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# GOLF GREENKEEPING

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

The Association is affiliated to the  
English and Welsh Golf Unions

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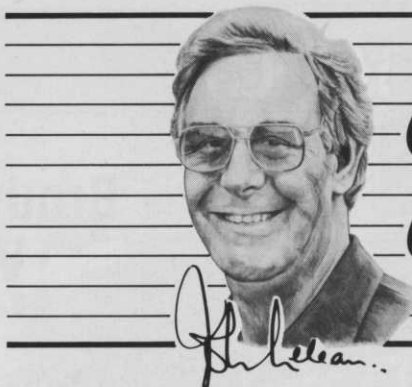
Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance is published by: Wharfedale Publications Limited, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4SR. Telephone: (0937) 63181. Published ten times per year. Copies for non-members by subscription. £10.00 a year. Single Copies £1.50 postage paid. Published for the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association by: Wharfedale Publications Limited.

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Printed by: W. Kristall Ltd., Leeds.

**Published by:**

**JOHN LELEAN**  
Wharfedale Publications Limited  
P.O. Box 12, Wetherby,  
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## Greenside Comment...

### TREASURE HUNTERS CONVICTED

Last December we drew attention to the case before local magistrates concerning four young Birmingham men, accused of stealing 448 golf balls from lakes on the Brabazon Course at the Belfry. This was no ordinary ball scavenging affair but a highly organised operation with two men in wet suits scouring the bottom of the six foot deep lakes at night with two others, knee deep on the lake edge, with nets.

The presiding magistrate, realising the legal implications, decided to send the four accused on to the Crown Court for trial by jury. The outcome already widely publicised in the national press was a verdict of guilty, but as two of the accused had outstanding fines from other courts, the Recorder, Mr. Jonathan Goldring said he had decided not to add to their financial commitment, but gave all four a conditional discharge. Strange as it may seem a 'conditional discharge', where someone is found guilty but no punishment imposed is a conviction, despite the appearance to the general public that they have 'got away with it'.

The legal precedent now set, will outlaw the organised mass reclamation of lost golf balls on private property, but is unlikely to be used as a point of law against small boys finding the wayward drive in the woods.

After the verdict a spokesman from the Law Society was quoted as saying "It will be up to each court to look at individual cases, but picking up odd balls on a golf course is not likely to be regarded as a criminal offence".

The court ruling refers only to private courses and a situation arising from a similar foray on a public course could produce a different result.

St. Andrews, one of our best known public courses already has a local bye-law covering the searching for abandoned golf balls.

As we have said before, lost golf balls have always been regarded as one of the few perks for greens staff. Those who climb over the fence specifically to hunt for balls are dishonest whether the law says so or not. Without realising, many of these 'scrumper' are putting themselves in grave danger and it is unlikely that any golfer's insurance would pay out to someone who was proved to be trespassing with intent to steal by finding, even if they did receive a fatal injury from a well hit ball.

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## Next Month

Grass Seed for the Golf Course  
Chinese grass carp. Nature's way of removing pond weed  
Looking for a new Job?  
How to prepare your curriculum vitae and compose an application letter

# NEWS Round-up

## Brouwer's new Outdoor Vacuum Cleaner



## WE CARE FOR FINE TURF



But don't just take our word for it. Put us to the test and ask for a no-obligation demonstration on your course, grounds or sports surfaces. We'll be amazed if we don't get on famously.

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Huxleys  
Grass Machinery  
The Dean  
New Alresford  
Hampshire  
SO24 9BL  
Tel: 096273 3222

Turflands's Managing Director, Chris Watmore may not be a betting man but it could be said he 'cleaned-up' at Aintree after the Grand National.

Turfland Professional Equipment were called in by the contractors to help remove the vast amount of litter left by a multitude of race-goers, with the BROUWER VAC and, needless-to-say, it ran first in the 'sweepstakes!'

With the Grand National over for another year the Ground Staff were faced with 60 tons of litter and debris to clear-up but in true Brouwer fashion the VAC came to the rescue.

