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A qualified Greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance is required for the challenging task of maintaining this newly constructed 9 hole course.

The golf course, which is part of the Council's Country Park Development, will open in the spring of 1988 and there is a possible extension to 18 holes.

The council offer a generous package of terms and conditions. Salary circa. £9,000 plus some overtime, and a package for relocation expenses.

Full details and application form from the Personnel Office, Wimborne District Council, Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne, Dorset. Telephone (0202) 886201 Ext 257 and returnable by 1st May 1987.

Wimborne 
District Council

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LIPHOOK GOLF CLUB,
Wheatsheaf Enclosure,
LIPHOOK Hants. GU30 7EH



GREENKEEPER JOINS RIGBY TAYLOR

Martin Dignam has joined Rigby Taylor Limited and will be responsible for direct sales in the North.

Martin, 29, started his career in Greenkeeping at Phoenix Park Sports Club, Bradford and later moved to Woodhall Hills Golf Club as first assistant, where he obtained City and Guilds in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. This subsequently led to his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Knaresborough Golf Club.

A keen golfer he has won several major competitions including the B.G.G.A. President's Trophy, and last year qualified for the Jacobsen National Finals held at Hunstanton Golf Club in Norfolk and finished a commendable 9th.

He is welcomed to his new position at Rigby Taylor by John Holt, the Bolton based Sales Manager and a single figure golfer himself.

Martin Dignam (left) about to set off on his round, is welcomed to the staff by Sales Manager John Holt

Fairway yardage markers

A subject certain to produce controversial discussion in the bar of any golf club, concerns fairway markers.

There are some who believe distance guides destroy the spirit of the game, taking away the visual estimate of which club to use. Others take the view they speed up play and as most keen members already carry detailed notes of distance marks at their own course paced out to within a foot of the pin position, an 'on course' marker would appear not to offend against the rules.

The experienced caddy on the major courses is expected not only to give the golfer yardages, but also advise the club to use and the line of approach, so for those golfers who do not have this advice or know the course, fairway markers would not seem unfair either.

Some clubs already put white marks on trees or plant easily distinguishable shrubs at the 150 yard mark, but an

American company have now come up with a completely new idea - white 'plastic mushrooms' let into the fairways.

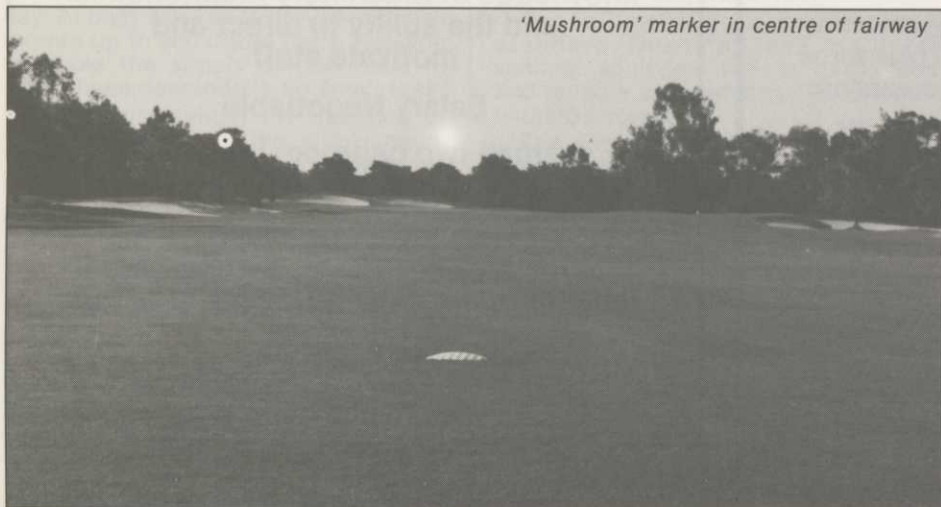
The inventor, Ed Carmen has designed the 'mushrooms' in such a way that the base is let into the ground and the top, standing slightly proud so it can be seen, is fitted on to the 'stalk'.

