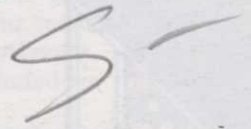


Greenkeeper

& The International Greenkeeper

BULLETIN Nr. 43



Turfland
PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT LTD.

The
39th Annual

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION

Developing and maintaining sports grounds and leisure amenities

The finest opportunity to see a whole range of developments, discuss services and techniques with experts, and check-test the latest in machinery and equipment.

Venue:

The Royal Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire.

Dates:

18th, 19th and 20th September 1984

Times:

10 am till 5 pm daily.

Entrance:

By Catalogue £1. Complimentary admission to IoG Members.

How to get there: (Windsor is just 22 miles west of London.)

By Road: A few minutes off the M4 Motorway (Junction 6) on the Windsor-Maidenhead road (A308). Ample car parking facilities available at £1.00 per vehicle. Coaches free.

By Rail: Frequent services to Windsor from Waterloo, Reading and Paddington with connections to all parts of the country. A complimentary coach service direct to the Exhibition grounds will operate each morning and afternoon from Windsor & Eton Central and Riverside stations.

By Air: Close to London Heathrow and convenient also for London Gatwick airports.

Organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship,
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Telephone: Milton Keynes (0908) 676064

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Architect, Estate Owner and Manager,
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This issue

AUGUST 1984

FRONT COVER

Just a few of the top quality turf care, harvesting and handling machines now being produced by Brouwer Turf Equipment Ltd, Canada and imported and distributed in the United Kingdom by Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd, Dutton, Warrington.

All Brouwer machinery has unique design features to give users the advantage of simplicity and efficiency.

For more information on the complete Brouwer product range, phone (09286) 340, 336 or 261 now!

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Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd

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Copyright: A. Quick & Co Ltd 1984

Greenkeeper goes fully European

Yet another landmark has been achieved by *Greenkeeper* which this month welcomes the International Greenkeepers' Association to the fold, with members from all over Europe joining our readership. The IGA magazine *International Greenkeeper*, produced in German and French, is included in this issue of *Greenkeeper*.

This venture, which we hope will bring all greenkeepers closer together, has been made possible by Mr & Mrs Donald Harradine, whose tireless work on behalf of greenkeepers is well-known. Devotees of *Greenkeeper* and all our friends in the trade join us in welcoming over 400 new readers.

Golf Course '85

It is good to see that associations representing the golf course industry, which banded together with such success at Trinity Hall, Cambridge in April for *Golf Course '84*, are to hold a similar event in Oxford next March, probably at Wadham College from March 28-31. Additionally, the Secretaries' Association, PGA European Tour and the International Greenkeepers' Association (European) have expressed interest in participating.

However, it is disappointing to note that the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association has declined an invitation and that the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association is to run its own conference and AGM at almost the same time.

Full details of the programme for *Golf Course '85*, together with the cost, which is expected to be less than in 1984, will be announced by the member associations at the Institute Of Groundsmanship Exhibition at Windsor next month.

It's competition time!

There are still a couple of weeks remaining for you to enter the fabulous Rigby Taylor Photographic Competition offering six top prizes of photographic equipment each worth £100 and a special runner-up prize of a presentation hamper donated by *Greenkeeper*.

All you have to do is take a picture—preferably a colour transparency or even a print—of what you consider indicates the best use of, or result from, a Rigby Taylor product.

Entry forms appeared earlier this year in copies of *Greenkeeper*. They must be completed and sent to the magazine at 121/123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP, with your photo entry enclosed, by **September 1**.

So, don't delay, get snapping today!

The Editor

**Rigby
Taylor**

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**SIX FIRST PRIZES
OF £100 WORTH OF PHOTO EQUIPMENT
PLUS! FABULOUS RUNNER UP PRIZE OF Greenkeeper HAMPER**

**PLUS! The six winning entries
(one from each of six publications) will be
reproduced in the 1985 RIGBY TAYLOR CALENDAR**

HERE'S WHAT TO DO!

It's really quite simple. All you have to do is take a photograph of what you consider indicates the best use of, or result from, a Rigby Taylor product.

The photograph can be humorous, serious, or even upside down! but it must depict the advantage of using a Rigby Taylor product.

In your everyday activity and concern with turf care and greens maintenance you should have no difficulty in locating a suitable subject.

Transparencies would be ideal! But don't delay in sending your entry if it's a colour print.

You can submit as many entries as you wish but make sure you complete the entry form at the bottom of this ad. Just one point! Please don't write on the back of your entry.

It could be your lucky day!

THE RULES

The competition is open to all Groundsmen / Greenkeepers in either private or public employ*.

The staff, their families; agents and distributors of Rigby Taylor Limited are exempt from this competition.

All entries must be submitted to the appropriate publication as indicated on the entry form who will judge the best entry submitted and the runner up.

The copyright of all entries will automatically pass to Rigby Taylor Limited who will produce and distribute a full colour calendar for 1985 using the six winning entries (one from each of six publications) together with suitable captions.

The final closing date for entries is 1st September 1984.

**In some cases it may be that public service employees are ineligible to receive awarded prizes. In such an instance Rigby Taylor Limited will verify the position with the appropriate Local Authority. Should any awarded prize be unacceptable it will be donated to a charity of the winners choice.*

TYPICAL RIGBY TAYLOR PRODUCTS

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THE MASCOT RANGE OF CHEMICALS:

Selective Weedkiller · Showerproof Selective Weedkiller · Clover Killer · Moss Killer · Simazine 50% · Simazine 2% · Atrazine 4% Granular.

THE MASCOT RANGE OF FERTILIZERS:

Granular Grass Fertilizer · Granular Fertilizer · Pre-seeding Fertilizer (Granular) · 26% Nitrogen + Iron · Granular Grass Fertilizer (Autumn/Winter Grade).

MASCOT SPREADER:

Available in three models, Mascot Super, Mascot Supreme, and Mascot Professional.

FARMURA: The liquid organic fertilizer.

ALGINURE: Organic soil improver.

TAYLOR'S S.S.1. A mini-granular fine turf fertilizer for Spring/Summer application.

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J.A. MIXTURE: Rigby Taylor celebrated Powdered Organic Fertilizer. Available in 25 kilo bags.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY ENTRY FOR THE RIGBY TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Send your entry to: The EDITOR, GREENKEEPER

A. Quick & Company Limited, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____

Rigby Taylor Product(s) used. _____



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In·My·Opinion

Malcolm Pettit

Malcolm Pettit is the marketing manager of Alginure Products. He is pictured in a less familiar role—as reader and assistant minister of All Saints, Clifton, Beds.

CLEARLY, the responsibility of communicating an idea or opinion to such a motley assortment of the human race as the the readers of this illustrious journal is not one to be taken lightly and it was with a blend of fear, excitement and vigour that I took up the pen in pursuit of the task.

Unhappily, that blend lacked the one essential ingredient—a topic of sufficient interest to titivate the imagination, stimulate controversy, inspire enthusiasm and generally achieve recognition for the writer as the new prophet for which the sports turf industry has waited so long.

In these circumstances, there was only one thing to be done. A course of action taken at times of crises throughout history by great men and women (lest I be accused of chauvinism by feminists) recommended itself to me. I responded promptly, poured out a generous noggin and went and sat in my easy chair to mull over the current problems that confront us and was soon deep in thought.

I suppose it was inevitable that I should close my eyes as an aid to concentration and if that state modulated into a fitful sleep, who should wonder? The pressure of the aggressive life lived by the paladins of industry is no light thing and surely it was the Bard himself who recommended “sleep that knits up the unravelled skeins of care”.

It was in that state, if you are still with me (and I can understand and forgive if you have turned the page), that I found myself in a state of trance wherein I perceived strange characters and voices vying for attention.

It seemed that I was in some vast amphitheatre with a stage surrounded by fiery beacons whose flames were of several bright shades of red, yellow and blue merging, flickering and dancing. I saw a crowd of folk kneeling and standing around the front of the stage. They seemed to be



crying out a mixture of chants and pleas: “Show us the way.” “What is the truth?” “Help us.”

Suddenly, a hush descended as piercing spotlights picked out figures on the stage. At first, they were vague and ephemeral, but gradually they took more definite form and I became aware that one of them was a man of chunky build. His grizzled but kindly face was topped by greying hair that flapped across his brow and he was dressed in a garment like a Roman toga with, on his head, a coronet of laurel leaves.

He threw up his arm and began to speak with the stentorian tones and authority of the orators of old. “Death to meadow grass!” he proclaimed. “Save yourselves from this wicked generation of sellers of pop-up irrigation and makers of fertiliser. Return to the ways of your forefathers

and follow the way of starvation and striving. I, Arturus Jamesis Maximus, have declared it.”

Just as suddenly as it had come, so his shape dissolved and disappeared and there arose a murmuring from a part of the crowd. “It is true, O Arturus. We have seen it with our own eyes and have followed your words. There is only one way.”

A shrill, piercing blast as from a silver trumpet rent the air and all was silence as there emerged a second figure on the stage. A tall, bespectacled man of grave mien, yet with a twinkling eye and dressed in academic robes and mortar-board.

As he spoke in calm and measured tones I detected a warm Celtic burr in his voice. “Turn to science for your salvation,” he declared. “Don’t be led astray by peddlers of untried solutions to your problems. Test their ideas, their systems, their products, their machines in the light of the truth of Bingley.”

Having said which he, too, receded from view and I was aware that another body of the crowd, who seemed to carry with them various pieces of testing equipment, were nodding in agreement.

There was a low rumbling, as of distant thunder, and two more figures appeared—one from the North West, the other from the East, each driving a machine. One pulled a vast mechanical contrivance, which seemed to cut through the grass and/or bore holes into it, while the second spread sand in its wake.

Each was an honest artisan type, of open countenance and yet with an alert air of learning about them. “We have brought our treasures from afar,” they cried. “Sand from Essex. Blades and spikes from Lancashire. Return to sand and aeration and all will be well with the land that your masters have left in your charge.” Then they, too, vanished and many of the watching crowd took up the

Continued on page 12...

The new Massey-Ferguson compacts. A big name on small tractors.



The new Massey-Ferguson Range of Compact Tractors. The machines you asked for.

Their compact dimensions and low profile mean they can go just about anywhere. And they'll handle just about any job you have in mind. From horticulture through local authority applications to grass cutting. A 3-cylinder diesel engine gives you all the smooth, quiet power you had in mind allied to the reliability and economy we know you need. The engine is matched by a constant mesh gearbox for simple, positive gear selection.

Mechanically engaged 4-wheel drive makes for extra traction in rough conditions.

Three-point linkage and a 2-speed PTO allows fitment of a very wide range of implements. The platform and controls are ergonomically designed for ease of operation and driver comfort. It all adds up to the increased efficiency that yields greater output.

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MF 1020 21 hp. MF 1030 27 hp.

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Address

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Where farmers' ideas take root.

Out·On·The·Course

Chris Kennedy

Chris Kennedy is the course manager at Hags Castle Golf Club—the recent venue for the multi-sponsored Glasgow Open. Chris talks to John Campbell.

“Not every schoolboy achieves his ambition, as I did,” Chris Kennedy said. Chris, 36, is the course manager at Hags Castle GC, near Glasgow. “I came into greenkeeping through my interest in golf. As a wee lad, I used to walk around the course with my father, who was a keen club golfer. When I was old enough, I became a junior member and had a single figure handicap by the age of 13. My prime ambition was to be a professional golfer.”

