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CONVICTION AFTER GOLF BALL THEFT AT THE BELFRY

Four unemployed men from Birmingham were found guilty of theft last month after a two day trial at Warwick Crown Court which will be referred to as the Belfry Golf Ball Case in future legal argument.

The jury convicted them following a four hour deliberation after hearing how police apprehended the four in their car, drying themselves off.

Two men, Stephen Smith 21 and Christopher McGillivray 25 had been diving in the two lakes on the Ryder Cup Course wearing wet suits and two others John Forrester 24 and his brother Peter 22, waded knee deep along the edge of the lakes with ball nets. Their haul of 448 golf balls were claimed to be abandoned by golfers and they had not acted dishonestly by taking them. They all denied theft. Their defence counsel, Mr. Roger Smith said it was more like a modern form of scrumping.

The Recorder, Mr. Jonathan Goldring, imposing a conditional discharge said he had considered imposing fines, but because John Forrester owed £710.00 and his brother Peter £514 in fines from other court proceedings it would be wrong to add these outstanding penalties.

The prosecution in evidence submitted the four men, who all had previous convictions for either theft, receiving or dishonesty had searched the bottom of the six foot deep lakes collecting lost balls and it was a straightforward case of theft.

The management of The Belfry stated the lakes were dragged twice a year to collect 10,000 lost balls and they sold them for charity. The 448 balls valued at £224 would now be returned to the Belfry to be auctioned.

After the trial Mr. Rene Brunet, The Belfry's General Manager, said he was delighted with the outcome of the case. He had been told this was a test case in the history of golf and he was sure everyone connected with the game both in the UK and across the world will be happy with the result.

He added "People picking up the odd golf ball are not a problem, but when it is 448, it is an important matter".

> Editors note: (See Greenside Comment)





Dear Sir,

The February issue of **Golf Greenkeeping** has recently come across my desk, a little late and I read with interest Jonathan Peck's article on F.E.P.A. Your editorial comment was also interesting and I hope your members have taken note.

However I cannot let by, your 'Catch 22' comment about us, the trade!

Synchemicals has established a reputation, started by the late Douglas Gooding, for providing a sound and reliable training and advisory service on the safe use of spraying equipment and chemicals with scant reference to our own brands.

The F.E.P. Act is a challenging piece of legislation. To meet that challenge, clubs will need to re-examine their systems of working and will no doubt require more help with training and deciding on products and systems.

Yours sincerely, SYNCHEMICALS LTD. Jon Allbutt, Technical Manager.

The pace hottens for Mountfield's Triple M

Addicts of the BBC's late Breakfast Show! might have spotted in the climax of Noel Edmond's recent Great Lawnmower Challenge, the unusual sight of a fiery Mountfield Triple M, wildly out of control and destroying all in its path, including the trophy display.

But disasters are not always what they seem. The crash was a stunt contrived to put a bit of visual life into the final race. The Triple used was not quite what it seemed either. Following some detail modifications, pre-race trials revealed it was capable of speeds in excess of 20 mph. Despite this potency, the Triple M was required to forget its usual impeccable good manners and *not* win the race, but rush around the track before staging a spectacular crash.

In its more sedate role manouverability, speed and a competitive price have been the major selling factors. The 1986 models are more refined than ever, with options for electric start, and five or seven bladed cylinders. The new machines might not be capable of 20 mph but they will cut large areas of grass more quickly and economically than any comparable machine, and with a new production line geared to speed up supply, Mountfield has developed a formidable flagship to lead its equipment range at home and abroad.

MOLNTFIELD

BBC stuntman Tod Cody has a smashing time with The Mountfield Triple Mon "The Late Late Breakfast Show"

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Being responsive to current thought on golf course design and greenkeeping, you will have noticed in your favourite magazine (after this one) that golf courses are slowly sinking beneath the waves. A few grassy islands remain above the water and these are preserved from erosion by sleepers, logs, or rip-rap. None of this increases the golfer's enjoyment but it boosts the publicity which the golf course must generate to attract buyers to the ranchos lining the fairways. These persons, like the ladies who knitted while the aristocrats' heads rolled from the guillotine, are able to exclaim, 'There goes another!' as splash succeeds splash.



