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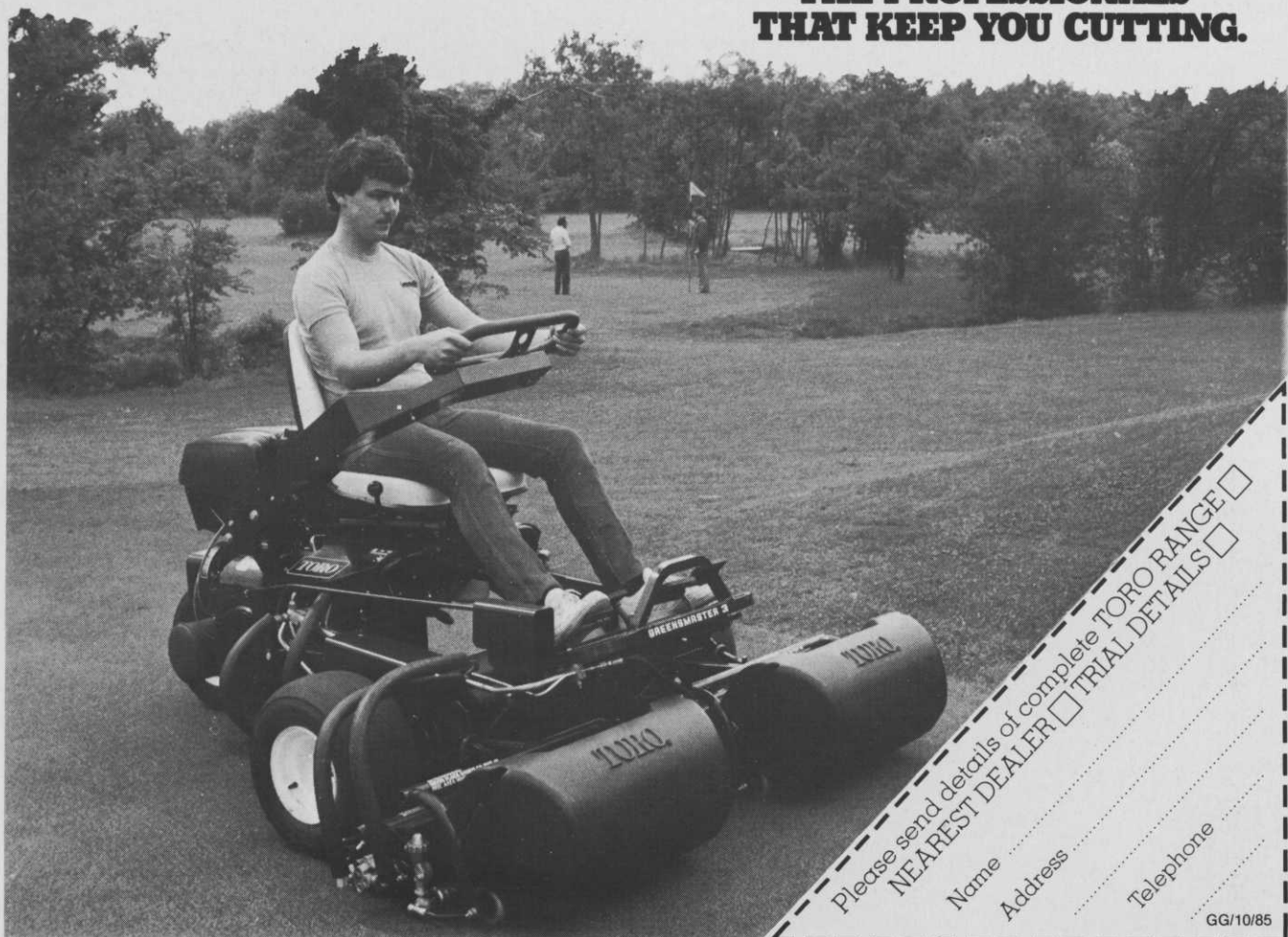


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GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers' Association
Founded 1912

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The Association is affiliated to the
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Front Page:

The 18th green at the Belfry, one of the most famous holes in Britain was brought to perfection, helped by the mixtures of Steetley Vitax.



John Lelean

GREENSIDE COMMENT

COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY OPERATION

The regular readers of this magazine will notice certain changes to the type faces and sizes in this month's issue as well as a widening of the column widths with the inclusion of a centre rule. All designed to make the journal more attractive to the eye and easier to read. It is the publisher's constant aim to produce an informative, well produced publication for the members of the BGGA, with a balanced content of news about your own section activities, current products and services obtainable from manufacturers and dealers, news about people, particularly those who come into direct contact with our readers and articles about greenkeeping, both the practical aspects and the theory. In this respect we are fortunate to have two of the best informed writers on greenkeeping matters in Martyn Jones and F. W. Hawtree, contributing on a regular basis.

