are trying to ensure the majority of members cannot make the par fours in two and by so doing, monopolise all the club's silver.

Modern excavating equipment makes light work of a pond construction with the vast range of diggers, bulldozers and bucket attachments available. Greenstaff can easily treat small projects as a winter direct labour operation. More ambitious schemes should be contracted out under the supervision of the Head Greenkeeper. It is after all his responsibility for maintaining the water area once the contractors have left.

Minimum maintenance should be the prime consideration. Where at all possible the pond should have an inlet and an outlet ensuring a fresh supply of oxygenated water provides movement. It need not be fast flowing, just sufficient to prevent stagnation. If this is not possible the pond should have sufficient depth towards the centre to prevent the growth of algae and support aquatic plant growth and fish. Plants produce their own oxygen, snails, fish and amphibians such as newts and frogs live off the weed creating another of life's cycles.

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His Highness Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashid, Minister of Defence in the government of the United Arab Emirates, is known throughout the world as an enthusiastic supporter of horse racing.

He will soon be known, and possibly become just as famous, as the driving force behind another international sport - golf.

A mere thirty minutes car journey from the centre of the prosperous city of Dubai, a golf course is nearing completion among the sandhills of this Arab State.

With a climate to equate with the desert region of Arizona and California, similar engineering principles to those employed in the arid parts of the USA, have transformed the shifting sands into 170 acres of lush grassland. Fairways are submerged below the dunes, winding their way to the greens in a similar fashion, to the golf holes on a Scottish links.

The Emirates Golf Club has developed from an idea so bold and wildly exciting its concept reads more like fiction than fact.

As we know, Sheik Mohammed is an ardent fan of thoroughbred racing. One afternoon he was watching the latest video tapes flown out from England, with his resident engineer, Stephen Trutch an ex-pat. from Leeds and incidentally a seven handicap member of the Headingley club. During a break in the racing an item was screened discussing the development of a new golf course in Britain. "That's what we want out here", said Steve with a degree of flippancy, no doubt thinking of the rolling fairways of Moortown and Alwoodley with a touch of nostalgia. "Tell me more", said Sheik Mohammed winding the tape back for a replay.

A Karl Litten, Gary Player design

The site was carefully chosen with the Bedouin and camel pastures in mind. Course architect Karl Litten in association with Gary Player was engaged to design the golf course and now, with just months to its public opening, lush green fairways lined with palms, ornamental shrubs and giant cacti are materialising like a mirage emerging from the shimmering sands.

The techniques for growing grass in the desert is new, highly practicable, but vastly expensive. The secret is water - millions of gallons. In Palm Springs and Desert Highlands, Arizona, the water comes from the huge dams or re-cycled sewage. In Dubai there is no such source, but they do have access to the sparkling blue waters of the Arabian Gulf, and it just so happens the de-salination plant is in the ownership of Sheik Mohammed's family.

Two huge lakes were constructed to hold four and six million gallons of water respectively. The lakes built within the 18 hole course layout are an integral part of the overall irrigation system vital to the growth of grass on the greens and fairways. Japanese carp and perch are already thriving.

Green grows the desert - C



With summer temperatures well over 100 degrees F. the Toro sprinkler system will need to be pumping around 1.25 million gallons a day to prevent the grass from scorching to a burnt matting. Until the imported species of Bermuda grass, Tifton 328 for the fairways and Tifton 419 for the greens, become fully established, the watering will be round the clock, but later in the year the pattern will change to night watering only.

A total of 740 sprinklers have been installed, many of them, the big 690mm model from Toro used in a two speed mode. These give a half circle slow - half normal speed, to ensure optimum watering of selected areas. As a comparison, most UK courses watering green tees and fairways would use 250 sprinkler heads. At the Emirates Golf Course there are over three times as many!

The construction of the greens is a tale in itself. The area has been excavated out to a depth of around two feet, a layer of gravel is put down to six inches and covered by a sheet of Terram. Irrigation water can pass through, but weeds, stones and tree roots cannot pass upwards through the material.

