

JULY 1984

Greenkeeper



The Official Magazine of S.I.G.G.A. & E.I.G.G.A.



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RANSOMES



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39th Annual

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This Issue

July 1984

Front cover: The new Ransomes Triplex 171 Mark 2 is designed to give a fine finish on greens - whatever the conditions. New wide grasscatchers give excellent collection and increased ground clearance at the rear of the chassis makes manoeuvring on plateau greens easier than ever before. Optional accessories are available to mow tees and green surrounds, verticut and spike - all fitted in seconds.

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Out·On·The·Course

Walter Woods

John Campbell went back to St Andrews where he witnessed the build-up to this month's Open Championship and talked at length to the man-in-charge—Walter Woods.



"Preparing for the Open Championship is a tremendous responsibility, which entails a great deal of hard work and long hours for the greenkeeping staff. You will understand what is involved, for you have had this kind of experience at St Andrews," Walter Woods, links supervisor, said as we talked together in the Links Trust office tucked in the lee of the Royal & Ancient clubhouse overlooking the impressive sweep of St Andrews Bay.

I had returned to *The Home Of Golf* and was interested to see what changes had taken place in the preparation and organisation for this great event. "I think you would find quite a difference since your last Open here in 1970," Walter added as we compared notes while all around us was a beehive of activity with huge prefabricated stands being erected to transform the 1st and 18th fairways on the Old Course into a gigantic auditorium for the big event.

Behind the weatherbeaten features and serious gaze of Walter Woods lurks a warm and friendly character who chooses his words carefully. He is extremely capable and with his wide knowledge of all aspects of golf course management he has proved himself to be fully competent to manage the most famous golf links in the world.

He is highly respected locally for his knowledge of the finer points of the game and his ability as a first-class golfer. He has also distinguished himself in many local club championships and two years ago reached the final of the Eden Tournament, which is one of Scotland's oldest amateur events.

I am probably one of the few people in greenkeeping who can understand how Walter feels on the eve of this important event as the pressure and enormous responsibilities begin to mount. "My main worry at the moment with the approach of the Open Championship is the weather, which has not been very kind to us this spring," he said. "It has been cold and dry, which is not conducive to good growth.

"Our second biggest problem is the amount of play.

Continued on page 15...



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In·My·Opinion

Fred Hawtree

WHO said golf is too cheap? Pretty well everyone at some time between 1960 and 1980. Now they should think again.

Last May, I ploughed round a new course under construction in North Carolina in a Jeep. It looked as if something over 100 acres had been stripped of topsoil. When the golf course architect had redesigned the contours to provide his favourite humps and hollows, all that soil had to be spread again and something like £350,000 would have been spent before they asked the bank to pay for the greens and tees.

There were some notable humps and hollows made at Royal Mid-Surrey in 1911 and they did not take the whole course up to build them. They were constructed to the instructions of the resident professional J.H. Taylor by the greenkeeper Peter Lees who was described in 1910 by Bernard Darwin as a 'transcendent genius among greenkeepers.' Not a bad epitaph!

There was a time when the golf course architect took each site as he found it and used every scrap of natural feature it contained to enhance his layout. His signature was not important. He modelled the ground here and there to produce the green and the golfing interest he wanted, but, basically, the local topography dictated the style. Thus, every golf course had its own character and even though trees grew taller and frills were added, you could still tell one resort course from another.

Today, each new venture tries to outdo its neighbours. (The longest, the hardest, the greatest). Unless it generates publicity, its associated activities, such as housing, hotels and holidays, do not bring in the cash necessary to pay for it. So, the golf course designers (who also feed on this publicity) tend to apply their own artificial formula, preferably with a few 18th century Scottish archaisms, which are reintroduced as novelties.

Whoever heard before of all the greens on a new course being recontoured after a year's play? It happened last year. This singular event received much attention,



Hawtree & Son, golf course architects, are based in Woodstock, Oxford.

meetings were held, articles written, but the saddest aspect of all was that nobody seemed to find it odd.

Worse may be yet to come. There is now talk of 'this modern trend towards a wilder natural look.' (I quote from *Golf Digest*, May 1984.) So, having spent a few millions on denaturing a site, no doubt they will now spend a few more putting it back as it was.

How natural should nature be? Perhaps the sensible approach is to leave it alone in the first place. There are plenty of environmental conservationists who will applaud.

The next most effective way to achieve a natural look is to cut the budget. The designer will then throw the artificial lakes and waterfalls out of the window, plan his greens with a

couple of wing bunkers instead of a sea of sand and generally stop tampering with the landscape in the hope of getting his baby into the Top Fifty. We shall then be able to know whether we are playing in Malaga, Bermuda or Chorlton cum Hardy without reference to the scorecard.

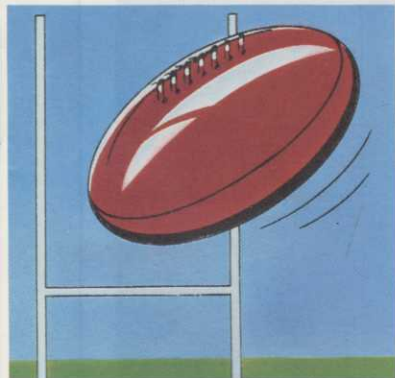
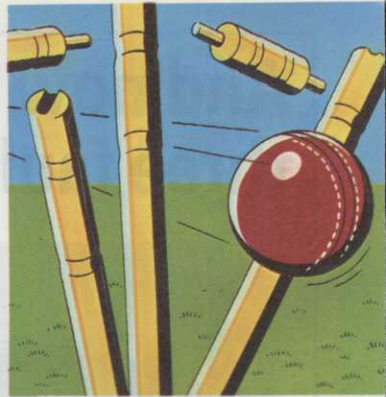
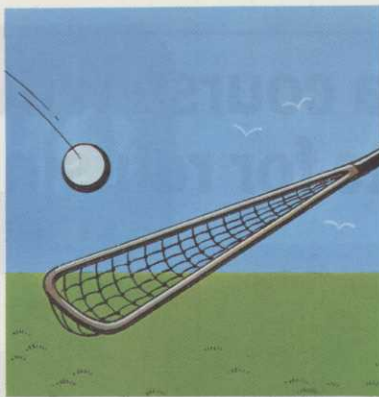
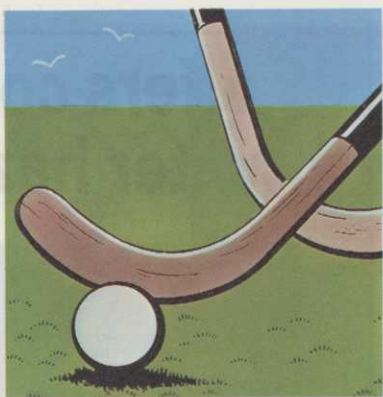
We shall even be able to concentrate on the game itself. Those who yearn for swaying palm trees can go a few degrees south in January to sharpen up their game for the bets at home in the summer. The rest of us can always muffle up and temper the east wind with thoughts of a warm clubhouse and the elixir known in Ulster as 'a hot one.'

Cutting the budget, however, has to be linked to demand. The new course has to attract golfers even in its simpler form. It will do so provided there is pressure on the existing courses in the vicinity.

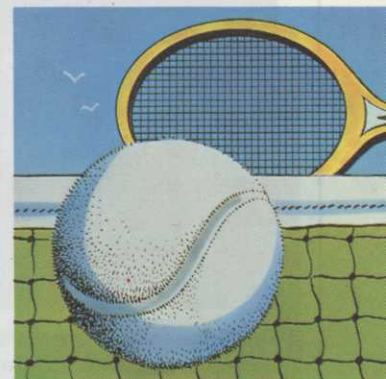
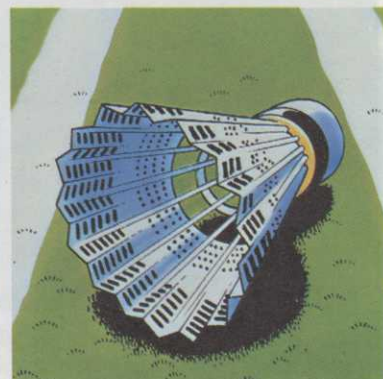
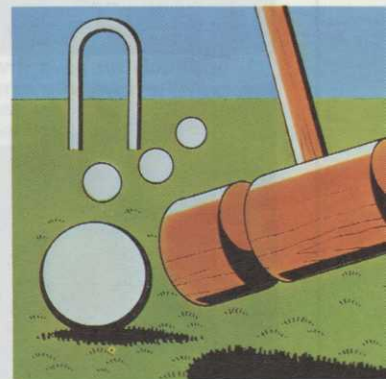
Mistakes arise more often from applying the luxury formula in areas already well served in that respect. The Sports Council, in one of its first regional surveys, affirmed that one part of its territory needed no more private courses. Only public courses were needed. It was right. Three superior ventures never really took off while four public courses, three driving ranges and even short nine-holes and par-threes are busy every day.