As you know, this tendency is not new but has accelerated lately because the new generation of American golf course designer, like his colleagues in the senior architectural profession, has discovered short cuts to topbilling. Each time the Press and T.V. announce improved figures for the number of golfers stretchered off the 18th green in deep shock, another star is born.

Inland Waferways

Fred Hawtree navigates the devious channels of water hazards and advises greenkeepers how to jump in at the deep end.

Fortunately, you gentlemen, being of ultra-sound mind and mature judgement will not indulge in vulgar display when confronted by a request from the Green Committee for a new water hazard at the 14th. You will apply a process of logical analysis to the project and might decide to base this on three questions.

- 1. Will it improve the interest of the hole?
- 2. Is it feasible in practical terms?
- 3. Will it remain handsome throughout the year without excessive maintenance problems?

On Question 1., dare I suggest that if, like one recent course in the U.S.A., water also enters into play at 17 holes on yours, you ought not to round up that figure to 18 for the sake of rationalising your transport with water-borne vehicles.

Why? Well, apart from the age-old landscape principles of variety and surprise, what is the players' reaction? He is best stimulated by strategic thought. **Splash I** illustrates how he can select a line of play according to ability, safety, risk, advantage, and the price of a ball: If he ends up in the water, self reproach will not undermine his fundamental belief in natural justice.



Splash II, with no option, may be used with discretion but repetition gets under the skin and may cause blisters.

Splash III, the heroic, offers no option apart from walking on to the next tee. Even so, it is acceptable once or even twice provided the problem is presented from the tee. When used under the second shot at Par 4's, it is correspondingly more difficult to hand out a fair deal to all players.

There are infinite variations on these three themes (and there are even other themes). I will leave you to work out the category of the proposal with which you have to deal and its viability in golfing terms.

Now, to the nuts and bolts. Is it feasible in practical terms? Assuming it will hold or can be made economically to hold water, your final assessment may be shaded by practical advantages, the most common of which guarantees the water supply. Calculate the volume contained, consumption, natural and artificial replenishment, evaporation. In a hot summer, neither your greens nor your members will be refreshed by a sea of mud. Water, if we are to have it everywhere, should at least be there all the time.

Other related advantages may accrue. Depending on use, catchment, outflow, and levels, the feature may provide an intermediate or final drainage receptacle. It may save flooding area for flash floods to be released slowly later. If, however, you are entering on calculations of this complexity, you will need a civil engineer at your disposal. He is indispensable if you propose to contain any considerable volume.

As to maintenance, you can be sure that extra work will follow in the future, but forethought can keep it down. The Editor's Chinese Carp may jib at the British Bulrush and the thistle-down we see floating in the evening sun must often be a bulrush looking for a new home. Once it has found one, its mates turn up in droves. They will stay on the margins normally but if your pool is too shallow, expect considerable agitation amongst members as golf balls are swallowed up inscrutably, and still more amongst the local frogs who will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

You should also consider nonbiological matters. Access to island greens will involve bridges unless a dinghy is provided. At Cannes (Mandelieu) they still cross one watercourse by boat but that is between holes not during one and there are bridges for equipment elsewhere.



Splash III shows how to limit the span required by building islets or Small spans also help eyots. to provide a rustic appearance. This in itself can be attractive but needs durable materials because the club's responsibility for safety is engaged. When the World Cup was played in the Indonesian capital, Djakarta, the calculations for constructing one bridge at least had not foreseen the weight of a large gallery following close on each other's heels. A number of paying guests therefore descended into the shallows and not all of them thought it was part of the fun. What is worse, this occurrence is said to have upset the players but it is not clear whether this resulted from alarm or from the usual reaction when people fall into a pool with their clothes on.