The turf care trade also supply regular information on product development, appointments and promotions of their staff, as well as the technical and economic reasons why their equipment is better than those of their competitors.

Section secretaries also make their regular contribution of news and events in their areas, mostly typed in double spacing, we are pleased to say! But if there is a part of the monthly journal that can be said to be missing it is the constant stream of 'Letters to the Editor'.

Whenever the editor meets members at golf tournaments, shows or seminars he is asked to lend an ear to an important issue. Why not put these issues in writing? If you have some important points which require airing then your magazine is the place to do it. There is bound to be someone who will agree and certain to be someone who doesn't.

As long as letters contain a name and address the editor will respect the writer's wish for it not to be printed or given to anyone else. So come on you shy and bashful greenkeepers - Let's be hearing from you about the current topics of the month.

Our most sincere congratulations must be extended to Derek Ganning and his greenkeeping team at the Belfry. All who visited the course have commented on its superb definition, the immaculate greens and fairways and above all the transformation that has been achieved in such a short time.

The only touch of sadness was the death of George Herrington on the Tuesday prior to the start of the Ryder Cup. George prepared the course at Lindrick when the British Team last won the cup in 1957 and many said he made a significant contribution to the Team's success by producing a British course in pristine condition.

Derek Ganning prepared an American style course to equal anything they can produce in the States.

Who will ever forget that eagle putt from Sam Torrance on the 18th to clinch victory? Never has the atmosphere been so electric on a golf course.

NEXT MONTH:

F. W. Hawtree visits the Pau

Martyn Jones explores more on American Greenkeeping Methods

The International Tournament Report

P.G.A. Proposals

Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance is published by: Wharfedale Publications Limited, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4SR. Telephone: (0937) 63181. Published ten times per year. Copies for non-members by subscription. £10.00 a year. Single Copies £1.50 postage paid. Published for the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association by: Wharfedale Publications Limited. The BGGA, The Editor and Publishers do not necessarily agree with the comments and views expressed in this publication and do not accept responsibility for any personal opinions stated therein. © Copyright 1985 Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance. Permission for the reproduction of features and articles will be favourably considered for non commercial purposes on application to the publisher. Printed by: W. Kristall Ltd., Leeds

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WINDSOR SHOW REVIEW

The International Groundsman's Exhibition on Windsor Race Course was blessed by the best three days of weather for many years, attracting large crowds on both the opening and second days.

Improvements both by the laying down of a number of new roads through the site, the opening of a covered pavilion and an extension of the demonstration areas added a new dimension to what has become the best organised turfgrass exhibition in Europe. Attendance of 33,800 was 7% up on last year's record breaking figure.

This year the show was humming with news of amalgamations take-overs and dealer appointments, firstly by Ransomes acquisition of the garden machinery business of G. D. Mountfield for a reported £4.25 million, when the joint owners Dennis Selby and Don Hamilton decided to retire.

On the opening day, Morrisons and Jacobsens announced a 'marriage of convenience' between Morrison Industries and Jacobsen Textron for the sole distribution of the turfgrass machinery of both companies' products in the UK. Ron Higgins, the Managing Director of the New Zealand based Morrison Industries, joined Tom Carter, Jacobsen's Vice President of the Marketing Services to announce the new venture from Morrison's UK base at Kings Lynn in Norfolk. Chris Smith General Manager of Morrison's UK operations will direct the operation through a network of service agents.

Earlier this year it was announced that Marshall Concessionaires, the Romsey based distributor had been appointed the Wisconsin company's sole representative for Jacobsen Turfgrass machinery, but the contract was not renewed at the end of August, although sales of the Jacobsen Greensking were running at one a day over the past two months.

As this edition goes to press Ron Higgins told *Golf Greenkeeping* as a result of discussions at the Windsor Show a number of dealers who had previously handled Jacobsen equipment had been appointed service agents and three regions would be handled through distributors.

A. Church will supply Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, South Humberside and part of Northamptonshire, Bristol Garden Machinery have been appointed distributors for all of the South West, Avon, Wilts and Gloucestershire and Auto Garden of Glasgow become the sole distributors for Scotland.

The remainder of the country will be supplied with Morrison and Jacobsen equipment direct from the newly opened premises at Kings Lynn, with a back up service of spares from mobile workshops.

Machinery is presently shipped into this country through Felixstowe, but as the new depot has its own port it is expected Morrison Mowers will be delivered direct to Kings Lynn, from New Zealand.

According to Ron Higgins it is highly likely there will be a UK assembly operation in 1986.