On top to a depth of about 16 inches has been laid a mixture of medium granule sand mixed with clay and imported soil. Water will hold in the clay sand mix feeding the roots despite the excessive evaporation at surface level.

A championship golf course in the Middle East has already excited a number of players on the European Tour. Tommy Horton, Chairman of the Tour Committee, has visited this project and despite an unprecedented cloud burst which curtailed his inspection, has expressed considerable interest in the Emirates Golf Club as a possible venue for a slot in the opening events of the European Tour.

As far as membership is concerned, few Arabs play golf, but there are plenty of ex.pats. who do, taking their little piece of artificial turf to tee up the ball on tees and fairways, before putting out on a 'green' constructed from oil bound sand.

Membership fees of Dh. 5,000 to Dh. 10,000 (Dh6 to the £) have been dismissed by Stephen Trutch as speculation. He said he knew rumours have been bandied about Dubai but fees and membership structures have not yet been decided. He added that a decision will be made when people are able to see what they will be getting for their money.

Certainly no expense has been spared to produce this all grass eighteen hole oasis, the first in the Arabian Gulf.

The Daily Telegraph recently carried an advertisement for a general manager at the Emirates Golf Club offering a salary package amounting to a remarkable £50,000 a year. Small feed perhaps when one considers the Dubai links have already cost over £10 million to build.



An artist's plan of the 170 acres golf course. Lakes at either end of the site can supply up to 1.25 million gallons of water to irrigate fairways, tees and greens.

Brick paths wind their way through the links style fairways, for the canopied golf carts.

A luxurious club house designed to look like an enormous Bedouin tent overlooks the eighteenth green.

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Literary Review and Educational Supplement

(Part III)

...by Fred Hawtree



In the hectic and competitive world of journalism, no magazine can afford to remain silent when it nobbles not just one, but two outstanding 'exclusives' in consecutive months. British Golf Greenkeeping is no exception.

First, there was the account in The Times (8th April) of Prince Charles breaking camp in the Kalahari with Sir Laurens van der Post. I need not remind you that with uncanny foresight, we printed our virtually identical account one month before it happened. The only thing not foreseen, as it turned out, was the helicopter. But, really, who on earth could have foreseen that?

Next we promised to give you the facts about education. This threat threw into disarray not only the teachers' unions, but local authorities, parents, universities, polytechnics and the Ministry of Education itself. Before we entered the ring, things were reasonably placid. The occasional strike, public enquiry, or caning did not ruffle the surface and the kiddies went about their lessons with no more than the customary reluctance. Now let me pass you just a few recent pickings from the Telegraph, Times and the Sundays. All Hell, as they sometimes say, has broken loose.

Daily Telegraph 30 March...

'Grammar school fight-back by parents opens'

The National Grammar School Association was formed in Birmingham to re-open the Comprehensives versus Grammar Schools debate.

'Teachers brand new GCSE a flop'

Education standards for 14 and 15-year-olds have fallen since last year.

Daily Telegraph 31 March...

'Goodbye to the school sixth form'

Falling rolls have raised fundamental questions over the education of our 16 to 19-year-olds.

Margot Norman assesses the value of tertiary colleges.

Parents and teachers, she concluded, 'should go into the colleges and make a nuisance of themselves'.

Well, really!

£120m plan by Labour for the under-5s"

'Last year only 23% of three and four-year-olds had access to a nursery place'

Were the other 77% picketing?

The very next Sunday, John Marabon, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, was regretting the phasing out of Latin. "If ILEA replaces sixth forms with 'tertiary' colleges, Latin will probably

cease to be taught at any maintained school in London... As Latin becomes a rarity, the methods and aims of teaching English began to change... Children were encouraged to express themselves in whatever way caught their fancy... This new way of teaching English now predominates. Its disastrous effects are everywhere to be seen in the semi-literacy of a growing proportion of the population and in the many school-leavers who do not even have a notion of what it would be to speak their own language well".