This unique machine, with a loading capacity of 335 cu ft, was launched onto the UK market towards the end of 1985. Specifically designed to collect fallen leaves, grass clippings, twigs, paper, food containers etc, it is now making a 'cleansweep' of all the jobs it encounters. Greenkeepers find it invaluable for disposing of thatch left by verti-cutting and it's also a huge success with Turf Producers - a large capacity machine, capable of removing damaging wet grass clippings.

Fitted behind a 34-45 HP tractor, it is very manoeuvrable and operates quickly and efficiently.

Just like 'West Tip' - no hurdle proved too big for the BROUWER VAC at this year's Grand National, and would seem an ideal machine to 'sweep' the course after a major tournament.

Details on this and the complete range of Brouwer Turf Machinery from:-

Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd.,  
Redhouse Farm, Barker's Hollow Rd,  
Dutton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4LL

Telephone: Aston (09286) 272 & 336

Ask for:

Chris Watmore or Denise Cowell



## New Ground Driven Fertiliser Spreader



Wessex Farm Machinery Sales Co. have introduced a new trailed fertiliser distributor suitable for professional or domestic use.

The new 'Mini-Spreader' has a spinning disc distributor plate, with four deflector blades, protected by a special anti-corrosive finish. The spinning disc is ground driven through heavy duty bevel gears immersed in an oil bath. The wide profile pneumatic tyres have a turf tread pattern to minimise compaction on fine turf areas.

The conical hopper holds approx. 70 kgs (150 lbs) depending on the type of fertiliser, and has a corrosion resistant paint finish. The hopper is mounted on a sturdy tubular frame, with the drawbar adjustable according to the position of the tow hitch on the tractor. The Wessex 'Mini-Spreader' is suitable for use with most compact tractors, and specially suits diesel engined ride-on mowers such as the Kubota G3HST.

The 'Mini Spreader' can be used for granular and powdered fertilisers, grass seed, and salt. Spread widths range from 2m (6ft 7in) - 8m (26ft) depending on ground speed, with application rates from 52 - 410 grammes per square metre for granular fertiliser.

The Wessex 'Mini-Spreader' costs £265.00 + VAT.

## New Secretary for the British Turf Irrigation Association

The British Turf Irrigation Association, founded eight years ago, has appointed John Shildrick as Secretary.

Mr. Shildrick, currently Assistant Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute and Secretary of the National Turfgrass Council, will be serving the BTIA in a part-time capacity. He brings to the post a long experience in the UK turfgrass industry, and an independence of trade interests which the Association hopes will be the foundation of vigorous development in the next few years.

The BTIA Chairman, Bill Hawthorn, said, "We have for some time wanted to have an independent Secretary to whom anyone with a serious complaint could write to in full confidence that the problem would be sorted out quickly and fairly. We intend to strengthen and improve our set minimum standards, both for golf courses and soon for other irrigation work. An essential basis will be a Secretary with no ties to one company, but with the interests of all at heart, in maintaining the good name of the Association".

Further information on the British Turf Irrigation Association can be obtained from:-

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

Daytime telephone: Bradford (0274) 565131  
Evening telephone: Cullingworth (0535) 273188

