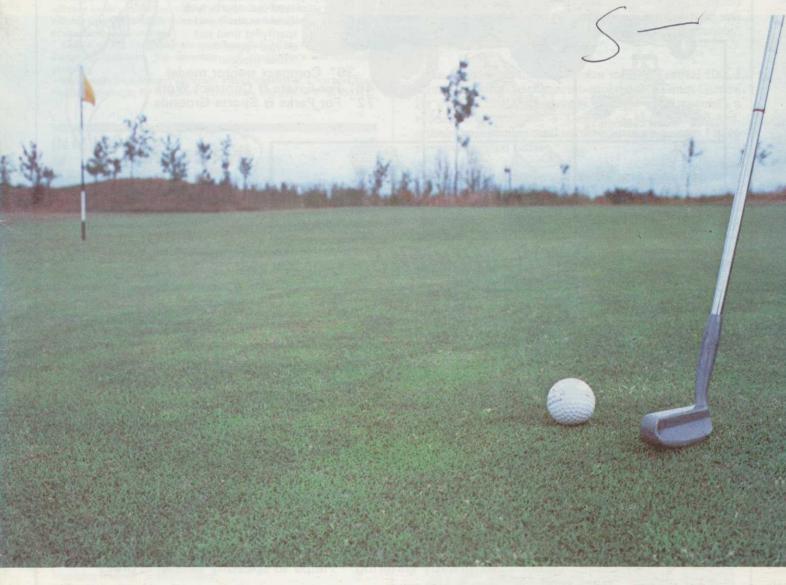
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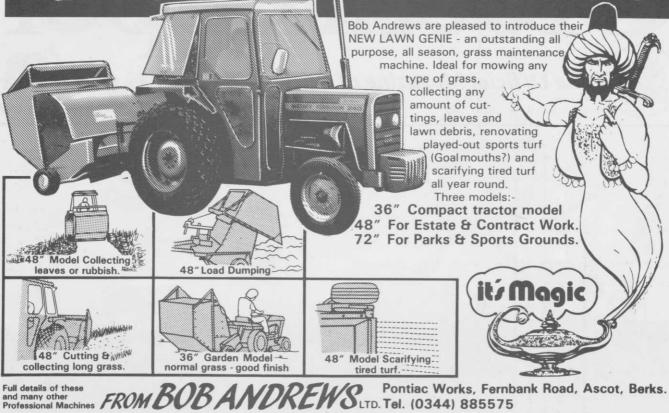
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This Issue

June 1984

Front cover: Steetley Minerals has launched two ranges of grass seed. Gold Key and Silver Key offer a mixture and blend for all sports, recreation and amenity purposes.

The Gold Key range comprises two fine textured mixtures, one turf type perennial blend and a multi-purpose mixture containing dwarf ryegrasses. All components are selected only from highly rated and outstanding varieties balanced to ensure top flight value and performance.

The Silver Key range includes five mixtures and one ryegrass blend offering quality combined with price economy. All contain proven and reliable varieties carefully mixed to produce turf suitable for a wide range of situations and purposes.

Gold Key and Silver Key are complementary to the whole of the Key Range of fertilisers, top dressings, soil conditioners and speciality products.

Full details from Steetley Minerals, Vitax Department, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB. © 0704 893311.

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Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd Managing Director: Michael Coffey Editor: Robin Stewart Advertisement Manager: Kay Moss Contributors: Jim Arthur, John Campbell, Jack McMillan, Eddie Park, Donald Steel and Walter Woods

APPOINTMENTS

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All advertising matter, editorial copy and correspondence should be sent to: *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. Tel: 025 55 7526

Subscription rates: UK—£12 Continent and USA—£20 Eire—IR £17.50

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B. Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex. Copyright: A. Quick & Co Ltd 1984

Make Merseyside A Must This Summer!

This issue's In My Opinion article (see page 6) features Derek Edwards of Rolawn. Derek recently attended the official opening by Her Majesty, The Queen, of the International Garden Festival at Liverpool.

"What a spectacle! There are over 30 theme gardens ranging from a *Blue Peter* Garden designed by a 14-year-old boy, a Witches Garden and a Jam Garden depicting giant toppled jam jars with large areas of red pansies giving the spilt jam effect. For the more serious minded, there are over 20 international landscapes including contributions from China, Japan, Holland, Egypt and Austria to name a few of the outstanding arrangements," Derek said.

"In addition to the impressive domed Festival Hall, I visited the water park, marine esplanade, a Grass Garden (in which I could not identify a single grass specie!), a model forest, the BBC's 'Garden of Memorabilia' and, generally, a horticultural extravaganza on a scale I have never witnessed before."

Standing in the centre of the 250 acre site on the River Mersey across from Cammell Laird's shipyard, Derek found it difficult to appreciate that, just two years before, the whole area was derelict land, devoid of any greenery—in short, a tip.