Tom Carter assured *Golf Greenkeeping* at Windsor the Jacobsen Tournament started by Marshall Concessionaires will continue and this has now been confirmed by Chris Smith, but because of the difficulty of arranging the final by the due date, regional winners will now contest for the trip to the United States at a Spring Tournament at a date to be arranged. All those who have qualified in sectional competitions will be notified of the rearranged venue later this year.

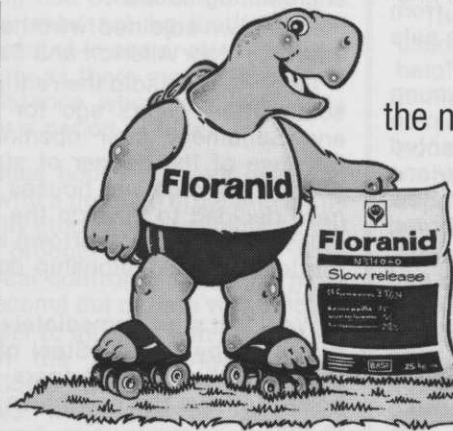
BASF who have recently entered the fine turf market with Floranid a slow release fertiliser range containing isodor a synthetic organic slow release nitrogen, are distributing the product through George A. Palmer Ltd. of Peterborough and a network of regional dealers including, Supaturf Products, Maxwell Hart, and T. Parker & Sons. The German based company are marketing the range of turf feeds through their own UK company, COMPO.

Supaturf Products have strengthened their operation recently with the acquisition of Turf Maintenance Supplies at Iver Heath and Don Hunt's business at Newton Abbott, though Don remains with the company.

Watch the grass grow under your feet!

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BASF

MOORTOWN TO BUILD NEW HOLES

Moortown Golf Club, the course which has staged the first tournament of the season - The Car Care - for the past two years, has been granted planning permission to construct two new fairways, tees and greens, in scrub type woodland within the boundaries of the course.

Because of the growth of housing surrounding the course, mishit shots have become a potential danger to residents, particularly at the par three, 12th hole, where a serious accident was averted by inches when a ball off the tee went through the open window of a parked car. As a result the club moved the tee forward shortening the hole by 40 yards to a mere pitch and putt.

Earlier plans to lay out two new holes at the Championship Moortown Golf Club, venue of the Car Care Tournament, were deferred by the Planning Committee of Leeds City Council, because the scheme would involve clearing a number of trees bordering the course.

A report from the City Council Planning Committee said the ecological advisory unit had been consulted on the value of the woodland and their report stated the basin peat deposit at Alwoodley Moss was the only known example in West Yorkshire. The woodland was said to be of moderate value but was important in aesthetic and landscape terms and provided a local wildlife habitat.

The Committee Chairman Councillor Nanette Sloan said she could not see any circumstances in which anyone would be allowed to clear a large number of trees without first having some idea of a replanting scheme.

Moortown hosted the Ryder Cup in 1929 when Britain won by six matches to four under the captaincy of George Duncan. The pictures of that event on the walls of the nineteenth show Moortown as a golf course almost without trees - in fact a moorland course. The trees, mainly self-seeded birch and hawthorn have grown because of the shelter given by the encroaching houses.

Moortown adjoined two other famous courses, Moor Allerton and Sandmoor.

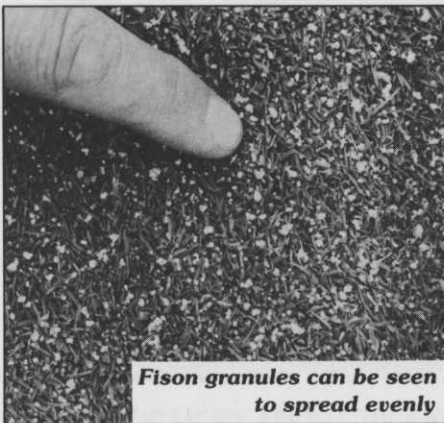
Moor Allerton sold their entire course some fifteen years ago for housing, and Sandmoor their opening holes. Because of the danger of stray balls near to the adjacent houses the club have decided to develop the two new holes, to maintain Moortown as one of the leading Championship courses in the north.

Work will start immediately to plans drawn up by Donald Steel of Cotton, Pennink, Steel and Partners and it is hoped to have the new holes playable in 1987.



Pictured on a golf course fairway is Ransomes new Mounted 214 Verticut which has a working width of 7ft. and is suitable for use with tractors of 40hp and above.

Fisons have also marketed a new range of turf nutrition entitled the Greensmaster range using a new process which incorporates vermiculite as a density adjuster. The granules are of a size and colour that makes mechanical spreading easier and can be seen on the turf before absorption begins. Fisons made their announcement at Wentworth where the greens have been fertilised to reach peak condition for the Suntory World Matchplay Tournament.