## BGGA SECTIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT DIARY

MAY	14	Sherwood G.C. (E. Midlands)
MAY	19	Notts G.C. (Sheffield)
MAY	22	Steeley Vitax Tournament Whitchurch G.C.
MAY	22	Ormskirk G.C. (N. West)
MAY	22	Arkley G.C. (Mid Anglia)
MAY	22	Whittington G.C. (Midlands)
MAY	27	S. West v. Secretaries, Filton G.C.
JUNE	3	Welsh Section v. Secretaries Southerndown G.C.
JUNE	10	Broadstone G.C. (S. Coast)
JUNE	17	Greenkeepers v. Vice-Presidents Leicestershire G.C. (E. Midlands)
JUNE	18	Cavendish G.C. (Sisis Tournament)
JUNE	19	Garforth (Northern)
JUNE	25	Westonburt G.C. (S. West)
JULY	8	Ashridge G.C. (Mid. Anglia)
JULY	10	Isle of Purbeck G.C. (S. Coast)
JULY	10	Dinas Powis G.C. (Welsh)
JULY	16	Roses Match Preston G.C.
JULY	29	Midlands v. Mid Anglia, Tewkesbury G.C.
AUG.	11-12-13	NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - Billingham G.C. (Entries close 30th June)
AUG.	14	Easingwold G.C. Invitation Day (Northern)
AUG.	21	A.R.M.S Tournament (Open Event) Filton G.C. (S. West)
SEPT.	4	S. Coast v. S. West, Wells G.C.
SEPT.	9	Matlock G.C. (Sheffield)
SEPT.	11	Langland Bay G.C. (Welsh)
SEPT.	25	Basingstoke G.C. (S. Coast)
OCT.	2	Longcliffe G.C. (E. Midlands)
OCT.	8	St. Pierre G.C. S. West v. Welsh
OCT.	14	Fulford G.C. (Northern)
OCT.	21 or 22	Cotswold Edge G.C. (S. West)

All entries must be made in advance through Competition Secretaries.

See current Sectional notes for further details concerning fees and starting times.

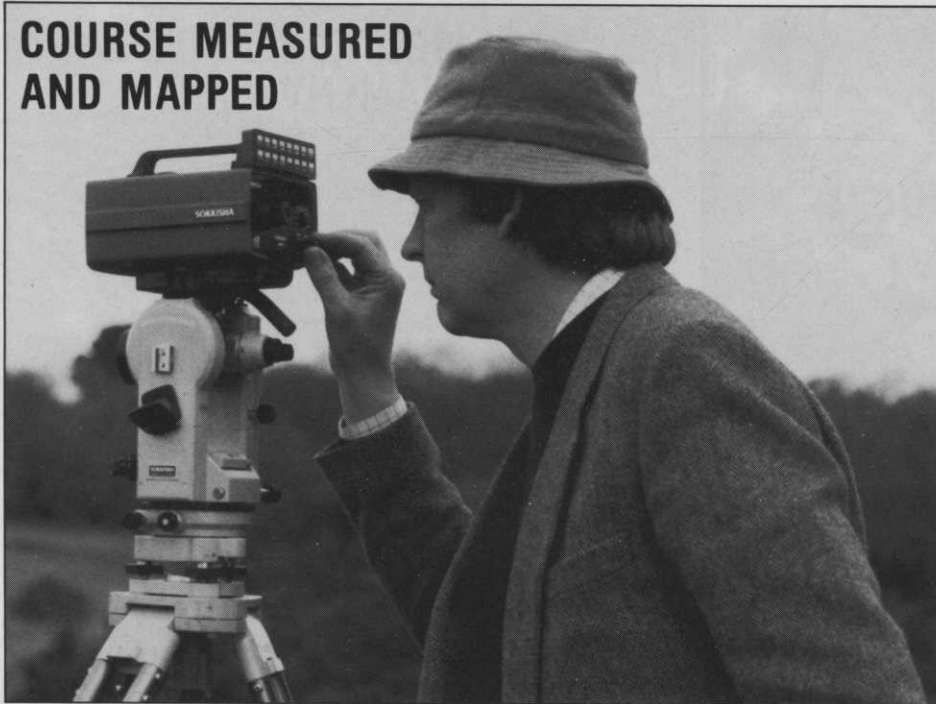
A revised tournament diary will be published throughout the season. Would Secretaries please inform the Editor of new dates and venues as soon as they are available.

# Grass maintenance machinery for Compact Tractors

## WESSEX

WESSEX FARM MACHINERY SALES CO.,  
NEWMAN LANE, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE.  
TELEPHONE: ALTON 88848. TELEX: 858755.

## COURSE MEASURED AND MAPPED



Based on experience gained first hand, during the first year of running his own golf irrigation consultancy, Phillip York has now expanded the services his business provides by adding a golf course measuring and mapping facility.



"I have been surprised at the lack of detailed information available at some clubs" he says. "An accurately measured and detailed course map is essential when clubs are considering expensive innovations like the installation of an irrigation system. Without it, work will be carried out on a hit-and-miss basis with final costs being higher than originally envisaged".