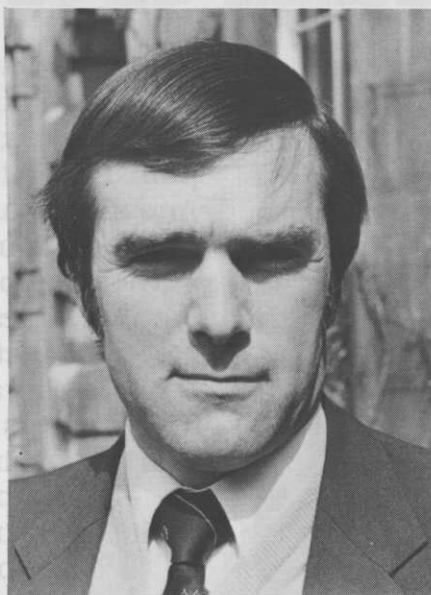
On leaving school, he went to work in the pro's shop at Cowglen, where he served under Jack Murray, an old greenkeeper/pro who gave him a good training and much wise counsel.

“He advised me to concentrate more on the art of greenkeeping, as well as being a good professional, for he felt that the greenkeeper would ultimately be the man in charge of the course,” Chris said. “Although things have not worked out that way so far, I think it must come eventually.”

Chris accepted the advice of his old mentor and found that he really enjoyed working on the course, which was more satisfying and offered him a healthy outdoor activity in congenial surroundings. He relished the constant challenge and the demand for a modest accumulation of experience and knowledge on a wide variety of trades, which every good greenkeeper must have.

Chris is serious and intelligent, well aware of all his responsibilities, number one of which is his family. “A happy and stable family life is important in our profession. I know of several broken marriages brought about by the pressures of being a course manager.”

With his wife Joan, he shares the affection of a bonny two-year-old daughter Suzanne. “After my early period at Cowglen, I was offered the course manager's job at Hags Castle, where I worked with head greenkeeper Tommy Wemyss, who had 40 years in the business. Tommy was a likeable and charming man who taught me a great deal about golf



course management and many of the tips he passed on I still use to this day.

“When I first came to Hags Castle, there were three assistant greenkeepers and one apprentice. Now the strength of my team has increased to four assistants and two apprentices, due to a much higher volume of play and other demands.

“Nowadays, we have over 1,000 members, guests and golf societies using the facilities and we stage major professional tournaments. All of which adds up to a substantial volume of traffic over the course.

“We also have a very high standard of maintenance with wall-to-wall mowing on our parkland course, which involves a lot of time and labour.

“The frequency of our mowing programme entails a lot of work during the growing season to keep the place trim and tidy and being a popular venue on the fringe of the city, we get quite a lot of play which adds to the wear and tear.”

Unfortunately, the course also suffers from some vandalism—a problem that affects most clubs in major suburban areas.

“It's nice to go to places like St Andrews and Gleneagles where the

courses are respected and they don't have any such problems, but I have learned to live and cope with it.

“My advice to any greenkeeper on a course prone to this nuisance is to keep a good turf nursery with an ample stock of compost. Have all the staff well trained in the art of small turf repairs with edging irons, turf spades and patchers, so they can be dispatched to repair fine turf maliciously damaged at a moment's notice. Club members pay a lot for their golf and I like to keep the course trim and tidy at all times.

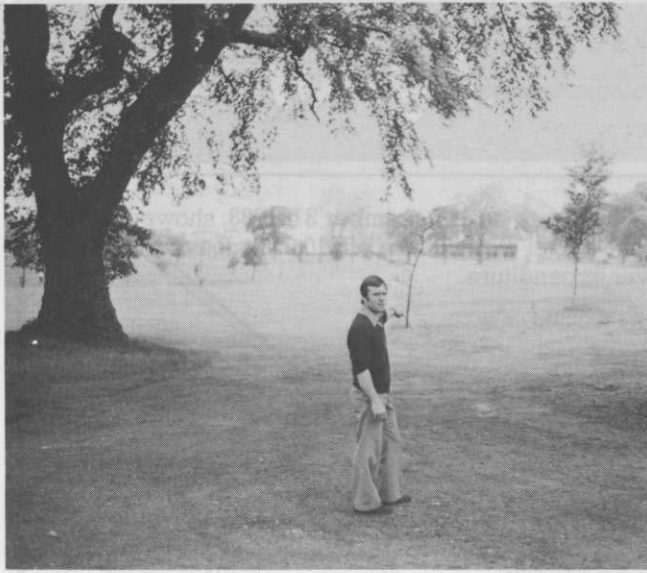
“I have always believed that any course manager is only as good as the staff he employs. I always respect my team and take an interest in their progress and am willing to listen to any constructive comments that might contribute to the smooth running of the work.

“Having good facilities, such as staff quarters, workshop and a storage area is important to their well-being. If they are treated like second-rate citizens, they lose interest and don't give of their best. If they can be encouraged to play golf, it's half the battle. They then begin to understand what course upkeep means from a player's point of view and this helps to break down a lot of barriers between club and staff.”

Chris believes that improvements in the types of aeration equipment over the years have made a vast difference to the standards of turf management. “We used to have the hollow tine forks in my early days. Then we upgraded to the Auto-turfman, then to the Ryan Greensaire and now we have a Cushman, which I consider to be a very useful piece of equipment.”

Chris is well aware of the pressures and the amount of work entailed in grooming the course for special occasions, having prepared his course for a number of international events.

Last month, Ken Brown enjoyed a runaway victory in the Glasgow Open at Hags Castle. The win, surprisingly Brown's first on British soil, was



Timber revetment does a first-class job of retaining ditch walls.



Chris indicates the site of some newly planted trees.

worth £13,330. The Glasgow public's support of the tournament was magnificent with over 27,000 watching the four days play at Hags Castle.

"The most valuable lesson I have learned in greenkeeping," Chris said, "is never put off until tomorrow what can be done today. The weather in this part of Scotland can change dramatically overnight and if there is work to be done and the equipment is available, then I prefer to get the job finished wherever possible. The weather might never be the same two days in succession.

"My advice to young greenkeepers is to try to achieve high standards in all phases of their work. When you play on a course where a poor job has been made of topdressing the greens, or the holes have been put in unfair positions, etc, and none of the work seems properly planned, it reflects the ability of the greenkeeping staff and

the reputation of the club.

"When composting greens, every effort should be made to do the work in methodical stages so there is minimum interference with play. Hole positions should be selected with due regard to the strategy of play and the levelness of the surface in the vicinity of the hole.

"Shoddy workmanship should never be tolerated in our business. Bad news travels fast and courses where the standard of upkeep is low soon get known among the golfing fraternity. Every effort should be made to cultivate the goodwill of all golfers, for they can be your greatest asset if they are on your side. If they build up resentment towards you, it may work to your disadvantage.

"Players tend to live for their round of golf and if they are not performing well they may find some reason to blame the course. In defence of greenkeepers, we are often used as an

excuse by players who don't have a great playing ability. But I don't think any greenkeeper should object to constructive criticism."

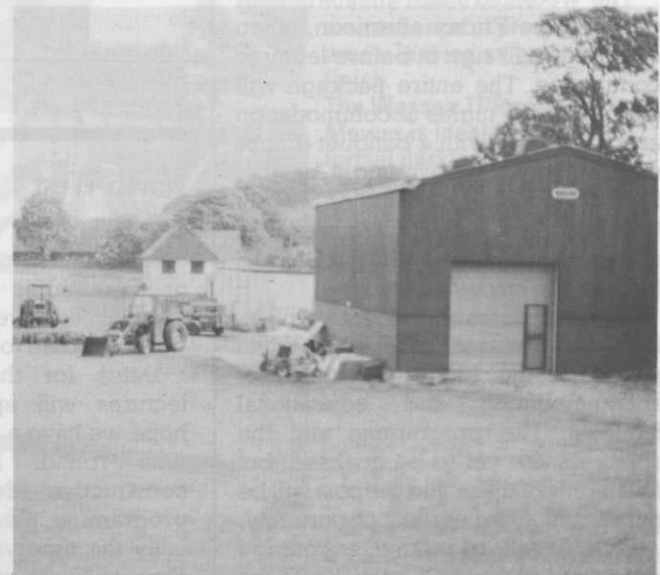
Chris Kennedy is a prominent member of SIGGA. He has served as chairman of the west section and the national association. His contribution to the administrative affairs has earned him the highest praise.

"We would all like to see an association of head greenkeepers and course managers embracing SIGGA, EIGGA and the BGGGA and this will only come about by the mutual agreement of all concerned," Chris added. "To achieve this objective, we must dispense with personalities and outdated ideas, which may be holding us back.

"We should look to the future and be prepared to progress in unity. I think the Scots would be willing to play their part in the establishment of such an international association."



Trees are an interesting feature of the course.



Hags Castle has a good range of maintenance sheds.



Lifeblood Of The Industry In The Heart of England

Following EIGGA's successful participation in *Golf Course '84* and with the association firmly established as a strong voice in greenkeeping, it has been decided that EIGGA will host its own conference in 1985. The venue will be the University of Warwick, near Coventry, and the dates will be March 22-24.

This prestigious seat of learning is an ideal venue, set in The Heart of England, close to Shakespeare country. As it is so central, it will be equally accessible to all who wish to take part in what promises to be the best seminar yet held in Britain, organised by greenkeepers for greenkeepers.

The university itself is very modern and within easy reach of several historic places of interest and beauty. It offers a high standard of accommodation and boasts facilities including banks, a sub post office, supermarket, bars and sports centre, all of which will be open to conference delegates. There's even a miniature putting course for those who like a busman's holiday!

Medical services are available on the campus and car parking is free and plentiful.

The weekend's activities will start early on the Friday afternoon, when delegates will sign in before lectures commence. The entire package will comprise two nights accommodation and full board, with a banquet dinner on the Saturday evening. All day Saturday and the morning of Sunday will be taken up with lectures and discussions and the EIGGA AGM will be held on Sunday afternoon.

The cost to each delegate will be kept as low as possible, while providing the highest standard of accommodation and educational facilities. The programme and the speakers are yet to be finalised, but full details of these and the cost will be publicised at the earliest opportunity.

EIGGA will, of course, encourage participation from all sections of the golf and greenkeeping industry,

News From Headquarters

EIGGA's statement of accounts, as at December 31, 1983, showed a total income of £13,719 over a total expenditure of £10,910—leaving a £2,809 surplus of income over expenditure.

Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 1983

General Reserve Account. Surplus for year	£2,809
Sundry Creditors	£58
	£2,867

Assets	
Sundry equipment, at cost	£377
Stock of clothing, etc	£1,006
Cash at bank—Current Account	£764
Deposit Account	£52
Sundry debtors	£668
	£2,867

We certify that we have prepared the above balance sheet dated December 31, 1983 from the books and from the information and explanations given to us. We believe it to be correct.

Holland-On-Sea, Essex.
June 1984.

R.H. Brown & Co
Chartered Accountants

though the conference will be geared primarily towards greenkeeping and its place in the golf world. However, anyone who has a genuine interest in the care and maintenance of fine turf will be made welcome.

Further information can be obtained, or reservations made, by contacting The Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters, 2 Golf Cottage, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8UG.

North West

The diary of events includes an autumn tournament at Wrexham GC on September 17 and a one-day seminar at Myerscough College in October (date to be announced).

Dates for the series of winter lectures will appear shortly. Let's hope we have a good attendance this time round. If you have any constructive ideas on the lecture programme, please let me know.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed an educational visit to Royal Birkdale and our mid-summer

dance. For those of you who didn't attend, we hope to see you at future events—you really can have a good time!