One week later, another character was writing 'Let Latin remain dead!'

And by the middle of April, Lord Lloyd of Hampstead was writing to The Times on behalf of Greek, which he said was more important to our heritage and had suffered more than Latin.

We cannot go into the Ministerial proposal that head teachers should be given control of their own budgets because they themselves are already predicting chaos this year because of the new imposed pay structure for teachers. At the same time they may have to take on board a national curriculum for the new 16-plus GCSE. So they will be fairly busy.

Meanwhile the new Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, Mr. John Banham, launched his five year strategy, one prong of which is renewed concentration on education. "Half our young people leave full-time education with no O-level passes or CSE equivalents. On this basis we cannot be expected to compete..." He likes the scheme in Boston, Massachusetts, where employers guarantee a job for every child leaving school with the requisite qualifications and attendance record.

Perhaps it's all the parents' fault. Angela Ince, housewife and journalist writing in The Times, tells us that a recent Gallup poll, after surveying 600 parents, revealed that the majority wanted to help more with homework but felt they lacked the knowledge. But what is it all for?, she asks. "Take mathematics. Only mathematicians really need it; the rest of us are adequately equipped if we can add, subtract, multiply and divide... I couldn't tell you what logarithms are for. Or what they are, yet I spent months of my young life gazing doomily at them". She thinks a lot of children lose interest because they suspect that a lot of what they are taught will never be useful to them afterwards. They start with the natural urge to learn because if they don't learn they don't survive but "round about the age of seven come to regard the most exciting and instinctive thing you can do as a dead bore".

Now you can see my difficulty. I promised you full details of how to educate your apprentices. I have already held you on tenterhooks for

two months waiting for them. Now we are in trouble. The whole system of education is changing. My advice will be out of date before you have read it. Even if you receive any apprentices, it looks as though they will not be able to tell you the past participle of a single Latin verb, let alone Greek. In any case they will arrive dead bored and if they do show any signs of life, it will only be due to relief at their escape from the strife, muddle, tedium and mayhem of the classroom.

So how exactly is Greenkeeper of the Year, 1987 to set about grooming his youngsters for stardom from 2000 AD onwards? Do not expect or offer any straight answers. After all we have been educated ourselves and therefore presumably have got it wrong already. But can we come up with any clues on how to find our way out of the labyrinth without appealing to the experts. I think that the brains which maintained our golf courses in spite of Green Committees, agronomists, salesmen, Captains and, it sometimes has to be said, golf course architects will be able to cope with the new situation in their own way. But there is no harm in going on about it a bit longer.

At least there is a broader base of support than formerly. Training courses in allied subjects, specialised courses in greenkeeping itself, a Greenkeeper Training Committee, City & Guilds examinations, seminars, lectures, conferences and a Sports Turf Research Institute. This started two-week training courses early in its career when it was just The Board of Greenkeeping Research. I still have a certificate dated 1938 to prove it. In those days we took an examination on the last day. One test involved commenting on samples of Lead Arsenate passed round to us in brown paper bags. We studied them carefully and could really find nothing wrong but made up a few bogus answers like 'A bit lumpy!', 'Rather too fine!', 'Stale!', which we passed to R. B. Dawson, the Director, who was himself examining us. With a certain relish, he told us that the proper answer was that a poison like Lead Arsenate should never be passed round in paper bags.

It took about ten seconds for the penny to drop then we proceeded to take him apart for breaking the law in front of us innocents and ignoring the risks to our health and thus the future of greenkeeping. When the protests subsided, he explained that we were wrong again. The substance in the paper bags was flour.

They would call it pupil participation or interactive teaching these days. Call it what you like, he drove the point home more forcefully than by reading out the Poisons Regulations.

A big bonus for the intensive courses at Bingley now is the comprehensive summary of lectures given to each student at the end of his week. This is a reference book he can use for the rest of his life.

