

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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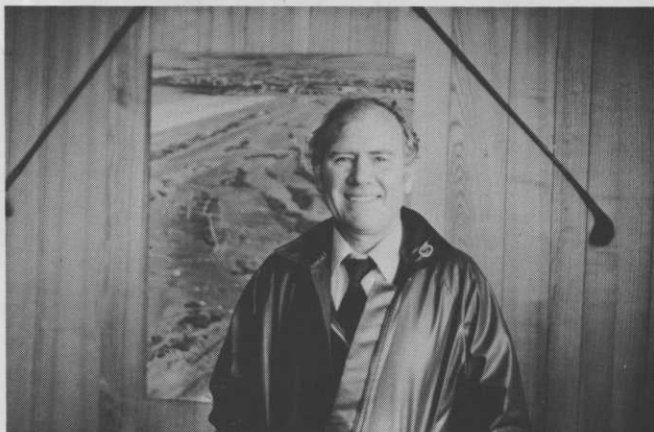
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Out·On·The·Course

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.

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