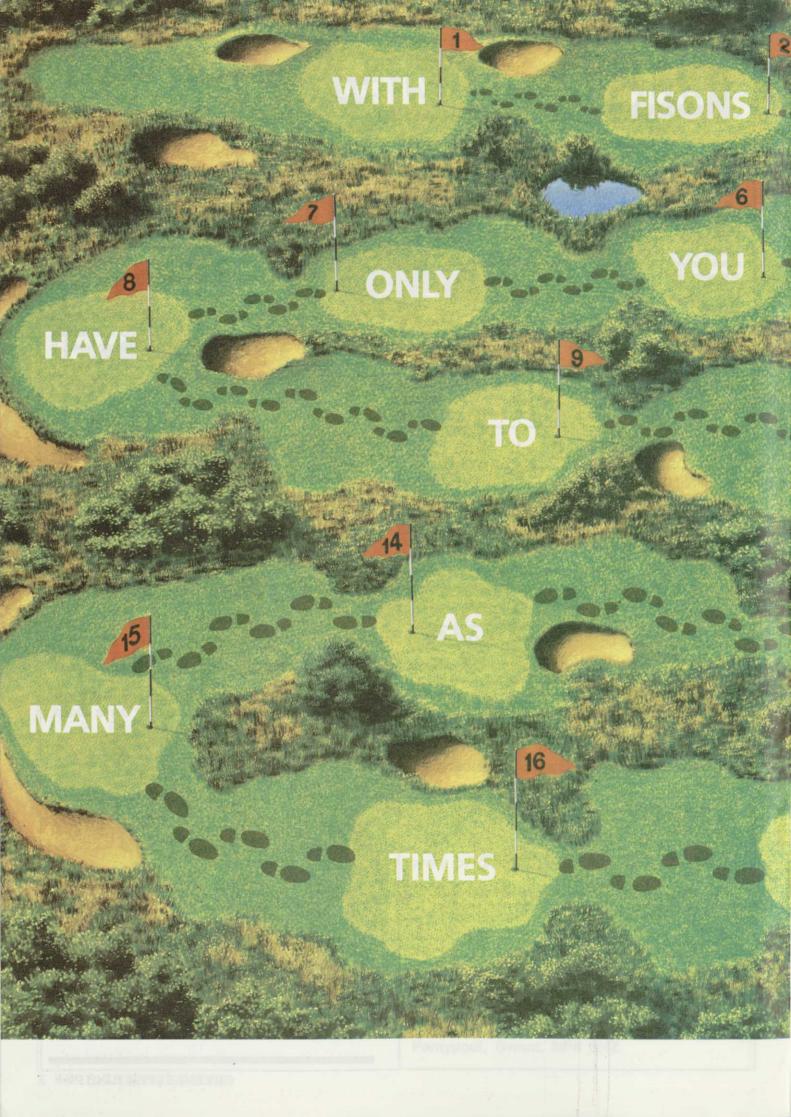
Born out of the Toxteth riots in 1981, the final go-ahead for this Herculaneum (the name of the old dock) project was given to the Merseyside Development Corporation by the Secretary of State for the Environment in May 1982. It has cost £12.5m to construct, of which, surprisingly, only £1.5m has been spent on the actual landscaping—most was gobbled up in civil engineering works.

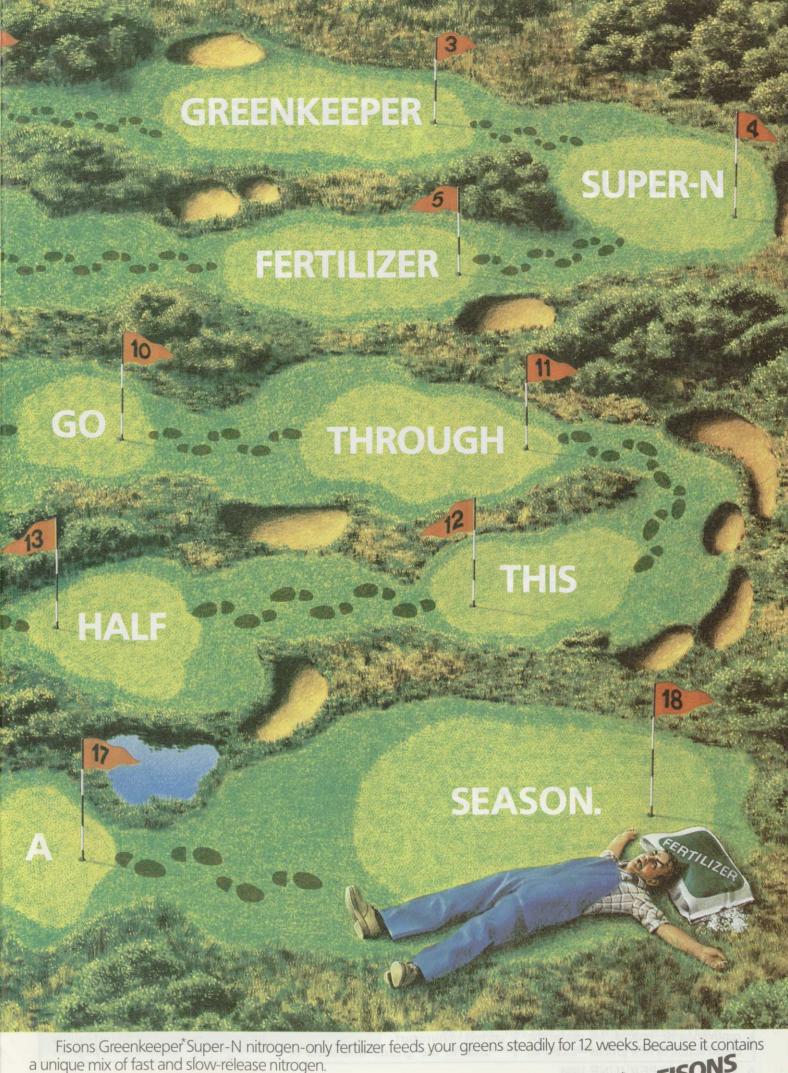
"They are expecting three million visitors by the time the exhibition closes in October after which parts of the site will be sold off to private developers, while the Festival Hall will be retained for public use.

"This is the first International Garden Festival of its type in this country and is a must for all to visit," Derek added.



Derek Edwards (left) is pictured with Rolawn chairman Ken Dawson (right) and company secretary J. Gibson.