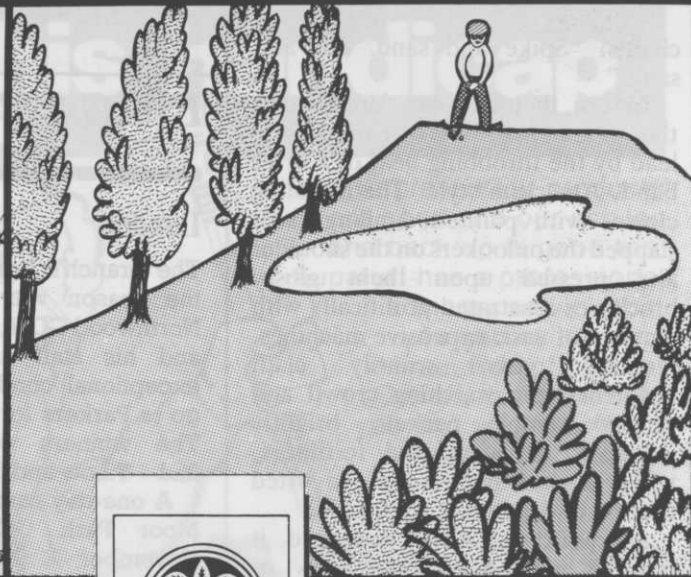
Will members who have not received a copy of the latest newsletter, please contact me and I will do my best to correct the situation.

A. Campbell.

*EIGGA News & Views
continues on page 12...*

Rough.

Fairway.



A golfer's biggest handicap is a green like a lunar landscape. Alginure's Seaweed Soil Improver is a vital additive which can promote dramatic benefits in only two seasons. Just ask M.G. Powell, the Head Greenkeeper of Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council.

Alginure Soil Improver is derived from seaweed, one of our richest natural sources of manure, and provides a gelatinous medium which improves soil structure. No matter the handicap, Alginure Seaweed Soil Improver will suit your soil to a tee.

Send for a list of stockists and recent case histories — NOW!

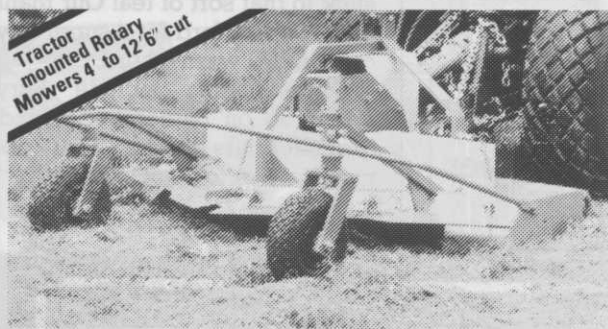


ALGINURE

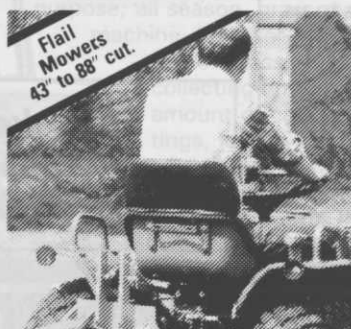
Seaweed Soil Improver

ALGINURE PRODUCTS LTD.
BELLS YEW GREEN,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN3 9BT.
TEL. FRANT (089275) 664

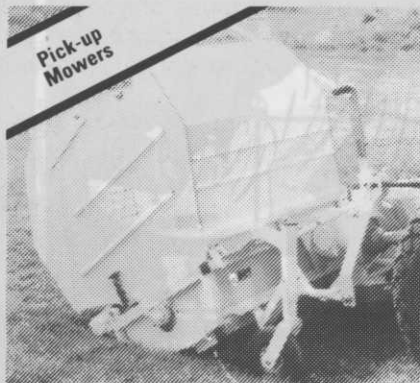
GRASS MANAGEMENT THE WESSEX WAY



Tractor mounted Rotary Mowers 4' to 12'6" cut



Flail Mowers 43" to 88" cut.



Pick-up Mowers



Wessex tractor mounted Rotary Mowers are robust and reliable – designed to operate at high speeds, leaving a quality finish. Minimal maintenance costs save time and money. Six models are available, with cutting widths from 4'0" up to 12'6".

Wessex Flail Mowers are available in cutting widths from 43" up to 88" and are ideally suited to the maintenance of prestige grass areas, leaving an outstanding finish.

The Wessex TPR pick-up Flail Mower is ideal for lawns, formal parkland and caravan sites – anywhere, in fact, where appearance is important and grass collection is required. Cutting, rolling and pick-up are all done in one pass and the machine doubles as a leaf collector in the autumn.

WESSEX

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

In·My·Opinion Continued...

chants: "Spike and sand. Slit and sand."

In turn, their cries were drowned by the appearance of a vast procession lead by the throbbing beat of a brass band, American style. The tumbling clowns with painted, smiling faces slapped the onlookers on the shoulder and pressed upon them glossy brochures illustrated prolifically with pictures of vast, expensive machines. Dancing girls, scantily clad, bewitched the watching crowd and offered sample packets, brightly coloured, of seeds and fertilisers, while jugglers and acrobats cavorted in front of displays of chemicals.

As quickly as it had appeared, it passed on leaving the ranks of onlookers silent, bewildered and puzzled until from among them a hesitant figure came forward and stood at the front of the stage. He paused, mopped his brow, and stammered inarticulately. "My friends," he croaked, "we all seek the answer. We all want simplicity. We all search for the better way. Yet we remain confused by the voices that call us to follow each and every wave of doctrine.

No magic cure

"Perhaps today we have learned that there is no single way, no magic cure. We must each seek the blend of wisdom, experience, knowledge and materials that have been shown to us in the light of our own particular problems. They are there for us to use. Let us not be afraid to enquire, examine and test them all and then we shall find our way ahead."

I listened. Surely the voice was familiar? I looked. The person was strangely like the face I saw in the

mirror each morning. I woke, brow bathed in perspiration, hands twitching with excitement, aware of someone shaking my shoulder gently.

"Do you want another drink, dear? Lunch will be in ten minutes," my wife said.

Now, about this article! Where was I?

(Author's note: Any similarity between the characters depicted and persons recognising themselves is wholly deliberate and not to be taken lightly!)

EIGGA News & Views—Continued...

London

The branch's first evening match of the season was held courtesy of Northwood GC. As expected, Michael and his staff had the course in exceptional condition. Many thanks go to Parkers for continued support. The winners were: 1st—C.Slater, 2nd—T.Low and 3rd—D.Stenton.

A one-day seminar will be held at Moor Park GC on Wednesday, November 28. Letters will be sent to all head greenkeepers and greens chairmen. Please ensure that all forms are returned as soon as possible.

The cost for the day will be about £8, which will include morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

If this seminar is a success, as expected, a further one-day event will be held in February.

Tickets for the annual dinner-dance at the Post House Hotel, Heathrow will also be available shortly. Contact Tom McDonald on 01-950 7469 for tickets.

The autumn meeting has been arranged at Porters Park GC on Monday, September 24.

David MacIndoe.

EIGGA Increases

New prices for association clothing are: ties—£3.75 (from £3.50), pullovers—£15 (from £14) and blazers—£43.50 (from £40).

East Anglia

There was a nice, quiet gathering at Bishop's Stortford recently. My apprentice informs me that all was well on the course. My assistant agreed—having received the booby prize, I guess he saw most of the course! Twenty-six attended and four indicated a desire to play, but did not arrive. We may have to ask for money with entry forms if it happens too often.

Prizes went to: 1st—Steve Thresher with 38 points on the Home Course. Steve won the new Kings Shield and a replica donated by Kings of Coggeshall; 2nd—Larry Coytie (on countback), 38 pts and 3rd—Steve Noye, 37 pts.

Graham Brighton won a ¼lb tea with the suggestion that he should stick to that sort of tea! Our thanks to Bishop's Stortford for a super day. I'm only sorry I wasn't there.

Future dates include Bury St Edmunds on September 6 and the greenkeepers versus the captains match at Frinton on October 23.

Mick Lathrope.

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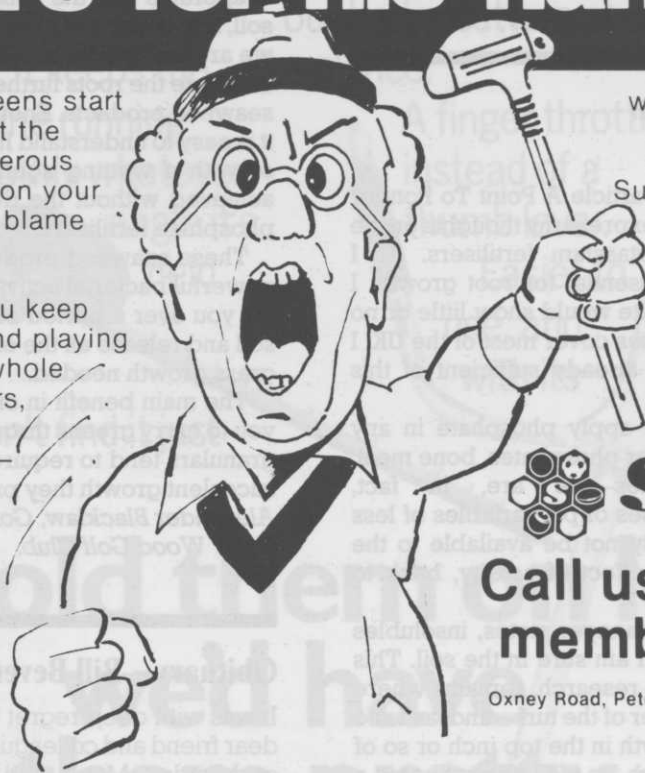


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The Question Of Potassium And Phosphate Fertilisers

In response to Craig Stewart's article *A Point To Ponder* (*Greenkeeper*, May), I wish to express my thoughts on the subject of phosphate and potassium fertilisers. As I understand it, phosphate is essential for root growth. I agree a soil devoid of phosphate would show little or no growth, but as plants and grasses cover most of the UK, I am inclined to think there is already sufficient of this mineral in most soils.

In greenkeeping, when we apply phosphate in any form—and there are many super phosphates, bone meal, slags, triple superphosphates—we are, in fact, overfeeding the soil and in cases of pH variables of less than 5.5, phosphate will simply not be available to the plant because of the lock-up effect of acidity, back to overfeeding, etc.

As Craig, Stirling's course manager states, insolubles may cause a problem, but not I am sure in the soil. This insoluble content, according to research, remains where it is dropped—ie. in the top layer of the turf—and, as I see it, promotes rigorous root growth in the top inch or so of turf and practically grows thatch, as well as producing a dreadful, fluffy top growth of grass. Any fertiliser that does as I have described cannot be an aid to producing fine, firm, textured greens and is better forgotten. However, I have found it useful in producing, together with drastic aeration, a pleasant top growth on golf tees after a full winter's play. Unfortunately, disease inevitably followed.

Potash is described as being essential, combined with phosphate, to promote root growth—also invaluable in producing seed (gasps of horror). Think of all those *Poa Annua* greens in early summer (enough said).

We cannot write off these methods without offering alternatives. This is where the high degree of artistry comes into our job. As I stated earlier, our soils generally have adequate mineral content. In most cases, roots merely cannot get down to it, so we are not making the most of our natural soil reserves, hence the apparent need to overfeed.

To produce a healthy soil (turf that hardly needs feeding, barely requires water and is virtually indestructible), it is widely known that aeration, drying ground (particularly dry), seaweed extracts and organic feeding are required.