They do not have to be removed for fairway mowing, because as the mower moves over the top it is pushed flat to the turf level and completely misses the revolving cutters.

If white tops offend the eye they can be provided in red, green or blue or different colours used at varying distances down the fairway.

This system is not yet available in Britain, but if there are any distributors who might like to market the idea, Ed Carmen can be contacted at Fairway Products, P.O. Box 611, Elmer, New Jersey 08318.

'Mushroom' marker in centre of fairway



NEW APPOINTMENTS

AT **DABRO**
INTERNATIONAL LTD



*BRUCE CUSWORTH
Sales Manager*

Bruce Cusworth had joined the staff of Dabro International as Sales Manager.

He is married with two teenage children and lives near Shawbury.

He has an O.N.D. in Mechanical Engineering and C.&G. in Agricultural Engineering.

Bruce's interests include D.I.Y., Motor Sport, Sailing and Shooting.

Heading up the Sales/Demonstration Team is Andrew Smith who lives in Cholmondeley, Cheshire.

Mr. Smith previously employed by the Burgess Group for the last eight years, brings a wealth of experience to Dabro, especially in the field of Tractor mechanics and hydraulics.

Andrew is a very active sportsman and has a wide range of interests from Ski-ing to Parachute Jumping.

THE BLOWER VAC

A portable, easy to operate, blower vac is introduced by McCulloch. This not only cleans by blowing the debris away, but also converts quickly into a vacuum cleaner, sucking the rubbish up into a sturdy fabric bag with a capacity of 60 litres.

It has an air blowing velocity of 140mph with a 21cc engine and a mulching suction fan that reduces the volume of the debris. The VAC unit is designed to vacuum up leaves, small bits of paper, small twigs, weeds, grass clippings, etc. and comes complete with shoulder harness.

The blower vac weights 5kgs and comes in attractive four colour packaging. It is available at a retail price of £189.95 and is distributed by Markt (UK) Ltd.



WENTWORTH JOB GOES TO KEVIN MUNT

The appointment of Kevin Munt at present Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch to the prestigious position of Course Manager at Wentworth has now ended considerable speculation as to whom would succeed Gerry Coley at this world famous Surrey golf course.

The position was widely advertised to find the right person to fill the shoes of one of golf's most competent greenkeepers and it is understood the competition was more than fierce.

Details for the development of the new 'South Course' have also been finalised and work is due to start this summer to a design by John Jacobs in association with Gary Player and Wentworth's resident professional Bernard Gallacher.

It can also be announced that the consultants for the construction are the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, who will also act as consultant agronomists to the whole of the Wentworth golf complex.

The new course construction is expected to take at least eighteen months to complete, with an opening date sometime in 1990-1991.

Plans to renew the Wentworth Clubhouse have however hit an unforeseen snag. The building, generally accepted as ugly and by many as a monstrosity, has had a class 2 listed building regulation slapped on it by the Dept. of the Environment. How this has occurred no-one can envisage, unless a local resident or someone with a confused sense of architecture has made representations to the D. of E.

The owners will now have to go through the formalities of a planning approval before further progress is made.

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Literary Review and Educational Supplement

(Part II)

...by Fred Hawtree



When I stepped down from the soapbox last month, I promised to continue later with a survey of current trends in the art of education. But recently, things moved rather fast on that front. I myself got caught in the slip stream.

The Chancellor may not be personally involved in hammering the improving stuff into the Class A brains who now make it to the University in Oxford but the election of a new one in March, judged by the four candidates, should have reminded us that scholarship and achievement are not poles apart. Something is transferred at lectures and tutorials which stands the recipient in good stead when he tackles the wide world later. Those of you concerned with training and apprenticeship should clearly ponder how best the greenkeeping experience of one generation and even earlier ones may be passed on attractively and efficiently to the next.