Phillip York's new service offers clubs, contractors, architects and agronomists a professionally certified course measurement plus the complete mapping of courses, pre-development surveys and staking-out.

By using the latest electronic surveying equipment - a course can be accurately measured (+15mm vertically, +30mm horizontally) in the time it takes to complete an average round of golf, at a cost comparable to a good set of clubs.

Measurement certificates are issued to clubs and meet the criterion laid down by the Council of National Golf Unions.

## Turf Tyre Protectors

Punctures - costly, time-wasting and annoying hazards for those working on grass - are dramatically reduced by a new range of tyre protectors from two English companies - Axleline Eastern Limited, of Boston and Moplant Limited, of Poole.

Turf tyres, which are necessarily of thin construction to avoid damage to the grass, have these thick rubber protectors placed inside the tread and held in place by the tube, providing an extra strong layer to absorb thorns, etc., and helping greatly to reduce punctures.



*Demonstrating the simplicity of fitting one of the new range of tyre protectors now available from Axleline Eastern of Boston and Moplant of Poole, Dorset.*

## Maintain and Renovate Fine Turf from the Seat of a Compact Tractor

Huxleys Grass Machinery have produced a fully-mounted, powered Fine Turf Scarifier for use behind most compact tractors.

Designed specifically for surface renovation work, scarifying and thatch control on all areas of fine turf, the Huxley TV36 Fine Turf Scarifier has a working width of 914mm (36in) and can be used with a tractor producing between 16 and 24hp.

Positive drive for the TV36's 52 double-edged, long-life blades is transmitted from the tractor's power take-off shaft. Blade spacing can be varied to suit surface conditions, down to a minimum setting of 16mm (5/8in).

Front and rear rollers which can be adjusted quickly and easily up or down on threaded hangers. Maximum working depth is 19mm (3/4in).

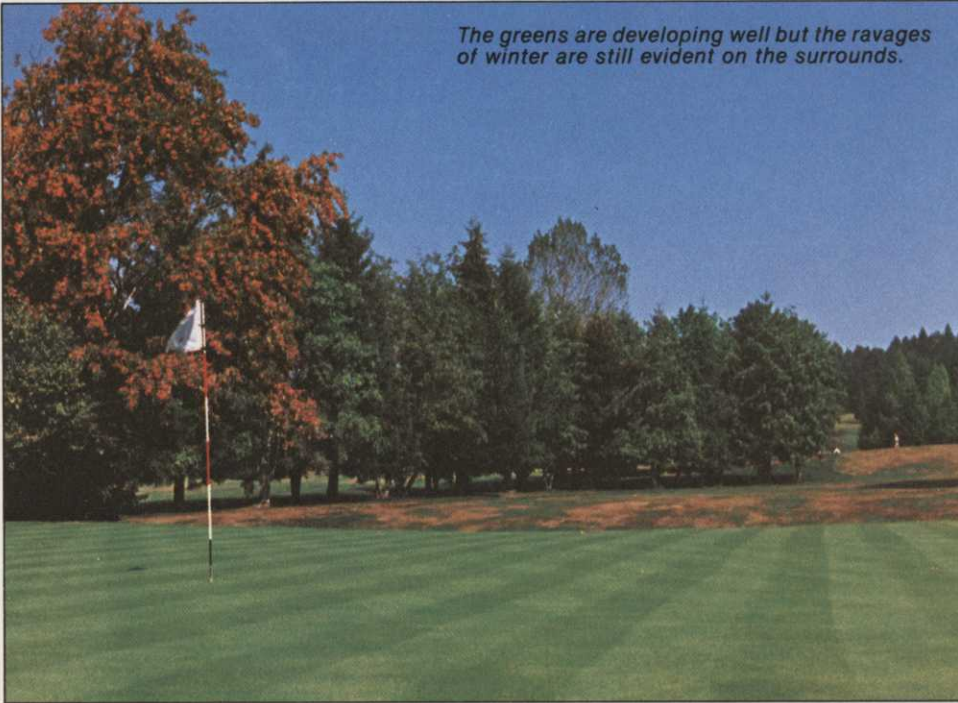
The TV36 Scarifier is priced at £1,295 plus VAT.