Aeration at depth is essential, whether by mole ploughing, vibratory ploughing or deep slitting. Hollow coring should be avoided as it merely forms a pan and makes surfaces soft and shortens the duration that perfect putting surfaces can be obtained. All-year-round usage will make greens firm, provided aeration is practiced in late autumn, winter and early spring. I cannot see the point in spoiling perfect putting greens in late spring, summer and early autumn unless automatic irrigation is available.

The drying out of greens is a very controversial topic, but in cases where shallow-rooted grasses are a problem, it remains unsurpassed as a means of inducing textured

greens and imparting deep roots, provided aeration has taken place in winter months. If not, don't bother, as it is a waste of time. What happens in dry winter weather is that, under limited watering, the soil shrinks as water evaporates and the spike and plough marks open in the soil, into which the roots probe in search of moisture. Now we are looking for an alternative to phosphate in order to stimulate the roots further. This we find in the resurrected seaweed products. Enough has been said about these, but it is easy to understand how, when used in such conditions or with a wetting agent, dramatic root growth can be achieved without the detrimental effects resulting from phosphate fertilisers.

These seaweed products contain alginic acid and are powerful bacterial activators, so let the soil bacteria work for you over a period of time. They will break down the soil and release all the elements necessary for the type of grass growth needed.

The main benefit in organic feeding is that it will allow you to carry greens through a summer drought. Whereas, granulars tend to require more water to sustain the more succulent growth they promote.

*Alexander Blacklaw, Golf Course Manager,
Crow Wood Golf Club.*

Obituary—Bill Beveridge

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of our dear friend and colleague Bill Beveridge. Bill was taken ill on Monday, May 4 and it came as a great shock to his multitude of friends in the greenkeeping fraternity and associated trades to realise that a friend for over 40 years was no longer with us.

A mark of respect to The Man was the throng of mourners who crammed into the large chapel at Wariston Crematorium, Edinburgh, where the service was conducted by the Rev Cameron. The minister asked mourners to remember Bill in their prayers. I know that all who had close contact with him will put Bill in that special place reserved for exceptional friends.

We all looked on Bill as Ransomes' man in Scotland. In the past few years, he travelled all over Britain. Some of us, particularly the older greenkeepers, grew up with Bill and followed him through his career, from Morton Engineering to Ransomes, to war service with the RAF, then back to Ransomes. We remember Bill with his RAF tie, which he so proudly sported, dressed, as he always was, immaculately!

We thought of Bill more as a friend than a sales rep, although an excellent salesman he was. It was said that if there was a sniff of a sale in the wind, Bill would be on the doorstep, not pushing his wares, but pleasantly letting you know what was available to suit your pocket and purpose.

He was seldom absent from any golf outing. Indeed, the east and north sections will have difficulty filling his place as match secretary and general factotum at their spring and autumn meetings. The other sections will miss his assistance in many respects, not least the marking and checking of scorecards and other behind-the-scenes activities. More so, he will be missed by all of us as an active and respected member of SIGGA.

At this sad time, our hearts are with Bill's wife Rina, Bill's son Crawford and his family.

Jimmy Kidd, Estates Manager, Gleneagles Hotel.

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ONE beneficial result of such a difficult 'spring' as the one from which we suffered so much this year, is that by emphasising the contrasting effects of different treatments, the effects were made so obvious that only those who had no intention of learning from them could fail to make the correct deductions.

I have for so long been preaching the first law of logic—namely, correct deduction from correct observation—that I really am still capable of a sense of shock when some pundit comes up with a completely unwarranted deduction from a quite correct observation.

Even after watching the destruction of so many of our links and heathland grasses over the past decades, I can still be shattered by the results of even a few weeks drought on fairways that have been senselessly 'farmed' in the past because soil analyses showed 'low' levels of lime or phosphate and, consequently, perhaps even as long ago as a decade earlier, given 'corrective' manurial treatment.

By now, I'd have thought few would disagree that the best golfing turf grows on the poorest soils, but there are obviously still some who remain unconverted.

Misguided treatments

You can see the disastrous results of such misguided treatments on a precise demarcation line. Fertilisers were often applied by an agricultural distributor so that awkward corners were (luckily) missed. After some eight weeks of drought, the fertilised areas of fairways were literally dead and did not recover from rain. Yet within a few days of quite modest showers, the untreated areas (and semi-rough) were green again. You would have thought that even a five-year-old would make the obvious deduction—namely, that the raised phosphate level had encouraged drought-susceptible annual meadow grass since the unfertilised (and excellent) areas showed low phosphate levels and little meadow grass. And, subsequently, that the drought had then triggered off the reaction of any ephemeral or annual to stress, which is to perpetuate its species by flowering, before individual plants are killed, to survive the drought as seed.

Of course, it is not only annual



By Jim Arthur

meadow grass that is culpable. There are many other short lived grasses—early hair grass, annual brome grass, ratstail fescues, bulbous meadow grass—all of which contribute to relatively fine turf until the first severe drought, when they all seed (or form bulbils) and die.

So many times this year I have heard plaintive comments that the fairways looked so well in February and March, but 'went off' in April and by May were 'dead'.

There is an old greenkeeping adage to the effect that "a good drought gets rid of a deal of rubbish" and so it does, in reducing the competitive power of annuals in a mixed sward. But when conditions have been manipulated to favour dominance by annuals, then no longer can the few remaining fine-leaved perennials make use of their inbuilt advantage of being able to recover within days of rain falling, from the fibre. Annuals must wait for sufficient rain to permit seed to germinate and establish, against by then stiff opposition from the 'natural' grasses, which have become adapted over half a million years to taking droughts in their stride and which have had a head start on the annuals.

This is one reason why fairway watering has to be used with great restraint on links and heathland courses. If it is over-used, annual grasses, which would otherwise

succumb, will survive and compete with the natural species and there will be no warning signs of drought damage to indicate changes in flora to the less observant which, in turn, will alter the playing characteristics of the course.

The first principle of not only greenkeeping but, indeed, ecology is that if conditions exist or are created that favour a particular vegetative cover, then those species will dominate. If conditions are altered then the vegetation changes, which is why it is normally rather a waste of time and money to talk of overseeding greens, except where time means money.

If conditions are right, desired species will invade—admittedly, slowly, as some changes are difficult to bring about quickly. If the conditions are not right for those grasses then, while it is quite possible to get the seeded grasses to germinate in September rather than May, they often do not survive for long—especially under the added stresses of constant traffic and close mowing, as on greens.

I have seen too many chronically 'contaminated' annual meadow grass dominant greens, even on some of our most famous links, to pretend that reversal is easy, especially when soil analyses confirm what past history informs—namely, that years and years of gross overfeeding with phosphatic fertilisers cannot be reversed in a few years, especially on a sandy soil.

When we need, say, only 10ppm of phosphate for healthy growth of bents and fescues, it is daunting to be faced (even after a decade of using non-phosphatic, nitrogenous-only, fertilisers) with levels of 450 or even 700 ppm of phosphate—levels which come up at regular intervals.

Dedicated care

Even the best advice and the dedicated care of the most skilled, links-trained head greenkeeper is going to take time to work in such circumstances. This is the danger period when faith may be lost and—whoops!—we are off down the annual meadow grass slope with a vengeance and a decade of hard work is lost overnight.

It is not as if the 'no phosphates'

policy was new. First published in 1903 by Dr Murray, it was not new then, as the oldest method of feeding greens was with soot—a nitrogenous fertiliser.

On so many occasions, old greenkeepers, long since retired, have commented that the ammonia, blood, hoof and horn and iron mix was what they used to use 50 and 60 years ago and, indeed, I was taught it by an old Scots greenkeeper when I joined Bingley in 1946 and he had learned it from his father.

If the drought taught those who wished to learn the folly of heavy N.P.K. fertiliser treatment on fairways and greens, the rain, when it did come, emphasised by cruel contrast those courses where the greens were regularly and deeply aerated. The greens were without a puddle, compared with those next door where management had decided that slitting upset the members too much. They were flooded and unplayable.

Certainly, my experience with the Vertidrain for four seasons in Holland and two in England has emphasised the value of this form of deep aeration, as endorsed by the fact that all the Old Course greens at St Andrews were thus deeply tined, as well as other clubs such as Sunningdale and Woburn who have their own machines.

I always used to say that the best aerator had two legs—to get the greater depth needed to break up the 'plough pan' that forms with constant 'cultivation' at the same depth. But the Vertidrain beats the best man, though it is not intended for use more than twice a year at most and must still be augmented by constant regular slitting. There is no set routine. As with all greenkeeping, it is a matter of response to need and the weather.

Greens that have been deep tined for several years will need less slitting than those that have never been treated, but I doubt if there is ever a case in this country where slitting less than a dozen times a year is not essential. With very lightly played courses on the Continent, the need is less anyway, but the need can only be proven by probing to test for compaction at lower levels.

In passing, it is significant that links greens, which are so firm they could take a tractor over them in winter without marking and where pitch marks are unknown, can still be probed to 12in and more with minimum pressure. However, some annual meadow grass dominated greens I have seen this year are absolutely rock hard 4in below the

surface—which is often thatched to 2in or more in depth!

Another lesson this difficult spring provided was in irrigation techniques. Here, again, the man on the spot must make the decision when to start, but it must be foolish to water greens when there are severe night frosts. I remember one advisory visit this May in Yorkshire where the dry state of the greens and the poor start to growth and consequent recovery from seven months of unrelenting traffic with no rest this year, even from prolonged snow cover, was the subject of criticism. The next day we had a slight cover of snow over the Pennines!

Intensive aeration

However, once it was safe to start watering, it was essential to get that water in deep by restarting intensive aeration (stopped in the cold dry spell as slits would open), by heavier initial watering and by the use of detergents—but reverting to normal levels once the desired penetration and permeability had been achieved. Here, again, the good greenkeepers stood out from the less skilled.

In too many cases, because of lack of planning, irrigation systems broke down on first being used or there were no emergency alternative plans if, for instance, electrical faults developed and vital days (or nights) were lost waiting for sorely pressed troubleshooters from irrigation firms to arrive, instead of implementing prepared contingency plans.

By then, the greens were too dry to accept the water, which ran into low places and then a vicious spiral developed. The best answer to such a problem is to initially anticipate it and, so, take early corrective action. Secondly, hit it hard with everything available to get masses of holes knocked into impermeable compacted spots—or often old water-proofed fairy rings, long since inactive, but with the soil coated with waxy organic deposits—and to use wetting agents *ad lib*.

Some seaside greens have been sprayed overall and will be sprayed again to stop the reticulate pattern, which has marred the appearance of some links greens in the past and prompted unwise and gross overwatering in a misguided attempt at curing the basic problem by sledge hammer tactics, instead of identifying the cause and treating it, not the symptoms.

Speed is the essence of such remedial work. If you wait a week or so deploring the scale of the operation, you are lost. It is a case of

hand work and hard work and using a watering can to get the wetting agent where it is needed—deep in the soil—and repeating the treatment until the problem is cured.

The essential advantage of adjustable pop-ups was never better demonstrated in the windy dry weather. No pop-up system can give uniform coverage under windy conditions, but adjustability is essential to minimise the effect of wind. Even so, hand watering facilities are vitally important. Hand-held hoses are the only way to get the balance of the water where it is needed.

The essence of good greenkeeping is to be able to make inspired and reasonably accurate guesses about the weather, but also to be geared up and ready to snatch short periods of favourable weather, which may not present themselves again for weeks.

Weed control is another very pertinent example of snatching fleeting chances. It is no good waiting for a spell of suitable weather to order the herbicide or to find that the sprayer needs overhauling or even cleaning out.