Fison granules can be seen to spread evenly

SAI Horticulture, part of Scottish Agriculture Industries a subsidiary of ICI also announced a massive expansion with a packing and production plant to be centred at Howden in Yorkshire. This Edinburgh company have set their sights on a significant share of the England and Wales turf fertiliser market with their range of Longlife products. Five fertilisers contain a new ingredient - Didin, developed to regulate the availability of nitrogen to the turf. There is no flush of growth as nitrogen is taken up by the grasses, but the improved colour and growth response is achieved over several months.

Ransomes stand was again one of the most spectacular and a central meeting place for greenkeepers. New equipment included the seven unit hydraulic 465TG for golf courses with a cutting width of over 15ft. Designed for the club with large fairways there are many greenkeepers who would have liked this machine on the course this summer. The company also exhibited a new Verticut 214 suitable for a use with a 40hp tractor and above. The machine has a working width of 7ft. which by cutting the lateral surface growth and controlling the build up of thatch, the younger grasses can become more vigorous.

The tractor stands created considerable interest particularly the compacts of Lely Iseki, Kubota, Ford, Massey Ferguson, Yamaha and Hinimoto.

Two items that caught the editor's eye as simple but very practical were a swivel for attaching the green's flag to the pole so that the flag did not wrap itself around the pin in windy weather or tear when constantly handled by golfers as they removed the stick for putting. The bright idea came from Patissons and is likely to be on sale later in an improved form.

A great idea for protecting young seedling trees was seen on the Union Hall Nursery stand. The tree is planted inside a 4ft corrugated polypropylene square tube with the base just below the soil surface. The tree is forced towards the light and branches as it emerges. Damage from rabbits and golfers is avoided and in tests conducted by the Forestry Commission growth rates increased six fold, stems thickened considerably and trees of eight inches high at planting established quickly avoiding the additional costs of whips.

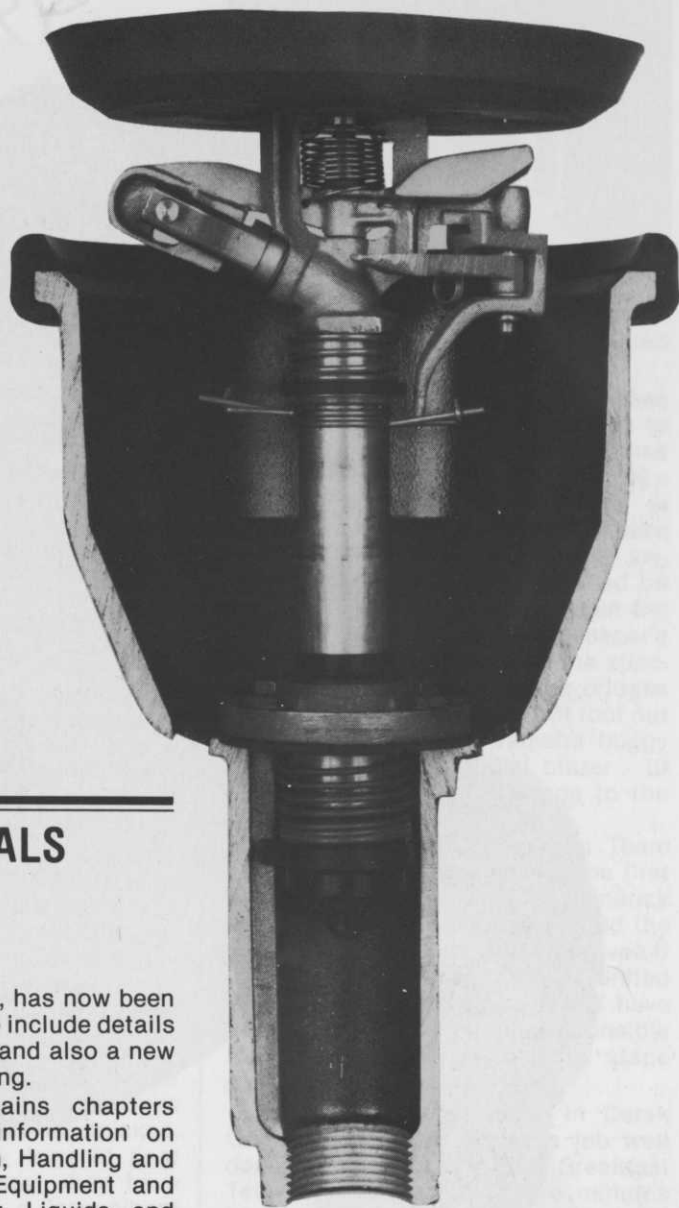
WATERMATION MARKET A NEW BRITISH SPRINKLER

Over the last 25 years there has been a steady increase in the use of automated pop-up sprinkler systems for golf courses dominated by American made equipment. Now a British Company has designed and manufactured a complete range of sprinklers and controls to do the job. That company is Watermation Limited of Woking, Surrey, who have extensive experience in the design and installation of golf course systems. At this year's I.O.G. show they exhibited the GN range of high quality, heavy duty, impact drive, pop-up sprinklers. These are all of bronze and stainless steel construction with heavy cast cases and green re-inforced rubber tops.