# Greenkeeping in Switzerland

*The greens are developing well but the ravages of winter are still evident on the surrounds.*



**I recently read Fred Hawtree's article on Greenkeepers abroad and as one of the emigrants who took the plunge and left England to gain experience in foreign fields it was not only of great interest, but offered advice, others with similar ideas would be foolish to ignore!**

Five years ago at the age of twenty-two I was given the chance of work at the Lausanne Golf Club as a Supervisor responsible for the work of ten staff. It was a very demanding position, but after two months I was offered the position of Head Greenkeeper. However for various reasons I turned the job down and returned to England to work at the Moor Allerton Golf Club near Leeds. For the next two years I applied for numerous Head Greenkeeper positions, but at the interview stage the story was always the same - I was too inexperienced and too young for such a responsible job.

Frustration forced me to the conclusion that if I was to make anything of my life, then I had to go abroad again.

To cut a long story short, incredible as it may seem, Lausanne were not satisfied with the Head Greenkeeper at that time and once again I was offered the job. This time I accepted and so began three of the happiest years of my life.

I would like to tell you a little about my work here in Switzerland and a few of the problems I have faced. Some of them, Greenkeepers in England will recognise as similar to their own, but there are others unique to high altitudes and extremes of temperature.

Lausanne Golf Club is sixty-five years old, constructed in 1921, at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level. It is an eighteen hole Championship Course covering a total of 160 acres. The Swiss Open Championship has been staged three times, the Swiss Amateur on numerous occasions, the World Amateur once and this year we will host the European Seniors Championship.

The most incredible aspect of working as a Greenkeeper in Switzerland is the climatic extremes. Taking last year as an example, the temperature during the winter months dropped as low as minus 40 degrees centigrade and in a twenty four hour period we had four feet of snow. At the other end of the scale during the months of July through to October, the temperature ranged from 80 to 100 degrees on the Fahrenheit scale and in this period we had only two days when it rained.

## **British Greenkeeper Ian Tomlinson tells of the three years at Lausanne**

By British standards our golfing season is comparatively short, more like the Canadians, April until October or November dependent upon when the snow melts and then begins to fall again.

One of the most important jobs at Lausanne G.C. is applying a long duration fungicide to the greens just before the first snowfall to protect them from snow mould. Mistime this little operation and you will probably be looking for another job!

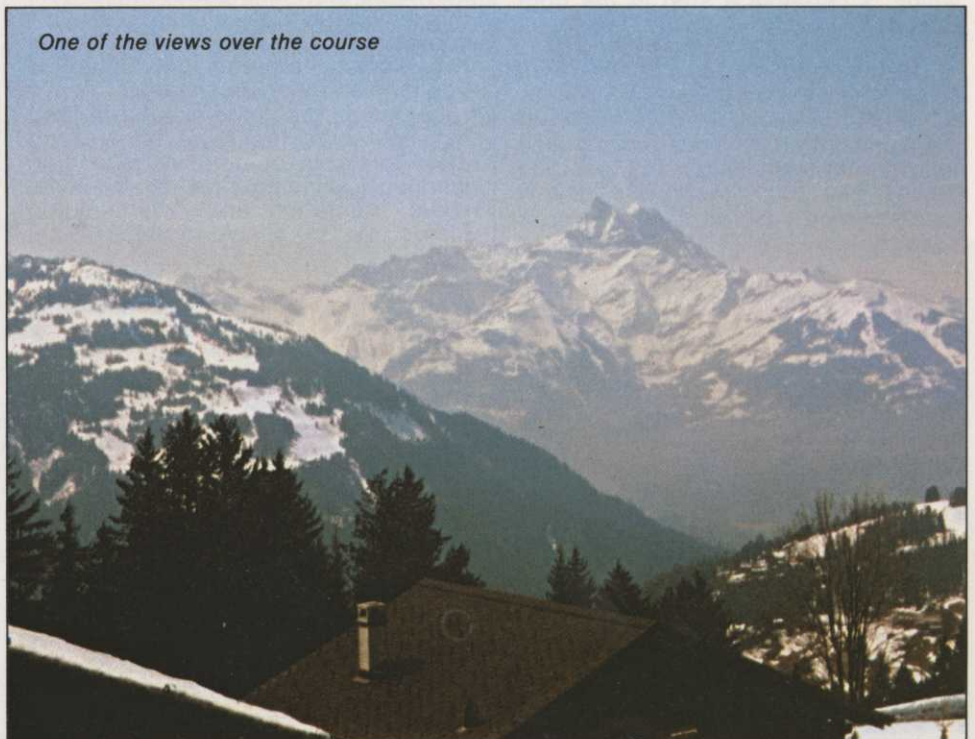
It is normal for the course to be under a covering of snow for three to four months of the year. Around mid-March I dig the greens free of snow and this hardens them off as I prepare for the start of the new season.