One common gambit used by old hands in lecturing, is to start with an anecdote aimed at waking up the hard core of resistance in the back row. They then find it difficult to drop off again and acquire at least a taste of the tougher meat prepared to follow. That is not my main purpose in side tracking you with a real life drama for a few more minutes, just when you hoped you could stop pacing up and down impatiently. I have first to explain that as the result of the election mentioned, I am now vastly better qualified for the task in hand. No! It is very kind of you but, to the regret of academics everywhere, I myself was not elected Chancellor. Nor indeed, was I a candidate at all, although one only needs a couple of M.A. chums to sign a nomination. Nevertheless, in

the run-up to polling day, powerful forces were unleashed which gave my own C.V. a belated nudge in the direction of the higher echelons.

Devising job-creative titles is now an important industry and associations like our own produce some elegant devices. APFOLM (Association of Playing Field Officers and Landscape Managers) is my favourite, with UKASTA (United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association), a snappy second.

FRHS is another quantum leap. I myself qualified for it once. I found, while waiting at the gates of the Chelsea Flower Show, that a subscription to the Royal Horticultural Society paid there and then would get me in for nothing with the RHS journal for the rest of the year. I paid up and looked round that particular show with a sense of involvement that only another Fellow can understand. And it only cost a few quid.

I believe that the Zoological Society offers a similar enticement so with just two more subscriptions, your visiting card could read: 'A. N. Other, F.Z.S., F.R.H.S., M.B.I.G.G.A.' We can now see the wisdom of the Steering Committee in slipping the 'International' into the Association's title. The casual observer will interpret this initial as an Institute of some sort, a leap forward which translated the Groundsmen's Association several years ago from N.A.G. to I.O.G.

The objection to this type of qualification is the need to send off cheques every year to stay in the race. But those who disdain routine learning will just have to pay up and hope they can get it off their Income Tax. If they also disdain to write the cheques then there is nothing more I can do. They had better turn to Page 3, though not necessarily in this publication.

If anybody is still out there, let me warn them that in return for regulation studies even the one-off appendage is not always what it seems. Let us go back to that election in which, as you will remember, your man Roy Jenkins was successful. In fact, let's go back further still to 1938 when after three years of heavy research at the Frilford Heath Golf Course and at the Majestic Cinema in the Botley Road, I was allowed, through some superbly perceptive system, to add the letters 'B.A.' to my record. I flashed them around for a bit but people tended to shy off, so I soon gave them up.

Nevertheless, it was rumoured at the time that if one remained on the college books for a further period, at modest cost because not in residence, there were exciting possibilities for further advancement without the need even to attend at the Majestic Cinema. (No wonder it is now an MFI furniture store). So I stayed, as they say, tuned. But when the qualification period expired, the Imperial Forces of the Nipponese Emperor declined to let me out of Cycle Camp in Batavia to attend at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford and go through the appropriate motions. They said it was too far and in any case I could acquire the degree *in absentia* which is how they were dishing them out at the Yokohama Tech. Unfortunately, communications were poor, consisting mainly of one pre-printed post card each year on which one was invited to select a few statements, the choice being limited to something like:-

- I am well
- The Nipponese look after us very well
- I hope you are well
- Our Nipponese guards are very well
- I hope.....is well

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I did not consider it wise to add any witty postscripts in case my next postcard might be shorter still:-

I am not so well.

Thus, I stayed on the bottom rung of the ladder both then and for the next 49 years, in fact, until two months ago, just before the election in March.

As you may know, Lord Blake, the Provost of Queen's College, was a candidate and it was not unnatural that a letter should arrive from the college Bursar to let me know that voting would take place on March 14th & 16th. Unfortunately, an M.A. degree was the minimum qualification, but B.A.'s who had never gone that far need not be filled with remorse. They could be entered for a simple but moving ceremony on 7th March at which the Master's degree would be quietly pinned *in absentia* on the phantom breasts of those worthy of that distinction. To be worthy, you had to send in (*Wait for it!*) a cheque for £9.

What would you have done? Myself I went round to *The Feathers*, one of Woodstock's leading eateries, and studied the menu on the wall outside. What could I get for £9? The cuisine is *nouvelle anglo-américaine* which tends to confuse the customer into uncertainty whether he is eating the meat course or the fruit salad. There was nothing for £9. But for £12.50 I could have "Medallions of Monkfish served with a warm Raspberry Vinaigrette and garnished with slices of carrot and orange" (I warned you, didn't I?).