Still in Java, the Savoy Homann Hotel in Bandoeng was running a gastronomic week during my last visit. The delicacy I fancied, but could not bring myself to order was Fried Goldfish with something else less memorable, but certainly not chips. Cultivated on a big enough scale, your pool could brighten up the luncheon menus in the clubhouse and earn you an Egon Ronay commendation. And that brings us naturally to my final point. Will your water hazard look agreeable throughout the year?

It will not look anything at all if you cannot see it from the point where you are playing the relevant shot. **Splash IV** shows the worst type of proposal. To deprive the player of seeing the splash as his ball disappears is the final indignity. Moreover the calculations which engage his personality while he is playing the shot are frustrated if the pool is invisible. A small pool is often wasted in flat land unless immediately in front of the tee. Playing uphill, you will also see nothing and the effect will be further stultified if there is a retaining bank on the downhill side. But there are a number of bonus points available if your pool is well sited. A continuous input of fresh water from spring or stream will not only help to keep your pool clear but enable you to design attractive cataracts or waterfalls on a modest scale. These will help the aeration that is essential in hotter climes preferable on the whole to the fountains or jets which are sometimes necessary in pools not naturally refreshed, to avoid soaring temperatures and associated algeal growth.

You will have provided a general depth of 11/2 metres to achieve some kind of balance and restrict plant growth but this involves crucial decisions on the margins. Water inevitably attracts small children anxious to sail a log across the stormy seas or to put curious things in their jam jars. They will also put themselves in the pool from time to time. A gentle slope down to the water's edge, rather than an abrupt drop, will enable them to climb out and do it again next week. It will also allow you to mow right down to the water. But this shallow grade produces a wider intermediate "tidal" area. If there is any significant variation in water level and if the pool is waterproofed with a butyl rubber liner (which you can have constructed to any shape and dimensions you require) the edges have to be taken above the high water mark and turned down into a trench which is then filled. You must therefore camouflage the last few feet with suitable plant material or a stable stone layer or both. There are useful diagrams and suggestions Landscape Construction by M. in Downing (E. & F. Spon Ltd., London).

The totally natural appearance will only finally appear after careful forethought and a few years of assistance by Nature. When the swans and ducks have puddled the grass round the edges into a mire, when the herons have gobbled up all your fish, when the seagulls, taking winter refuge, have shed their plumage all around to the confusion of golfers seeking their golf balls, then you can reckon you have done a good job; but by that time you will have shed you own and be earning the rich rewards in Higher Places which are your just due after a lifetime devoted to virtuous, honest, caring service to mankind.



Footnote:

If you saw the Masters Tournament on TV last month, it may have occurred to you that the Augusta water hazards have not contrived to look natural in something over fifty years. I am not sure whether this is due to a mistaken conception of the origins of golf or because they move them about every year in the hope that one day they will get them just right. I mention this to warn you again that if you are fussy about this sort of detail, you are embarking on a long haul.

COMPETITION GRE

Finding greens which look good and play well is what every member expects, competition day or not. And fertilizers are vital to success. Now, with the new range of Fine Turf Fertilizers from ICI, grass nutrition is simpler and less time consuming.

Some of the products incorporate DIDIN* a new idea in long-term feeding – some have magnesium and seaweed extract – all of them are formulated as organic-based mini-granules.

We've included the new long-lasting nitrogen stabilizer called DIDIN into 'Spring and Summer Feed' and 'Weed and Feed'. Initial colour response is good without excessive stimulation of leaf growth. But, more importantly, DIDIN steadily provides nitrogen for up to three months after initial application – long after ordinary fertilizers have stopped working.

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For winter hardiness there is 'Autumn and Winter Feed'. In this formula the major plant foods are supplemented by both magnesium and iron.

