



Post and chains set off a feature of the course

Fencing around the tee does give that aesthetic feel to the overall pleasure from a round of golf, but it should also be functional. Not only will it define the teeing area but will act as a bar to trolleys on the tee and separate the golfer teeing off from those observing or yet to play.

As shown in the illustration many clubs have areas of woodland that can be utilised by cutting pieces of timber and building your own fencing. They look good, are easy to maintain or replace and if constructed with a little thought can also be used by the golfer to either sit on or rest a bag. A sitting area is particularly important at the par 3 holes as this is inevitably the holes where the greatest hold-up occur, but again apply the psychology and build the seat away from grass areas which could be subject to heavy wear or difficult maintenance.

For those who do not have either the time or the timber to build a seat a number of manufacturers produce an excellent hard wearing and weather-proof bench. One of the best known in the trade is Barlow Tyrie of Braintree, Essex, who use teak and timber without equal for the manufacture of outdoor furniture. Teak if left untouched will weather to a silvery grey, but can be maintained in its original colour by a regular application of light teak oil.

Cast iron benches will last a lifetime as long as the vandals are kept at bay and they are given an annual coat of paint, preferably anti-rust.



The new range of patio furniture from Bellinger Ltd.



MEMORANDUM

Subject:

CONFIDENTIAL

(but you'll find out if you read on).

From: The desk of Fred Hawtree II
in Puncknowle.

To: Greenkeepers, course managers,
greenmasters, turfmasters,
ground staff, superintendents,
custodians and curators.

After a short sabbatical to recharge the cells and ease the writer's cramp, I hasten back to these pages in response to agonised appeals from readers with acute withdrawal symptoms due to my absence.

Where were we ?

After a wild day on the Churston Golf Course in Torbay with Gordon Child, Devon & Cornwall Chairman, his wife, Marion, had thoughtfully decided to dine us on roast beef. This delicacy does to tissues what sabbaticals do for the battery, but Gordon was only half way back to full charge when the telephone called him from the table.

The rest of us were a slice of beef and two roast potatoes ahead of him when he finally returned but his conversation had obviously pleased him. By the time we reached the chocolate gâteau, he led us by a Yorkshire pudding. I was about to say 'by a short head', but, where horse-back is concerned, Gordon prefers hacking to racing and keeps his mare in the field behind his home so that he wastes no time on other forms of travel.

It was surely no accident of fate that the news of BIGGA's impending birthday on 1st January 1987 came while I was in the company of a man who reminds me in many ways of the earliest stalwarts of the Golf

Greenkeepers Association, 75 years ago. I am unfortunately rather a long way from my archives while down here in Dorset. (It's pronounced 'Punnel' by the way), but I can remember Alf Whitall, one of those at the very first meeting which my father called at the London Stone Hotel in Cannon Street in 1912. He became Chairman later, as did Arthur Lacey (Burnham Beeches), George McNeice (Banstead Downs) and Tom Bridges (Addington and later Royal Liverpool). It was mostly southern in those days, the natural predecessor to EIGGA.

The Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association may even pre-date this era and there was a brief marriage with the other party when the BGGGA was jointly formed together with its Welsh Section and a number of venerable local associations like Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham. But distance in those days, and doubtless, expense led to a separation either side of the border.

In 1929, the Board of Greenkeeping Research was set up at Bingley and my father was active in reconciling greenkeepers to this potential threat. For a time he chaired a Practical Advisory Committee with representative greenkeepers from all over the country who met annually at Bingley and aired their views. Tom Mason from Hendon used to enjoy these meetings and write about them.

Tom who contributed to the early Journals of the Golf Greenkeepers Association which appeared in most years up to 1929 when W. H. Smithers (Shirley Park) was Hon. Secretary. Then George Philpot, once an editor of Golf Illustrated, started the monthly 'British Golf Greenkeeper' which became a vital link between members and sections. It all landed on my desk when George died. The three Scottish sections used it for monthly news until they started their quarterly 'Turfmaster', but there was no reconciliation.

Having neither typographer, sub-editor, nor reporter, the 'Golf Greenkeeper' took a lot of time and thought but it survived profitably for some 12 years until the demand for colour and a larger format obliged moving it on to professionals. After Reigate and West Horsley, it is now back near Leeds where one hopes it will settle.