I came to one of those snap decisions which characterise the late developer. After a life-time devoted to the intellectual advancement of greenkeepers, it would be ungrateful to turn down the career-best available on March 7th and stupid to squander an extra £3.50 into the bargain... on RASPBERRIES! I went home and wrote to the Bursar. This long flirtation, just one year short of half a century, could now be brought to the altar and made official. Moreover I should not be one of those who peevishly returned the marriage certificate if my favourite fell at the last vote. This time it was for real.

We should now be coming to what I promised you, but I am sorry. I have not been watching the clock and the alarm has just gone to switch on the TV for the Open University course which is my next chosen hurdle.

The nuts and bolts of greenkeeping education will therefore have to wait until May. At least you realise now that it's not just any old hack that's feeding you the raw material. It's coming straight from the top.

So what's another month in the great school of life? And what, provided you get there in the end, are 49 years.

Part III next month takes you behind the scenes in the echoing halls of agronomy and exposes the secret methods as well as the passions and jealousies of the greenkeeping advisory world. RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW!

OBITUARY

Older Northern Section members and others, who remember Jim Ellis, will be sorry to hear of the sudden death of his widow, Edith. She died unexpectedly, on Monday 23rd March on her way to hospital for tests.

Jim had been Head Greenkeeper and also involved in the construction of the St. Ives course at Bingley, before moving to Stand G.C. at Manchester.

From there he took on the two new courses at Saint Nom La Breteche, near Paris, while it was still under construction.

Edith settled down magnificently to life in France and gave him every support. He brought both courses to perfection, but was then sadly killed in a road crash in France on 10th August 1961 while on his way to England for the Annual B.G.G.A. Tournament at Bridlington.

Edith is survived by her son Martin, her daughter Kathleen and three grandchildren.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

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YTS GIVES BRADFORD SCHOOL-LEAVERS JOBS ON THE GOLF COURSE

The Shipley College of Science and Technology at Bradford are currently running a two year YTS scheme for trainees in Horticulture and Green-keeping.

Bradford, to the non-Yorkshire man conjures up ideas of satanic, dark, damp woollen mills, working around the clock converting Australian sheep fleeces into cloth. Or perhaps a city now more associated with Karachi and Calcutta, brim full of an immigrant population complete with curry and their Eastern cultures.

Part of both these images are true, but Bradford is also surrounded by some of Britain's finest countryside, starting a mere mile or two from the centre of the city.

What better place to develop golf courses. Many of them, now overtaken by residential sprawl, which has had the unplanned advantage of dropping oases of countryside into urban development.

The Shipley College has fifteen golf clubs in the immediate area who have offered to provide placements for students taking the two year course. All these clubs have been approved by the MSC Assessors as suitable 'on job' training grounds for those young people who have expressed a desire to work in golf course maintenance.

The two year training course consists of twenty weeks of horti-

cultural theory, plus a proportion of continuing education. This takes place in the College spread over a number of one and two week blocks. The rest of the time is spent at the golf clubs under the supervision of the Head Greenkeeper.

There is an advantage for both parties. The trainee is able to learn at first hand the skills of amenity turf maintenance, the club receives an extra pair of hands, plus a Manpower Services Grant. And what else must not be forgotten, the Head Greenkeeper also gains a tremendous inner satisfaction from seeing the development of a raw callow youth into a skilled greenkeeper, under his guidance.

The YTS trainees at Shipley College follow the syllabus for the C & G Horticulture Phase 1 and 2 for two years and if successful can go on to take the C & G Groundsmanship and Sports Turf Management Course over the following year.

Last year the Department of Trade and Industry organised a national competition during 'Industry Year' and the only YTS scheme in the country to win an award was Shipley College in the 'Working with Small Business Section'. They were awarded first prize.

Many of the early young trainees have now found full-time jobs with golf clubs, several at the clubs where they were trained.