Golfers move up all the time through the socio-economic grades, but requirements at the top levels are soon satisfied because of the law of 'the higher, the fewer.' In the 1960s, in a short and somewhat premature boom in golf round Paris, ten new 18-hole courses followed each other in quick succession. The first one was very grand and creamed off the odd duke, bankers, big business, couturiers and film stars. It never looked back.

The rest, with one exception, blindly followed the same formula and found that there were simply not enough marquises to go round. They needed another boom 15 years later and golf on television to fill them up. The exception achieved a good compromise between price and style



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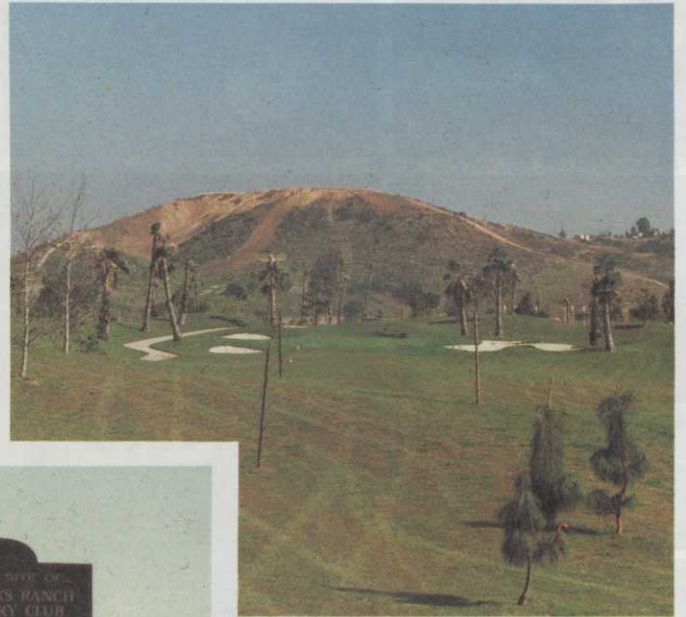
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San Diego in southern California has the ideal climate for golf. Temperatures hardly vary outside the 60° - 90°F range and there are numerous fine courses. However, as in most matters American, there is always room to go one better... Take a film star's ranch, virtually unlimited funds, add the Olympics and, in just over 12 months, you have the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club. The ranch, at Rancho Santa Fe on the outskirts of San Diego, was the property of Douglas Fairbanks Jr. An enterprising development company—Watt Industries—acquired the land and laid out plans for some palatial homes, shops and, naturally, a golf course. The site designated for the course was not, by British ideas, particularly attractive—just a valley floor covered in scrub, surrounded by hills and with a small river. Into the story entered golf course architect and construction superintendent Fred Harris, followed by the US Equestrian Olympic Committee and the Fairbanks Ranch golf course and the Olympic Equestrian cross-country course for the three-day event started to take shape in April last year.

The 34 charter members of the club each put up \$300,000 (£200,000); the construction budget for the first 18 holes was \$3,500,000. Unfortunately, a few unforeseen snags occurred and eventually the cost will be \$5,000,000, which is about £1,000,000 over budget!. This left \$5,000,000 for a clubhouse, etc, and there is no shortage of takers wishing to subscribe the \$50,000 membership entry fee. Landfill for the course was taken from the river bed and banks with 55 large earth moving machines shifting 3,000,000 cubic yards of 'dirt'. The river, which was 100 yards wide, is now nearer 500 yards across and a stone embankment has been constructed in case the river comes into full flood. Over 6,400 mature trees were planted and lakes, all with concrete edges to avoid erosion and to ease maintenance, were built. Seeding took place in autumn and the course opened for play in May. In between, the equestrian course builder moved in and up went 30 jumps around the golf course, including several through water fronting the clubhouse, all of which will be dismantled and never seen again after the Olympics. So watch out for the T.V. coverage.

Michael Coffey.

Top left: 18th green and clubhouse under construction. Below: Fred Harris points—also pictured is Jim Adams.

Top right: many holes enjoy stunning backdrops. Below: 14th fairway.

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North West

The North West branch held a golf match at Chester Golf Club in May. It should have been against South Wales but, because of other commitments, they were unable to attend. However, the captain and committee of Chester GC stepped in and saved the day. The result of the match was a defeat for the greenkeepers by three matches to one.

Some 40 people enjoyed the day and the superb food provided by Mrs Hartell-Payne. Thanks go especially to Alistair Jack for providing a team at very short notice and to Ransomes and Cheshire Light Tractors for providing prizes.

David Royle of Ransomes had the unenviable task of deciphering the score cards—rumour has it that he blew up two calculators (must have been Japanese!).

Last, but not least, thanks to the greenstaff led by Len Sproston. His

course was in enviable condition and he broke the hearts of those of us who are struggling to get any kind of grass growing—never mind good species!

Members will be notified of future events through the North West newsletter, which is to be circulated quarterly. Meanwhile, contact me on Chester 678879 if you need any information.

A. Campbell.

Sussex

I would like to say right away how much the Sussex lads who attended *Golf Course '84* at Cambridge enjoyed the conference. Meeting so many friends was, in itself, an innovation to us all.

The Sussex branch greenkeepers held their annual match against the golf club secretaries in May—the result was a complete beating for us all. Well done, the secretaries, but I can assure them that the result is only a temporary respite. Many thanks to Jim Coutts of Mannings Heath for such a resolute team of secretaries. Thanks also to Major Carroll and Worthing Golf Club's steward and stewardess

for an excellent meal after the match.

It was delightful to see Peter Simpson and his wife Enid, who came along to present the trophy to Jim Coutts and his team. Well done, Jim.

Thank you, Hugh MacGillivray for such a splendid course and for keeping the sun shining.

The one thing the greenkeepers did win on the day was the raffle—by our good friend Bob Moore of Seaford GC and Dormy House. Well done, Bob.

Dennis Ayling.

Surrey

Surrey's spring meeting was held at Old Thorns Golf Club. This relatively new course proved to be an extremely hard challenge with narrow fairways and many small lakes.

The scratch prize was won with an 83 and 85 by Paul Pearce, Ken McNiven's new assistant at Effingham.

1st handicaps A.Cale (Old Thorns), 2nd handicaps D.Lucas (Old Thorns), 3rd handicaps D.Lenham (Sunningdale), 4th handicaps A.Davey (RAC), 5th handicaps G.McNiven (Effingham) and 6th handicaps D.Fernie (Effingham).

A special prize was donated by Old Thorns Golf Club for nearest the hole at the 16th. This was won by J.Covey, a greenkeeper at Old Thorns, but because the prize was an overnight stay at Old Thorns, he declined the offer and the prize was given in conjunction with the Veteran's Cup and so it went to Derek Bishton—a retired greenkeeper from Sunningdale.

Many thanks to Dave Lucas and all his greenkeepers for the splendid condition of the course. The greens held the pitch and putted true. So much for the adverse criticism of sand greens.

Thanks to the management and catering staff for keeping us well looked after in the food and drink stakes. Also, our thanks to the trade for donating the prizes for the raffle. I think everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

An Open Letter To All EIGGA Members

Having attended the very successful *Golf Course '84* and being a young head greenkeeper, I want to put forward some thoughts for the future of EIGGA in the hope they will act as a catalyst for sensible and reasoned discussion.

While listening to some of the comments of older greenkeepers at Cambridge, the thought that continually crossed my mind was that we, as a profession, have become blasé about the problems facing us. All too often the answer given to an idea was: 'it has been tried before and it will not work'. Surely, we should take heed of the saying: 'if at first you don't succeed, then try and try again?'

The problems facing us as a new organisation are vast, but not insurmountable—especially if we finally accept that we must become a self-financing body and not rely on others for support. There are two ways of doing this—either increase the membership or increase the subscription. Now, I can almost hear the cry: 'we can't afford it,' but if EIGGA can offer some of the benefits other bodies offer, then surely the answer would be: 'can you afford not to pay it?'

The modern greenkeeper has the world at his feet and, as SIGGA is proving, respect and financial reward can be gained, but only when we go about things in an orderly manner and present a professional image—as do the Scots.

Many lessons were learnt in Cambridge, but perhaps the biggest was that EIGGA should not be side-tracked by the wishes of others, but should forge ahead with its plans in an aggressive, but controlled, manner and prove that we are The Association to belong to.

A. Campbell

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Why All Greenkeepers Should Join An Association

More than 70 years ago, the greenkeepers of Scotland banded together and formed the forerunner of the present Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

Even in 1911, the need for an association was considered a vital prerequisite for the advancement of greenkeeping and greenkeepers.

The basic goals remain the same today—to use the resources of a national association to bring the member's professional excellence up to a level that will set him apart from others and enable him to reap richer benefits from his calling.