Too much nonsense is talked about waiting for ideal conditions. I advise spraying any time between March and October when the weather is calm and dry. If you wait for rain (as I am never tired of saying), you may wait longer for it to stop. By that time, most weeds will be flowering, vegetative growth will have ceased and all you kill are the flowers. Of course, we do not spray in windy or wet conditions—the herbicide is still absorbed (admittedly slowly) and once rain comes and growth is stimulated, the weeds die quickly.

Protect the supplier

So many 'instructions on the tin' are put there to protect the supplier or to cope with morons. Which does not mean we should ignore them, but we must use our brains. One recurring fault with weedkilling is the failure of some operators to realise that the amount of water used to dilute the selective weedkiller is irrelevant—it merely acts as a carrier in exactly the same way as 'compost' helps to spread fertiliser evenly.

A hundred times more causes of damage arise from wrong application rates than from using the wrong weedkiller. All that the water does is to make it easier to apply the specified amount of herbicide to a given area and with micro-sprayers it is possible to apply the herbicide neat, virtually

Continued overleaf...

Jim Arthur Continued...

without any water. But, of course, the risks of local overdosage are far greater.

Perhaps the worst problem this spring, with different grasses growing at different speeds (or not at all), was the impossibility of producing reasonable putting surfaces without shaving greens. At one stage, sickly annual meadow grass growing in separate zones from reasonably healthy bent produced indescribably uneven surfaces and, at others, when it was growing more quickly than *Agrostis*, the variation in speed and texture was equally unsatisfactory.

Shaving greens will admittedly iron out the worst contrasts, at the expense of the health of the turf, which is heavily penalised, if mown too close for long periods—especially if growth is not at a peak.

I can never overstate the fact that putting surface speed (and though it is to be hoped that *all* golfers prefer faster greens, it probably is not true)

depends on texture, which is achieved as much by encouraging the right grasses as by daily (seven days a week) mowing and weekly verticutting when there is reasonable growth.

Another characteristic of many greens this year has been the sickly yellow colour before growth started—and, in some areas, this was not until June—of the annual meadow grass centres, compared with the *Agrostis* (bent) dominated perimeters less subject to traffic and so compaction—*except* on the walk-off side to the next tee.

This emphasises not only the effect of wear and traffic on the grass type (and wear is unquestionably our biggest problem today), but the inability of annual meadow grass on its own to produce even tolerable conditions for 365 days a year. This is why the most important fertiliser dressing is the light ammonia and iron applied in mid-March in the false spring, which invariably precedes the easterlies and the return of winter in April.

Here, again, skill and experience will indicate the start of the short mild spell, which I call a false spring, that occurs every year sometimes for a day or so and sometimes for ten.

More and more such (soluble) fertiliser applications are applied

through the Cushman or Hydromain sprayer, equally to speed up the task so as to snatch a brief spell of suitable calm weather, as to achieve accuracy and evenness of application without risk of scorching.

Another regrettable feature of this difficult spring has been a readiness on the part of some members and green committees to blame their greenkeeper for poor course conditions, when such complaints should more properly be directed at the weather. Of course, there are some disorganised greenkeepers, but no more in proportion than there are similarly ill-qualified members of committees.

What it all boils down to is that a good head greenkeeper is still by far and away the most important single factor in producing a good course. But the best men are at the mercy of that final arbiter, the weather. That does not mean that all greenkeepers are paragons, but they should, nevertheless, be given the tools—in the shape of men and money—to do the job, together with the understanding that, while they may propose, the weather disposes and they, in turn, must be really geared up all the time to snatch fleeting opportunities—all the more important in a difficult season.

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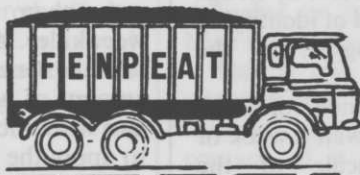
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Ford Opts For Hydrostatic Transmission, Too

The Ford 1210, the smallest model in the compact tractor range launched by Ford last September, is now available equipped with an optional hydrostatic transmission.

Available on both the 2WD and 4WD versions of the 1210, the transmission provides variable speed control, by means of a single foot pedal, from 0-8.5 mph.

Because speed control is variable in either direction, the tractor can go as fast backwards as it can forwards

and the operator is able to select either a high or low speed range, using a conventional clutch and gear lever. This sensitivity of control means that creeper speeds are also obtainable.

Once the correct forward ground speed for a particular job has been reached, the operator is able to maintain it for as long as necessary by locking the foot pedal. This is done with a simple lever, which can be overridden quickly. To ensure maximum operational safety, this speed control cannot be engaged in reverse.

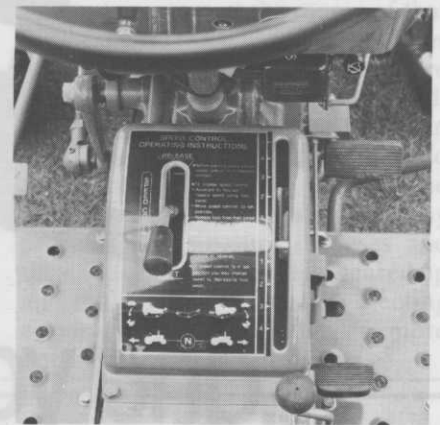
Ford says the variable speed

characteristics of this transmission make it especially suitable for low torque applications requiring a high degree of manoeuvrability, such as grass cutting around trees and other obstacles, loading, planting and light haulage work. For continuous high performance work with soil engaging implements, the 10 x 2 manual transmission is still available.

Including live (540 rpm) pto, which is standard with hydrostatic transmission, the basic 2WD version of the Ford 1210 fitted with this option is priced at £4,473. When equipped with both hydrostatic transmission and 4WD, it costs £4,825.



New options for the Ford 1210...



The controls of the new hydrostatic transmission now available as a factory-fitted option on the Ford 1210 compact tractor. To the right is the foot-operated variable ground speed control pedal. Centre left is the speed control lever, used to lock the foot pedal. A light touch on the pedal disengages the speed control lever.

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Marler Haley has introduced Boundary—a new weather post and chain fencing system. Made in durable plastic material, it requires no maintenance and combines lightweight versatility with maximum stability.

It is available in four styles—regular, de-luxe, rustic (with a wood grained finish) and free-standing. Posts come in black or white (rustic in brown or white) complete with push-in fitting for soft ground. The free-standing post—ideal for car parks, paved areas or any hard ground application—has a circular base, which can be weighted.

Full details from Marler Haley ExpoSystems, ExpoSystems House, Queens Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 4DW.



Marler Haley's method of fencing...

What A Water Container!

Progress in water containment has, in recent years, come to a standstill, with only two types of sealing systems available (clay admixes and synthetic liners). Now Rawell Marketing has launched Rawmat, a bentonite waterproofing membrane.

Rawmat is a triple layer carpet of consistent thickness, comprising a tough woven polypropylene fabric base similar to Terram, a top layer of biodegradable scrim and a fill of high swelling Wyoming sodium bentonite—a water-absorbent and expanding non-toxic, natural clay.

This format incorporates the benefits of synthetic liners and bentonite admixes, while eliminating the drawbacks.

The key to the system lies in the uniform layer of sodium bentonite contained in the centre of the sandwich. It has the capacity to swell to a volume of between ten and 15 times its dried bulk, a process that is reversible an infinite number of times, enabling it to create not only a comprehensive seal, but one with self-healing properties able to cope with settlement, expansion and contraction, as well as vent volatile gases.

These features, coupled with ease of installation (the waterproof membrane is simply rolled out, butted and stapled or nailed in position), make it suitable for reservoirs, ponds, landfill sites, foundations, basements, underpasses, cut and cover tunnels, general tanking and roof gardens.

Despite its simplicity, Rawmat waterproof membrane is an innovation that combines 25 years of geo-technical experience with high swelling sodium bentonite clay, which has existed in raw form for some 20 million years, offering a permanent waterproof membrane with the added ability to self-seal.

Full details from Rawell Marketing, Carr Lane, Hoylake, Merseyside L47 4AX. ☎ 051-632 5771-4.

Wettern Brothers (Southern) has a new leaflet detailing special sands and gravels. The company has developed a range of sands and aggregates that have proved to be ideal for the preparation and treatment of soils and artificial surfaces.

Full details from R. Baldock, Wettern Brothers (Southern), Aylesford Sand Pit, Rochester Road, Aylesford, Nr. Maidstone, Kent ME20 7DX. ☎ 0622 70431.

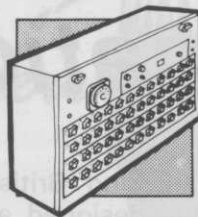
Mowchem In Easy-Measure Dispenser From May & Baker

Mowchem, the grass growth regulator, completes the range of products packed in May & Baker's one-litre, easy-measure dispensers, allowing users to safely and accurately measure small amounts of mefluidide when treating limited areas of amenity turf.



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To keep your grass fresh and green the Rainbird sprinkler pops up on command, to provide life-giving, uniform, automatic irrigation. When not in use the sprinkler keeps a low profile, installed flush with the surface its appearance is neat and unobtrusive. Cameron provide full system advice and installation, contact the address below for full details.



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Rolawn?

Yes. Rolawn. When we were ready to prepare our greens they came to check out our soil type and had their turf down in only two days. The greens were ready for mowing within a couple of weeks.

Couple of weeks? That's amazing!

Isn't it? It also meant we could start collecting subs a lot sooner.

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Telephone (0904) 85661 24 hour Ansaphone service

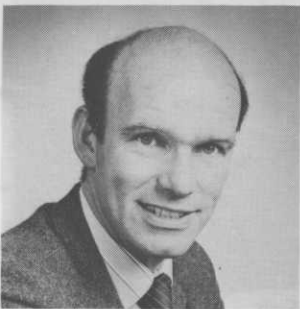
People, Places, Products

Gordon White, with 11 years as a demonstrator/promotions organiser for Lely Import and, most recently, Leli Iseki Tractors, is the new sales manager for the central region. Other moves within the company involve Bill Fisher, based in York, who will now only cover Iseki Tractors for the Midlands, N. Wales and the north and Bob Bevan, who is also based in York, but will handle TORO only in the Midlands and north.



Gordon White.

R.S. Bird has appointed Mike Taylor, 34, general manager of its west of England operation, Birds-Veals of Bristol. Mike joined the company in 1977 and became service manager soon after and sales manager in 1981. Now he takes charge of all activities from the new centre at Willsbridge near Keynsham.



Mike Taylor.

Over 1,000 entries are expected for two national events sponsored by Marshall Concessionaires of Romsey, Hants. The Young Groundsman of the Year competition, run by the IOG, and Marshall's golf greenkeepers' golf tournament, run jointly by the BGGGA and SIGGA. Both events carry the same top prize—an all-expenses-paid visit to the United States next February to attend the American Golf Course Superintendents' annual convention in Washington.

A film production company will attend the IOG exhibition next month to make a feature documentary.

It is intended to show the film in America and other selected overseas markets.

Next year's IOG exhibition will incorporate a series of closed pavilions.

A tournament organised by Steetley Minerals, manufacturer and distributor of the Key Range of fertilisers, took place at Clevedon GC recently. Greenkeeper teams from Devon and Cornwall, the south coast, south west and Wales competed. The Stableford competition was won by Devon and Cornwall.