JIM ARTHUR TO EASE UP ON CONSULTANCY VISITS

In a statement issued by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews it has been announced that Mr. Jim Arthur will be reducing his work load and this in turn will affect his advisory role as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee.

The R&A point out that there is an 'ever increasing and closer liaison between the STRI and Mr. Arthur' and they go on to say a start is being made in the form of joint advisory visits by specialist golf agronomists employed by the STRI together with Mr. Arthur, to those courses hosting the qualifying competitions for this year's Open Championship.

Jim Arthur was asked by the Championship Committee sixteen years ago to advise them in the preparation of both qualifying courses and those chosen to host the Open Championship. At that time it was believed a greater measure of uniformity was required to produce similar course conditions and presentation.

The Open Championship is still regarded as the premier event in golf despite the incentive of massive prize money in other parts of the world. It is unique because it is the only major tournament played over the traditional Links. It is the intention of the R&A to continue producing true Links for all their Championship courses.

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LATE SECTIONAL NEWS

The Spring Tournament for the North East will be held over the Whitley Bay Course on 9th April. Teeing off between 9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Ponteland G.C. in the venue for the annual fixture against the Secretaries on 6th July, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

The Welsh Section have fixed their annual Secretaries match for Southerndown G.C. for June 3rd.

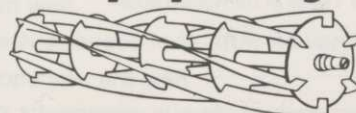
The Welsh team to take part in the inter Sectional Vitax Tournament to be played at Ferndown G.C. on Wednesday, 20th May has been nominated as follows:

Scratch - 9	Graham Cox, Mike Jones; Res. John Hopkins
10-18	Hugh Morgan, Philip Swain; Res. Ted Thompson
19-plus	Walter Jones, Colin Lewis; Res. Robert Kitchen

Would Welsh members please note the 16th April fixture is to be held at St. Mellons G.C. not St. Mellion as published in the Tournament Diary. *Cornishmen on alert to repel invaders, can stand down!*

Ransomes replacement cutting cylinders

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Six years has elapsed since I attended the last American Golf Course Superintendent's Conference and on a cold damp morning I set forth from Heathrow with a party bound for Phoenix, Arizona, for the 58th Annual Conference.

Phoenix is a fairly modern city, literally cut out of the Arizona desert in the 1920's and covers some 476 sq. miles with a population of over a million people. This well organised conference was held at the magnificent Phoenix Civic Plaza which offered every possible facility and from the opening session on the Friday to the close on the following Monday we were kept busy with a continuous choice of lectures covering every conceivable subject connected with golf course construction and management. The exhibition was held in the main hall on the Saturday and Sunday and attracted large enthusiastic crowds.

Many of the lectures were given by staff from the various universities and polytechnic colleges which were well presented and made one realise how much research work is carried on by these academic institutions and also how much money is being made available for turf research purposes.

At the international session a number of speakers from as far afield as Japan and China treated us to some interesting facts of the enormous potential for golf in these countries. Rolf Loewgren of the Swedish Golf Federation, claimed that they could not build golf courses fast enough in Scandinavia to meet the enormous public demand.

Jack McMillan, the Head Greenkeeper, from Sunningdale Golf Club, and BIGGA Vice Chairman, gave an interesting talk, giving details of how he maintained his Surrey heathland course. He went on to give a short history of the role of the British Greenkeeper and he welcomed the amalgamation of the three old greenkeeper associations in the UK to form the new BIGGA, which he felt was a step in the right direction. He thought the new association would be accepted with enthusiasm by the majority of the British Greenkeepers.

Howard Swan, the Managing Director of Golf Landscapes Ltd. and Chairman of the National Turf Grass Council, presented a well illustrated talk entitled *The British Isles - The Traditional Home of the Golf Course*, which must have made many Americans envious of our many traditional courses, which we are fortunate to have in this country.

The afternoon was rounded off by a spirited talk entitled *Common Sense and Technology* - by Jim Arthur, the Consultant Agronomist to the R&A, who put forward his well publicised theories on golf course maintenance in his traditional style.