The range starts with the GN1 model which can be operated as full or part circle and is useful for smaller areas, through the GN2, a part circle sprinkler for golf greens, to the GN3, a full circle for approaches and fairways.

A unique feature of the range is that the internal mechanism has a multi fit guide plate so that it can be used to refurbish the Rainbird 21-47 range or the Weathermatic K range.

Coupled with the sprinkler range is Watermation's unique TW1 controller. This controller works on a 2 wire principle, thus simplifying installation and providing great flexibility. The simplicity of programming the controller is outstanding and for a modest extra a multi programme facility can be provided. Over 150 of these TW1 systems have now been installed, the majority in the U.K., but some in Europe and the Middle East.



*The Watermation GN2
Pop-up Sprinkler*

DIRECTORY OF AMENITY CHEMICALS JOHN ALBUTT Reviews a New Edition

Professional gardeners, groundsmen and greenkeepers are regularly faced with the problem of deciding what chemical they should order to deal with a wide range of pests, diseases and weeds. Calls by representatives, reading catalogues and sorting through that jumble of leaflets picked up at last year's show, have been the usual methods; but very often pressure of work prevents too much time being spent on the problem and this can result in a wrong decision being made in terms of cost and effectiveness. Good decision-making in selecting the correct chemical to suit the budget and also deal effectively with the problem is a much neglected, vital first step in the preparing of an efficient maintenance schedule. The continuing use of the same chemical each year may not be justifiable on grounds of cost-in-use or effectiveness, particularly as there may be problems with resistance where a chemical is used over a period of time.

Reference books are very useful in dealing with a problem in general terms but usually stop short of naming actual branded products; development work in chemical control is such that most books become out of date very quickly. The answer to this problem can now be found in the British Agrochemical Association's Directory of Amenity Chemicals. Introduced in 1983, this small, compact booklet, produced by the BAA in conjunction with the Sports

Turf Research Institute, has now been revised and reprinted to include details of the latest products, and also a new chapter on CDA Spraying.

The directory contains chapters which give valuable information on Pesticides Registration, Handling and Storage, Application Equipment and Techniques for Using Liquids and Solids, Calibration and Use of Equipment; probably the most useful section is the directory itself, which lists chemicals by brand names and active ingredient, grouped in categories of usage, eg: Fungicides, Selective Herbicides, etc. At the back of the book there is a list of company names, addresses and telephone numbers and also the names of key personnel who may be contacted for further help and advice.

There is a useful glossary of terms used in the booklet which is very helpful to those who may not be familiar with the jargon used in relation to pesticides. There are also small booklets available which supply valuable information on various aspects of pesticides usage and they are listed, together with addresses on the back page of the booklet.

This directory has something to offer everyone, from the aspiring student to the experienced manager. It can be obtained from British Agrochemicals Associations, Alembic House, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TU, and costs £1.50 per copy inclusive of postage and packing.