On a wider basis, certain City & Guilds examinations are now green-keeping-oriented. The Greenkeeper Training Committee, according to its Administrator, Nick Bissett, wants to improve the quality of training available (*Who doesn't!*) and has approved five colleges in England and Wales which offer City & Guilds Greenkeeping Courses at Phase II level and which can be monitored. He does not say whether the monitoring is to be done by results or inspection. Their new Log Book for trainees contains some 'revolutionary' ideas like attendance at Green Committee Meetings.

"Generally", he says, "one still hears the old argument about training being done for other Clubs".

The approved colleges are at York, Nantwich, Winchester, Lewes and Bridgewater, so they are not chosen on the basis of geographical convenience, as some think. There is nothing east of London or in the Midlands and there are some notable omissions which have first class facilities and proven track records in this field. All very rum!

Scotland, as the home of golf, naturally took the lead in training many years ago, not only in Glasgow, but at the Elmwood College at Cupar in Fife where Mike Taylor is the Head of Department.

The great difficulties of arranging off-course training have always been demand and distance. To provide a demand, too wide an area has to contribute. This may at last be overcome by the centre for the land-based Open Tech. initiative at the Capel Manor Institute, Bullsmoor Lane, Waltham Cross. They are offering several 'distant learning' packages for people working on turfgrass to follow at home. I have seen one on irrigation which I suspect was written by George Shiels. If the rest are as good, they will go a long way to fill a real need, though all the courses are not designed specifically for greenkeepers. Even so, they are planning a package on understanding golf course design which sounds specific enough. It emphasises the need for all trainees to play and understand the game in all its aspects if they are to do their job with the interest, intelligence, and satisfaction which only comes with adequate knowledge.

Outside aids are extremely valuable if the young men can be got to them but there is still much to do on the job. Regular, prepared training periods, pupil interaction, the carrot rather than the stick, patience or persuasion rather than take it or leave it, these will all come naturally to a head greenkeeper, he must certainly agree. But, just to complete the picture, can we help him? I think so.

Ransomes used to make occasional films which served to illustrate general aspects of maintenance or landscape. Perhaps they still do. But now that video cameras and cassettes are commonplace there is no reason why this type of education could not be more specialised and exploited for greenkeeper training.

Bingley could video-tape standard practices; St. Andrews, Wentworth or Sunningdale or, indeed, Sludgecome-on-Ouse, my favourite track, could show us their daily routine or special preparations for championships. Every substantial firm in the country could detail how to use its products-mowers; fertilizers; fungicides; pesticides; aeration; irrigation; mowing tees, fairways, rough, banks, greens; repairs. There is no end to it. And it could all come out of their advertising budget. Academic training like the recognition of plants and trees could also be enhanced in this way. A typical training session might be 20 minutes video, 20 minutes demonstration, 20 minutes with the trainee trying it himself. And finally, even if they slip in the occasional relaxation of a recorded Masters or Open, that would do no harm. That's all part of the game. And the game's the thing!

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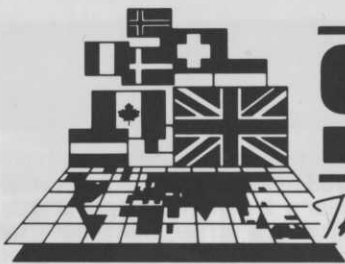
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SOUTHPORT '87

The spring event for the Sports and Leisure Industry!

The Make or Break Year

The two day turf grass exhibition on Tuesday and Wednesday 12-13th May is aimed at both the amenity turf industry and those concerned with golf course management.

The event, which is organised in association with the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, will be showing such items as tractors, trucks and trailers; turf-care machinery and equipment; seeds, trees and shrubs; fertilisers and chemicals; outdoor furniture; and other goods and services of interest to the greenkeeping professionals.