Recent years have brought about the realisation that the complexities of the present day call for an expansion in the scope of SIGGA activities. No longer just a cutter and keeper of the greens, the golf course greenkeeper of today has to be a doctor of soil and grasses, a scientist, mechanic, plant pathologist, entomologist, manager, administrator, public relations man and all of this responsibility in a rapidly changing world of limited resources, new technology and a sometimes bewildering existence.

This is where SIGGA comes in—providing every greenkeeper the means to make it, comfortably and happily, in a world full of multiplying challenges.

It is a simple fact of life that everyone in a skilled trade or profession needs to belong to a professional organisation and the logical choice is SIGGA for those in the greenkeeping profession. It is the oldest association and the one that commands national respect.

SIGGA has drive, the kind that comes from representing a growing membership across the country and also abroad. It is the united voice of professionals in SIGGA who recognise that their growth and advancement will best be helped by a strong association with worldwide acclaim.

The members of SIGGA are proud of their profession and eager to see it grow in stature and occupy a position with greater strength in the world of golf. SIGGA members not only take, they give back through participation in association activities in a fine display of unselfish sharing.

SIGGA does more than offer you the prestige of belonging to an association of its stature. It keeps you informed and up-to-date on the art and science of fine turfgrass management; helps you to develop the other skills vital to your job; works to achieve recognition for you as a vital cog in the golf course community and provides a variety of other benefits that show SIGGA's concern for the well being of yourself and your family.

J.W. Neilson, SIGGA President

New Addresses

William Moffett, 22 Port Street, Dalbeattie
 Stephen Earl, 2 Wheatley Place, Stevenston, Ayrshire
 I. Semple, 16 Kundale Terrace, Kirkcudbright
 J.S. Barr, 20 Mount Avenue, Symington, Kilmarnock
 S. Ramsey, 42 Russell Drive, Ayr
 G. Heron, 38 Main Street, Ballantrrie
 M. Holland, 11 Castle Street, Maybole, Ayrshire
 J. Bradford, 3 Solway View, Mainsriddle, Dumfries
 D. Gray, Lahinch Golf Club, Co. Clare

J. Grainger, secretary of the Ayrshire section, reports that the spring tournament enjoyed the warmest April day since records began. Some 41 members, trade and guests contested the tournament at Ayr, Bellisle. The long course proved to be the winner, with only one player, R. Bruce, beating the SSS.

Thanks go to Kyle and Carrick for the courtesy of the course and to Harry Diamond and all the staff for a very enjoyable day.

Bill Beveridge came over from Edinburgh to play in the afternoon and present the prizes in the evening. It is with great sadness that we learnt of his death several days later in this his retiral year (see story in *Notebook*). He will be a great loss to Ransomes and an ever bigger loss to greenkeeping. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

The autumn outing will be held on September 11 at Old Prestwick.

Elie Golf Club was the venue for the recent Central spring outing when 40 members and guests enjoyed a great day. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Brian Lawrie and his staff. Catering in the hands of Mrs Cowan was first class and the hospitality of club secretary Mr Forgie and club steward Mr Cowan was greatly appreciated. Our thanks go to the captain and council of Elie Golf Club for granting us the courtesy of the course.

Winners: best nett—Neil Rawlinson, 67; best scratch—Brian Finlayson, 77; 1st class—G.Scougall, 70, runner-up—John Philp, 71; 2nd class—W. Whitfield, 69, runner-up—G. Palfray, 72; trade—M. Dennis, 72 and two-ball fours—J. Lees and T. McNairney, 27½.

Qualifiers for the Autogarden tournament are B. Finlayson, C. Stewart, J. Philp, N. Rawlinson, G. Scougall, W. Whitfield, G. Palfray, I. Donaldson, C. Fotheringham and E. Small.

Archie Morton, until last year a greenkeeper at Stirling Golf Club, has died. Archie was a keen supporter of the section until he retired early for health reasons.

The annual spring tournament of the East Section was held at Glencorse Golf Club by courtesy of the club council. Over 60 members attended on a dry, sunny day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves on a course in first-class

Continued on page 24...

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Education in the Lothians

SINCE the late 1970s, the greenkeeping profession in east central Scotland has been served by Oatridge Agricultural College, reports Mr D.F. Webster, senior lecturer in horticulture at the Oatridge Agricultural College, West Lothian.

There are usually about 30 students over the three years of study geared to SCOTEC part one and part two certificates in greenkeeping and groundsmanship and they receive instruction in up-to-date methods of maintenance and construction and become involved in various ongoing projects at the college.

As part of the course, there are machinery demonstrations, talks from major firms involved in golf-course construction and turf irrigation, as well as sportsground layout and the use of artificial surfaces for sport, and to back these up, there are visits to suitable venues.

Students are encouraged to develop their design skills by preparing plan drawings—for instance, for a golf course layout or machinery/storage area.

They also get involved in a variety of turfgrass projects, such as a fairway area down to a modern perennial ryegrass blend and shade tolerant mixtures.

A three-hole golf course is now under construction using modern researched techniques and, in the near future, the college hopes to have a putting green for use by the students and local community.

The sportsfield is being renovated and upgraded with the involvement of different Youth Training Schemes attending Oatridge, a small pavilion is being constructed in woodwork classes and a cricket square occupies turf culture sessions.

A windbreak comprising coniferous and deciduous trees will help reduce the windspeed across the field, thus making it ideal for college sports functions.

Oatridge's location in central Scotland is convenient and accessible from all parts of the central belt for day release classes. College staff are always willing to show any interested greenkeeper or groundsman the facilities, as well as visit them at work to advise on education and training.

Contact...

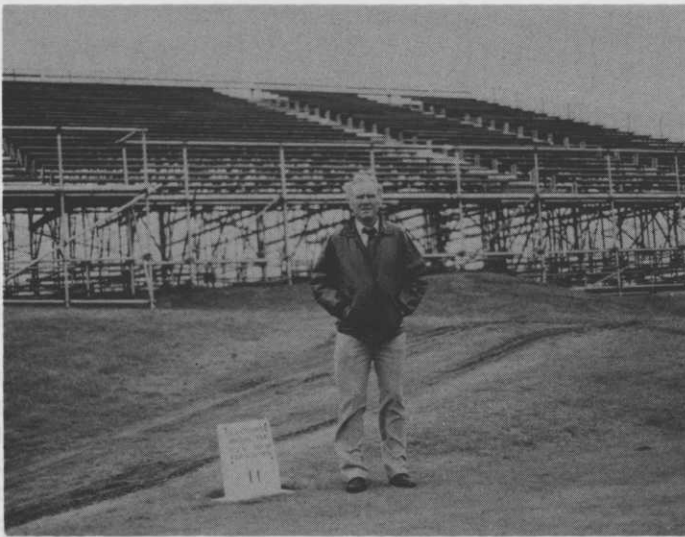
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All in the course of a day's work at Oatridge Agricultural College, West Lothian. Top: students tackle drain installation. Middle: a perimeter drain is dug. Bottom: a group learns the basics of green construction.



Out-On-The-Course Continued...



Walter beside the 11th tee stand.



An elevated view of the green for holes 8 and 10. The spectator stand is by the 9th tee.



In the St Andrews maintenance yard, assistant links supervisor John Philp, assistant engineer Walter Woods Jnr and links supervisor Walter Woods.

Being a public links we get a lot more play from visiting golfers during an Open Championship year at St Andrews, which means a great deal more wear and tear on the links just prior to the event. We usually close to the public about 14 days before the championship begins and while this gives the Old Course a little respite, we are still open to competitors for practice play, which entails a certain amount of extra work dealing with divots and repairing ball marks, etc, while the maintenance programme is being brought to a peak for the start of the championship.

"Apart from the intensity of course preparation, there are regular meetings with the championship committee. I have to be aware of all that is happening on the links at this time. It is necessary to be able to pinpoint where spectator stands, TV camera towers, marquees and a host of other amenities are going to be located, so that lorries and vehicles arriving with equipment can be directed to the designated site without the risk of damaging the playing areas or getting bogged down in a hidden bunker.

"Any digging operations have to be carefully supervised to ensure that the miles of electric cable we use for our irrigation system does not get damaged. My staff have to lay out the metal posts and light rope fencing around the perimeter of the Old Course for crowd control and we also mark out the fairway crossing points and erect the signs to indicate these spots for spectators. Most of this is a drill now and we have the benefit of long experience and local knowledge, which is great.

"I am fortunate to have a few older members on the staff who have had previous experience of past Opens at St Andrews and some of these men worked here during your period in office. You know George McLaren, our engineer, very well and I believe it was you who first engaged him to work on the links about 16 years ago. His knowledge of golf course machinery is without parallel. He does all our overhauls and repairs in his own fully equipped workshop and saves us a great deal of money.

"My son Walter assists him in the workshop and is gaining useful experience. My assistant John Philp has proved a valuable asset and is a good man to have around at a busy time like this to take some of the pressure off me. There are many other members of my staff who play a substantial part in the upkeep of the courses."