Best scoring individual was Graham Cox of the Welsh section who received a prize from Brown and Sons Seeds, Key Range distributors in the south west. The competition was arranged in conjunction with Mark White, secretary, and Harry Reeves, head greenkeeper, of Clevedon GC. Steetley is now planning a national tournament open to all members of EIGGA, SIGGA and the BGGGA for next year.

Earlier this year, Alginure Products was asked to produce demonstration examples—especially in the context of establishing growth in difficult and hostile soils—for a display at the International Garden Festival.

Apart from demonstration trays of sand, clay soils and similarly difficult growing media, the company was looking for 'something completely different' and decided to try and establish grass on a pure chalk rock. Several chalk boulders were obtained, but one in particular was chosen because of its similarity to a mask.

The result—after some sculpture by Nick Simpson, a director of Alginure—was a lifelike resemblance of a face. Five weeks later, the finished result shows the powerful effects of alginure in establishing vegetative growth in the most unlikely and inhospitable conditions.



The other 'face' of Alginure.

Soilife affects the micro-nutrients—say N.W. Lepp Ph.D and D.A. Phipps M.Sc.Ph.D. following tests at Liverpool. Their report states that the micro-nutrient state of clay, loam and

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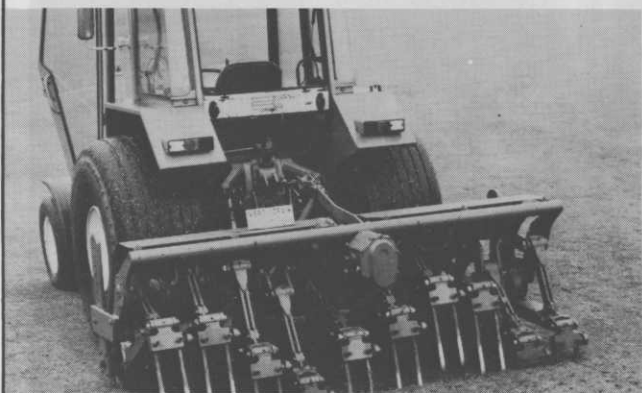
Tel: Woking (04862) 70303
and

30 Bannockburn Rd., St. Ninians,
Stirling FK7 6BP

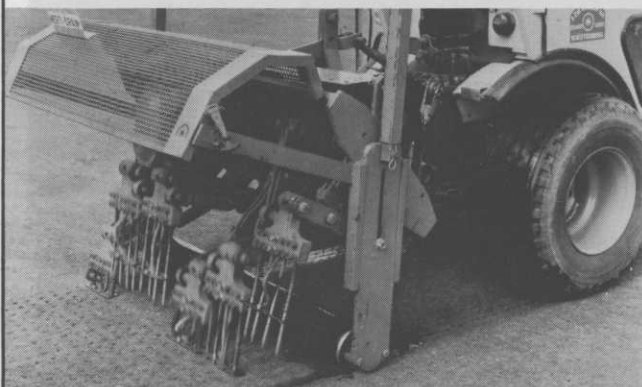
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The "CAPTAIN" is suitable for the fine turf areas i.e. golf greens, tennis courts, lawns and is in constant hire demand.

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Royer Shredder-Mixer Helps Contain Cost Of Compost

Savings on the price of top-quality potting compost attract many visitors to the two nurseries run by Vic Fairhead and his son Roger close to London Heathrow Airport.

Yet, there are few well-known brands on sale. Virtually all compost at the Bulldog Nurseries, Staines and Greenfield Nurseries, Laleham has been processed, mixed and bagged on site by the Fairhead family business. Produced to the John Innes formula since 1938, up to 30,000 sacks of compost are bagged each year.

For many years, the mixing of sterilised soil, peat and sand to the correct ratio and consistency was carried out by shovel with a team of men taking two days to process 22 cubic yards, which is the same quantity that can be produced today by two men in 2½ hours. Roger Fairhead explained that this efficiency came with the arrival of a Royer Superintendent 120 Shredder-Mixer, purchased from Huxleys of Egham, the UK distributor for Royer, five years ago.

Originally equipped with a petrol engine, the machine was fitted with a Lombardini diesel by Huxleys, proving more economical and quieter in the enclosed area where it is used.

When production starts, normally between January and July, soil is graded down with a cultivator tine and rotovated. Loads are then moved under cover ready for steam sterilisation. After sterilisation, the soil is cooled and sphagnum moss peat, horticultural lime-free sand and nutrient base are added and mixed in, again with the rotary cultivator.

Using a tractor front-end loader, the mixture is tipped into the cu yard (0.57 cu metre) hopper of the Royer 120 Shredder-Mixer, where a steel-flighted conveyor carries the soil, peat and sand up and on to the shredding belt. Consisting of variable-spaced, tempered steel cleats mounted on an endless belt, the shredding section mixes, aerates and breaks down the compost into a friable, loose and even consistency.

Rapid discharge from the front of the machine is through an adjustable sweep finger assembly that can be regulated to give coarse or fine particles. Output of around 12 cubic yards an hour (9.2 cu m/hour) is regularly achieved.

Compost is stored under cover until more bagged supplies are needed when it is moved by the tractor loader to a bagger-weigher. Two people can 'bag-up' and seal 200 sacks an hour.



Roger Fairhead inspects the consistency of compost mix produced by the Royer Shredder.

Joining Johnsons For A Jant

Over 100 visitors from all aspects of the industry attended a series of summer open days staged by W.W. Johnson & Son at its Boston, Lincolnshire headquarters.

On show were current and new turf species. The trials are based on material from Europe and the US and include competitors' cultivars.

This was followed by a look at trial procedures with small replicated plots and demonstration areas with a mowing regime at three heights of cut. A wear device has been introduced to simulate trampling.

The afternoon included a look at wild flower trials, which were introduced last year and cover all standard compositions. These are adjacent to the seed production area, which consists of some four acres and involves over 100 species of wild flower.

Johnson's amenity grass trials are designed to evaluate and demonstrate. The trial site is divided into five areas, which are used on a rotational basis.

At present, the largest single trial is the amenity grass demonstration trial, which comprises a number of cultivars in a range of species and mixtures of both cultivars and species. Various bentgrasses include Browntop; Chewings, Creeping Red and Hard Fescues; Meadowgrass;

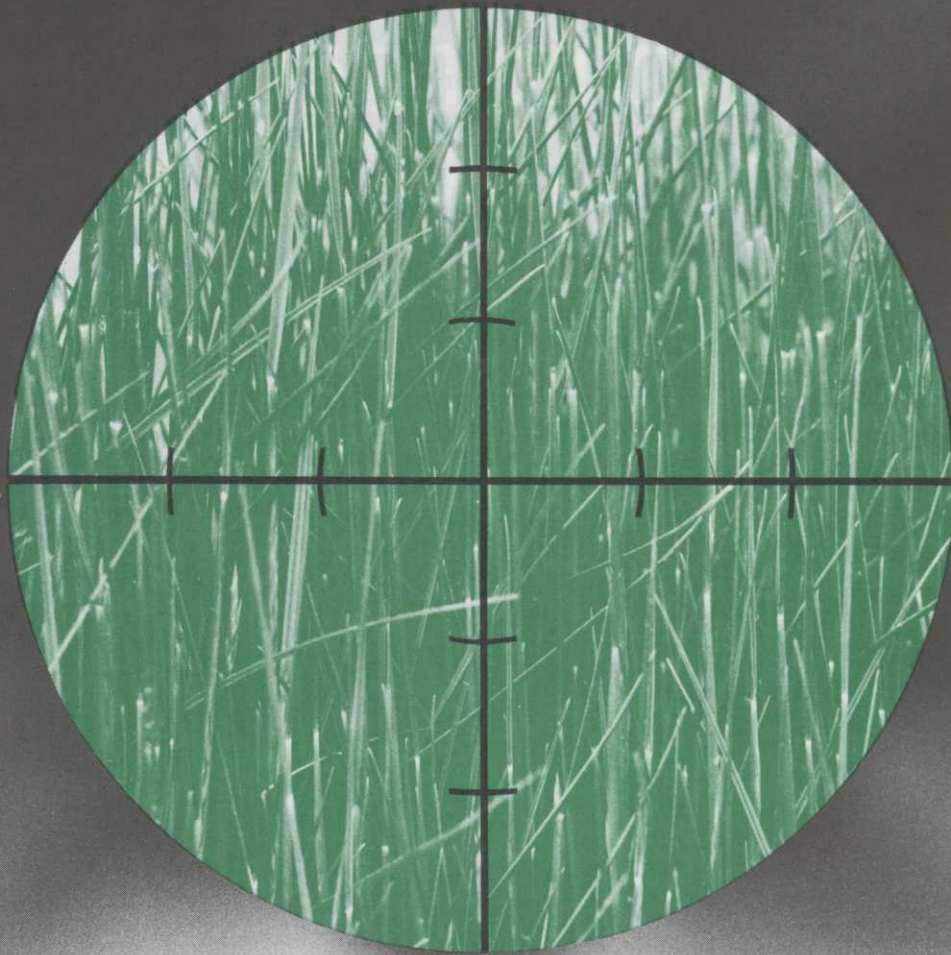
Timothys and both dual-purpose and turf Perennial Ryegrasses.

Mixtures include the professional range of Johnson's amenity grasses, including Greensmaster and Sportsmaster. Plots are divided into three sections, each receiving cuts of one centimetre, two centimetres and the third section, which is cut only twice a year—in July and September.

The most recent area, sown last October, comprises a number of smaller trials. Experimental and new cultivars of each of three individual species trials—ie. Chewings Fescue, Slender Creeping Red Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass. The rest of this area has been sown with a wear trial, which is to be commenced in the autumn, and some experimental breeding trials.

The trials are normally mown once a week except at peak and growth periods when mowing takes place twice a week. Scarification is carried out once in spring and again in late summer. Fertiliser is applied in 'mini-granule' form as a compound 11:6:6 and at the rate of 160kg N/ha/annum in four or five applications, depending on the pattern of summer rainfall.

Special trials are conducted on an *ad hoc* basis, involving new selective herbicides, seed treatments, novel turf products and innovations in management techniques.



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SYNOX Selective weedkiller for use on turf. Controls a wide variety of problem weeds including Speedwell and Parsley Piert.

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A showerproof, broad spectrum, selective weedkiller for fine turf areas.

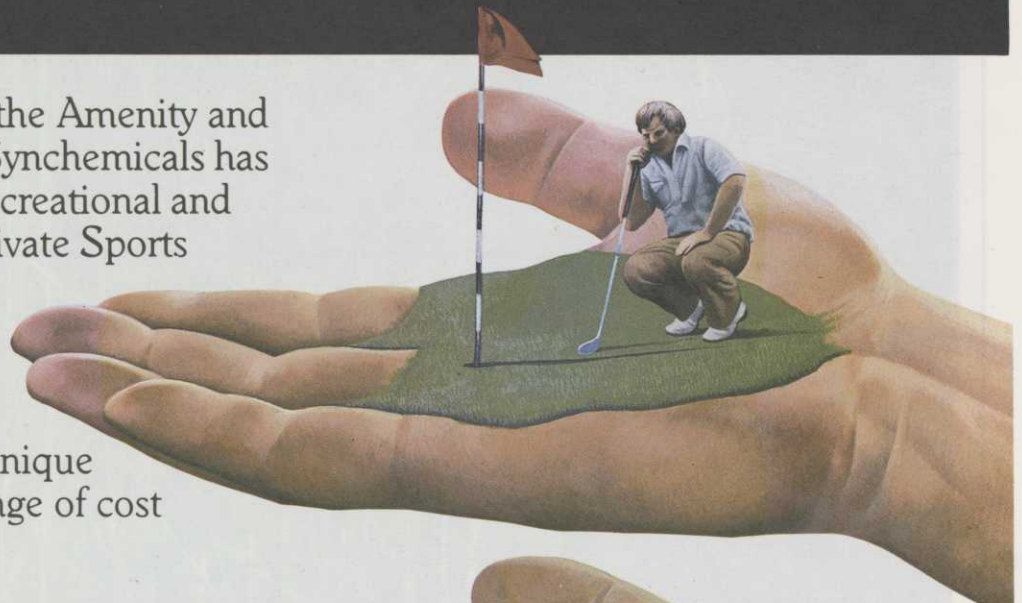
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New From Marathon Mowers



The Marathon pedestrian controlled cylinder mower is robust and durable being constructed from heavy gauge high quality material.