An important section of the exhibition - manned by the Institute's Education Committee - will be presenting information on the various practical weekend training courses which take place throughout the UK. They will also explain the opportunities which exist for young men and women interested in entering a career in sports ground management and maintenance. This sector will be supported by a number of leading colleges, including Cheshire College of Agriculture, Evesham College of Further Education, Hampshire College of Agriculture, Hertfordshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Welsh College of Horticulture and Merrist Wood Agricultural College. Also taking part will be the Sports Turf Research Institute from Bingley, West Yorkshire.

The Southport Show is primarily a manufacturers and main distributors exhibition as opposed to the regionally organised October event at Ribby Hall supported by northern dealers.

Last May, despite an opening day registering thirteen hours of sunshine a biting wind from the Irish sea kept many potential visitors away. Attendance figures for the two days reached less than 3,000, a fraction of the visitors to Windsor and this must have been a disappointment not only to the exhibitors but to the organisers.

Although the exhibition has already been booked for 1988 and 1989, this year, those who pay out large sums to take stand space plus the additional cost of transporting equipment great distances will be looking very critically at the results.

There has been an under-current for some years from distributors who believe there are too many shows around the country. They fully realise they need to be seen, demonstrate the product and be available for discussion, but the time and effort needed to present a display to the standards necessary is not always cost effective.

From the provisional exhibitors list already circulated only 50 stands have been booked, though more may come in at the last moment. This is half of last year's total.

Iseki Tractors, Ford, Massey Ferguson, Yanmar and Kubota have not indicated an appearance. In this field the tractor manufacturers would seem to have agreed to give Southport a miss with the exception of Sisis whose Hydrotrack could be classed loosely as a tractor power unit. Ransomes, Toro and Lloyds will exhibit their grass cutting machines as will Brouwer through their main distributor Turfland, but Jacobsen are very noticeable by their omission from the official catalogue.

The loG moved into the exhibition business many years ago and to date as far as golf courses are concerned have a total monopoly.

The newly formed B.I.G.G.A. have already considered their role as far as shows are concerned and cast envious eyes across the Atlantic at the highly successful G.C.S.A.A. three day indoor event. It may take a year or two before this could become a viable event, but a Greenkeeper's Golf Course Show perhaps linked to a week long educational session is certainly a practical proposition for the early 1990's.

The Exhibition will be open from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th May and Wednesday 13th May, 1987. Admission is by catalogue (£1.50) and an extensive car parking facility will be available at £1.00.

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SECTIONAL News

CLEVELAND

Hon. Sec: A. Naisbitt,
5 Martindale Road,
Darlington, Co. Durham
Telephone: Darlington 489297

The Cleveland section's A.G.M. was held at Billingham Golf Club and in common with the winter lectures it was again poorly attended.

The Chairman expressed his concern over the support of members for section meetings, so if any member feels that there is anything we are not doing or should be doing we would be pleased to know.

Our executive rep. Mr. G. Malcolm, we were pleased to hear, has been asked to sit on the Board of Management to represent the new Association. Our congratulations go to him with good wishes for his endeavours.

There were two committee vacancies to fill, the nominations were received and both were elected un-opposed, again congratulations to Kevin Heslop and Ian Holoran.

We can only request that members support our section or otherwise the small hardcore, who work hard to keep the Cleveland section active, will become more disillusioned and the section will be in some jeopardy.

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain,
7 Elm Close,
Underwood Estate,
Llanmartin, Newport,
Gwent NP5 2HT
Telephone: Newport 413227

On Thursday, 16th April we held our spring meeting at St. Mellon's G.C. where we were treated to some glorious weather and entertaining golf.

The competition was a very close fought affair with a mere half a point dividing first, second and third.

The Cardiff Cup was won by Huw Morgan with a score of 107.

Second was Ted Thompson with a score of 107½.

Third was Lawrence Walter with a score of 108.

The best gross score of the day was 121 by Mike Jones.

Our congratulations must go to Neil Carter and his workforce for preparing the course in such good condition so early in the year.

Our thanks also to the steward and stewardess for providing us with excellent meals and service.