I told Walter that, during my time at St Andrews, we never tried to 'trick up' the Old Course for the Open Championship. "The same policy still applies today," he said. "We have never considered it necessary to make the course any more difficult than it is. The humps and hollows and speed of the greens can make ball control difficult without sticking pin positions in awkward spots behind bunkers, or narrowing down the width of the fairways, etc. Playing the Old Course from the championship tees adds to the strategy of play and if there is a little bit of wind, it will test the abilities of the world's best players when firm, fast surfaces are retained."

I asked Walter if he would like to have the Open at St Andrews every year. "I would not object to that if everything could be carefully controlled. To have the event here annually, we certainly could not allow the volume of play we presently have on the Old Course and that would lead to complications. This is a public links and we could not impose restrictions on the amount of play to preserve the course as I would wish.

Continued overleaf...

Out-On-The-Course Continued...

"In addition it takes about six or seven years to recover from the effects of heavy vehicle traffic, as well as the wear and tear caused by the crowds. There are many advantages in holding such major tournaments at the same place every year, as they do at Augusta with the US Masters. Augusta has permanent facilities and the layout is specially designed to cope with the crowds and offers every advantage of watching play in comfort. From a greenkeeping point of view, this is an ideal situation, for it is much easier to get on with the work of preparing the course when you have all the amenities permanently on site."

Walter agreed with me that clearing up after the Open is over entails a lot of work and is a critical phase of course conditioning to get everything back to normal as quickly as possible. This is always an anti-climax after the glamour and publicity of the event is over.

"After the last Open at St Andrews, I could not bear to watch the heavy lorries and other vehicles coming and going over the course, so I decided to take my wife out of town for the day. This gave me a welcome break. However, this year I will not be able to do the same. Immediately after the Open, we have to prepare for a series of short matches on the Old Course.

"To keep all our courses in tip-top condition for the many events that we have every year demands a constant supply of good compost and getting topsoil for this purpose and the many other jobs we do on the links is becoming increasingly difficult," Walter said.

"Nowadays, topsoil is a very valuable commodity to landscape contractors, horticulture, as well as golf courses and it's quite scarce around here. We have been using a sand and seaweed compost mixture, which seems admirably suited for our purpose. We try to obtain the seaweed from the district council when they are cleaning up the beaches and we mix this with sand.

"I have some topsoil in stock, but I believe it will become even more difficult to obtain as time goes on. Looking to the future, we may have to experiment with other materials, such as tree bark, as a source of compost.

"After the Open is over in July, we have to prepare for the Eden Tournament. The qualifying rounds are played on the New and Eden Courses, culminating in matchplay for the remainder of the week on the Eden. Then we have the Royal & Ancient Golf Club's autumn meeting and many local club events, as well as a host of other bookings by golf societies to cater for. Greenkeeping is never dull at St Andrews and there is not much time to relax when the season is under way!"



Walter Woods
as portrayed by
John Campbell.



George McLaren, links engineer, and Walter at the workshop entrance.



The famous black sheds are being restored within the grounds of the Old Course Hotel complex.



The 17th green with the Royal and Ancient clubhouse and Hamilton Hall in the background.

At times like this, greenkeepers are the unsung heroes...

By Jim Arthur

BEFORE every major golf event, there is much discussion by golf writers and the golfing public on likely winners and debates about form but, it seems to me, never very much thought about the condition of the hosting courses.

Head greenkeepers who have sweated blood, contended with appalling weather and tried to keep their golfers happy while turning their courses inside out in preparation for a championship or tournament rarely earn a line in golf correspondents' reports (though there are honourable exceptions).

And unless there is a disaster of flooded greens or putting surfaces like rice puddings, we all too often get the meaningless ritual of those who win saying they have never played on better greens and those who do not blaming the condition of the course for their failure. You cannot, of course, please everyone, but it would be nice to please a few more occasionally!

The Open Championship is no exception. In the dozen years I have been responsible to the Championship Committee of the Royal and Ancient for advice on the condition or presentation of a very limited number of links courses and the qualifying courses, I have had to suffer (generally in silence!) criticisms of courses because they were too dry or too wet, or too burnt up or too lush and green.

Only rarely, as at Turnberry in 1977, has the golfing press—after initially throwing every brickbat they could think of at the R&A for selecting the course—unstintingly praised the final result of three years demanding work by the head greenkeeper and his staff, which turned an over-fertilised and drought-ravaged course back to the superb links MacKenzie Ross so lovingly restored after war-time devastation.

Yet all these commentators who fill the air and pages of print with their observations and criticisms seem to miss the whole point of the exercise—namely, that the weather is the most important and uncontrollable factor in the Open Championship.

I well remember Muirfield in 1980. In early June that year, I was informed by Keith MacKenzie, in no uncertain terms, that the whole course was burnt to a frazzle—"all the holes playing par 3"—and that we needed emergency watering. Both the

head greenkeeper and I were unimpressed. Nature always repays its debts weatherwise and we had had many weeks of unbroken drought. The only argument was when that drought would break and for how long the resultant rain would last.

Experience, again, proved a wise teacher: A few days later, the rains came, the whole course greened up in less than a week and it rained for the next six weeks.

One correspondent no longer welcome at Muirfield insisted repeatedly that too much fairway watering had been carried out—overlooking the fact that there are no pop-ups even on the greens and no way to water fairways at Muirfield.

Similarly, at Sandwich, we are constantly being told that too much watering had been carried out in 1981 with the then newly installed fairway watering system. In fact, after the initial testing in spring, the pop-ups were hardly used, but we had 2½in of rain in the days before the Open! Overwatering, yes, but it came from the heavens! All that the fairways ever get at Royal St George's in a severe drought is 15 minutes twice a week with RK90 pop-ups.

Hopefully, at St Andrews, as the culmination of many years of hard work by Walter Woods and his staff and a great deal of discussion on methods and objectives, we shall see some real links golf, with fast running fairways, tight lies and very firm, but yet resilient greens, on which a good player can still stop the ball. Hopefully, there will be none of the lushness that enabled players at some previous Open Championships to come out of semi-rough and plummet a ball into soft holding greens and still stay on.

If only those who can so easily reach the golfing public could realise that we play the best golf on fine textured fescue and Agrostis turf and not on colour.

Television has done much for golf—not all of it good—and, sadly, there has been too much attention to colour and too little to the preparation of firm fast greens. Better to have rather dry or bleached greens, which may not be a dark lush green, but remain playable whatever the rainfall,

than unaerated ones, which flood when neighbouring courses are dry. But to listen to some commentators, you would not think so.

Hopefully, this Open will be something special to watch and the conditions may well vary each day, but only due to the weather and not to artificial irrigation. I would like to hear commentators pay a little thought and homage to those who have worked so hard since the moment the last Open finished on their course to make sure that this one is really true links golf and not some pretty painted green turf lushed up for television.

It would be nice to think that many chairmen or convenors of green committees would learn by watching shots being stopped on firm greens when properly struck, but that those from semi-rough were properly penalised by greens too firm to plug and pitch mark and where absence of imparted back spin would result at best in a very long putt back.

I think it is a sad commentary on competitive golf that only on the rarest occasions does the man who has done all the work (i.e. the head greenkeeper) get the opportunity to explain, even briefly, what he has set out to do, even if there is no time to say how he did it.

In the end, however, the weather is the final arbiter and one of the charms of links golf is that the weather is rarely the same two days running. I never cease to be amazed that those who try to attract visitors from across the Atlantic attempt to do so by designing and building American-type courses. For one thing, we never do it so well because we have nothing like the budgets and, for another, I feel sure that the special attraction of our famous links is that they are so unlike the vast majority of US courses.

Few would dispute that the Open Championship will never in the foreseeable future be played over any other than the limited elite of links courses, where all the demands of the Open can be met and where the course itself is a renowned challenge.

What is significant is that each of these links could take the Open at very short notice—if all the other 'hardware' could be moved—and there never has been any attempt to tart up the course for the event. For one thing, the headmen of these links

Continued on page 28...

Evolution of a series

Readers of the recent series on golf courses by my son Nicholas in *Golf Monthly* may have wondered how the articles came about and why he should have been chosen, or, indeed, be qualified to write on this subject.

We have both had a considerable amount of greenkeeping experience, not without its ups and downs, and while we are now finally certain of what we want for our own course in terms of sward and playability, we are constantly made aware of the average club golfer's ignorance of greenkeeping matters.

Such ignorance is not surprising when you consider the structure of clubs as they are run in this country. So, we hope the series in such a popular golfing magazine will enable more club members to understand what the problems are, how they have come about and what so many greenkeepers are now striving to achieve, while, at the same time, pointing out that there are no soft options.

I was born and lived in the home of Cumberland turf, which older generations will remember being shipped to all parts of the country. Composed mainly of creeping red fescue, it was literally sea washed, often with a fine silt layer. It was greatly in demand for the best bowling greens, but often deteriorated when moved. Hindsight would suggest that this was due to faulty management.