On the first morning of the exhibition, I walked from my hotel in torrential rain bringing back happy memories of the Groundsman Exhibition at Windsor. I was therefore thankful that the exhibition was being held in a large, well lit hall, where just over 300 exhibitors were showing everything from the latest machinery and equipment to chemicals, fertilisers and of course grass seed. I was particularly

pleased to see Ransomes flying the British flag with a well laid out stand, the centre of attention. They are now obviously well established in the American market.

Traditionally the Americans have always used Kentucky Blue Grass (Smooth Stalk Meadow Grass) in large quantities on their golf courses, and I was interested to learn that the new turf type perennial ryegrasses are now favoured for use on many course fairways, particularly on those courses in the South, where they overseed Bermuda Grass with ryegrass during the cold season. The Americans use many of the same turf type ryegrasses that are now available to us in this country, including Barry, Loretta, Pennfine, Gator, Derby and Citation.

A Seedsmans view of the Phoenix Conference & Exhibition.

.... by Jonathan Franks

One of the many advantages of attending this major conference and exhibition is that one has a marvellous opportunity to rub shoulders with a wide variety of people who arrive literally from all over the world and they are all in some way connected with either the construction or maintenance of golf courses. Not only are there excellent lectures but I find that one also learns new ideas from fellow delegates perhaps at the bar of your hotel, or at one of the many receptions held during the week.

It was at one of these receptions that I met Tom Burrows of the Turtle Creek Country Club, who told me how he overseeded his greens and fairways using the Cushman Sprayer, which on reflection seemed to me a simple method which needed further investigation. Apparently they overseed the greens and fairways with straight Penncross once or twice a season, carefully mixing the seed with water in the tank of the sprayer and then simply spray the seed straight into the existing sward. The force of the water places the seed evenly in the ground and they also obtain a good germination by this method. Bent seed is very fine (12,000 seeds/gram), and they experience no trouble with blocking jets and obviously can cover a large area quickly and economically.

I have never heard of this method of overseeding in this country, possibly because we normally sow a mixture containing fescue and bents, but if a coarse nozzle were used and the seed applied under pressure I see no reason why blockage should occur. This simple idea might give one or two of our greenkeepers some food for thought.

The American Businessman's 'Working Breakfast' has always been a legend in this country and I was therefore very pleased to receive an invitation from Bill Rose, the President of the Tee 2 Green Corporation, to a special breakfast launching ceremony of their new creeping bentgrass called PennLink.

The breakfast was held at the Apache Room of the Phoenix Hilton Hotel at 7.30 a.m. on the Sunday Morning, when normally I must confess I am not at my best. However 200 guests were given a warm welcome and firstly we were treated to a magnificent breakfast consisting of strawberries, slices of melon, fried eggs, (easy over), Canadian bacon, Cumberland sausage, hash brown (grated fried potatoes), mushrooms, together with a doughnut, which we were invited to wash down with fresh orange juice or hot coffee. American kindness is never done by half and such a meal is certainly worth getting up for even on a Sunday morning.

We were then treated to several excellent talks, firstly by three golf superintendent's who told us how they had sown PennLink Creeping Bentgrass on their golf greens and fairways and had found this bent to give a considerably improved performance over earlier strains of bent grasses. Dr. Joe Dutch, from Pennsylvania State University, who is the breeder of PennLink, told us that he had been breeding bent grasses since 1984 and PennLink was the result of crossing some twenty-one creeping bents and the new strain gave a really upright dense sward with less thatch than Penncross.

PennLink, he claimed, had a strong colour and a good resistance to fungal disease and competed aggressively with annual meadow grass. PennLink had been sown on some 240 different golf courses throughout America and they had analysed the results obtained from 52 of these golf clubs, and were quietly confident that they had an excellent creeping bent for the future. Bill Rose explained that the supply position of bent grasses was likely to be limited for the 1987 season, but they were doing everything possible to increase the tonnage available from 1988 onwards. With the continued increase in the use of creeping bent in this country it will be interesting to see how the PennLink performs over here in the UK.