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FISO Horticulture

In·My·Opinion

Derek Edwards

Derek Edwards is managing director of Rolawn (Turf Growers)

WE ARE fortunate to be part of an industry that is expanding during a period when many of our basic industries are in steep decline. I suppose the best example of this came with the move from Motspur Park to Windsor of the Institute Of Groundsmanship international exhibition in 1981.

Presumably, the IOG was increasingly under pressure during the '70s to find more exhibition space and was able to predict the massive increase in exhibitors and visitors to the show.

There is a greater awareness that a well organised, professional sports turf and leisure industry does exist in this country. Indeed, the industry is probably the best in the world.

As far as our greenkeepers and groundsmen are concerned, they must benefit from this progress. Advanced maintenance equipment and materials, access to advice in publications, exhibitions and seminars, as well as the number of advisory services now being offered, all combine to further improve sports and leisure areas.

In my opinion, the greatest advances have been in education. Not only have horticultural colleges been running day-release and full-time greenkeeping courses for some time, but we also have an increasing number of seminars and training programmes organised by various trade associations.

Most notable perhaps is the educational programme that started just a year ago and which attracted a tremendous attendance to *Golf Course* '84 at Cambridge and not just from the trade which, hitherto, dominated the attendance at many such events.

In my particular business, growing specialised mature turf, a number of advances have been made that, hopefully, will benefit everyone. We are now producing a 20/80 bent/fescue turf on a sterilised, sandy medium, which is ideally suitable for green renovation or, indeed, for use in the construction of new greens—either all



sand or conventionally built.

I am mindful of those who are against turfing, particularly for fine turf areas such as golf and bowling greens, and everything is being done to grow turf in its most acceptable form for the non-converted. Ideally, turf for golf green construction needs to be mature, evenly cut, grown on a stone free sandy/loam soil, free from all broadleaf weed and rogue grasses, dense in sward, mown down to approximately ³/₄in and, most importantly, should be laid within 24 hours of harvesting.

Once established, preferably over the winter months, the sward can be gradually reduced in height, scarified and top-dressed to produce a good playing surface, within approximately nine months, assuming that the turf is laid during early to mid-autumn. It is our experience that a great deal of time and effort can be saved in creating a new green with the use of correct mature turf.

Due to the greater awareness of

grass seed cultivars, we now make a point of stating the varieties employed in our mixture. I am somewhat surprised that it has taken the industry such a long time to recognise the differences and be more discerning about its choice of cultivars. There be vast differences characteristics in any single specie. Take smooth stalked meadowgrass (Poa Pratensis) for example. With something like 25 cultivars being produced, there are only about a quarter of them that, in my opinion, are any good for use on sports turf areas and only a few that are fine textured and attractive all the year

When selecting cultivars for our R1 bent/fescue turf, we look for speed of maturity, fineness of leaf, compactness of mature sward, disease resistance and all-year-round colour and appearance. We do not simply take the plant breeder's opinion, but look at the STRI ratings (a turf grass booklet is produced annually) to make sure that the Bingley trials confirm our assessments. We are also making full use of some of the exceptionally good varieties being produced in Holland.

I do feel, however, that many of the problems experienced in turf management have never been fully resolved. The weed grass Poa annua is still around in abundance. Unless you are fortunate to live in one of the few poa free environments in this country, I feel the only successful way to create a weed free sward is to sow completely pure seed into a sterilised medium.

Of course, there is nothing new about this theory. In 1260, a Dominican monk used to sterilise his soils with boiling water prior to planting. Keeping Poa annua out of your sward is the main difficulty and, with all our advisory services, chemicals, machinery, etc, we still seem unable to master it.

I believe it was Dr Peter Hayes of the STRI who, writing in *Greenkeeper* last August, stated that many of the theories expounded about turf culture

Continued on page 9...

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News & Views



London

The spring meeting was held courtesy of Aldenham Golf Club, which was a credit to Alec, Graham and Jeff. Dinner was up to Aldenham's usual high standard in the hands of its capable staff.

A big thank you goes to Mr Thompson and his secretary for retrieving the first prize in time for the presentation!

Many thanks also to Rigby Taylor, Pattisson and David Craig for donating prizes. The winners were: 38 points—D.MacIndoe; 37 points— A.Green, J.Robertson and N.Bennett.

Tommy and I recently attended the Surrey branch dinner-dance, which was a roaring success. Well done, Surrey, and book your tickets for next year, please!

David MacIndoe.

East Anglia

Not a good start to the year I'm afraid as I lost the notes of our meeting at Stoke-By-Nayland, so please accept my apologies if I omit your name from this report.

The AGM was a quick and efficient affair with all officers being reelected. I must single out secretary/ treasurer Steve Noye for the exceptional way in which he handles our affairs. He is a credit to us and long may he wish to stay.

Thanks must go to Stoke-By-Nayland for looking after us so well. It really was a super day. Both the inside and outside staff headed by Kevin King did a wonderful job. It has been a bad spring for us all, but it's still nice to see that you're not the only one with a 'lively' course.

Over 80 turned up and the prizes (or

Obituary

It has been reported that Mr J. Howe of Bremhill Park Golf Club, Swindon, Wiltshire died of a heart attack recently. The association's sympathies are extended to his family.



Golf Course '84 - All the participating Associations get together.

those I can remember) went to: Richard Smith, who won the 0-18 section and the Jacobsen Shield with 33 points; Steve Freestone, who won the 18-28 section and the Atco Cup with 44; Roger Plummer and Jeff Fayers were in there somewhere and Mark Spooner declined the guest prize because of his professional status. Other than that, I don't know!

However, I do know it was an exceptional meal in very good company and surroundings.

The next venue is Bishop's Stortford on Friday, June 29. See you there.

Mick Lathrope.