I was embarking on a career in scientific agriculture at Reading University about the same time Jim Arthur was leaving there to go to Bingley. I had a grounding in those very subjects that now seem so important in greenkeeping and I had an involvement with a golf course as a part-time replacement for a greenkeeper on war service.

By Eddie Park

Eventually, I changed to another profession entirely and only returned to golf after qualifying in Edinburgh. Settling in Sheffield, I became a golfing fanatic. At that time, many courses were still without water and the two that saw me most had lovely fescue greens. Dry in winter, green and firm in spring and autumn and often brown in summer. Using mainly pre-war instruction books and with a professional in his seventies, I developed a short game to cope with the difficult bouncy periods.

The newly introduced wedge seemed of less value than the old niblick with which a greater variety of shots could be played. In 1957, I witnessed the thrill of a lifetime—victory by Great Britain and Ireland over America at Lindrick and, soon after, joined the famous club.

By 1967, members were somewhat less than happy with the course and in 1968 I found myself in the hot seat as chairman of the green committee with a brief to discover what had gone wrong. In truth, although we made some improvement, it was to take ten years to work it all out. By that time, Nicholas had taken over as chairman and the committee called in Jim Arthur. That started a period of fairly public disagreement over the methods to be used which, up to then, had involved heavy use of both fertiliser and water.

Living near the course, I had been asked to undertake periods of daily supervision and we had both been

forced to relearn the basics of botany, plant ecology and soil science to be sure we were really on the right track. We had uncovered remarkably full club records and also, by courtesy of Peter Hayes, full records from Bingley from 1928, in Norman Hackett's time, up to 1968. Taken together, they showed a 90 year history of ups (in the shape of sound traditional greenkeeping) and downs (in the shape of high-risk methods encouraging poa annua at the expense of indigenous bents and fescues).

Five years from the start of the programme, we are well along the road to re-establishing the dominance of the indigenous grasses. We have not overseeded or used any other gimmick and we have realised some important truths. The policy may be obvious with hindsight, but at the beginning it is not easy to understand—especially for the members who are in for a period of suffering. Above all, it is the daily judgements involved in the implementation of the policy that are so difficult.

Our chief asset has been a wonderfully enthusiastic and increasingly highly skilled young staff (all I hope with a great future) and the support of a particularly knowledgeable section of members. We wouldn't pretend to have gone all the way and there are a number of problems, mainly due to faulty construction, left to solve.

Through this period, however, it has become obvious that not all golfers enjoy the return to agrostis/festuca turf even if that is the only option, both financially and ecologically (i.e. anything else will end in disaster). That sent Nicholas back to research the 'physics' of golfing turf—what actually happens when a ball meets turf—as very little research had

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been done on this subject. His preliminary views appeared in *Greenkeeper* (July 1983). The editor of *Golf Monthly* read this article and invited him to contribute a series.

We spent much of this past winter pursuing the story from early times to the present day, looking at the history of golf courses and greenkeeping and also at the game in general. It became plain that the introduction of the bouncier and heavier rubber cored ball from 1900 onwards had produced an element of luck for which golfers had demanded remedies, such as water and fertiliser, which had produced their problems.

The aim of the series is, therefore, to get golfers to think about the game and their demands on their golf course. Only then will greenkeepers have any chance to pursue (and be able to stick to) sound policies. We hope greenkeepers will find it a help in discussions with committees and members.

I believe strongly that it is more than time to stop the pernicious view that the golfer (and, therefore, the greenkeeper) has a choice of numerous options. We don't! Chemicals, machines, water and any other inventions are merely useful aids. We must work with nature and that means this country's climate and conditions.

So, there we are—'amateurs', so we can say what we think, which is not always possible when you earn your living from the golf course. 'Traditionalists'—believing British golf, as it was invented, is the most enjoyable game and that traditional British greenkeeping, updated by modern machinery, can produce the best golfing turf in the world (and, in this climate, the only turf with a viable future).

Jim Arthur is still our valued source of advice and I am still in daily charge of things and if you are thinking that I don't really understand your problems you would be wrong. Over the last 42 years, I think I've met most of them. It has left me with little sympathy for those who do not want to learn, but great admiration for the sensible majority trying to carry out a difficult job with too many obstructions.

Maybe through *Golf Monthly* we will have reached a wider audience than this excellent technical journal could hope to achieve and possibly with helpful publicity from the likes of Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw and other 'traditionalists', we shall get home to Mr Average Golfer the message that it is all worthwhile, especially if he wishes to play all the year round.

In·My·Opinion Continued...

and soon filled its 36 holes with 1,200 members.

Fashion, snobbism and commercial connections also tend to direct aspirants to a few established clubs. Even the higher subscriptions of those where there is most demand may not be as high as those new ones where profit is part of the operation. The earlier clubs have paid for everything except upkeep. The new ones have to look at the interest on the loan.

The dilemma may be solved where estate development accompanies the golf course. This combination has facilitated the formation of only a few courses in Britain, such as Wentworth, Moor Park and Little Ashton, but now it leads, because of the large funds it develops, to the competitive window-dressing that menaces us all. The more extravagant the claims, the more numerous those persons, one of whom is said to be born every minute, who queue up to weekend, retire or holiday beside these lush and elegantly syringed fairways.

Once the possibilities of extravagant length alone were exhausted (even the professionals jibbed when it got to 8,000 yards), the sandhills, spectator mounds, lakes, palm trees and other extravaganza were imported to bait the hook.

Unfortunately, because colour printing is so much cheaper than formerly, they have become part of the everyday vocabulary of better-known designers; still more, of their imitators and especially of those professional golfers who turn to the design department in order to extract an extra dividend from the reputation they have built up on the tour.

Their household names also permit the developers to stick another worm on the hook. Whether this tit-bit is as tempting as it should be, may or may not be proven. (There are still people who believe in the shoemaker and his last.) But we can be quite sure it is not going to make the budget any slimmer.

One of these newcomers also provides himself with a residence on each of his favourite developments. Presumably, this goes on the bill, too. Thus, a few hundred golfers can casually let slip that they happen to live next door to The Master. This is still good for their personal publicity,

even if they only see him over the fence or through the palm trees once a year.

Since the United Kingdom is built on a relatively small scale, its planners tend to have strong views about the development of housing in their backyards. Competition from the Costas, whether Blanca, del Sol, Smeralda or de la Luz, also restricts imitation by home developments to more austere lines, even if the British climate is to be ignored.

The return to nature, if indeed we ever left it, is, therefore, welcome as British endeavours to splash out Florida-style have all been on the pawky side of enchanting. Even Robert Trent Jones must have found himself limited by some atavistic quirk, for so knowledgeable an authority as Peter Alliss to have had reservations in describing Moor Allerton.

I am not so sure that the return to nature in greenkeeping is quite so simple as the philosophy suggests and one or two advocates insist at great length. Artificial demands on grass by insatiable golfers can hardly be met on traditional lines. Green and tee construction must be abreast or rather in advance of the state of the art. Intensive use, often in unfavourable conditions, must alone demand artificial preparation.

This work already adds 40 per cent in real terms to the bill for 18 holes compared with 20 years ago. But no amount of pools, ponds or sleeper-faced bunkers will comfort a golfer if the greens are soggy when he wants to perform.

Frills can, however, be added later, but they should be envisaged in the original concept. Too much frippery at the start will soon bring us to the end of the road. Then, only government grants for reclamation, rehabilitation or investment by those with large funds in estate development, hotel, time-share or prestige projects will give us new courses.

We shall have lost forever the scope for a group of golfers to get together, scrape up funds, find a piece of land and build themselves a golf course. Provided they start with a good master plan, programme it, build it and maintain it sensibly, they will be achieving something precious for themselves, their neighbourhood and for golf—at least, in the next generation.

We should not forget that in these hard times—especially if they get any harder—golf is not too cheap. We should not let it get too expensive either.

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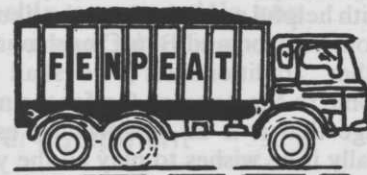
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Lindsay Marshall, director of



Motomop—now in the Marshall Concessionaires' camp.

Marshall Concessionaires, said: "With Motomop, we have taken into our range a proven specialist product. It has also proved itself in some important commercial applications, which we will be developing."

Mike Butterfield, who was

Motomop's national sales manager, has joined Marshall Concessionaires and will head the Motomop sales team.

Full details from Bob Frost, Motomop, 2 The Crescent, Taunton, Somerset. ☎ 0823 53274.

Pure Magic!

Plant hormones extracted from seaweed gathered in remote pollution-free oceans have helped bring St Andrews to perfection in time for the Open this month. Like fellow headgreenkeepers who have been responsible for Open courses over the past six years, Walter has used Seamac 600, a pure extract of certain kinds of seaweed, with nothing added which, he says, helps the vitality of the grass by encouraging a vigorous root system.