To ensure fertilizer applications meet your requirements, we offer a free soil analysis service for all purchasers of ICI Fine Turf Fertilizers.

All developed especially for fine turf – and busy Greenkeepers.



First Southport Turfgrass & Sports Exhibition

More than 80 companies - including major British firms and leading overseas enterprises have already confirmed that they will be exhibiting at the first ever Sports and Leisure Exhibition to be held at Southport's Victoria Park on 13th and 14th May, 1986.

The Exhibition, organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship, 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; playground equipment; outdoor furniture; and other goods and services of vital interest to the sports and leisure industry professional, including golf courses.

Courses. A major section of the Exhibition will be devoted to education and training, with Members of the Institute's own Education Committee giving advice on various courses which take place throughout the UK, and explaining the developing opportunities which exist for young people interested in entering a career in groundsmanship. In addition leading colleges - including Cheshire College of Agriculture, Evesham College of Further Education and Hampshire College of Agriculture, Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture and Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture - will be taking part.

A large area has been set aside for practical demonstrations, so greenkeepers will be able to see and experience the latest mechanical developments in action.

This unique gathering - the industry's first such event in the North-West will enable visitors to see and discuss the whole range of equipment, services and techniques of interest to groundsmen, greenkeepers, landscape architects, Local Authority amenity staff and sports centre administrators.

Special complimentary admission tickets have been sent to sports and clubs and associations, schools and colleges throughout the North-West, and some 4,000 visitors are expected. Catalogues will be available at the gate at a cost of £1.50, and extensive car parking facilities are available at £1.00 per vehicle, though coaches will be accommodated free-of-charge.

The Exhibition will be open from 10 am till 7 pm on Tuesday 13th May, and from 9 am till 4.30 pm on Wednesday 14th May.

To celebrate the event of a festive programme is being mounted which will include a reception for exhibitors at the Scarisbrick Hotel on Sunday evening, 11th May; an exhibition Golf Tournament at Royal Birkdale in aid of local charities on Monday 12th May; a Civic Reception in Southport's Floral Hall that same evening; a visit to the Exhibition by The Mayor and Mayoress of Southport at 11.30 am on Tuesday 13th May; and special awards for outstanding stand design and layout.

Provisional dates for the 1987 Southport Sports and Leisure Exhibition have now been announced: 12th and 13th May 1987.

Where to stay for the National Tournament

This year's National Tournament at Billingham Golf Club hosted by the Cleveland Section, offers to visitors and contestants the opportunity to explore one of Britain's most attractive areas.

Within a few miles of the golf course are the coastal resorts of Redcar, Staithes, and Whitby. From the popular Ship Inn at Old Saltburn on the A174 to Whitby, the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast stretches thirty-six miles almost to Scarborough.

Inland the North Yorkshire Moors of open heather rise to 1,400 feet above sea level. These extensive areas of moorland separated by deeply incised dales give the area its distinctive character. Castles and Abbeys abound for those who are intrigued by the history surrounding these ancient buildings.

There can surely be no better place than Cleveland for a base from which to visit the many attractions of the North of England. Spectacular countryside and historic towns are all within easy reach of the county.

Cleveland offers a wide variety of accommodation to suit all budgets, and it is sure to appeal to the more discerning visitor who prefers to avoid the headache of finding somewhere to stay in the more crowded traditional tourist centres.

Accommodation

There is a wide choice of accommodation in Cleveland, ranging from modern hotels to traditional guest houses. There are a number of caravan sites in the region, most of which provide facilities for touring caravans and camping.

Although there are many hotels and guest houses to the east of Billingham most of the tournament contestants prefer to stay within a few minutes of the golf course because of the early morning starting times and as a guide to accommodation in the Stockton and Billingham area we are listing addresses with price ranges supplied by the Cleveland Tourist Office.

Further details can be obtained by writing to the Northumbrian Tourist Board at:-

9 Osbourne Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 1NT or the Tourist Office for Cleveland at:-125 Albert Road, Middlesborough.