Surrey

What a great dinner-dance—the best vet! The Drift proved to be a super venue, looking out on to the 18th green. Tables were arranged in sixes, eights and tens, which kept the atmosphere warm and friendly. The food was superb with a choice of starters, three different main courses

and a variety of sweets from the

During the evening, the captain of the Drift Mr C.Lody presented the branch with a trophy to be played for annually between Surrey and Sussex for which the branch is very grateful. The raffle was well-supported and our thanks go to the trade for their generous support with many of the prizes.

The disco played on until the early hours with hardly anyone leaving until after lam.

A final word to Chris, our host at the Drift. Many thanks for a truly great night and I am sure I speak for everybody who attended. Roll on next year!

Bert Watson.

North West

The North West branch held its first AGM in March. Although the number of members present was small, some very constructive ideas were given for the committee to work on during

the next year. Full copies of the minutes are available to members.

The turnout in April at Heswall Golf Club. Merseyside was much bettermore than 80. This number was boosted by another 70 guests of SISIS, all of whom helped get our first spring tournament off to a fine start. As members may appreciate, a lot of hard work goes into organising such events and, therefore, thanks are due to Terry Adamson and Bill Lawson. Bill had a particularly demanding task on the day, preparing the course and handling all the normal duties of a chairman.

The committee wishes to thank SISIS and Maelors for their sponsorship tournament and particularly Walter Briggs of SISIS for his hard work on the branch's behalf throughout the year.

The prize table, as usual, was of an excellent standard, which again goes to show how much support we receive from our trade members.

First prize winners were: Paul Pearse—assistants' trophy presented by G.Cox, professional at Rhuddlan GC; Terry Adamson-shield donated by Walter Briggs, and Francis Cripps of Abergele GC, who won a shield donated by Maelors. The many more prize winners are too numerous to mention.

Thanks go, as always, to our hosts and their staff who made a valuable contribution to the smooth running of things, making the event such a success.

Finally, may I inform members that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Bill (Wm.) Lawson only donates William Lawson's Scotch Whisky as a prize because he receives a generous discount. In fact, he gets it for nothing!

Andrew Campbell.

Kent

The spring tournament that was to be held in May was cancelled, but at North Foreland on June 20 we will play for the shield usually contested in April/May.

The golf will be followed by a lecture on first aid for minor injuries and correct procedures in the event of something more serious. If you can't make the golf, please try to attend the lecture at 7.30pm.

The Kent branch would like to welcome Steve Richardson and Gordon Farrington. Steve has taken charge at Cob Tree Manor Golf Club, constructed by Golf Landscapes for Maidstone Council and due to open in late summer. Gordon replaces Mike Smith as head greenkeeper at Littlestone. Good luck also to my first assistant Steve Suttle who has taken over as headman at Sene Valley GC near Folkestone.

Following the undoubted success of the EIGGA/STRI seminar at Broome Park in March, we are looking to arrange something along the same lines for the autumn. Members might like to know of a one-day seminar arranged by the Sussex branch and to be held at Plumpton College where the speakers will be Martyn Jones and George Shiels.

A lecture by Dr Bryn Green of Wye College is being arranged at Chestfield GC in September.

Two other forthcoming events with dates to be finalised will be a trip to Lely Iseki at Cambridge arranged by Hugh Page (Sussex) and a machinery class held by Paice & Son in conjunction with Ransomes.

The autumn golf meeting will be at Canterbury GC on October 4.

Peter Wisbey.

In · My · Opinion Continued...

in the 1930s are still relevant today. I am sure he is right. Are our sports and grass areas really that much better than they were 50 years ago? I suppose that without control of the main elements, and let us hope that day never comes, we will only ever be able to control the fine tuning.

Whether it be a new grass variety, chemical or piece of machinery, I find that whatever new techniques are adopted-and we have a full-time constantly technical manager experimenting with new systems—we are still at the mercy of the basic elements.

I can remember producing some fine mature turf by our 'standard' production method in just over seven months. Normally, the process takes around 18 months and sometimes turf will not harvest after two years. Yet, that year, with that particular turf, the elements were obviously on our side, illustrating the degree of influence weather can play on the speed of establishment.

With our turf production nurseries now totalling about 1,000 acres throughout the UK and having sold well over that quantity since our business started (much of which has gone for golf course use), I can confidently say that, in our small sector of the industry, all is well and growing.

I am convinced that there is a tremendous future for us all in the business of growing and maintaining grass, not only here but in Europe generally where the industry is still in its infancy.



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Planning to achieve course objectives

Planning involves the development by the head greenkeeper of a realistic work programme that will ensure the successful accomplishment of management objectives for the course. Proper planning of maintenance and construction activities reduces the number of unexpected emergency problems. On any course, there is always something more that needs to be done or improvements made. One of the advantages of long-range planning is that you put down on paper the areas that require attention, regardless of magnitude, so they can eventually be included in a priority list. It has to be recognised that a perfect course does not exist and not all improvements can accomplished. Time and money will be key factors in determining what can be done. After deciding to develop a comprehensive plan, there are some definite steps I would suggest.

Take Your Information To Your Immediate Superior

Arrange a tour of the course with the greens convener. Point out what you have concluded and suggest the steps you feel are required. Do not overlook the advantage of having a second opinion. He may have seen something you did not. Remember, you are trying to sell your concept of a long-range plan, so encourage your convener's participation. His input may be valuable as he may have in mind improvements or alterations that have been discussed for some time, but never made an official part of course development policy.

With All The Relevant
Information It's Time To Go To
The Drawing Board
You can now begin to apply solutions
to each hole individually in a graphic
way. Devise a key to keep all
operations consistently marked.