Seamac 600 is well used by farmers all over the UK and as far afield as Australia and New Zealand and although the seaweed from which it comes is collected from non-polluted seas hundreds of miles from Britain, the extraction and stabilisation of the hormone content is carried out in a modern, highly specialised plant in Wiltshire.

Full details from Seamac Agricultural, Foundry Lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

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Further information from Hugh Hartley at Axleline Eastern. ☎ Boston (0205) 67005.

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Rain Bird Europe has released its new *Golf Folder*, containing specifications on golf-course rotors, valves and controllers and an article *Key Considerations For Golf Course Irrigation* by international product development manager Dirk Lenie. The *1984 Turf Catalogue* includes not only products designed for golf course irrigation, but also those for other turf irrigation.

All Rain Bird official golf distributors in Europe have experience in golf-course design and excellent turf irrigation references. In Britain, contact Cameron Irrigation (a member of the Wright Rain Group), Harewood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, West Sussex. ☎ 09064 3985.

Finally, Rain Bird Europe's marketing manager Vivian Auer has announced that the parent company is able to support the in-house irrigation design of its distributors with a design team in southern France.

People, Places, Products

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies has appointed J.S. Kerridge, chief executive and chairman designate of Fisons, and C.P. Booth, Ransomes' company secretary, to its main board.



Mr Kerridge (above) has held a number of senior positions during a distinguished career with Fisons. He joined the company in 1967 as marketing controller of the fertiliser division and subsequently became chairman of both fertiliser and horticulture divisions prior to becoming chief executive in 1980. He is also a non-executive director of Steetley.

Mr Booth (below) is a certified accountant and holder of the British Institute of Management Diploma in management studies. He has been with Ransomes for 24 years. In addition to holding a number of senior appointments in the financial department, he has also held posts in general management, including managing director of Dorman Sprayers and manager of the computer department for which he is currently responsible to the executive board.



Areas of grassland subject to excessive traffic will soon be worn bare and damaged irreparably if used regularly in the wet season. Netlon Path Guard is a quick and effective solution. Simply rolled out and pegged, a path can be installed in minutes.

A 30m by 1m roll of 20mm square mesh, manufactured in high-density polyethylene with double strand selvedge, it is supplied with 72 150mm matching green pegs.

Grass can grow through the Path Guard and the root mass will progressively interlock with the mesh holding the Path Guard in position and protecting the root formation. The mesh structure also has a 'snow-shoe' effect, spreading loads placed on it over a wide area. Once established, normal grass-cutting can be carried out.

The price of £53.96 per roll includes carriage paid mainland, but excludes VAT. For further information, contact Netlon, Kelly Street, Blackburn BB2 4PJ. ☎ 0254 62431.

A new liquid seaweed concentrate is now available. The seaweed used in Kelpak is called *Ecklonia Maxima*. It is a large brown seaweed and is, therefore, also called Kelp. This kelp is only found in certain areas in the South Atlantic and is quite different from that found around the shores of Europe.

Ecklonia Maxima, in its natural state, has a high level of the growth regulator group known as cytokinins, which are registered as the active ingredients in Kelpak.

Only freshly harvested kelp is used in the manufacturing process. The seaweed is first washed to remove all traces of salt. The manufacturing process entails rupturing the tough cell walls of the seaweed to release the compounds inside. This burst-cell process is the only process in the world that achieves this without the use of heat, chemicals, freezing or dehydration, thus ensuring that the natural compounds are not denatured in any way.

Independent tests show that where there are stress factors, climatic conditions, such as excess moisture, shortage of moisture, heat waves or frost, the difference in Kelpak treated and controlled plants is clearly visible.

Kelpak has been successfully sprayed in conjunction with most herbicides, fungicides and insecticides, so that this aspect will

not cause any problems or reduce the effectiveness of the results.

Kelpak is a root stimulant that leads to an improved mineral and moisture uptake, contributing to a healthier plant, resulting in higher and improved quality yields.

An additional, obvious advantage is that Kelpak is reasonably cheap and is a natural biodegradable product.

It is now available from Farrant Chemicals and Distributors throughout the UK. Apply to Farrant Chemicals, PO Box 26, Guildford, Surrey. ☎ Guildford 36327/574562.

Bill Beveridge, 63, who spent 36 years as Scottish rep for Ransomes, died recently.

Bill had planned to take early retirement this year to spend more time with his wife Rina and was looking forward to being Ransomes' liaison man on the committee of the International Greenkeepers' and Superintendents' tournament at St Andrews next year.

Upon leaving the Heriot Watt College, Bill served his apprenticeship with the Edinburgh-



Bill Beveridge.

based Morton Engineering Company, which later became part of Ransomes, followed by six years in the RAF with Bomber Command.

It was as a grass machinery demonstrator in 1948 that he started to build up his many connections in Scotland's turfgrass industry and it was not long before he became Ransomes' Scottish company's sales manager.

A past president of the IOG's Edinburgh and Lothians branch and a committee member for many years, he was also on the committee of the

People, Places, Products Continued...

Scotsturf exhibition. Besides being an honorary life member of SIGGA, he was an honorary president of the north of Scotland branch and a vice president of the association.

In 1981, he led a SIGGA team as non-playing captain in a match against the United States golf superintendents at the Santa Anna Country Club, California. He was also an honorary member of the Scottish Association Of Amenity Supervisory Staff.



John Campbell, Walter Woods and Bill Beveridge in the sun during a SIGGA golf meeting in 1982.

Golf Landscapes has started work on a new nine-hole golf course at Towerlands in Braintree, Essex for the Hunnable Group.

Towerlands is one of the most prominent equestrian and leisure centres in the south-east and combines an indoor riding school, bowling green and squash courts with a three day equestrian cross-country course. It is through this course that the new golf course, measuring 2,765 yards, will wind.

Construction, which comprises nine greens and tees, bunkers, two lakes and a TORO irrigation system, will last throughout the summer with seeding in August and turfing of putting surfaces and teeing areas using sterilised Rolawn fine turf in the early autumn.

The contract is valued at about £90,000 and the consultant is agronomist George Shiels.

Lord Aberconway has accepted an invitation to present the 1984 BALI Fisons Awards at a special lunch on Friday, September 28 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. The announcement was made by Bill Sones, national chairman of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI).

The agrochemical business of Midox, which is mainly in the horticultural and amenity markets, will be merged with the ICI Plant Protection Division this year. ICI acquired both Midox and Farm Protection from Albright and Wilson last November.

A new group is to be formed within ICI Plant Protection's UK department based at Farnham, Surrey to market the existing ICI horticultural products and the Midox range for horticulture. The name of Midox will be incorporated into the name of the group.

Midox amenity products will be integrated into ICI's recently launched Professional Products range.

Farm Protection will continue to operate as a separate, wholly-owned subsidiary of ICI, marketing a range of agrochemicals.

Further information from Richard Walker, ICI Plant Protection Division, Woolmead House West, Bear Lane, Farnham, Surrey. ☎ 0252 724525.

Nickerson Turfmaster has strengthened its nationwide representation by appointing two new distributors.

They are Thomson Lawnmower Services, 18-20 Crossveggate

Industrial Estate, Milngavie, Glasgow. ☎ 041-956 2252. And Tiger Developments, Deanland Road, Golden Cross, Hailsham, East Sussex. ☎ 0825 872 555.

Nickerson has produced a new colour film illustrating the manufacture and performance of its range of grass cutting and turf care machinery.

The 20-minute film, with or without company spokesman, is available free. Bookings and further information from Graham Templeton, Nickerson Turfmaster, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Gainsborough (0427) 4776.

The analysis of Steetley Minerals' new Winter Tonic is: 2.1 per cent Nitrogen, zero Phosphate, 2.5 per cent Potash plus 3 per cent Iron.

The development has been specially formulated for use during the slower growth periods of late autumn and early spring and will keep turf in good condition hardening up the playing surface to ensure it stands up to wear-and-tear early in the new season.

Huxleys has received its first export order for the TR66 Hydraulic Reel Mower following the machine's appearance at the recent Wembley Central And Local Government Show.

Designed and built specifically for use with compact tractors, the TR66 provides a cut width of 1.68m (66in) from its three mowing units and has a fully independent hydraulic system as standard.



Pictured on Huxleys' stand are (left to right): Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP; Huxleys' director Gerald Brookes; G. Swanink of Dutch horticultural machinery and tractor dealer Gebr. de Vor-Achterveld BV, which has placed the first order for the compact tractor-mounted TR66 mower and Ron Reeves, Huxleys' area sales manager.

Don't Fall For The Sand-Loss Trap...

Fryma Fabrics, in conjunction with ICI Fibres Division, has developed a high-tenacity fabric designed to overcome the problems of sand loss from golf course bunkers.

The greatest sand loss is due to natural causes. In very dry weather, the ground cracks and the dry sand falls into the coarser sub-soil. In the wet, this same filtration process occurs, but is exacerbated when the sand mixes with the heavier soil and the bunker soon becomes 'dirty' and unplayable.