Meanwhile, in the lifetime of these associations, greenkeeping has come from horse-mowers to hydraulic gangs from 14 inch Certes (£11-15-0d in 1929) to ride-on triplex mowers (*Don't ask how much*). There have been a few mistakes on the way. We have learned from them and got it right in the end. And we can learn from the history of GGA, SIGGA, BGGGA, and EIGGA too. There have been a few hiccups but with generous help, they too have got it right in the end. Let's keep it that way. *The next 75 years will be a doddle.*

The Editor's REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past twelve months for the turf grass industry has not been without its fair share of news for magazine publishers to offer stimulating tit-bits to interest their readers.

Perhaps one of the major stories of the year, despite the fact it affected only a small proportion of greenkeepers was the announcement by the St. Andrews Links Committee that it had withdrawn the playing privileges to greenkeepers over the St. Andrews Courses, a concession which had been in existence for about 150 years.

Later it transpired the Committee, very conscious of the pressure on the courses by visitors from all over the world, had decided to bar *all* non-fee paying golfers the majority of whom were members of the PGA.

Let us hope the St. Andrews Links Committee will review their decision and allow genuine greenkeepers an opportunity to play a round over the links. It has been a privilege, which to our knowledge, has not been abused.

* * * *

The main event of the year must be the successful efforts by the R&A to bring together the three Greenkeeper Associations. The PGA proposals in 1985 which would have brought greenkeepers into the ranks of the professionals, but in a subsidiary role, was the stimulation that was needed for someone to act. Greenkeepers are a proud and independent body of men, but because of the nature of their job they lacked the negotiating and organising abilities to solve what was essentially personality differences within the separate Associations.

* * * *

Then there was the saga of the lost golf balls 'stolen' from the ponds at the Belfry. Local magistrates refused to hear the case and sent four young Birmingham men to the Crown Court, where after a three day trial they were convicted by a jury of stealing 448 golf balls, by diving into the lakes near the ninth and eighteenth greens in frogman's suits. The golf balls were eventually returned to the Belfry Hotel management who sold them for charity.

* * * *

Nothing unites a family closer than an outside threat to one of the members. This was certainly the case after an industrial tribunal in Dundee had confirmed that the sacking of the Head Greenkeeper at Carnoustie was 'fair' after hearing evidence that he had applied phosphate fertiliser to the fairways against the advice of a consultant agronomist and by so doing had encouraged the growth of annual meadow grass.

Greenkeeping and course maintenance policies are now the subject of considerable debate, with differing view points taking into consideration available labour and equipment, finance, playing pressures and what the members want or *what is regarded as good for them*.

Unfortunately, most greenkeepers are subjected to directions from people in authority who have little scientific or practical knowledge and are put in the invidious position of either ignoring the orders in the interests of the playability of the course, or do as directed and suffer the complaints when the problems arise. There is a name for it - Catch 22!

* * * *

Introduced this year was the first phase of the new Pesticide Legislation. This journal and others have attempted to emphasise just how far reaching are the laws governing the application of agrochemicals in European countries. So far this enabling legislation is not biting deeply into the major practices of UK greenkeepers, but in the future it will. Be prepared. Advise Green Committees of the need to set aside finance for brick built storage, proper washing facilities and training for those responsible for applying turf grass chemicals.

* * * *

In July this year the Sports Turf Research Institute opened its new offices at Bingley St. Ives. In recent years the finance for research has come from football and racing with little from golf. This is now changing and the importance of scientific trials, particularly into improved drainage and sand based surfaces has been recognised.

* * * *

The introduction of diesel powered greens mowers by both Ransomes and Jacobsen created considerable interest and obvious comparison between the two machines. Ransomes, in Guy

Catchpole's final month before retiring, also launched several new turf machines including an optional three or four wheel turf maintenance truck, in what would seem to be direct competition with Cushman and Sisis.

Morrison's, the New Zealand manufacturer and Jacobsen based near Chicago, split after less than a year together in their King's Lynn depot. Since then Morrison's have been bought out by a competitor.