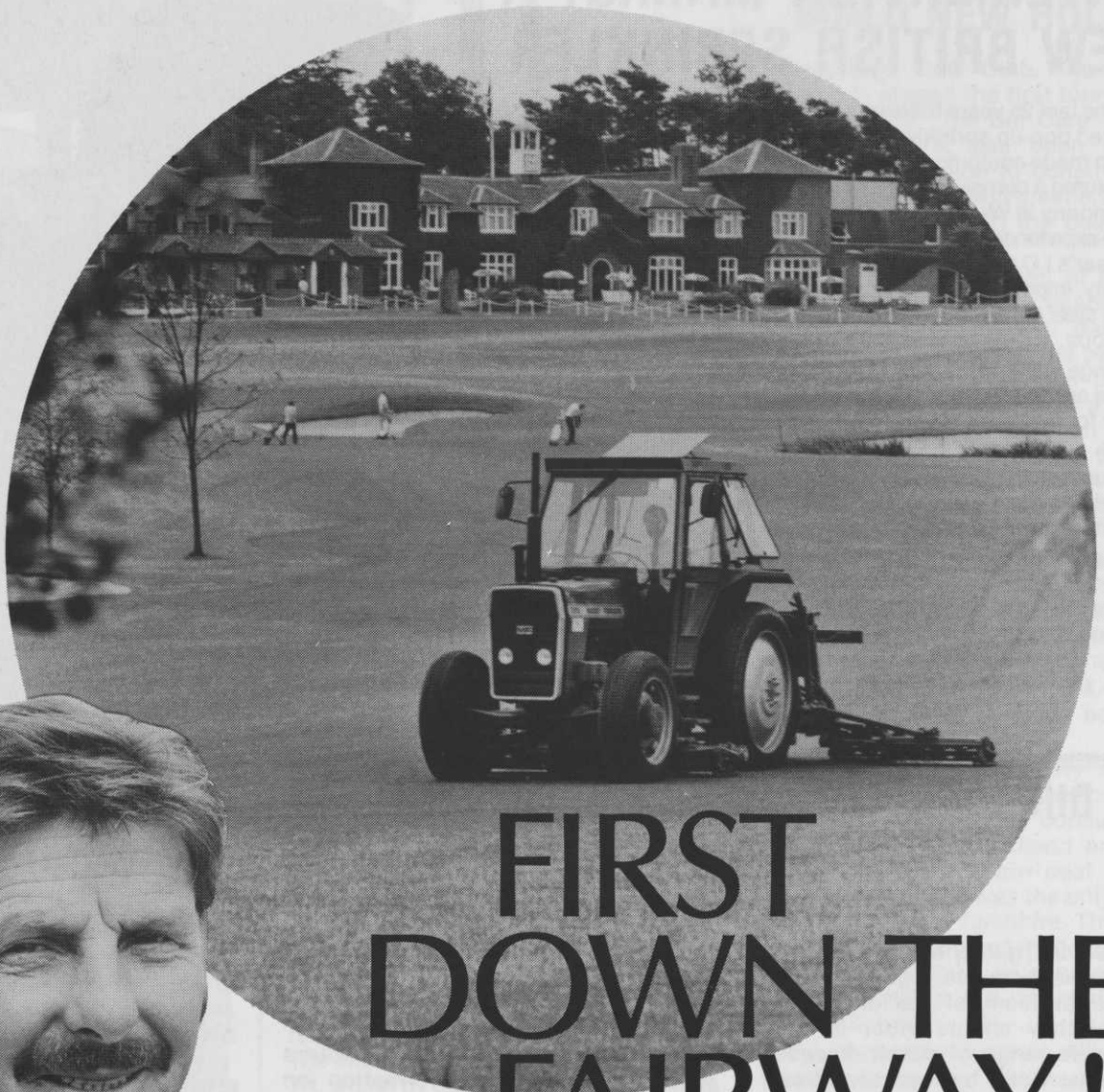
NICKERSON SHOCK!!

Just as the magazine was going to press a report appeared in the financial news columns of the national press that Marshall & Sons the Gainsborough based agriculture tractor company had called in the Receivers.

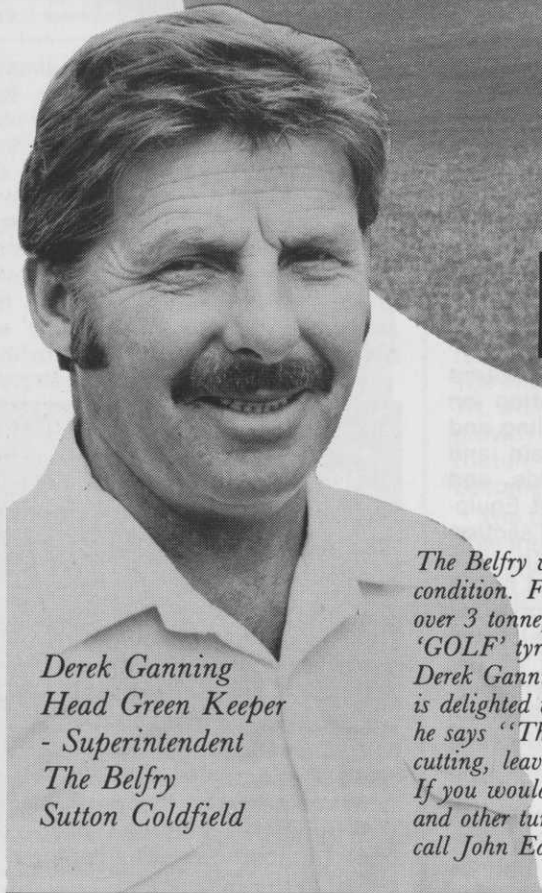
Nickerson Turfmaster Ltd. are part of the Marshall organisation, which in turn are owned by the Nickerson Group of Companies, with interests in oil, seed, transport and frozen poultry among a diverse product range.