Staffing Levels

The actual work will be done by the greens staff, except for major developments, so it is important to

well-maintained, enjoyable to play and of interesting character to attract and bring back the customers. Costs, in terms of pounds and time, must also receive strong consideration in the priority establishment scheme. There will be projects that take a great deal of time but few pounds and vice versa. Finally, the time of year that a certain project can best be accomplished is another factor. For example, some landscaping requires autumn planting, while other areas will require planting in the spring. The majority of projects are undertaken 'out of season'-that is, from October to March. A short-range, or winter programme, can be drawn up, involving a number of priorities from the long-range plan, but as the weather is obviously a critical factor during this period, it is difficult to forecast project completion dates.

Plan Term

Four or five years is about the longest period for which you would want to prepare a plan, but keep in mind that every year you should add another year and, so, always be five years ahead. If you try to extend the plan beyond five years, the turnover of committee members would be too great and, in any case, it is difficult to envisage a plan beyond five years. In addition to establishing priorities, the material you have gathered has other uses.

Golfer Public Relations

Whenever a golfer complains about a problem area on the course, you can refer to the plan and say you are aware of the problem and that it is planned for correction in the long-range plan. If you do not have a planned solution, the golfer could tell other members that you did not know a problem existed. Also, photocopy the plans for a particular hole or area when you are about ready to work on it and post them on the club noticeboard. This tells the golfer you are going to remedy a situation that has been causing problems and he won't be surprised to see men and equipment or excavations in the area. In all likelihood, he will be pleased to see you are spending his money to improve the course and will more readily accept interruptions to his

Staff Relations And Instructions
Another advantage of these plans is
the ease with which you can give
directions to staff. Referring to the
plan, they can see and you can outline

By J.S. Philp, Assistant Links Supervisor, St Andrews Golf Courses

You Must Become Totally Familiar With The Course Itself

This involves an initial assessment of the course, which is best done by touring the course alone noting down everything that does not look right and drawing small sketches of the area. You may want to formulate solutions to the problem at this time or think over corrective measures.

Begin A Thorough Examination
Of All Available Records Again
Making Notes On Every Aspect
Even if you are totally familiar with
the situation, a new listing of major
maintenance procedures will help
freshen them in your memory or cause
you to conclude there are better ways
to accomplish your goals.

Seek Local Knowledge

Talk to as many people as possible, including staff or others who are knowledgeable about the course's maintenance history. With their firsthand experience, your staff may be able to make a valuable contribution and their inclusion can generate pride in being a part of the planning process. This will bring out any areas you have overlooked or are not immediately apparent.

make superiors fully aware of the necessity to maintain adequate levels of staffing. Work-force considerations are essential before making project recommendations.

Costs

Material cost estimates for particular projects will have to be evaluated. This may be done in conjunction with the secretary and/or greens convener, if necessary, contacting suppliers and so forth.

Establishing Priorities

You probably will not be the individual who finally determines the priorities, although you should have some major input into the final decision making process. It is virtually impossible to provide you with exact guidelines for establishing priorities. but some of the general areas to consider include the safety of golfers and workers. If there are areas that may cause an accident, they should be dealt with first. Playability of the course is also important-that's our reason for existence. We must provide a highly playable course, or we may not have enough golfers to pay for overheads. The course is your club's biggest asset and needs to be

News & Views



Come To The Open And Visit SIGGA's Own Tent

The SIGGA executive has decided to set up a hospitality tent throughout the Open at St Andrews next month (July 19-22) for the benefit of greenkeepers, trade sponsors and all their friends. We have felt for some time now that fewer and fewer greenkeepers are attending Open Championships, mainly because there has not been a central location where they can be sure of meeting other greenkeepers.

SIGGA is now providing a meeting place.

It will be located in, or as near as possible to, the tented village and staffed by the company that provides all the catering, etc, at the Open. Hopefully, drinks and snacks, at keen prices, will be available. Admission to the tent will be by a greenkeeper's membership card and we are extending a warm welcome to our EIGGA and BGGA friends. SIGGA trade sponsors will receive a quota of admission tickets for distribution among customers and their freinds.

This project has been made possible only through the cooperation and help given by the R&A and we express our great thanks to them for all they have done. SIGGA and some of our sponsors are jointly meeting the cost of the complete exercise and we intend to have a tent available at every Open from this year on.

Perhaps next year the other greenkeeping associations

might feel like chipping in.

We are hoping that many greenkeepers will come to St Andrews and that they will visit the SIGGA tent. Unfortunately, we cannot offer free admission into the Open to every greenkeeper. (We receive 12 guest tickets from the R&A.) I am sure you will be prepared to pay knowing that, once inside, you will have a focal point where you will meet lots of friends and colleagues. We expect to have close circuit television available in the tent. so none of the action need be missed!

Do your best to get to St Andrews and come in and see

Joe McKean, General Secretary.

Golf Course '84 Was A Master Stroke!

The finest array of masters of their profession, as well as association and trade representatives, ever assembled in Britain were gathered at Golf Course '84.

The ancient and hallowed confines of Trinity Hall College, Cambridge proved a fitting venue. Immediately following registration, the spirit of the occasion entered everyone as the somewhat spartan study/bedroom accommodation usually enjoyed by students and tutors alike greeted delegates. This was to be home for the four days of Golf Course '84.

The setting was a stroke of genius by Greenkeeper the grandeur and history of the college ensured that the speakers were rightly held in reverence by the audience.

However, the colour slides used by many speakers appeared less respectful with carousel after carousel

Continued overleaf...

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the exact location on a particular hole and the equipment and materials needed.

Budgeting And Management Approvals

With a plan, you can better prepare your budget and present it with more information at hand. Also the budgetapproving authority would not be surprised by your proposals.