Iseki also left the Lely home at Huntingdon and set up on their own at nearby St. Neots with John Hawkins as Managing Director and Colin Gregory in charge of sales. Toro machinery with Graham Dale overseeing the sales stayed in the Lely camp.

A management buy out by a team led by Trevor Martin took Vitax away from the Steeley organisation. Launched in 1939 the Vitax business has endured a succession of take-overs, forming a small part of other business interests. Now the business has turned the full circle to be independent once again.

The retirement of Derek Phillips, the Chairman of Rigby Taylor Ltd led to a complete management shake-out after Bernard Hedley took over the top job. Within weeks, their Sales Director Richard Lawrence had departed, only to emerge as the new Managing Director of Trident.

1987 PREDICTIONS

'Old Moore Lelan' gazing into the crystal ball, sees an American company with a UK base making a major move into the amenity turf market. With agriculture in a mess through over production they could well see sports turf as a growth area. And don't be surprised to see a take-over bid for a well-known British firm to achieve it.

Watch the compact tractor market. Others could be emerging as major competitors to those who have already established a firm foothold.

And finally It will be a cold damp winter with deep snow in places. Spring growth will be non-existent, the Summer confined to ten days in October and the greenkeeper blamed for the missed putts of 1987!

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SECTIONAL News

NORTH WEST

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

Seminar 1987

Mere Golf and Country Club is again the venue for the annual Seminar. On Thursday, March 12th, a varied selection of speakers will combine a series of lectures under the theme of 'Are you up to date?'

Tickets are priced £15 (see separate programme of day on page)***.

Early application is advised to secure a place on the day. Cheques made payable to BIGGA N.W Section, should be sent to Section Secretary.

BIGGA

It is hoped that a days golf will be arranged early in the Spring for all Greenkeepers in the North-West. This will be seen as a joining together of all Greenkeepers under the banner of BIGGA.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chairman and Committee to wish all members and their families, A Happy Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year.

NORTH EAST

Hon. Sec: J. S. Richardson,
20 Aston Way, Clavering Park,
Whickham, Tyne & Wear
Telephone: 886765

On the 2nd October we held our Annual Match against our friends from over the border at Goswick G.C., Berwick.

We were treated to some fine but windy weather and I would like to thank George Thompson and staff for presenting the course in such fine fettle.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and also to Stewarts of Edinburgh for providing the prizes for the winners and losers.

RESULTS:

North East	S.E. Scotland
B. Wilson, won 5/4	T. Rodgeson
R. Black	C. Hildersley
J. Richardson, halved	A. Holmes
G. Gainford, with	K. Archibald
W. Holden, halved	R. Bulluck,
I. Johnson with	(One vs. Two)
R. Henderson, won 2/1	J. Paton
G. Atkinson	G. Millican
S. Pope, won 4/3	D. Herd
A. Fiddes	J. Nielsen
K. Rutherford, lost	S. Dickson 7/6
R. Creane	C. Yeaman

The North East retained the trophy by three matches to one, with two halved.

Our congratulations to Richard Creane on his appointment as course manager at Gosforth Driving Range and Parklands Golf Club.

Congratulations also to Peter Henderson, appointed first assistant at the new 18 hole Slayley Golf and Country Club.

DEVON & CORNWALL

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

On Wednesday, November 19th forty-eight stalwart members struggled through storms, gales, tempests, hurricanes and floods to reach the Elfordleigh Hotel and Country Club.

Although the competition was reduced to nine holes, due to the weather everyone agreed the course was in remarkably good condition thanks to Mike Pike and his staff.

After a first class lunch the D. O. Hunt Ltd, trophy was presented to Roger Battishill from St. Mellion. Second was Gerald Ayliffe and third Nigel Stone both from Staddon Heights G.C.

Also decided were our two representatives to go into next Autumn's Jacobsen national competition.

They are:-

G. Ayliffe (Staddon Heights G.C.)
J. Lawton (St. Austell G.C.)

The afternoon's talk was given by Martin Jones and must definitely rate as one of the best we have had, it certainly provoked one of the liveliest question times we have ever had. Our sincere thanks go to Martin who drove down and home again from Preston to give us the talk.

The Editor thanks all Section Secretaries for their reports during the year.