On my last day it was a great privilege to shake hands with one of the best known names in the golf construction business, namely Robert Trent-Jones, who was quite rightly selected to receive the GCSAA's most prestigious Old Tom Morris Award. This coveted prize is presented to the individual who through a continuing selfless commitment to golf has helped to further the game with dedication and inspiration. We were told that Robert Trent-Jones had constructed more than 400 golf courses in 42 American States and in 23 different countries, which is no mean achievement. He apparently claimed that he would only retire 'when they build that last bunker and put me in it', which shows the spirit of a great man and perhaps the spirit of American golf.

ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE ON GOLF COURSES

WOODLAND

Many golf courses have quite large areas of woodland within their boundaries. This section of the report looks at ways in which woodland can be managed to promote wildlife.

Woodland must be *managed* in order for a healthy habitat system to be maintained. Even remnants of the "ancient wildwood" (this refers to areas of woodland which have been in existence since 1600) that once covered much of Britain will have been managed: for firewood, timber, building materials etc. It is the decline of traditional woodland management which has led to many woodlands being dominated by older trees, producing a dense canopy which shades out light and so impedes the growth of newer saplings which are necessary for regeneration. Many people cannot understand that it is necessary to manage woodland and that this sometimes involves the felling of trees, as well as the planting of new ones. Such management work should be explained to people: on golf club house notice boards for example.

ANCIENT WOODLAND is very important to wildlife because of the continuity of its existence. Plants such as bluebells, wood anemone, dog's mercury and yellow archangel are generally regarded as indicators of ancient woodland. These plants all flower early in the year before the

HA 1388



leaf canopy develops to shade out the light. The wild service tree, which is rare in the South East, is similarly regarded as an indicator of ancient woodland: it can be found at *Arkley, Pinner, Muswell Hill, and Sundridge Park* golf courses, and possibly several more.

Badgers are a woodland animal that can live safely on golf courses. Sadly there is much abuse of badgers and golf course managers should act as "custodians" of this wonderful creature. A reduction in chemicals designed to destroy worms can help the badger population. Badgers eat large quantities of worms, and if these have been poisoned the badgers might also die.

Where badgers cause problems to greens and fairways advice should be sought from the local Wildlife Trust as has happened at the *Selsdon Park* course with a successful outcome.

Managing woodland means maintaining a full structural range: high canopy, sub-canopy, shrub, field and ground levels. Each component represents a separate mini-habitat supporting a wide range of different species. Together they make up the rich wildlife population of the woodland.

THE WOODLAND EDGE is where many flowering plants grow as light is present throughout the year. These areas support many butterflies and birds. Robins, tits, blackbirds and thrushes are common. A good example of sound woodland management can be seen at the *Trent Park* course in Enfield.

On golf courses this area is most under threat as fairways are pushed back, and plants cut down to enable golfers to retrieve their lost golf balls. If this is felt to be necessary it might be possible to create a new woodland edge within the woodland: sometimes this has happened accidentally as ground staff create tracks through the woodland to move maintenance machinery around the course. The opening up of such glades can increase the diversity of species associated with the woodland.

TREE PLANTING is generally regarded as good. But thought needs to be given to the species, the location and the grouping of individual trees. Trees planted in lines along the edge of fairways do little to support wildlife and are less visually appealing than small groups or copses. Careful consideration is needed as trees are a recognised part of golf course planning and only minor changes will be needed to significantly improve the wildlife potential of courses.

Before new trees are planted it is sensible to determine what species of trees are growing naturally in particular areas: these are the ones which will be most successful, and additional trees of the same species will be more successful and look visually more satisfactory. Native trees which should be considered, depending upon local conditions are oak, birch, willows, rowan, alder, wild cherry, hazel and hawthorn.

NATIVE TREES are recommended in preference to exotic parkland species. The British oak and native willows each support insect communities of over 400 different kinds, and these in turn are a food source for a great many birds and mammals. Sycamores, on the other hand, support only 30 different insects!

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