New Approaches To Old Problems Some situations or problems remain the same, while others will multiply or compound themselves with time, such as a severe drainage problem. Of course, the longer you put off correcting a problem, the longer you and the golfers will have to live with it but, with an improvement plan, you can start with the existing problems and then only have to solve new ones as they arise. With inflation, a project will rapidly escalate in cost and on a golf course that could mean a lot of money wasted because of delay alone. When you are totally aware of the needs of the course, you can begin to explore new options for their solution. You can get to the root of the problem and solve the underlying cause, not just deal with the symptoms as is so often the case. After a problem

area has been hopefully remedied, the situation will require regular monitoring to ensure the solution has, in fact, solved the problem. If this is not the case, a revaluation is necessary.

Future Plans

From the onset, you should recognise that new problems will develop on the course and that there will be causes for altering priorities. But with your plan and other records, you can examine these new problems and determine the best solution without any great difficulty. No-one can predict precisely what the future will hold, but with a comprehensive longrange plan, you will at least be aware of the major factors you have to contend with. If something more arises, you will be in a better position to adapt your plan and continue with improvements because of the planning to which you have committed yourself.

Plan Drawings

A general plan of the course layout should be kept. The dimensions of the maintained areas—such as the greens, tees, fairways and rough, as well as the total area, should be recorded.

This information will be useful when ordering materials. Other items that should be kept on or with site plans are details of the drainage system, irrigation system and pump-house, a tree and shrub landscape plan, maintenance facility and service roads information and aerial photographs and surveys. It is advisable to have larger scale drawings of individual putting greens showing drainage and irrigation systems. Any installations or uncovered existing ones should be recorded as necessary. The formulation of planned work programmes in obtaining objectives can be an important part of the head greenkeeper's managerial equipment. With an approved long-range plan, you are in the driver's seat. Its existence will enable you to proceed on a course of action without constant changes in policy brought about by new committee members. You can refer to an operational plan, which you were instrumental in compiling and that is being implemented to improve the course.

Therefore, your professional approach will gain you respect with your employer, not to mention benefits for yourself in the management of your course.

News & Views Continued...



failing to operate. I wondered if Trinity Hall resented the intrusion, but, by the second day, the gremlins had accepted *Golf Course '84* and the portraits gracing the dining hall gazed down upon all assembled at meal times with a seeming nod of approval.

Language represented a minor barrier at Cambridge as Americans, Canadians, Swedes, Dutch, English, Irish, Scots and Welsh all found much in common.

It was felt that the genial Scots were the hardest to understand—a problem encountered by our American friends when we visited them in force at Annaheim in 1981!

As the irrigation classes progressed through Thursday afternoon, the audience increasingly grew thirstier and looked forward to the 'get acquainted' cocktail party in the evening. Traditionally, this is when new friends are greeted, relationships are cemented and the harmony of the conference set.

Having sat well into the early hours with Jas Prusa and Bruce Williams of the GCSAA and 'Rolf'—agronomist to the Swedish Golf Union—I know that I am in need of some education in the art of The Scotch Swallow—a condition that has been known to down even the hardiest the morning after...

Full details of *Golf Course '84* have already appeared in *Greenkeeper*. Suffice it to say that four glorious days at Cambridge ended, as the punts rolled along waterways past the college windows, with EIGGA president Jack McMillan expressing the need for an improved

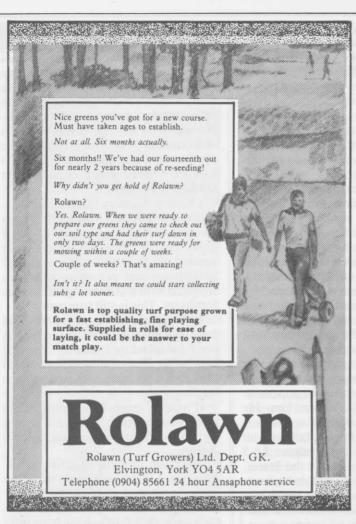
educational link between the countries represented at conferences, such as the very successful, enterprising and immensely enjoyable *Golf Course* '84.

Jimmy Kidd, Golf Course Manager, Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses.

• Associations and organisations represented at Golf Course '84 were the British Association Of Golf Course Architects, British Turf Irrigation Association, British Association Of Golf Course Constructors, Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, PGA European Tour, Golf Course Superintendents' Association Of America and the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.



Jimmy Kidd gets to grips with his slide-show presentation.





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There's little or no comparison...

IT was once said that the biggest barrier to our understanding American politics is that we both speak (almost) the same language and, consequently, we expect the same rules and conditions to apply, and they do not!

I am in no way anti-American any more than I am anti-water or anti-fertiliser, but I treat all three with care and restraint as useful friends. What I am opposed to are those people who, on the basis of very slight experience, having played a handful of the top US courses, criticise British greenkeeping and eulogise about superior American methods.

They all seem to forget that those very courses they so admire and want us to emulate are staffed and equipped on a level that is nothing short of impossible here. Maximum feasible staffing levels in the UK are only ten per cent of American equivalents, US budgets for annual maintenance are far higher than the cost of building a new course here and the level of management is as intensive as it is expensive, on a wall-to-wall basis, the cost of which is beginning to tax even some of the richer US clubs.

Furthermore, our economic, as well as ecological conditions are wildly different—though, here again, there are probably even wider differences between New England and California or between the Canadian border and the Gulf of Mexico than between any parts of Europe.

Nor, by any means, are all the American courses as well maintained as the top tournament courses on which young professionals base their mindless criticism of our greenkeeping. They cannot see that they are comparing the effects of money as well as climate and we suffer weather here, not a predictable climate.

Anyone who has had to try to produce conditions in this abnormally dry, cold and late (if sunny) spring will agree that we cannot produce growth until the soil warms up and that without growth we cannot produce really good surfaces. Never was the folly of watering greens too soon better demonstrated than this spring—with severe frosts (and even

snow in the north) well into May and cold greens got colder.