* * *

**The next issue will be February 1987.
Copy by 10th January**

MIDLANDS

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

On Friday, November 7th the Midlands Section played the East Midlands Section for the Rigby Taylor Salver at Walsall Golf Club.

Match result: Midlands 11pts, East Midlands 4pts.

We must thank Dave Morgan and Rigby Taylor for a splendid day and look forward to the return match on East Midlands soil next year.

Congratulations to Trevor Morris and his wife for becoming the proud parents of their daughter Stephanie.

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Oxley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 26th November. Once again we were unfortunate with the weather having to suffer, hail, rain, and a strong cold wind for much of the day.

RESULTS:

1st	Tony Jesson	36pts.
2nd	Tucker Ryder	35pts.
3rd	John Hughes	34pts.
	Roger Pullen	

We must thank Brian Cash of Dévere Hotels for providing us with the first prize of a Weekend for Two at the superb Belfry Golf and Country Club complex.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Jack Broady in November. It was Jack who initiated the Christmas Prize at the Belfry and he will be sadly missed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, January 12th, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Lecture by Watermaton, at Moor Hall Golf Club.

Monday, February 9th, 7.00 p.m. Dennis Mottram of the Cheshire College of Agriculture on the subject of Man Management at Moor Hall Golf Club.

Friday, March 20th, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Lecture and on course demonstration by Midland Tree Surgeons, Telford Golf and Country Club.

MERE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST NORTH WEST GREENKEEPERS SEMINAR

The luxury clubhouse of the Mere Golf and Country Club will again be the setting for the all day seminar on greenkeeping techniques for the third consecutive year.

The theme 'Are You Up To Date' presented by a formidable array of invited speakers, will cover a variety of subjects from club management to chemicals.

Among those expected to present papers are the Secretary to the R&A, Mr. Michael Bonnalack, the Secretary of Walton Heath Golf Club, Commander W. McNea and Mr. David Lucas, the Course Manager of the nearby Tytherington Golf and Country Club, one of the newest and most ambitious developments in recent years.

Other speakers booked to appear include, Mr. Tony Gentil, a lecturer in Arboricultural subjects, Mr. Malcolm

Evans, ICI's expert on horticulture chemicals and Mr. Martyn Jones one of Europe's best known agronomists. Not to be missed is the Section's own Mr. John Lowery, Course Manager at Ringway G.C. who has chosen as his subject "Making your own compost".

The total cost of £15.00 includes morning coffee on arrival and a three course lunch.

The date is Thursday, 12th March, commencing at 9.45 a.m. with coffee served prior to the start of the proceedings. The seminar is expected to close at around 4.30 p.m. with a Question Time to the speakers.

Prior booking through David Goulding (061) 748 8592, or write to his home address at 38, The Grove, Flixton, Manchester M31 3JH. Cheques made payable to North-West Section BGGGA.

GREENKEEPERS VISIT ROLAWN



Sheffield Section with President Kenneth Arnold, centre front, at Rolawn Ltd, Elvington, York.

The Sheffield branch of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association visited the headquarters of Rolawn Ltd at Elvington near York on Wednesday, November 5th, to view the turf nurseries and discuss the needs of greenkeepers.

Rolawn, which now has four turf production units in Britain, has been supplying the professional market for over ten years and pioneered the production of purpose-grown turf on a large scale. The visit was organised by Gordon Brammah, Secretary of the Sheffield section and Head Greenkeeper of Hallamshire Golf Club. Members were shown around the Yorkshire unit by Robert Laycock, Technical Manager and, Rod Moore, Sales Manager.

MID ANGLIA

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

The Autumn Tournament was held over 27 Holes of Stableford play at Woburn Golf and Country Club on 28th October, with a large entry of 44.

Scoring is never easy on the fine Championship "Dukes" Course and the 34 Points scored by Geoff Smith was good enough to win the prize for the best 18 Holes in the morning.

The afternoon 9 Hole event was played over the "Duchess's" Course and Steve Denton's 20 points took the second prize.

The President's Cup and Watch was won by Martin Lay one of our most steady players, with a 27 Hole score of 31 + 22 = 53 closely followed by another experienced campaigner, with a bit slower swing these days, Bob Plain 31 + 20 = 52.