These new Fryma bunker linings are made in such a way that they prevent the overlying sand from filtering into the underlying earth and, in extremely wet conditions, allow water to drain through into the sub-soil, thus reducing flooding.

In the autumn of 1982, a trial lining

was fitted to a notoriously wet bunker at Beeston Fields Golf Club in Nottinghamshire for testing. During the following year, the amount of replacement sand needed was negligible and drainage had improved so dramatically that the bunker was always in play. When lifted for observation last November, there was no degradation of the fabric itself and, when tested, there was no loss of inherent strength.

For ease of fitting, all Fryma bunker linings are tailor-made. When installed, they are invisible and do not interfere with play.

Founded in 1922, Fryma Fabrics is the UK's leading manufacturer of knitted industrial fabric. Full details from Fryma Fabrics, Fryma House, Denison Stret, Nottingham NG7 3PJ. ☎ 0602 782141.



Sand is replaced in a typical bunker where a new Fryma liner has been laid.

SIGGA News & Views — Continued...

condition, due to our old friend Dick Duggan. The catering was excellent and our thanks to Mrs Low for looking after us in this department.

Winners: scratch—T.Rogerson (Bamburgh Castle), 71; 1st class—R.Duggan, 69, runner-up—A.Holmes; 2nd class—P.Bowden, 71, runner-up—J.Easton; 3rd class—R.Frame, 73, runner-up—S.Dixon; veteran—J.Paton and trade—M.Dennis.

One notable absentee was David Brown (ex-Baberton GC), who had been in hospital. However, I am glad to say that he is well on the way to recovery. This is the first outing David has missed in many years.

The ten East members taking part in the new tournament arranged by Autogarden are R.Duggan, T.Rogerson, J.Paton, A.Holmes, S.Crawford, A.Purdie, R.Bunting, G.Simpson, K.Archibald and T.Murray.

The new knockout tournament in the section has started

well. The finals will be played later in the year. The autumn tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 4 at Broomieknowe GC, when the annual raffle will be drawn—so, hurry up and sell your tickets, lads.

There are a fair number of subscriptions still to come and payment should be made immediately otherwise the offenders' names will be deleted from the mailing list, which includes distribution of the magazine.

It is with regret that I announce two deaths in the East, both from the same village and course. William Huish, late greenkeeper at Gullane GC, died on March 29 and Andrew Anderson, late head greenkeeper at Gullane GC died on May 5. Both Willie and Andrew were great stalwarts of the association and will be sadly missed.

W. Blair.

People, Places, Products Continued...

As a direct result of making franchises available individually instead of as a package, Marshall Concessionaires has signed three new dealers. They are Shanks Mowers Croydon of Thornton Heath, Surrey, which will handle the Jacobsen range; E.T. Breakwell of Solihull, Birmingham, handling the Ryan range, and Pace and Sons of Maidstone, Kent and East Grinstead, West Sussex, which will handle the Ryan range at both locations.

Marshall Concessionaires' recent appointment as UK distributor for Motomop means that the company now offers potential dealers a choice from five franchises—Jacobsen, Ryan, Buntun, JL Multi-trac and Motomop.

The Golfer's Handbook has been acquired by Macmillan and is now published in conjunction with Benson and Hedges. First produced in 1898, it has been completely re-designed and the format revised.

The Benson and Hedges Golfer's Handbook will be published in two versions—a hardback on subscription for club secretaries and in paperback (priced £8.95), which will be available at all leading booksellers.

The 1985 IOG annual conference takes place at Myerscough College from April 8-11; the 1986 conference will be held in Cardiff from March 31 - April 3 and in 1987 it will be in Aberdeen from April 20-23.



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Once weeds get amongst your well kept beds or into paths they're an unsightly nuisance. Not, however, one you have to suffer for long. Not now ICI make a range of total weedkillers, specifically for professionals, that contain the fastest, most powerful weedkillers you can lay your hands on, in easy-to-use dispersible grain formulations.

For paths, drives, play areas, steps and waste ground, try 'Groundhog'. A fast-acting, rainproof, contact and residual total weedkiller, particularly effective against perennial weeds. It can be safely applied up to the edges of cultivated level ground, without risk to growing plants.

Between established plants, put down 'Soltair'. A total weedkiller that kills existing annual weeds and grasses, and prevents re-invasion by weed seedlings. It is particularly useful for weed control under trees, shrubs and hedges, and can be used on soil, gravel, broken tarmac, concrete and paving slabs.

Then there's a weedkiller that really lives up to its name, 'Speedway'. A fast, contact herbicide which becomes inactivated as soon as it touches the soil. So sowing and planting can be done soon after application, and weeds, including grasses touching established trees, may be treated at any time of year.

'Groundhog', 'Soltair' and 'Speedway'

are just three of a whole new range of products from ICI made with the needs of professionals in mind.

For the name of your local distributor, contact ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Telephone: (0252) 724525.

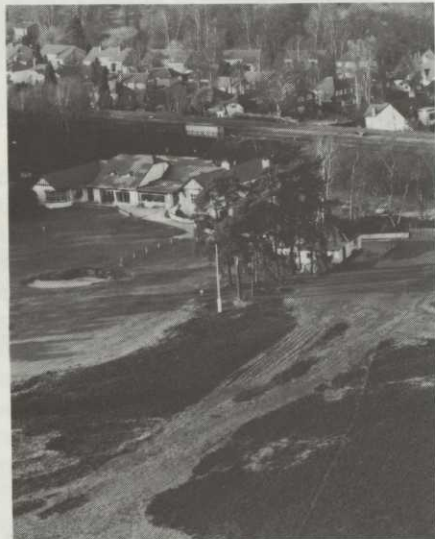
You'll find that we act pretty quickly. A bit like our products.



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Well Done, West Hill!



West Hill Golf Club, Brookwood, Surrey celebrates its 75th anniversary this month. The club was founded, unusually, by a lady, Mrs Lubbock, whose husband was an early president. Their memory is preserved by the Geoffrey Lubbock Cup, which is presented annually to the winners of the fathers and sons competition, started in 1931.

In the 1920s, it was said that the club could almost turn out a Walker Cup side. There was Willie Murray, who never carried more than seven clubs and his name is remembered by an annual cup in which only seven clubs may be used.

The ladies also achieved many successes, in particular winning the first London Ladies' Foursomes trophy in 1922.

In the 'thirties, many famous golfers played regularly at the club, among them Roger Wethered, then a member of Worpleston, West Hill's own Jumbo Aitken, as well as Tony

Torrance and many other internationals.

Since the war, West Hill has hosted an international match—England v France in 1959. More recently, 1983 saw the club stage *A Round With Alliss*, in which Sir John Junor of the *Sunday Express* and 'model' golfer Liz Hoard took part.

Shortly after the members purchased the club and course, West Hill suffered a disastrous fire in 1978, which destroyed most of the clubhouse. However, golf continued unabated. The photograph shows that the premises have been rebuilt and improved without changing the general appearance of the club.

New MF Compact Tractor Range For UK

Massey-Ferguson is further expanding its tractor range sold in the UK with the launch of three compact models—the MF 1010 (11.9kW/16 engine hp), MF 1020 (15.7kW/21 engine hp) and MF 1030 (20.1kW/27 engine hp).

Manufactured for MF—the western world's largest producer of tractors—by Toyosha of Japan, these compact tractors are already sold in parts of Europe and many other countries world-wide by MF as part of the company's total tractor range extending up to 360hp.

The range comes in the usual MF livery and the familiar 'hardnose' styling. To test UK interest, the MF 1010 was exhibited at last year's Royal Show. According to the company, reaction indicated that the range would be well accepted and, backed by MF's normal warranty and nationwide after-sales service and parts support, it is expected to earn a solid place in Britain's under 30hp tractor sector, which currently accounts for sales of an estimated 2,000 units annually, compared to 26,500 units last year for tractors over 30hp.

John Westrope, UK sales director, said: "We already supply several types of specialist tractor at the lower

end of our existing horsepower range and the new compact tractors ensure that we can now meet the wider needs of smaller horsepower tractor users throughout the UK.

All three MF compacts will be available in two- or four-wheel drive and with either agricultural or turf tyres. As well as a comprehensive specification, the tractors are notable for their ergonomic layout and operator convenience, which produces machines that are highly functional, despite their small size. Controls are conventional and logically placed, with freedom of movement for the operator.

Initially, a cab will be available for the MF 1030 and a fold-down safety frame for the MF 1010, while the same options will be extended to other models in the future. A wide range of implements includes loaders, diggers, rotary cultivators and mid-mounted mowers.

The tractors are powered by three-cylinder indirect injection diesel engines with water cooling. These smooth, quiet-running units provide fuel economy comparable to conventional tractors and they share the characteristic long engine stroke of all MF tractors to give high torque at low engine revs for extra lugging

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3 models available. MF 1010 16 hp.
MF 1020 21 hp. MF 1030 27 hp.