> *Registered with the Northumbria Tourist Board



STOCKTON ACCOMMODATION LIST

ABBY PRIVATE HOTEL 379 Norton Road, Norton Tel: Stockton 554250 Bed & Breakfast: £8.00

*CLAIRVILLE HOTEL 519 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe Tel: Eaglescliffe 780378 Bed & Breakfast: Single: £13.00 Double: £22

CROFTON HOUSE West Street, YARM Tel: Eaglescliffe 780596 Bed & Breakfast: £8.50

GRANGE HOTEL 88 Yarm Road, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 675908 Bed & Breakfast: Double: £18.00 Single: £11.00 (plus VAT)

LEEDS HOTEL 37 Bishopton Lane, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 678357 (Price on Application)

*PARKMORE HOTEL 636 Yarm Road, EAGLESCLIFFE Tel: Eaglescliffe 780324 Bed & Breakfast: Single: £24.00 Twin: £32.00

*BILLINGHAM ARMS The Causeway, BILLINGHAM Tel: Stockton 552104 Single from: £18.25 Double from: £47.50 *COURT PRIVATE HOTEL 49 Yarm Road, STOCKTON ON TEES Tel: Stockton 604483 Single: £9.75 Double: £18.50

GRANGE GUEST HOUSE 33 Grange Road, NORTON Tel: Stockton 552451 Bed & Breakfast: £7.00

*NEW CITY PRIVATE HOTEL 88 Yarm Road, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 679044 Bed & Breakfast: Single: £8.50 Double: £15.50

PARKWOOD HOTEL 64/66 Darlington Road, HARTBURN Tel: Stockton 580800 Single: £18.00 Double: £25.00

*PENDELPHIN GUEST HOUSE 363 Norton Road, NORTON Tel: Stockton 552824 Bed & Breakfast: £7.50

SHERATON PRIVATE HOTEL 37 Yarm Road, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 674211 Bed & Breakfast: £8.50

*STONYROYD HOUSE 187 Oxbridge Lane, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 673133 Single from: £14.50 Double from: £22.00 STORK HOTEL 10 Bowesfield Lane, STOCKTON Tel: Stockton 611939 Single: £11.00 Twin: £18.00

THE STATION HOTEL 172 Station Road, BILLINGHAM Tel: Stockton 553437 Single: £10.00 Twin: £16.00

*TALL TREES HOTEL Worsall Road, YARM Tel: Eaglescliffe 781050 Single: £22.50 Double: £30.00

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MR. & MRS. KEPSNIS 21 The Crescent, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: Middlesbrough 825283 Bed & Breakfast: £9.00

*LAUREL HOTEL 113 Borough Road, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: Middlesbrough 24586 Bed & Breakfast: £10.35

THE LINTHORPE HOTEL The Crescent, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: Middlesbrough 819287 Single: £12.65 Double: £19.55 (inc. Breakfast)

*LONGLANDS HOTEL 295 Marton Road, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: Middlesbrough 244900 Single: £12.00 + VAT Double: £20 + VAT Evening Meal: £3.50 + VAT *MARTON HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB Stokesley Road, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: Middlesbrough 317141 Mon. - Thurs. Single: £25.00 Double: £35.00 (inc. Breakfast)

> *THE POST HOUSE Low Lane, THORNABY Tel: Thornaby 591213 Single: £36.00 Double: £45.00

*SOUTHERN CROSS Stokesley Road, MARTON Tel: Marton 317539 Single: £11.00 Twin: £18.50 (inc. VAT and Breakfast)

SOUTHFIELD HOTEL Southfield Road, MIDDLESBROUGH Tel: 244792 Single: £10.00 Twin: £18.50 (inc. VAT and Breakfast)

TRINIANS GUEST HOUSE 47 Oxford Road, LINTHORPE Tel: Linthorpe 820071 Single: £12.00 Twin: £18

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