I want to make it transparently clear that professionals criticising course conditions in the UK in relation to US courses merely reveal the shallowness of their critical faculties. You must compare like with like and I am sure there are a lot of American courses that are in a parlous state.

Of course, American greenkeeping has to be complex with so many different grass ecologies at the extremes of climatic and soil types, though you cannot help feeling that some of their all too real problems with pests and diseases (echoed, incidentally, in their agriculture) are exacerbated, if not caused, by a massive overkill with regular cocktails of herbicides and fungicides that must kill off good and bad alike.

I recently received a letter from Dr Jim Watson, vice-president of Toro US, thanking me for some papers on early research I had given him. He pointed out some interesting things—for example, in his experience, all grasses grow best at pH values of 6.5 to 7.2. They may do so in the States, but they certainly do not do so here. And, indeed, such alkaline conditions

By Jim Arthur

if linked to other than infertile soil states immediately encourage coarse grasses to suppress those very species that make our best courses.

He also feels that nutrients are more available at these levels. They may well be, but all our greenkeeping is based on the fact that the grasses that give us our best courses need very little of these self-same nutrients and it is their low level that prevents less desirable grasses from dominating fine turf.

Dr Watson added that thatch is very difficult to decompose at pH levels lower than 6.0. There are a few hundred greenkeepers in Britain who could disprove that statement if applied to this country. There are many more who have suffered from ill-advised liming, designed to raise pH levels to get rid of thatch (which it did not succeed in doing, but converted bent to annual meadow grass and encouraged worms, weeds and disease).

This all goes to prove that, while much is similar between our two countries, climate and golf club economics are wildly different and these more than anything else are our masters.

Dr Watson says that the USGA

ceased to support the acid theory in 1928 following the severe drought that killed off a lot of courses in the east when only those with alkaline greens survived. We tended to do the same thing after a similar disaster on some links in the droughts of the midthirties. This was, however, due to a combination of over-enthusiastic applications of ammonia and iron (up to eight times a year), coupled with inadequate irrigation.

I have previously quoted Dr C.M. Murray in South Africa in 1903 who claimed that to keep annual meadow grass out of pure bent greens we needed an acid soil with the only phosphates and potash in the form supplied with top dressing and not as fertilisers. This is still true now.

Today, the majority of courses, as I have evidence to show, use nitrogen only, balanced inorganic and organic in sensibly limited quantities with no phosphate as the standard greens fertiliser.

If no-one supports or practises the acid theory in America, then it should be realised that this applies only to America

After the drought of 1976, which devastated so many annual meadow grass dominated courses fed heavily on complete fertilisers, many of these clubs—on my advice—have been fully restored by sensible, old fashioned greenkeeping. Neither are those greenkeepers who have been working for many, many years on the same lines likely to be let down by the weather, as has been suggested. The ban on phosphates has received more general acceptance and provided greater benefits than perhaps any other philosophy—in conjunction, of course, with regular aeration and sensibly restricted irrigation.

I have never claimed to have invented this technique. I was taught it nearly 40 years ago. It was old fashioned then, but it works.

Again, I have no wish to be seen as anti-American just for the sake of it, but it is easy for young tournament professionals to make judgements of courses specially prepared for 'their' week, which they never see at any other time.

The main problems of all greenkeepers are golfers and the traffic they cause and if we could keep them off our courses altogether, then they would always be in perfect condition. Nevertheless, we must keep our members on greens all the year round if humanly possible and softened up greens for a professional tournament lead to disasters and make for bad golf for the rest of the year.

Notebook









How The 350-D Reelmaster Has Developed...

Due to market demand, TORO in 1980 considered the advantages of producing a five-reel self-propelled diesel-powered machine—a type of equipment already popular abroad. And it was decided that J.Mann & Son of Suffolk was to manufacture the new machine. Mann's industrial division has many years experience in the design and production of purposebuilt diesel engine power packs for OEMs in the UK and overseas.

Prototypes were constructed over the next two years and subsequently tested within the home market, Europe and USA. The 350-D Reelmaster unit has an 11ft 6in width of cut to mow up to 10.5 acres an hour at a mowing speed of up to 7.5mph (assuming no reduction in total area mowed for overlaps, turns, stops, etc) and these machines have since been shipped all over the world.

A height of cut from 3/ein to 3in is possible. The speed of the hydraulically driven reels is independent of the ground speed and can be varied with respect to the engine speed, so an infinitely variable clip for the desired height of cut, regardless of mowing speed, can be obtained.

Each mower is independently and equally suspended and the even distribution of weight over six oversized types creates low pressure per square inch for minimal compaction of turf.

For operator comfort, the de luxe suspension seat is optimally positioned for stability on rough terrain. Along with power steering,

there's easy access to controls, a single hydrostatic traction pedal and a clear view of the mowing units. The 350-D Reelmaster allows fast unclogging of foreign objects, plus easy backlapping on the machine for less frequent reel grinding in the workshop.

Safety features include automatic reel shut-off when mowers are lifted; reels that lock in the lift position for transport; automatic engine shut-off when the operator leaves his seat if the reel or traction drive systems are engaged; controlled noise emission; no exposed drive components and a dual braking system for added safety.

There's a 50hp, four-cylinder, water-cooled diesel engine, governed to 38hp. The mid-mounted engine and wide stance create a low centre of gravity which, combined with even weight distribution, means excellent traction and stability on hillsides—plus easy transport at up to 15 mph.

The power steering responds quickly and the individual hydraulic lift of the two outside mowers narrows the path of cut within three to five seconds.

For further information, contact Graham Dale, Lely Import, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. © 0480 76971.