A Special Note:

Would all the greenkeeper's in the South Wales region who want the greenkeeper's to be a substantial force make every effort to attend the meeting at Southerndown G.C. on Thursday, June 18th to form an Association Branch to be proud of. Do not leave it to the same old faces to work for everyone else.

You now have the chance to do something positive.

NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam,
12 Moorfield Avenue, Menston,
W. Yorks.
Telephone: (0943) 72008

On the evening of February 26th we were taken into the mountains - without the sound of music. The hills were alive, but with more of a buzzing - the sound of industrious greenkeeping endeavour, generated by our colleague and ex 'pat' Mr. Ian Tomlinson. The exact location was Lausanne, Switzerland and with the aid of slides and Ian's narrative all 70 or so present took pleasure in sharing with Ian his work and experiences.

Our thanks to Ian whose pleasant style and excellent photographs, held a large audience fascinated.

In January we had the pleasure of the company of Mr. Richard Patchett and colleagues who showed a video of the new Ransomes diesel hydraulic G.T. triplex machine.

The second supporting item featured the new Jacobsen Turf Groomer attachment. Yet another example of inventive engineering being put to good use.

Our thanks to our speakers for their time and presentations. We also, as always pay our grateful respects to Moor Allerton Golf Club for making us so very welcome. It is much appreciated.

This year we plan to re-value our trophies as they come in at the various tournaments throughout the season. Please ensure that all cups, etc. are returned by the appropriate date.

This year's Roses Match was to have been played at Saddleworth but in view of last year's 2-match robbery it has been decided to arrive at a score by either (A) Gallup Poll, (B) Proxy, or (C) Secret Ballot. In case this decision is reversed carry on as normal.

Will all members please note our Annual General Meeting will take place at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, 3rd June at 7.30 p.m. following the Spring Tournament. This will consist of a nine hole morning stableford and an 18 hole afternoon medal.

President's Day on June 16th will be hosted by Horsforth Golf Club, offering a fine test of golfing ability with the added advantage of rubbing shoulders with international air passengers. Details of later events will be notified in due course.

Our annual seminar scheduled for November 1987 should provide something for most enquiring minds.

An impressive array of speakers including F. W. Hawtree, Martin Jones, Dr. K. Mellaby and R. Rust will present papers entitled The Architect, shaper of the golfer's habitat; Ecological aspects of greenkeeping; Pesticides: A necessary evil; and Meteorology: the cause of our weather systems and environmental implications. There will also be items on Woodland Management and the Greenkeeper in his role as a conservationist. The seminar will be presented under the all embracing title, 'The Greenkeeper and his Environment.'

Will those intending to play in the sectional tournaments please contact: Roy Spencer prior to the event. His address is:-

Elmslac, Low Moorside,
New Farnley, LEEDS.
Tel: (0532) 793167

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

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Donald Harradine:

CH 6987, Caslano, Switzerland Telephone: 091-711561

Fred Hawtree,
Martin Hawtree:

Hawtree & Son, 5 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1TQ
Telephone: 0993-811976

Donald Steel:

Cotton Pennink Steel & Partners, Miller House, Corporation Street,
Rugby, Warwick CV21 2DW Telephone: 0788-77191

Tom McAuley:

38 Moira Drive, Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland BT20 4RW Telephone: 0247-465953

Peter Harradine:

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West Norfolk is an area of outstanding natural beauty which combines attractive countryside and coastal areas with small towns and villages. Housing is reasonably priced, while temporary accommodation is likely to be available. Disturbance and lodging allowances are payable in appropriate cases.

Candidates should submit curriculum vitae including the names and addresses of two referees to:

The Personnel Officer,
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn,
Norfolk PE30 1EX

CLOSING DATE: 27th MAY, 1987

SOUTH COAST

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

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

Venue: Lee-On-The-Solent Golf Club
Date: Thursday, 16th July, 1987
Cost per person: £7.00

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

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

Mr. Joe Burdett,
948 Castle Lane East,
Bournemouth,
Dorset BH7 6SP
Telephone number: (0202) 483017

Please note that the closing date will be Friday, 3rd July, 1987.

