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and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association

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The Association is affiliated to the
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Office: 3 Twelve Acre Close, Great Bookham, Surrey.
Telephone: Bookham (0372) 54999

Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance is published 12 times a
year by Ellison Publications for the British Golf Greenkeepers'
Association. Printed at The Enfield Printing Co Ltd, 2 Centenary Estate,
Jeffreys Road, Brimsdown, Enfield, Middlesex.

Subscription £12.50 a year, single copies £1.00.

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See page 4 for details
about the BGGGA at the
Open.

EDITOR'S NEWS REVIEW

Fendress expand output

The associate company of Banks Horticultural Products, Fen Turf Dressings Ltd who manufacturer golf green top dressing Fendress, have recently acquired additional premises in Northamptonshire to considerably increase production capacity.

The popular demand for this humus based material particularly at peak seasonal times, has made it essential to increase output. The original premises in Norfolk are retained to manufacture Fendress for the South and East, whilst the new depot produces for the North and West.

The new arrangement enables the customer to obtain the best possible price and allows the company to offer Fendress to all parts of the UK mainland.

Fendress will now also be obtainable in pre-packs, thus providing a satisfactory solution to those golf clubs who do not possess storage sheds or are not able to handle bulk material.

Twose turf conditioner

Golf Landscapes Ltd who are specialist constructors of golf courses and playing fields, recently held a demonstration of their new turf conditioning machine.

The equipment that is tractor mounted, consists of a set of seven vibrating mini-mole plough blades at nine inch centres, approximately 12 ins long, which are hydraulically driven by the tractor.

The machine is drawn through the ground at slow speed, penetrating some 6 ins - 8 ins below the surface.

BGGA at the Open

For the first time the BGGA will be on show at the British Open. The stand will be for promotional purposes but all greenkeepers who will be at Sandwich are invited to visit stand No 30 which is located in the greenkeeping section of the main exhibition area.

All members are welcome to use the stand as a meeting point or resting place. Also too we hope the many friends of the BGGA will come along and visit the stand.

We will be promoting the Association with the theme of the stand being the work of the greenkeeper. On display will be photographs of machinery at work on British golf courses as well as recent copies of our official magazine Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance.

The editor of the magazine will be in attendance during the whole of the Open Championship and looks forward to meeting as many of the members as possible.

The mole blades have the effect of shattering the immediate subsurface layers of topsoil and subsoil, so relieving compaction caused by play. The vibratory action, however, means a minimum of disruption to

the playing surface. Additionally, the passage of the blades has the effect of improving surface drainage and aeration to the rootzone.

The treatment is applicable to all sports surfaces likely to become compacted by intensive play; golf courses; particularly around greens and tees and approaches.

Golf Landscapes are offering the service to local authorities and golf clubs throughout the Home Counties as an end of season treatment either by itself or in conjunction with an oversowing programme by contraction.

The service, costing in the region of £100-£180 per acre, is now operational and enquiries should be sent to the Company at Ashwells Road, Bentley, Brentwood, Essex. 0277 73720.

Watermation seminars

I have been taken to task over my recent comment about E.A. Yates holding the first ever educational seminars on irrigation. Watermation tell me they have been holding regular training courses for greenkeepers and groundsmen since 1975 and so far over 500 people have attended these Watermation sponsored events. (Every club or local authority using Watermation systems are invited to send their personnel to attend these seminars.

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Ransomes sign up Victa

To further increase their share of the professional grass machinery market in Australia, Ransomes have appointed Victa Ltd. as sole distributors.

With their own distribution depots in all the main centres, Victa has 65 per cent of the 300,000 domestic



rotary mowers sold annually in Australia. Ransomes is confident that this extensive distribution network,

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TORO TOPICS

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Not only that, we have a network of Toro distributors strategically located throughout the UK to assist you. Their installation crews and field engineers are also trained by us. In addition a comprehensive design and estimating service is available to help you up-date existing irrigation systems, extend them or plan new installations.

For the full facts, write for a free copy of our illustrated 12-page turf irrigation booklet.

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TORO

More awareness for diesel

The Chancellor's massive Budget Day increases in the cost of petrol has given an unexpected boost to Lincolnshire based Nickerson Turf-master Ltd.

The company, which manufactures professional grass cutting machinery, has received numerous orders and enquiries about the benefits of its diesel-engined Turf-master 84. Operating on untaxed agricultural diesel fuel it now offers considerable cost benefits to

GRASS CLIPPINGS+++LEAVES

++BOTTLES+++PINE NEEDLES ++

+++CANS+++PAPER+++THATCH++

AND CREEPING WEEDS+++

...Just to name a few of the things you need to deal with. Nickerson Turfmaster have the complete answer.

TURFMASTER SWEEPERS—Like the 25" self-propelled powered brush sweeper pictured here—picks up everything from pine needles to aeration cores and lightly scarifies prior to mowing. And it comes with easy-to-empty 5 cu. ft. non-rust hopper. 36" and 51" powered, trailed models are also available.

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economy-conscious ground staff.