Once the snow has melted the real work of maintaining the course begins. Left behind are diseased fairways, uprooted trees, hundreds of broken branches and a mass of other debris left from the winter. The bunkers look as if a squadron of tanks have carried out extensive desert manoeuvres. All this has to be put right in just a few short weeks to be ready for the Summer Competitions.

## **But what about the greens?**

They have been asleep for months under a blanket of snow and we must now attempt to encourage growth to withstand the onslaught of the members and guests, all naturally looking for the perfect putting surface. Someone suggested 'yodelling' helps. It may do but it played hell with my tonsils!

*One of the views over the course*







*Cupressus provide a fine backdrop to the sculptured green*



*Snow mould damage on the green apron*

My main concern on taking over at Lausanne was the soil ph of the greens which registered 8.0. Undesirable grasses were flourishing and the greens suffered badly from disease, though over the past few years regular applications of iron and ammonia has slowly brought down the ph to 7.0, which is certainly a step in the right direction.

The next problem I had to solve with the greens was root growth, in my case a lack of it. Regular aeration as a turf management programme had not been followed for many years. The most the greens had received was a hollow tining once a year, which produced a situation of virtually no root growth at all on some greens and even the best of them showed only about an inch.

As an apprentice at Scarcroft Golf Club in Yorkshire where we were taught the traditional methods of green-keeping by Mr. Jeffery Mawson, we handforked the greens. I tried this method for the last two years at Lausanne, forking to a depth of twelve inches with extremely good results. Although I may not have appreciated it at the time I saw the results of handforking at Scarcroft and how it encouraged deep rooting and this was the only method available. This year we are hoping to purchase a Verti-Drain, which is certainly a relief to me and probably more so to the staff!

Staff was a problem in my first year at the Club. Unfortunately they were a rather unruly bunch, who had been allowed to do almost as they pleased for the four years prior to my taking over. The final straw came on the eve of a major competition, when they downed tools and refused to work. Inevitable staff changes resulted from this incident and my present staff now consists of two Swiss, one Italian, two Portuguese and one qualified Englishman as my Assistant.

Language problems existed at first, but French is the local tongue and after trying to communicate in sign language, semaphore and morse code, sheer frustration and determination forced me to speak an acceptable version of the local Swiss French.

One of the Swiss employees is a full time qualified mechanic and he is absolutely invaluable. We have a fully equipped workshop containing hydraulic worktable, oxy-acetylene equipment, and an electric welding set-up.

With such a short season, you might wonder when alterations and improvements are carried out. Not in the winter, that's for sure. New constructions are done side by side with the general mowing and maintenance right through our season. This produces considerable difficulties when the primary objective is to keep the course in a first class playing condition, but it has to be done even to diverting staff to build new tees during the month of July.

As at home, the golfers will soon let you know when the rough is too long; others will complain about the work rate when tee building and there is always the man who can never understand why the course is being dug up at the very spot his ball hits the fairway. He never appreciates the final result is for his benefit anyway.

Last Autumn we had a complete new watering system installed by Water-mation to serve the tees, greens, the surrounds and approached. This replaced a disastrous irrigation scheme installed some five years ago by a quite well-known company at a cost of £100,000.