Well done Bob, hope you are saving the Brandy for a cold day, and to Bill O'Haulon who won the Body Warmer with 33 + 18 = 51.

We were pleased to have our President, Don Reeder, available to present the prizes.

Our thanks to the Prize Donors:-
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Town & Country Ltd., and
Mr. G. Pitcher (Vice President).

We would also like to thank the Woburn Golf and Country Club for providing their superb facilities throughout the day.

Neil Whittaker and the Greenstaff provided us with 27 Holes of most interesting golf on two very fine courses, plus an exceptionally high standard of subsistence from the restaurant staff.

The first meeting of 1987 will be at St. Neots Golf Club on Monday, 19th January at 2.30 p.m. when Jon Albutt of Synchemicals will give a talk on the latest Legislation concerning the use of Chemicals.

The new laws are extensive and the opportunity to listen to Jon should not be missed.

Martin Lay has arranged for the sandwiches and liquid refreshment to be available until 2.00 p.m. so please come early, and bring along the Chairman of Green of your home club, to this most important lecture.

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NORTHERN

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

Telephone: (0943) 72008

In a bid to curb a wave of mole workings a trap was purchased and set on Thursday. The trap was sprung sometime Saturday and disappeared by Monday morning. Obviously we are being watched by Greenpeace or the local animal rights movements. Does anyone have a man trap?

A similar run of bad luck hit the November 13th evening in the shape of a projector failure. Just about the last thing that could have been anticipated. My apologies to all involved for such an abbreviated performance.

Please note though, that the event is now re-scheduled for January 22nd, 1987, same place, same time, complete with Dynasty-type recap, before the main feature.

A jolly bunch of landlubbers took to the high seas with the ocean salvage firm United Towing on October 23rd, for what turned out to be a very fascinating insight into the skills and danger of world-wide salvage. Very many thanks to John Illingworth of Joseph Bentley Ltd. for arranging the speaker, Mike Lacey of United Towing and Alan Jones of North British Maritime. It's a damn good job more people were not present otherwise the boat might have capsized!

Our Seminar "Are you getting the best from your Course" on the 20th November attracted over eighty interested delegates. This proved to

be a respectable number in the light of the early response in the run-up period. Apart from more technical obstacles than were wanted at the time the various speakers presented their paper in professional fashion bringing together an overall programme of fine merit, which dovetailed very well.

Many valuable points were highlighted and although the event was tailored principally towards the golf club officer, attendance was dominated by greenkeepers - the same perennial faces, I might add.

Congratulations to Paul Cole a trainee at Rawdon Golf and Lawn Tennis Club, who gained a distinction in his exams at Askham Bryan.

Reports indicate that there are due to become B.I.G.G.A. at the beginning of 1987. There was talk of subs falling due at that time also, but no directive has yet been received. One feels that this would be an excellent way to lose the membership at one blow. However, we'll see. No matter, the President, Chairman, Secretary and Committee of the B.G.G.A. Northern Section extend Seasons Greetings to all colleagues and their families and wish all a healthy and peaceful New Year.

**The Publisher and Printer of
GOLF GREENKEEPING
extend their good wishes to
all members in the formation
of the new Association.**

SOUTH COAST

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

It is pleasing to report that a packed Clubhouse was in attendance for the November Meeting, when Mr. Martyn Jones spoke to members and guests. Martyn is, of course, well known to many members of the Section, and his talk "British Courses, are they on the right course?" will have made many who were present re-consider their maintenance programmes.

Only the intervention of our Chairman prevented the evening from becoming an all night sitting! Although many were still going strong when your Secretary had to depart.

Thank you Martyn, we look forward to a follow up lecture, next year.

Looking ahead, as one must with these notes, please support our next meeting on the 4th February, 1987, when Mr. Paul Watson will be talking to members on Ransomes Gangmowing Equipment.

Please note that the Section's A.G.M. will be on the 4th March, 1987.

Resolutions and Nominations for the position of Tournament Organiser which Ian wishes to relinquish, should be sent to me by 12th February, 1987.

On a more seasonal note - your President, Jim Fry, Chairman, Eric James, and Committee, wish all members A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

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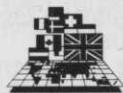
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