As an example, with a full tank of three and a half gallons, and travelling and cutting in second gear at seven mph, the diesel-engined Turfmaster 84 will cover 38 miles and cut 32 acres. Using the same equation the petrol version will travel 20 miles in a straight line and cut only 17 acres.

'Naturally, the equation varies depending on conditions, but diesel engines are more efficient (and more consistent regardless of load) in metering fuel,' explained Graham Templeton, Nickerson Turfmaster's operational manager. 'With untaxed agricultural diesel fuel at around 78 pence a gallon and petrol at around £1.58 a gallon, the immense savings are obvious.'

Running costs per hour for the Turfmaster 84 diesel average 50 pence (the petrol version averages £1.94). Taking a low usage of 500 hours in a season, the saving with diesel is £720 compared with petrol (diesel at £250 and petrol at £970). Considering that the average season, particularly for a busy contractor, is 1,200 hours, the cost savings are even more attractive.

Apart from substantially reduced running costs, diesel engines offer many more advantages. Provided normal preventative maintenance is carried out, a diesel engine will operate for about twice as long (for 3,000 to 5,000 hours) as its petrol equivalent, before a major overhaul is necessary. It has a number of design advantages over the petrol engine and fewer moving parts, resulting in less maintenance and less expensive downtime.

The diesel engine has no troublesome electrics, although there is an efficient electric starter. There are none of the familiar problems of petrol engines, such as poor starting due to condensation on the leads in damp weather.

Although some diesel engines can be more noisy than petrol versions, the new generation 710 Lombardini engine now fitted to the Turfmaster 84 is said to have considerably reduced the difference.

Among its many features the 710 is accurately governed which makes it impossible to exceed 3,000 rpm and thereby cause engine damage. And, unusually for a diesel engine, its fuel injection system is entirely self-bleeding. Put simply, if the engine runs out of fuel all the operator has to do is fill it up—the same as a petrol engine. For conservation-conscious grounds staff, the 710 is ecological too! Exhaust fumes from the engine are completely non-toxic.

READER'S Letters

Comparisons against US costs

When comparisons are made of UK versus USA golfing standards, the financial implications appropriate to the two countries do not in my view receive sufficient emphasis.

The following statistics arising from a survey of 100 clubs in 1979 published in the January edition of 'Grounds Maintenance (USA)' are therefore enlightening:

Survey of 100 clubs (2097 holes)

	Annual cost (\$ per hole)
Payroll expenses	6,048
Payroll taxes and employees benefits	1,087
Course supplies and contracts	1,674
Repairs to equipment and buildings	1,140
Caddy, committee and golf shop expenses	1,901*
Miscellaneous expenses	1,163
	13,013
Medium cost of maintenance per hole excluding*	11,112 (£4,940)
18 hole course	200,020 (£88,900)

The survey was undertaken by Harris, Kerr, Forster and Co, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

It would indeed be interesting to observe how these 1979 figures compare with a Budget 'sample' in the UK, or to learn the observations of those who complain about the rising cost of golf. I believe UK golfers (of which I am one) grossly underestimate the value they derive from their membership.

I imagine the comments of many greenkeepers would also be enlightening!

R C Jennings
Managing Director
Chipman Ltd, Horsham, Sussex.

Homes for US visitors

During the last few years, several of our members, including myself, have visited the United States and Canada. I know that without exception we all received fantastic hospitality, playing golf, visiting other courses and staying in the homes of our opposite numbers. This way, not only is the cost of a holiday cut dramatically, but you get to meet the real people and their families. You are also able to see behind the scenes at top golf clubs.

We will be hosts to the Americans and Canadians at our International Tournament and Symposium in September 1982, so wouldn't it be a nice gesture if we invited them to stay a few days, in our homes?

As most of them will be coming for about two weeks, there is little doubt that they will be looking forward to travelling around Great Britain after the Tournament and Symposium, to take a look at a few of our famous landmarks. So if we can compile a list of greenkeepers who would be willing to offer accommodation for a day or so, it will help our friends to plan their trip.