A number of new and old members rejoining the Section are listed below and a warm welcome is extended to them all:-

J. E. Parish	Bridport and West Dorset G.C.
P. Chiverton	
C. Tozer	
R. C. Tanguay	Southampton Municipal G.C.
A. Devlin	
N. Bungay	Dunwood Manor G.C. Ltd.
G. Bungay	
J. Hyde	
K. Daly	Salisbury and South Wilts G.C.
T. Patchin	Hockley G.C., Winchester

MID-ANGLIA

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

The Annual General Meeting for the Mid-Anglia Section will be held at Arkley Golf Club on Wednesday, 17th June, 1987 at 7.00 p.m.

The 18 hole Stableford for the Rigby Taylor Trophy will be played during the afternoon from 1.45 p.m., followed by evening meal.

Please let Ken Bunting have your name and handicap if you wish to play and would like a meal.

The Summer Tournament will be held over 36 holes at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club on Monday, 13th July.

The Entry Fee is £12.00 and should be sent, together with handicap to Ken Bunting, 1 Greenkeeper's Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club, Berkhamsted, HP4 1LU, by 2nd July prompt.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

You will have seen in last month's Magazine that the Annual Tournament will be held at Verulam Golf Club on 17-18-19th August this year.

Let's have a good entry from Section Members, who can look forward to an enjoyable meeting.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please do not send your Subs to Les Wakerell but hold on to them for the time being. Further details very soon.

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: Steve Wood,
37 Holford Avenue,
Bescot, Walsall,
Telephone: (0922) 645491

On Wednesday, March 11th a committee meeting was held at Walsall Golf Club to discuss the amalgamation of S.I.G.G.A., E.I.G.G.A. and the B.G.G.A. where it was agreed that this amalgamation will not alter the way in which our section functions. If however anything changes you will be informed. Notification of subscriptions will be sent out by the National Administrator when appointed.

Our last winter lecture took place at Telford Golf and Country Club on March 20th. We would like to thank Southern Tree Surgeons for a most informative talk given at such short notice due to illness of our first speaker. Also our thanks go out to Telford Golf and Country Club for allowing us the use of their facilities, where we were made most welcome.

At Edgbaston County Cricket ground on Tuesday, March 24th, Rigby Taylor held a field day. On display were the full range of products on sale to the turf industry. It was good to see such a good turn out of people, who all must thank Rigby Taylor for such warm hospitality.

Burrows G.C. also held a demonstration at Trentham Park Golf Club on Tuesday, March 31st. Machines on demonstration were from the Dabro International and Ransomes ranges. After the demonstration all present were treated to a first class buffet in the clubhouse, thanks again to the Burrows G.M. for a splendid day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

(See Tournament Diary)

Anyone interested in playing in matches please contact Tony Jesson, Cheslyn Hay 414935.

B.I.G.G.A. NEW HANDICAPS

S. BLAKE	24
A. CUTLER	12
D. DORRELL	16
J. GUEST	20
T. JONES	11
A. KITE	15
T. MORRIS	7
P. MYTTON	24
R. PILSBURY	20
L. RUSHTON	21

SHEFFIELD

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

As the winter lecture season draws to a close we reflected on three varied and interesting meetings all well supported by our members and trade friends.

Our February talk was given by Jack Wheeler - Watermaton's Service Manager. Armed with a table full of equipment he demonstrated the workings and maintenance of various items including sprinklers, valves and controllers. Mr. Wheelers' presentation was practical and workmanlike encompassing design, installation and fault finding and we thank Watermaton for their support.

At very short notice, Jonathan Harmer from Farmura Environmental Products Ltd. stepped in to talk to us on March 4th about the benefits of Farmuras' increased range of organic products. With the help of slides we were treated to detailed description of the Farmura range, including the seaweed and iron products. Once again thank you Mr. Harmer for helping us out with a very interesting talk.