To: D. Kendall, Massey-Ferguson (U.K.) Ltd.,
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power in difficult conditions.

The MF 1010 has a constant mesh gearbox with six forward and two reverse gears, giving travel speeds up to 12.4km/hr (7.7 mph). Both the MF 1020 and MF 1030 have constant mesh gearboxes with 12 forward gears,

including creeper gears giving speeds as low as 0.3km/hr (0.18 mph) and 0.4km/hr (0.24 mph) respectively for specialist planting and harvesting operations.

Wet disc brakes are fitted as standard on the MF 1030 and power

steering is also standard on this model with four-wheel drive. Four-wheel drive versions use a mechanically engaged centre-drive system to the front wheels.

On all models, brakes can be independently operated.

All models are also equipped with two-speed pto and cat one linkage, which gives a maximum lift capacity from 550kg (1210lb) on the MF 1010 to 785kg (1731lb) on the MF 1030. The hydraulics incorporate position and response control.

Other standard features of the range include hand and foot throttles, pedal-operated differential lock, parking brake and road lights. A front pto and single or double acting spool valve are available as optional equipment.

Servicing the tractors has been made quick and simple with a tilting bonnet, released by a push button, which gives access to the battery, radiator, air cleaner and engine. Engine and transmission/hydraulic oil filters are externally mounted and fitted with cartridge filters that are readily changed in moments.



Massey-Ferguson is introducing a new range of versatile compact tractors to the UK. The MF 1010 produces 16 engine hp and is the smallest of the three new machines for which rear- or mid-mounted mowers will be available, as well as a wide range of other equipment including loaders, diggers and rotary cultivators.

At Times Like This, Greenkeepers Are The Unsung Heroes...

Continued...

are as strong minded as they are skilled in their profession and would not willingly allow any such prostitution of greenkeeping. Also, we are blessed with far-sighted committees, jealous of the reputation of those famous links left in their care.

I have been happy to have been involved for so long in the preparation of links courses. My first advisory visit to St Andrews was in 1947 and to have been one of a many faceted team which has helped to produce such a superb test of golf.

Yet, Walter Woods and I know that

we really do not control the weather and our best laid plans could come to little if unseasonal severe weather arrived without warning. But, so far as this is possible, we have tried to anticipate the worst and to be prepared for it.

We certainly did not have a great deal of help from The Clerk Of The Weather this year, which was even colder and drier than usual for the east coast where, incidentally, I have never known an 'early' spring and where the only thing certain about the weather is its uncertainty!

Recommended retail prices

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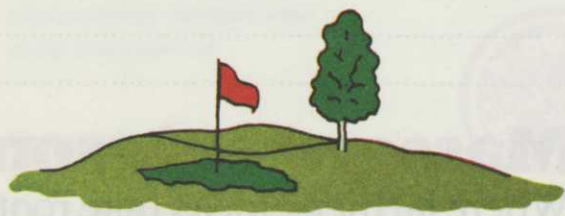
MF 1010 2WD	£3,790
 4WD	£4,120
MF 1020 2WD	£4,420
 4WD	£4,850
MF 1030 2WD	£5,150
 4WD	£5,650

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

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Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks,
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

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Cunningham Road, Stirling,
Scotland
Tel: Stirling (0786) 2141

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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, Swindon, Lincs,
Tel: (0522) 86714

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38, High Street, Rowledge,
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.

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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

Watermat Ltd.,
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Surrey, GU21 5LY
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Nr. Ashford, Kent
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West Midlands, B75 5BH
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Anglia Grasscutting Machinery Ltd.,
Suffolk & Norwich,
Lowestoft (0502) 65811/68668

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Bristol (0272) 719361

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Luton (0582) 841040

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Worcs, W. Midlands, N. Powys, Staffs,
Oswestry (0691) 657232

Fletcher - Stewart (Stockport) Ltd.,
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Darlington (0325) 55946

Henry Kelland Ltd.,
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Old Forge Engineering Ltd.,
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W. Sussex, S.W. Wilts,
Romsey (0794) 513185

Paul Seward & Co. Ltd.,
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Sandas 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

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Surrey, S. Kent, E. Sussex,
(01) 7714811

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London Road, Nottingham,
Tel: Nottingham (0602) 862161
Contact: Christopher Bryden

Wilcocks,
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The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex,
PO19 4JW Tel: (0243) 788100 Telex: 86110

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

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Alderley Edge, Cheshire,
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Tel: Alderley Edge (0625) 584571/2

Contact: Nick Gray
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L.D. Bourgein Oxford Ltd.,
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Tel: (0865) 735420 Telex: 83147

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Springwood Industrial Estate,
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West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

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Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

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West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

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Evers & Wall Ltd.,
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Burmuda Industrial Estate,
Nuneaton,
CV10 7QT
Tel: Nuneaton (0203) 37 2054
Telex: 312426
Contact: Mr. W. Hayward

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Sheffield, S38UF
Tel: 0742 29508/9/0
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Newark, NG24 4SP
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Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

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Tel: 03943 3344
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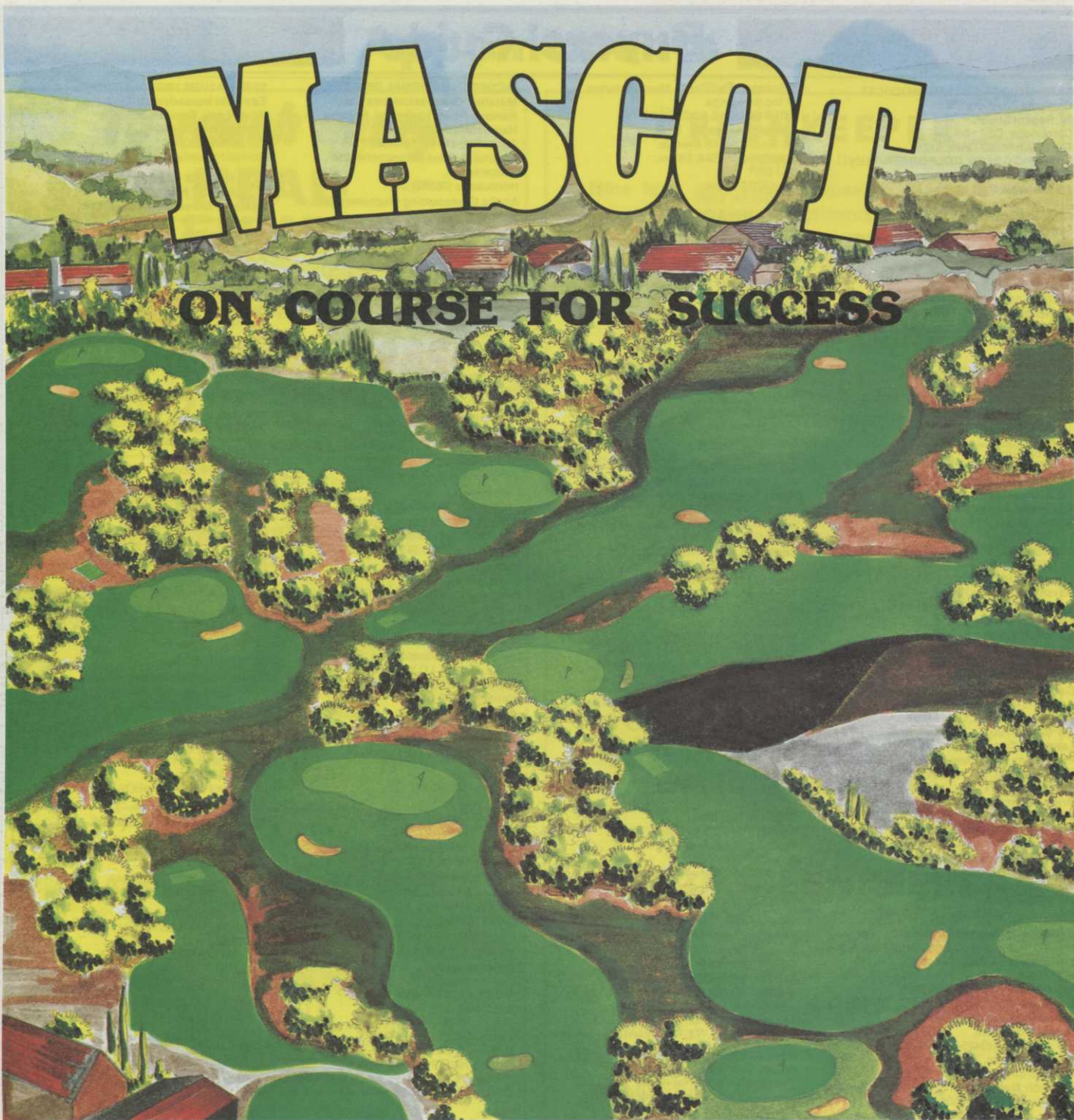
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