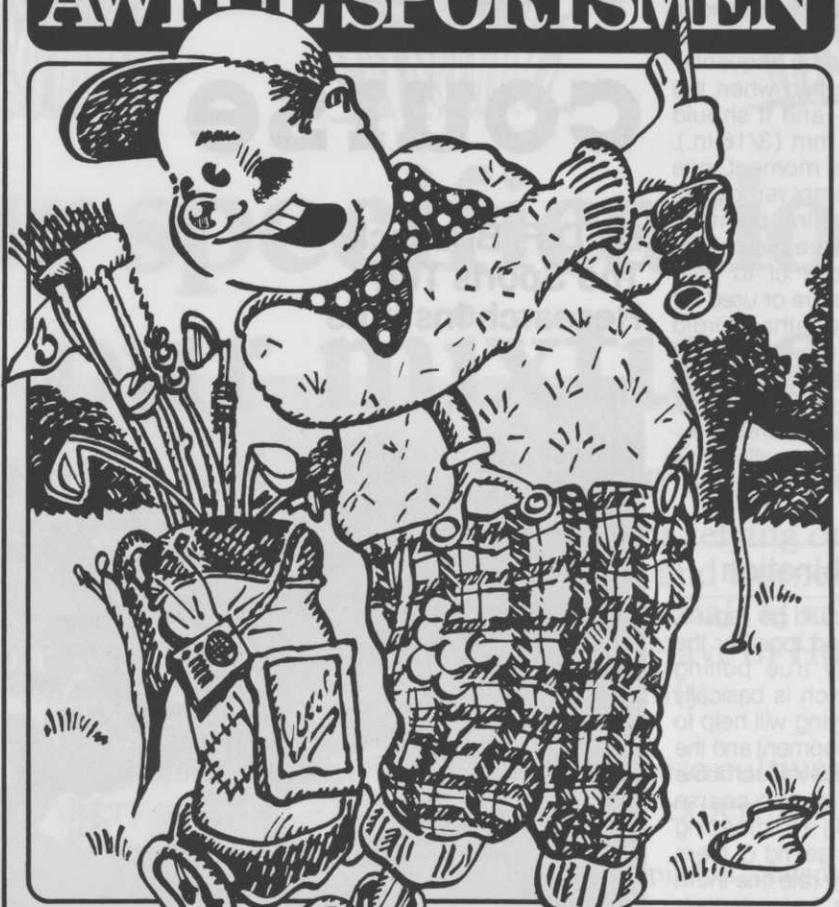
A few greenkeepers have already indicated that they would be pleased to help. If you are interested, will you please give me a ring, or better still write to me and give me the dates that you are available, around September 1982. These dates can then be passed on to our visitors.

Derek Gould
The Bungalow
Langley Park Golf Club
Beckenham
Kent
Tel: 01-658 4791

Change of address

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March, April and May can often be difficult months for golf greens, really good growing weather in March so often being tantalizingly slow to arrive. By June and July the greens are usually at their best; the weather is warm enough for the grass to be growing vigorously, and water in dry periods is rarely a limiting factor since golf courses without irrigation systems for the greens are very few and far between these days. Mowing of sufficient intensity to cope with the summer growth is the primary job. Mowing techniques were discussed in some detail in a previous article of this series; suffice it to repeat here that mowing should be frequent—once a day is not too often when the grass is growing well—and it should never be closer than 5 mm (3/16 in.). To side-track here for a moment, one can put in a plea for prompt removal of grass clippings to a central point for rotting down before they are put into the compost heap, disposed of to club members as garden manure or used for any other purpose. The rather sordid half-decomposed pile of mowings which is to be seen sometimes in the rough behind the green is not only an eyesore, but sometimes a source of extreme exasperation to the less expert golfer if his ball buries itself into it.

Summer is a testing time on the course

By D.F. Boocock
The Sports Turf
Research Institute

A necessary combination

Allied to the mowing should go regular fairly gentle scarifying, and together the two will produce really true putting surfaces on a green which is basically good. The regular scarifying will help to prevent undue fibre development and the mowing and scarifying will even combine to check the spread of certain coarse grasses like Yorkshire fog and creeping soft-grass; if they do not get rid of them altogether, they will at any rate fine them down to such an extent that only their lighter colour betrays them, and they will have no adverse effect on the putting surface.

Scarifying reels

Frequent light scarifying is very easy now on the steadily increasing number of courses which use the triple greens mowers made by Ransomes, Toro or Jacobsen, for which scarifying accessories are available. Scarifying once every 7-10 days is quite a feasible proposition during periods of good growth. Good growing conditions for any sort of scarifying are always essential; when grass has been scarified, particularly with vertical cutting machinery, and then mown, it needs to recover quickly from what amounts really to a 'short top and sides'!

Self-propelled machines of the vertical cutting type are also perfectly suitable for routine light scarifying, but as they do not cover the ground as quickly as triple greens mowers with scarifying reels the self-propelled machines can not as a rule be used quite so often. They come into their own, however, in the autumn, for



the deeper scarification for which the triple reels were not designed.

Another type of light scarifying (though not based on the vertical cutting principle) can be provided by steel rakes and by brushes. When these are fitted on the 'turf maintenance systems' (the Hydromain and the Cushman) they are a quite effective means for frequent light scarifying or grooming. Rakes and combs are also available for fitting between front roller and cutting cylinder of various models of mower and provide an additional form of light scarifying which can be quite useful.

Aeration

Spiking of greens should continue all the year round as far as is practicable, summer included, but in dry weather it is best to stop spiking, or at any rate to

use solid rather than slitting tines since there is less risk of drying out round the top of the hole made by the tine. Brown dry patches are apt to appear on greens at this time of year, and once the soil dries out it is not easy to re-wet, especially if the turf is rather fibrous. Close solid forking of the brown patches is worthwhile, and in some cases it helps to follow up forking by watering on a solution of a suitable wetting agent. Normal irrigation of the whole green should then follow.

Spreading wear

Golf greens come under considerable pressure during a fine summer, with much play on them. It is very necessary, therefore, to spread the wear as widely as possible and to use as much of the area of the green for pin positions as the