The weatherman fooled us all on April 1st by forecasting rain all day and getting it right! However it did not detract from the enjoyment of the sections visit to the S.T.R.I. at Bingley. On arrival at the Institute, the 23 members who attended enjoyed the excellent buffet lunch before going out onto the trial grounds with Mr. Chris Peel and his associates. It was nice to hear that the R&A are financing more research into the problems encountered on golf courses. More research is vital if we are to counter the threat of increased wear and compaction caused by ever more play. The grass seed plots and fertiliser trials provoked many questions as did the section on turf diseases. We thank Mr. Peel and his colleagues for arranging a very informative day.

The first of the season's golf events will be our President's Day which will take place at Stocksbridge Golf Club at a date to be announced by our Competition Secretary.

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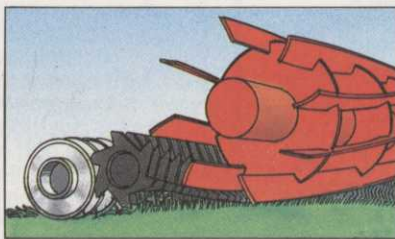


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LONDON

*Adminstrator: Norman Exley,
London Branch, No. 1 The Farmhouse,
Hill Lane, Northwood, Middlesex.
Telephone: Northwood 24737*

Firstly it is my pleasure to welcome to the Branch two new members, George Whitby the head greenkeeper of West Herts. Golf Club and Derek Lithgow the head greenkeeper of Bushey Hall Golf Club, we hope their appointments will be long and happy.

Following the April committee meeting Derek Mason resigned for personal reasons and I would like to thank him most sincerely for all his help over the past three years.

I am pleased to welcome Brian Andersen of Pinner onto the Committee and I am sure he will be a great asset to the Branch.

At the same meeting I was appointed as your temporary Administrator until the next A.G.M. This was because David Low relinquished the position due to pressure of work and family commitments. I feel sure that all members would like to pay tribute to David for the tremendous work he has done for the Branch since its foundation four years ago. He was a great ambassador and his administrative qualities will be sorely missed. However he will continue to serve as a committee member.

The summer league is now well under way and I hope you enjoy the competition as much as I do.

You will have been informed about the Committee's decision to hold regular monthly meetings of the Branch, and its inaugural meeting at the 'Capriole Room', Park Farm, Northwood on June 5th at 7.30 p.m. This offers members a great oppor-

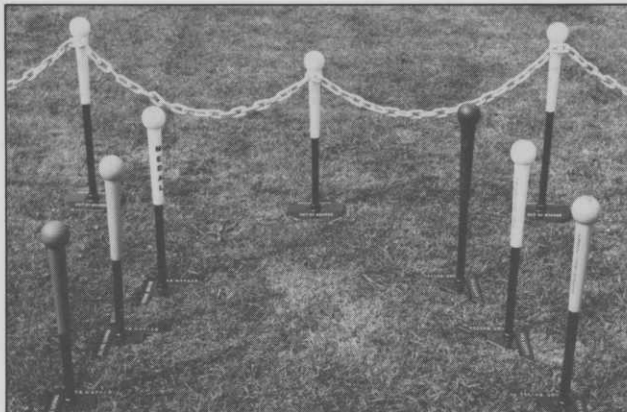
tunity to meet socially with their families. I sincerely hope we have a large turn-out for this function.

I look forward also to meeting the members at Bushey Squash and Golf Club at 4.00 p.m. on June 18th for an evening match followed by a pie and a pint at the very reasonable cost of £4 per head. Please notify me by 5th June if you wish to play.

The Autumn Meeting will be held at North Middlesex Golf Club, Frier Barnet Lane, N.20 on Tuesday, 6th October at 8.30 a.m.

We would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of George Pearce who died on Sunday, April 5th, aged 79.

He retired in 1981 after 45 years of loyal service on the greenkeeping staff of Muswell Hill Golf Club.



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**Worthing Borough
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