The four bladed cylinder, 23cm dia (9") 90cm wide (35.4"), will produce a good, clean finish (64 cuts/yard at 2 mph) and will also cut long, rough grass if required.

The cutting cylinder is spring loaded off the bottom blade so that in the event of striking a solid object, the cylinder can move on impact thus minimising blade damage. This is just one of the many features that has been put together to combine new and well tried systems to produce a machine that offers:

- greater productivity for less operator fatigue
- less maintenance and down time
- lower fuel costs

with an added bonus of the choice of paraffin operation which is 50% cheaper than petrol, thus fuel costs could be as low as £1.50 per day!

For more information, contact:

Ian D. Goodall
Marathon Mowers
Alcester Road
Portway
Birmingham B48 7JA
Telephone: (0564) 824343

Rotary Slasher For Use With Compact Tractor

Suitable for compact tractors of up to 30hp, the new Rotoslasher from Gallagher Agricultural (Europe) of Coventry has a 44in working width.

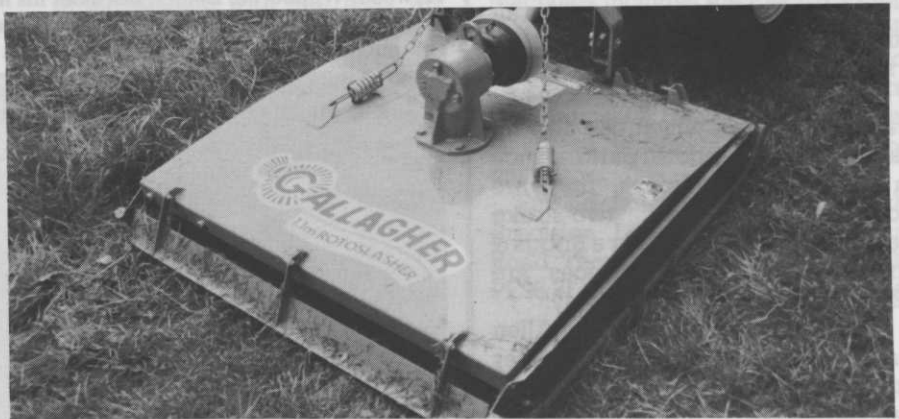
The Rotoslasher is tractor linkage mounted and driven from the pto. It comprises an all-welded plate-steel frame with a width and length of 47in and 53in. The linkage lifting system includes springs to prevent damage during transport and allow a floating action over undulating ground.

Drive from the pto is transferred via a bevel-type gearbox to a central vertical shaft. There are four reversible cutting blades that are pivot mounted to prevent damage

from immovable objects—shear bolt drive protection is also provided. Two blades can be removed to alter mulching action.

Reversible solid bar type skids are adjustable for cutting heights from 3/4in to 3in. The nearside skid can also be adjusted up to 8in horizontally to provide windrowing of cut material. A rear hinged safety flap can be raised on to the main frame to allow for reverse direction mowing where required. Optional linkage attachment points provide for central or offset working. Total weight is 320lb.

Recommended retail price of the Gallagher Rotoslasher is £795 (plus VAT). Further information from Gallagher Agricultural (Europe), Curriers Close, Canley, Coventry CV4 8AW. ☎ Coventry (0203) 470141.



The robust Gallagher Rotoslasher offers a choice of settings.

The Latest From Lister

A trike or similar vehicle is all that is required to tow a new low ground pressure spreader from R.A. Lister Farm Equipment, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The LGP Mk5 ground-driven machine is fitted with 22 x 11 x 8 tyres and can be used to spread a variety of materials including fertiliser, sand, grit and salt. It can be calibrated to spread between 56 and 1,120lb/acre and has a maximum spread width with granular material of 18ft.

Other features include a corrosion-proof plastic hopper with a 6.5cu ft capacity; spring-loaded feed control with shut-off operated from the seat of the towing vehicle; matched pairs of long and short spinner blades for even spread; a control ring to automatically prevent heavy discharge of material on starting; a reservoir that holds material for spreading immediately the towing vehicle starts and a guard to keep material away from the towing vehicle.

The machine can be mounted on a tractor's three-point linkage and measures 41in long by 44in wide by 54in high and has a net weight of 216lb. The price is £687 (plus VAT) ex-works.

For further information, contact Brian Hunter on Halifax (0422) 823787 or Craig Cable on Cirencester (0285) 68991.



The new low ground pressure spreader.

All From Allen

A new 38cm petrol-engined air cushion mower has been introduced by Allen Power Equipment. Based on its electric model—the E38—the Allen 215 is powered by a Tecumseh 98.5cc two-stroke engine. This, coupled with a new fan design, ensures an air flow of over 540 cu ft min, allowing for an air-cushioning effect and easy grass-cutting.

The 215 mower deck is manufactured from high-impact, Cycloc ABS Thermoplastic, offering excellent mechanical, thermal and environmental properties. As with all petrol-engined Allen air cushion mowers, fingertip throttle control and snorkel air cleaners are standard.

Retail price is £159.50 (plus VAT).

Allen now also has two new 21in air cushion mowers. Mower decks are of a similar construction to the 215.

Supplied complete with heavy-duty transport wheels, which can also be used to give exceptional performance in long-grass conditions, they are powered by a two-stroke Technamotor 125 engine or a Briggs & Stratton 187cc engine. Prices are £229.50 and £239.50 respectively.

Full details on these and other Allen machines from Allen Power Equipment, The Broadway, Didcot, Berkshire OX11 8ES.

**Greenkeeper
has a new phone number
0255 507526**

For Hire In The South



Brian Pierson of Brian D. Pierson (Contractors), golf course and landscape specialist of Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset, discusses his new Verti-Drain with the head greenkeeper of Meon Valley GC. All greens were Verti-Drained recently without disruption to play. The machine is available for hire throughout the south.



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- * Encourage a deep hard-wearing turf
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- * As used by many courses including championship

sandy soils were all affected by Soilife treatment. An increase in the extractable fraction for all nutrients except 2n was noted. Not only was there an increase, particularly in Mn, Fe and Cu, but there was a noticeable improvement in the soil drainage properties, particularly with clay.

So, Soilife not only improves the drainage in clay soil and compacted ground, but releases valuable nutrients, which may be locked in. These properties should not be confused with wetting agents which, the report states, only temporarily alter soil structure by covering soil particles with a greasy film.

This report is good news for greenkeepers struggling to overcome compaction and drainage problems.

It is available in five litre and 25 litre containers—one litre is sufficient to treat 100 sq m. Full details from the manufacturers W.H. Groves or Farrant Chemicals, PO Box 26, Guildford, Surrey. ☎ Guildford (0483) 36327/574562.

Morrison has launched its new range of mowers. The lightweight electric 14in rotary mower for small lawns and the new 3ft N1 2-stroke and 4-stroke rotary mower (discharge, catcher and mulcher with a recommended retail price of £236 plus VAT) are handled by the sole concessionaire for Morrison in the UK—Precision Lawnmowers (UK), an associated company of CNS Mowers (Norfolk). "Some may feel our timing is late," Chris Smith, managing director of CNS Mowers, said. "However, we only officially took over the distributorship for Morrison in the UK on January 1. We were determined to build up stocks of machines for full distribution plus a complement of spares to provide a total back-up service before relaunching on a nationwide scale.

"In conjunction with Morrison, we have added to the range to ensure a wide selection of highly specified mowers at competitive prices. We can now offer immediate delivery nationally—within 36 hours in



Chris Smith.

extreme cases. The same applies to spares."

The complete range of Morrison machines includes the Electro 35 14in electric rotary mower, the 3ft N1 rotary mower, the Olympic series of 16in, 20in and 24in cylinder mowers, the Golfmaster 500 and Triplex Series II. There is also a new Mini Hoe cultivator.

Full details from Chris Smith, Precision Lawnmowers (UK), Main Road, Thornham, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6LX. ☎ Thornham (048 526) 234.



Warley Park GC students on a product familiarisation course at the Ford Tractor and Equipment Training Centre, Boreham House, near Chelmsford, Essex. The lads are under the watchful eye of Ford instructor Tony Hellier.

Bob Andrews of the Pontiac Works, Fernbank Road, Ascot, Berks (☎ 0344 885575) recently had a surprise return on an advert placed way back in the September 1981 issue of *Greenkeeper*. "It was sent in from the Royal Golf Club of Belgium, together with a postal draft for £70. Although the price has since increased a little, we honoured the order at the price advertised," managing director Ken Salt said. "It has shown us just how much the magazine is retained."

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Applications are invited for the above post in the Technical Services Department. This is a new position at the Council's public golf course situated at Cobtree Manor and the course is due to open in late August 1984.

The successful applicant will be expected to be fully experienced in all aspects of turf management and also have a sound knowledge of all modern machinery and watering systems.

In appropriate cases, housing accommodation may be available, together with assistance regarding relocation expenses.

Application forms and job description can be obtained from the Technical Officer, 13, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent. Telephone (0622) 57261, extension 65, to whom completed forms should be returned no later than 20 August 1984.

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Due to an impending retirement,
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Championship standard.

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No accommodation available.

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Applications are invited for the above position from persons of proven ability and experience in golf course maintenance.

Salary negotiable.

No accommodation available.

Apply in writing stating age and experience to:

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Dewberry Lane
Cropwell Road
Radcliffe on Trent
Notts.**

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Salary negotiable.

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**16 year old wishing to make green-
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some experience and is keen to
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Dorset, BH14 8NE
Tel: (0202) 708406

Hawtree & Son,
5, Oxford Street,
Woodstock, Oxford, OX7 1TQ
Tel: Woodstock (0993) 811976

T.J.A. McAuley BSc FICE,
7, Donegal Square West,
Belfast, N. Ireland, BT11 6JF
Tel: (0232) 226981

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Eccles Contracting Ltd.,
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Hadfield,
Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 7DZ
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Golf Landscapes Ltd.,
Ashwell's Road, Bentley,
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9SR
Tel: 0277 73720

Land Unit Construction Ltd.,
Folly Farm, Hanslope,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK19 7BX
Tel: 0908 510414

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd.,
27, Vicarage Road,
Verwood, Wimbourne, Dorset,
BH21 6DR Tel: 0202 822372

Southern Golf & Landscapes Ltd.,
85, West Street, Warwick,
Warwickshire
Tel: 0926 492898

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Rigby Taylor House,
Garside Street, Bolton,
Lancs, BL1 4AE

Tel: (0204) 389888

Rigby Taylor (South) Ltd.,
Unit 7, The Riverway Estate,
Peasmarsh, Guildford,
Surrey, GU3 1LZ
Tel: (0483) 35657

CONSTRUCTION

Charles Lambert (Lawns) Ltd.,
Dudley Court, Cramlington,
Northumberland
Tel: (0670) 714121/2

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D.O. Hunt Ltd.,
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Tel: 062 67 2427

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& Supaturf Fertilisers. Manufacturers
of top dressings.