They attempted to upgrade the previous system dating back some forty years, connecting the P.V.C. piping to the already corroding galvanised metal pipe and turning the system hydraulic. The old pipes could not cope with the pressure and began to leak. Sprinklers remained on and could not be shut off except by shutting down huge areas. On three of the greens one sprinkler head was considered sufficient to supply all the water needed yet others were provided with up to five sprinklers to cover the putting surface. You can see now why I called it a 'disaster'.

The only problem I can foresee for the future concerns the water supply. There are two lakes fed by a mountain stream which dry up in hot weather. We can use the town's water supply to replenish the lakes, but this is a very expensive operation. I would like to find another source of supply, but this is something for the future. It is just a relief to know that this year I should have trouble free watering, drought permitting of course!

The machinery we use at Lausanne is similar to the equipment used in the UK, the usual mowers and turf aerators supplied by such firms as Ransomes, Jacobsens, Toro and Cushman.

I have tried a variety of fungicides and fertilisers obtainable from Swiss distributors, but this year Supaturf will be supplying me with SSD for the greens and the May & Baker Rovral to counteract fungal infection. In addition I am including the Farmura range of products as part of my turf management programme.

Not many people realise the effect of air pollution on nature, but even here in Switzerland a number of our trees are slowly dying as a result of chemicals in the atmosphere. In the last two years thirty trees have died on this course some of which were less than twenty years old. It is a serious matter and who can tell what the outcome will be in another ten years if the problems cannot be solved.

As I said right at the beginning of this article my decision to come at Lausanne has given me three of the happiest years of my life, but it is a very demanding job and a great deal of hard work.

Mr. Hawtree is right when he advises caution before embarking on a new career abroad. It is a momentous decision and one that need careful thought weighing up the advantages against the disadvantages. In my case I felt I had nothing to lose and everything to gain by grasping the nettle. It was a decision I have never regretted.



## New Hydraulic Cylinder Mower from Green's

GREEN'S have newly introduced to their range of professional grass cutting machinery a triple gang hydraulic cylinder mower for use on the smaller compact tractors from 16 DIN upwards. Called the triple "BANTAM" this mower is mounted on the tractor 3 point linkage and driven by a tandem pump on the PTO giving an 84" cut. Each gang unit is independently controlled to prevent each cylinder running when lifted out of work.

The outer gangs can be lifted while the gangs on the ground continue to cut, allowing manoeuvrability round trees, benches, etc. Cylinders are 7½" diameter and are available with 5 or 8 blades. Priced at £3,409.00 + VAT with 8 blades including a one year commercial warranty and free delivery.



GREEN'S machinery is distributed in the UK by:-

### CLAYMORE GRASS MACHINERY

Fergus Square, Arbroath, Angus  
Telephone: 0241-73841

37 Dulverton Road, Witton, Birmingham  
Telephone: 021-326-7171

They will arrange demonstrations on this machine or any other items in the GREEN'S RANGE

## Southport's Remedy for poor putting surfaces

### Top-dressing and sand

Frank Garvey believes he has the remedy to overcome the frustrating problem of pock-marked and bumpy greens, aggravated by the coldest and wettest April in years - 200,000 tons of it!

Frank a keen and dedicated golfer is the managing director of Shuttleland Limited, owners of a sand quarry near Southport, Lancs., producing an extremely high quality soil formed from an accumulation of forest litter on glacial sand, which provided the foundation of the world famous links courses on the Lancashire coast.

Shuttleland Sand is a fine silica with over 95% of the particles between 0.10 and 0.60mm providing an ideal drainage material for golf courses.

Analysis has shown that the particles are rounded to sub-angular and weathered. Their pitted surface will enhance moisture and nutrient retention, giving a slight acid soil reaction. It also has a relatively high iron content.

The Company are producing two types of sand, Grade 5 silica ideal for greens construction, drainage and bunkers and Grade 6 silica for mixing with other material for top dressing.