Nickerson Turfmaster recently won a design award for their 70 inch mower the 360, presented to the Commercial Director, Graham Templeton by the Duke of Edinburgh at Beaulieu.

It is understood Mr. Templeton was on holiday when the Receivership announcement was made.



FIRST DOWN THE FAIRWAY!



*Derek Ganning
Head Green Keeper
- Superintendent
The Belfry
Sutton Coldfield*

The Belfry was the venue for the 1985 Ryder Cup, so the course had to be in perfect condition. Fairway mowing at the Belfry is handled by a large 4WD tractor weighing over 3 tonne, but it leaves no marks thanks to the new 'GOLF' tyres developed specially by Undergear.

Derek Ganning, Head Green Keeper - Superintendent, is delighted with the performance of these tyres; he says "They roll and comb the grass back up for cutting, leaving a perfect finish with no marking". If you would like to know more about the 'GOLF' and other turf tyres in the Undergear range, call John Edwards or Ken Baker.



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THE BELFRY

Derek Ganning

THE EXTRA MAN IN THE RYDER CUP TEAM



With the champagne still flowing, the vast ecstatic gallery reluctant to leave the arena where history was made, a depressed, but magnanimous Lee Trevino called the Belfry's Head Greenkeeper, Derek Ganning into his private suite and introduced him as 'the thirteenth member of the European Ryder Cup Team'.

Last month, Derek and his team showed the world what a magnificent golf course the Brabazon has now become. Not only as a test of golf, requiring thought, skill, determination and courage but as a spectacle both for the galleries and the millions who stayed at home to savour the increasing excitement on television.

The Belfry's two courses, the Brabazon and the Derby were constructed around the existing 59 bedroomed hotel, ten years ago, to a design conceived by the Alliss and Thomas partnership. Since the courses were opened in 1975, there has been constant and voluble criticism of the design, construction and maintenance. A comment on the Brabazon — 'A featureless soggy farmland' could be included among the more charitable remarks. Hardly a recommendation for the heart of England's Championship course. When Greenall Whitley, the Warrington brewery, finally acquired control of the Belfry two years ago, the problems were at last nailed firmly to the table and a planned programme devised to make the Belfry's courses what they are today.

The first task was to reorganise the management under the Belfry's Director, Brian Cash. In came Jack Broady, the horticultural manager responsible for all forty of the famous Greenall Whitley bowling greens. Put in charge of the golf courses was Derek Ganning, the Head Greenkeeper under the previous regime. He was confirmed as Head Greenkeeper - Superintendent, a most suitable job title in view of his responsibility for the American type Penncross sand greens.

With a good management team four further ingredients were essential, a great deal of money, the identification and sound solutions for the problem areas, unbounded enthusiasm coupled with the ability to motivate the green-staff into a well coordinated team. — And all this within the short period of about eighteen months!

Martyn Jones was brought in to the act as the consultant agronomist contributing his expertise to the very defined programme of maintenance. It has been under his guidance the Brabazon greens have shown such a marked improvement using a different type of sand in the top dressing followed by a programme of overseeding and top dressing along the lines recommended by the United States Golf Association Greens Section.

Derek Ganning says his secret formula of fertiliser is mixed for him at Steetley by that well known cuddly bear Welshman, Colin Murphy, though not necessarily personally, and supplied by E. J. Breakwell at Solihull.

Early this year the Belfry signed a contract with Ransomes, said to be worth around £180,000, to supply a complete range of turf equipment for course maintenance. These machines have been used to cut, verticut, vibro-spike and scarify the greens over an intensive four month period.

Out on the fairways, an area of major criticism over the years, the stones have been trowed out and handpicked, some sixty to seventy tons of peat spread on every fairway, they have been overseeded with a fescue/bent mixture and verti-cut with a prototype version of the new Ransomes 350D with sports cutting units. *'What a brilliant job it did'*, said Derek Ganning. *'They were absolutely magnificent and cut beautifully'*.

From the spectators point of view there would be few who would disagree. The Brabazon fairways were a picture of perfection both in colour, texture and shape. As far as colour is concerned Jonathan Harmer would say that was down to Farmura which has been used at the Belfry for some years. This season Farmura Green was included in another of Derek Ganning's 'secret cocktails' the contents of which he is not disclosing though he says the highest proportion of nitrogen he every used was 6%.

Another Belfry criticism that had to be overcome was the 'Barren Wasteland' tag. A tree planting programme commenced three years ago was accelerated and upwards of 10,000 whips and saplings of Pine, Birch, Alder, Ash and White Beam have now become established. To give the course a more mature look almost a hundred

semi-mature trees have been planted costing around £150 each.