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68, Southchurch Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex,
SS1 2RR

Tel: 0702 61 2344
Contact: Mr. Elvin

H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.,
Stanmore Hill Works, Stanmore,
Middlesex, HA7 3HD
Tel: 01 954 4171

GOLF COURSE AND BOWLING GREEN CONSULTANT

John Campbell,
121/123 High Street, Dovercourt,
Harwich, Essex, CO12 3AP

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

J.S. Bishop & Co. Ltd.,
Bishop House, Bath Road,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks,
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

GOLF COURSE CONSULTANTS

John Souter Esq.,
Cunningham Road, Stirling,
Scotland
Tel: Stirling (0786) 2141

GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT

Ransomes, Sims, & Jefferies PLC,
Nacton Works, Nacton Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9QG

Tel: (0473) 71222
Contact: J.F.R. Wilson/R. Bishop

Watkins Naylor & Co. Ltd.,
Friar Street, Hereford,
Tel: Hereford (0432) 274361

Telex: 35302 W. Naylor or contact your dealer.

GRASS SEED

Mommersteeg International,
Station Road, Finedon,
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire,
NN9 5NT Tel: (0933) 680674

Contact: Michael Perkins
Suttons Seeds Ltd.,
Hele Road, Torquay, Devon,
TQ2 7QJ

Tel: (0803) 62011
Contact: R.W. Palin

British Seed Houses Ltd.,
Bewsey Industrial Estate,
Pitt Street, Warrington,
Cheshire Tel: (0925) 54411

Contact: Roger Saunders
Portview Road, Avonmouth,
Bristol

Tel: (0272) 823691
Camp Road, Swinderby, Lincs,
Tel: (0522) 86714

IRRIGATION

Perrot Irrigation Ltd.,
38, High Street, Rowhedge,
Colchester, Essex, CO5 7ET
Tel: Colchester (0206) 867624

Watkins Naylor & Co. Ltd.,
Friar Street, Hereford,
Tel: Hereford (0432) 274361

Telex: 35302 W. Naylor or contact your dealer.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

British Overhead Irrigation Ltd.,
The Green, Upper Halliford,
Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8RY
Tel: 09327 88301 Telex: 928767

Contact: Sales Department
Sportsground Irrigation Co.,
'Hereward Lodge',
Paget Road, Lubenham,
Market Harborough, Leics,
Tel: (0858) 63153

Toro Irrigation Ltd.,
Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate,
Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SD
Tel: Ringwood (042 54) 6261

Watermation Ltd.,
Monument Way E., Woking,
Surrey, GU21 5LY
Tel: Woking 70303 Telex: 859224

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

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Bishop House, Bath Road,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks,
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILISER

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Nr. Ashford, Kent
Tel: Egerton (023 376) 241

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Parker & Ballinger Ltd.,
71, Hill Village Road,
Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands, B75 5BH

Tel: 021 308 6888

JACOBSEN NATIONAL DEALERS

Marshall Concessionaires Ltd.,
Romsey Road, Lockerley, Romsey,
Hampshire SO5 0GR
Tel: (0794) 41144. Telex: 477341

Achurch & Sons (Horncastle) Ltd.,
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Horncastle (06582) 3441

Anglia Grasscutting Machinery Ltd.,
Suffolk & Norwich,
Lowestoft (0502) 65811/68668

Bristol Garden Machinery Ltd.,
Bristol, N. Wilts, Glos, Cornwall,
Bristol (0272) 719361

Club Mower Services,
Herts, Beds, & North London Borough,
Luton (0582) 841040

CNS Mowers,
Norfolk,
Hunstanton (048526) 234

Ellesmere AG,
Shrops, Mid & N. Wales, Hereford,
Worcs, W. Midlands, N. Powys, Staffs,
Oswestry (0691) 657232

Fletcher - Stewart (Stockport) Ltd.,
Cheshire & Greater Manchester & Wirral,
Stockport (061 483) 5542

Fulborn Garden Machinery Ltd.,
Cams,
Fulborn (0223) 880762

Ground Control Equipment Co.,
Durham, Teeside,
Darlington (0325) 55946

Henry Kelland Ltd.,
Somerset & Devon,
Bridgwater (0278) 58111

Old Forge Engineering Ltd.,
Essex & N. Kent,
Ingatstone (0277) 353611

Marshall Concessionaires (Retail) Ltd.,
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W. Sussex, S.W. Wilts,
Romsey (0794) 513185

Paul Seward & Co. Ltd.,
N. Yorkshire, W. Yorkshire,
York (0904) 704121

Sandax Mower Services,
S. Yorkshire,
Sheffield (0904) 704121

Waycott Bros. Ltd.,
Gwent & Dyfed & S. Powys,
Newport (0633) 612072

John Wilder (Agricultural) Ltd.,
Oxon & Berks,
Wallingford (0491) 35595

Shanks Mowers Croymden,
Surrey, S. Kent, E. Sussex,
(01) 7714811

RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS
Henton & Chattell Ltd.,
London Road, Nottingham,
Tel: Nottingham (0602) 862161

Contact: Christopher Bryden
Wilcocks,
Walker Street, Preston,
Lancs, Tel: Preston 53068

D. Rowe & Co. Ltd.,
The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex,
PO19 4JW Tel: (0243) 788100 Telex: 86110

Contact: Mr. D. Strange/Mr. J.E. Burfoot.

SAND
Martin Bros. Ltd.,
1A, Clifton Street,
Alderley Edge, Cheshire,
SK9 7NN

Tel: Alderley Edge (0625) 58457/12
Contact: Nick Gray

SANDSLITTING
L.D. Bourgein Oxford Ltd.,
South Hinksey, Oxford,
OX1 5AZ
Tel: (0865) 735420 Telex: 83147

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Barlow Tyrie Limited,
Springwood Industrial Estate,
Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex,
CM7 7RN

Tel: Braintree (0376) 22505
Telex: 98173
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Seamac,
Foundry Lane, Chippenham,
Wiltshire
Tel: (0249) 652811

SEMI MATURE TREES
Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING (EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE)

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

Evers & Wall Ltd.,
Hardi Division, St. George's Way,
Burmuda Industrial Estate,
Nuneaton,
CV10 7QT

Tel: Nuneaton (0203) 37 2054
Telex: 312426
Contact: Mr. W. Hayward

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Ned Johnson & Co. Ltd.,
163/7, Gibraltar Street,
Sheffield, S38UF
Tel: 0742 29508/9/0

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The Charles Lawrence Group Ltd.,
153a, Farndon Road,
Newark, NG24 4SP

Tel: 0636 76218 Telex: 37668
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Loddington Kettering,
Northants, NN14 1JZ
Tel: 0536 710328
(Heavy Duty)

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Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher
Notcutts Nurseries Ltd.,
Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Tel: 03943 3344

(Incorporating Waterers Nurseries,
Bagshot, Surrey)

TREES AND TREE GUARDS
J. Toms Ltd.,
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Tel: Headcorn (0622) 891111

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OX1 5AZ
Tel: 0865 735420 Telex: 83147

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A.F. Trenchers Ltd.,
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Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd.,
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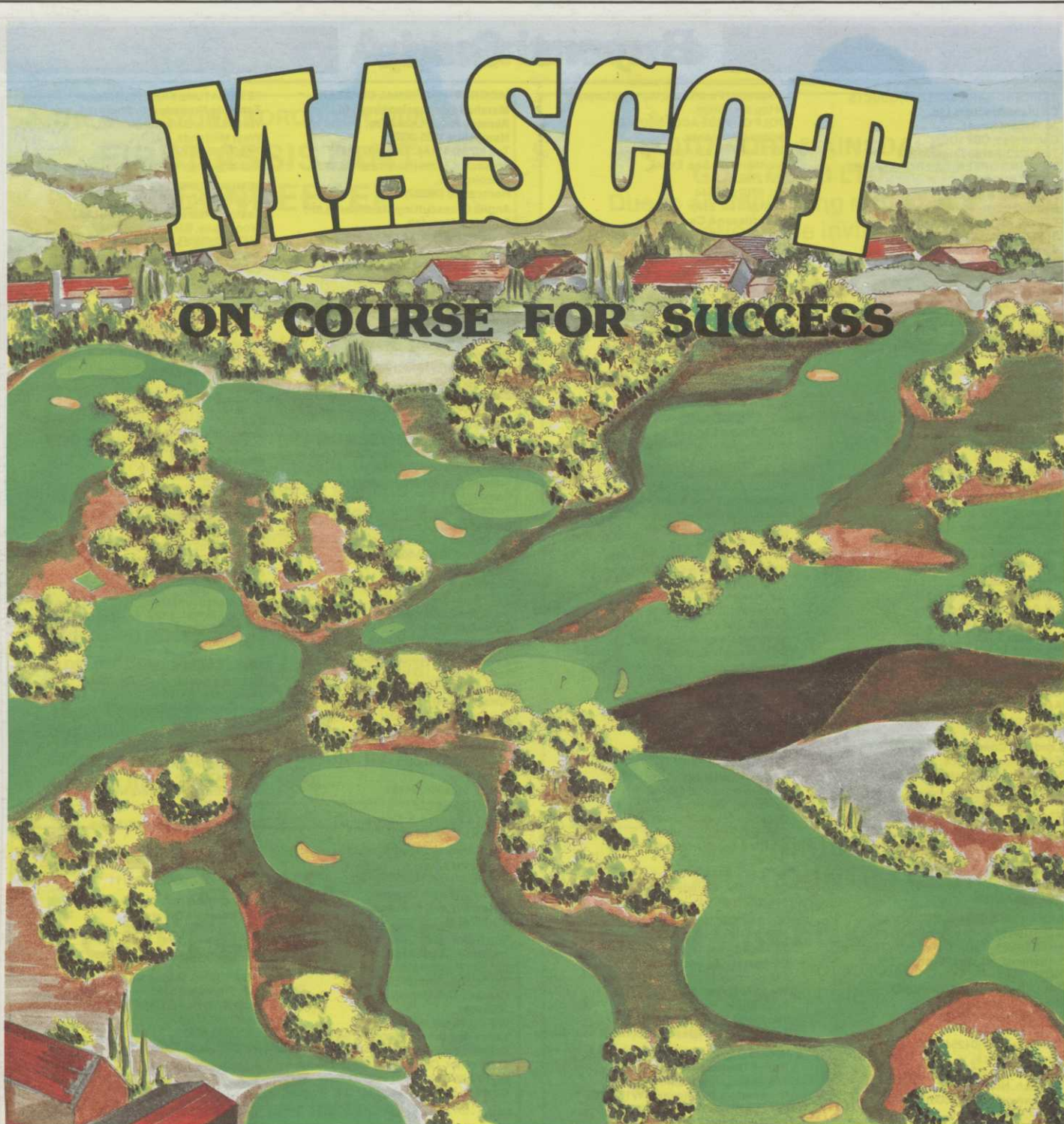
TYRES AND WHEELS
Pan Engineering Co. Ltd.,
6, Neptune Road,
Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4YF
Tel: 01 427 2242

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Grantham, Lincs.
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Rigby Taylor House,
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Tel: (0204) 389888

Rigby Taylor (South) Limited
Unit 7, The Riverway Estate,
Peasmarsh,
Guildford, Surrey GU3 1LZ
Tel: (0483) 35657

Scottish Agricultural Industries plc
Firth Road,
Livingston,
West Lothian EH54 5QW
Tel: (0506) 39281