Utilising the natural material from the quarry area Shuttleland produce what they call the Rufford Top Dressing, a mixture of Grade 6 sand and the shredded soil broken down over thousands of years from the accumulation of the forest litter.

Spread over greens, the top dressing can be used without further screening providing a healthy biological active rootzone material.

All three materials are supplied direct from the quarry at £5.00 a ton for Grade 5, £6.50 for Grade 6 and £19.50 for the Rufford Top Dressing, plus a scale delivery charge dependent on the distance the loads need to be hauled. Minimum load, ten tonnes.

Prices and samples can be obtained from Frank Garvey at:-

Nucks Wood Quarry,  
Holmeswood, Nr. Southport  
or give him a ring at:  
Rufford (0704) 821314.

## 'FIRSTEE' all-weather Tees

Golf Clubs suffering from one of the wettest winters on record will be more than interested in the recent introduction of the revolutionary 'Firstee' all-weather tee-off surface from Chipman Limited of Horsham, West Sussex.

'Firstee' is a 12ft by 12ft Silica Sand filled artificial grass carpet providing a natural, firm foothold, which because of its porous nature, always provides a good tee-off surface even during the worst weather conditions.

It has proved popular with players as it responds like grass, readily accepts tee pegs, and is equally suited to irons or woods. Its large size allows ample room to vary tee-off positions and it is large enough to give players unrestricted standing room. Being level with the existing tee it eliminates the uncomfortable and unnerving feeling of having to step up or on to an artificially prepared surface.

Greens staff have found 'Firstee' ideal for those awkward tree shrouded tees where it is always impossible to keep a good grass covering. Installation is quick and simple and can be easily accomplished by the club's own staff. Maintenance comprises just an occasional brush over and top up with sand.

Chipman are marketing 'Firstee' not only as a Winter substitute tee but as an all year round alternative to natural turf.

Further details can be obtained from

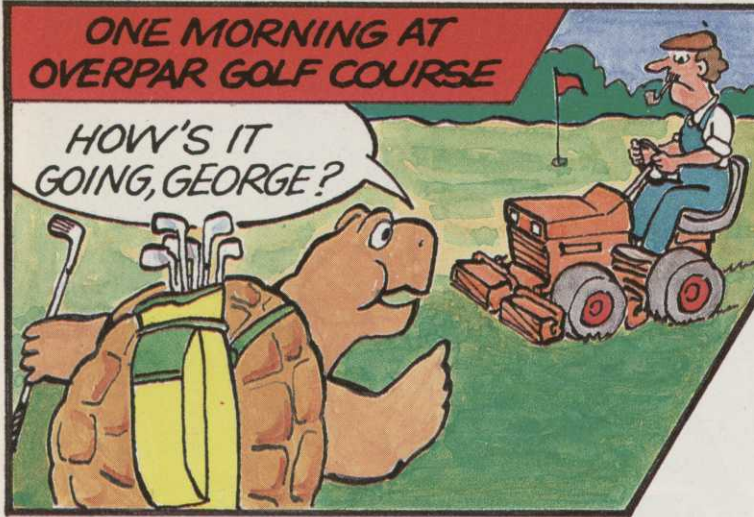
The Editor,  
Golf Greenkeeping,  
P.O. Box 12, Wetherby,  
West Yorkshire





ONE MORNING AT  
OVERPAR GOLF COURSE

HOW'S IT  
GOING, GEORGE?



TERRIBLE. THIS FERTILISER  
HAS SCORCHED THE  
GREENS, THE FAIRWAYS  
ARE GROWING LIKE MAD...  
AND I'M RUN OFF  
MY FEET.



THAT  
FLORANID'S  
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MORE SLOW RELEASE  
NITROGEN THAN ANY  
OTHER FERTILISER, AND  
IT ONLY RELEASES WHEN  
YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT  
WEATHER CONDITIONS  
FOR GROWTH

AND THAT  
CUTS OUT SUDDEN  
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YELLOWING, PATCHINESS,  
AND SAVES ON  
MOWING



AND YOU  
GET LESS  
WITHERING  
IN DROUGHT  
CONDITIONS TOO



WITH ANY  
THE IMPRO  
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