As an American style course, lakes and streams provide the backdrop to all the spectacular holes and this has meant the construction of eleven new bridges to allow the easy flow of spectators around the course. These are Derek Ganning's pride and joy, as a number of people witnessed on Day One of the Ryder Cup. When the telephone rang in the Greenkeeper's sheds with a message that the spectators were piled high on the bridges to get a better view he was hot foot out on the course in his Yamaha buggy resplendent in an official blazer - to see if there was any damage to the structures.

The fact that the European Team have won the Ryder Cup, for the first time since it was played for at Lindrick twenty-eight years ago has added the icing to the Belfry's cake, but even if the Cup had returned to the United States nothing but praise could have been heaped on the people responsible for producing such a majestic stage for an enthralling contest.

We all feel great pride in Derek Ganning's recognition for a job well done. He appeared on BBC Breakfast Television to explain in two minutes how he maintains the course! He was certainly congratulated by several executive members of the American PGA one of whom told him in all the years of visiting courses throughout the world he had never seen a golf course with better definition. Another said he had done a magnificent job and produced a golf course as good, if not better than any they have in the United States.

He will also remember the comment by Dave Thomas *'Derek, you have made a dream come true'*.

But when the euphoria has ceased, Derek will still be able to reach into his bookcase and pull out his copy of Tony Jacklin's book and read the inscription *'Thank you Derek Ganning for a magnificent effort, for all your hard work and for making the Ryder Cup a complete success'*.

With the other hand he can pick out Lee Trevino's book *Super Mex* also suitably autographed. A little touch of thanks and recognition arranged by another much involved in the emergence of the Brabazon as one of the world's finest golf courses — Martyn Jones.



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RYAN POWER RAKES

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Quality-built through and through – that's RYAN.

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Ryan Power Rakes

Ryan Turf Cutters

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Victa (UK) Limited, Rutherford Road, Daneshill West
Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 0QY Tel: 0256 50301 Telex 858282

B.G.G.A. 6th TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

The organising Secretary, Mr. Walter Heeles is now accepting applications to attend the 6th Turfgrass Symposium sponsored by the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association at the Belfry Hotel on Wednesday 13th October.

Among the speakers are Mr. J. Hamilton Stutt, the well-known golf course architect, Mr. Martyn Jones, the consultant agronomist, Mr. Derek Ganning the Head Greenkeeper -Superintendent of the Brabazon and Derby Courses and Mr. Nicholas Bissett, Secretary of the Greenkeepers Training Scheme.

An application form appeared in the September issue of *Golf Greenkeeping*.

The registration fee of £25.00 per person includes Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon Tea.

The Symposium will commence at 9.30 a.m. prompt. A tour of the golf course will take place prior to the luncheon interval.

This informative day at the Belfry will be of particular interest to all those connected with the management of golf courses. Applications **must** be received by Friday 1st November 1985.

Write to Walter Heeles, 7 Tentergate Close, Knaresborough, N. Yorks. HG5 9BJ, naming those persons wishing to attend and enclosing a cheque for £25.00 for each Symposium delegate.

RANSOMES GROWTH CONTINUES

The Ransomes Group continued its overall growth during the first half of 1985 with sales up by 20% and profit before tax up by 38% compared with the same period in 1984.

The Chairman, Mr. H. Astley Whittall said:

"It has been a good year for sales of grass cutting machinery by the parent company with increased sales in the UK and a particularly strong export performance. Our subsidiary companies have also performed well. Re-organisation of the Ipswich factory has continued and the benefits continue to come through".

The recent acquisition of G. D. Mountfield Ltd. has brought into the Group a first class company, manufacturing and selling a range of grass cutting machinery that is complementary to the Group's existing products.

Looking ahead, the Board anticipates the continuance of the strong performance on grass machinery.

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.5p, up .3p on 1984.

LETTERS

The Northern Section offers hearty congratulations to Tony Jacklin and the Ryder Cup Team for their great victory and superb display of golf at the Belfry last month.

But the person we would single out as worthy of the greatest praise is the Belfry's Head Greenkeeper Superintendent, Derek Ganning for the immaculate presentation of the course.

Golf now receives worldwide coverage, courtesy of the television networks, showing a variety of course designs in brilliant colour and emphasising the differing approaches to their upkeep. The shape and form of the green and fairways so well seen on television, showed the application of thought and imagination at the Belfry, a quality which still seems lacking on the majority of golf courses.

All too often are our fairways seen mown in boring straight lines, without movement or deviation. The same applying to cutting methods on the greens.

The introduction of creative shape, stimulates interest both on the job and the game.

Well done the Belfry greenkeeping team! You proved conclusively that British greenkeepers can provide the finest stage for what must be one of the world's most exciting golf events.

DAVID HANNAM, Secretary, Northern Section BGGGA