• Greenkeeper has been asked to point out that while Gibsons of Kirkham, Lancashire are the appointed Toro commercial dealers, they do not offer the Lely Iseki range of tractors.



Top to bottom: four stages of production. Above: the finished product shows excellent hillside stability and traction...



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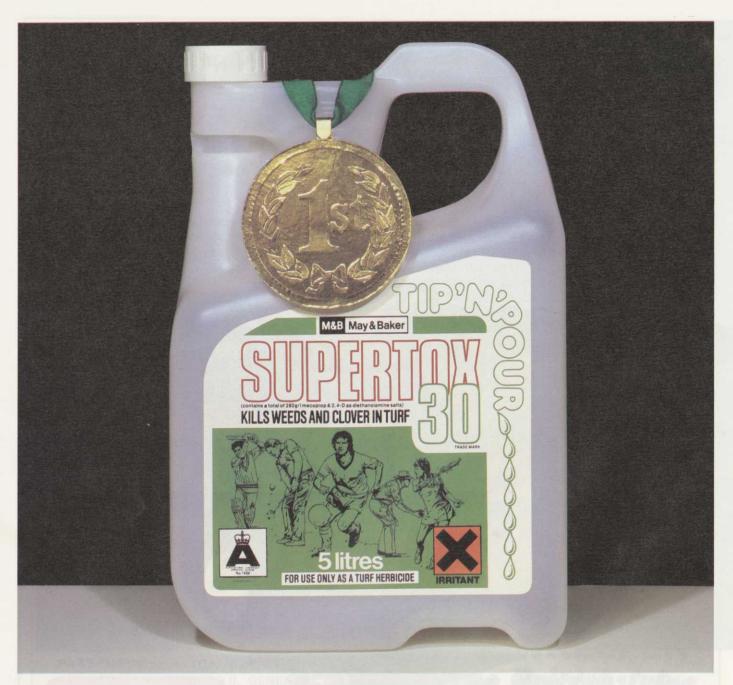
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Supaturf is offering Aqua-Gro L Liquid which—applied at the rate of 4oz per 110sq yds in four gallons of water at two-week intervals-will, it is claimed, eliminate up to 70 per cent of annual meadowgrass seedhead development on greens.

The solution does not have to be watered in and will not cause discolouration. For further details, contact Supaturf Products, Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 5YZ. Ø 0733 68384.

A change is contractural policy now enables interested dealers to apply to Marshall Concessionaires for one or more franchises from the company's four UK distributorships-Jacobsen, Bunton, Ryan and JL. Previously, the contract covered all four product ranges and could not be split.

Director Lindsay Marshall said: "We can now sign a new dealer for any of our franchises that is not in conflict with his current obligations and existing Ollr dealer arrangements. The new individual franchise contract has already brought extra business and we are actively looking for other opportunities."

Marshall Concessionaires is now fully operational from its new premises at Romsey Road, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire SO5 0GR. Ø 0794 41144.

R.S. Bird has appointed an inventory controller at its Cowbridge, South Glamorgan centre and an additional area sales manager for its Veals Lawnmower Services division at

Willsbridge, Bristol, Joining Birds at Cowbridge is Ken Kenney, who takes on responsibility for stock control, purchasing and inventory levels at all R.S. Bird group branches.

Ron Reeves has become area sales manager for Veals of Bristol, covering Wiltshire, South Avon and Somerset. He has spent four years as service manager with the company.



Ron Reeves

Marshall Concessionaires appointed John Larsen as UK sales manager for the Danish IL range. Larsen, 35, was previously export sales manager for JL in Denmark. He has an engineering background and is a graduate of the Danish International School of Marketing. Assisting him technically will be service manager Lester Smith and service specialist Russell Cox.

JL is the largest manufacturer of agricultural tractors and grass



John Larsen.

machinery in Denmark. introduction of the Multi-trac over three years ago quickly brought the company market leadership, in that machine size, in Denmark and Holland.

IOG Regional Exhibitions

The Institute Of Groundsmanship has organised two further regional exhibitions in this its golden jubilee

The first will be the north-west exhibition at Ribby Hall Park, Wrea Green, near Blackpool on October 2-3. Scotsturf '84 will be held at the Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, Ingliston. near Edinburgh on November 8.

The exhibition organised by the institute's north-west zone branches is the sixth of its kind. Details from R.Johnston, 9 Cedar Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 9AD. Ø 051-525 9805.

Scotsturf '84 is the third indoor event organised by the institute's Scottish zone and, as in previous years, a major feature will be a special training seminar. This year's subject will be the Application And Safety Of Grounds Maintenance Equipment.

Exhibition enquiries should be directed to W. Elwood, Inverleith Cottage, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW—seminar enquiries to N. Robb, 9 Ellisland Road, Busby, Glasgow G76 8QB.

Earlier, the IOG announced that its Northern Ireland branch is holding a three-day training course at the New University of Ulster, Coleraine from September 3-5. This will be followed by a machinery exhibition on the next information from Further K. Watson, 21 Lecumpher Street, Belfast BT5 5GL.

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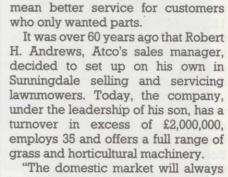
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More Room For Bob Andrews

A spacious new showroom is the first phase of a £160,000 development programme being carried out by

Robert H. Andrews of Sunningdale, Berkshire. The second phase, which is to include a new workshop and warehouse, begins in autumn.

Sales manager Bruce Harnett said: "After years of squeezing by mowers,



we now have a great deal of room."

Spares manager Bob Usher said the

positioning of the new parts counter,

away from machinery sales, would

"The domestic market will always be an important part of our business," resident director Bob Andrews said, "but we really took off after World War II with the growth in demand for professional machines."

Lines handled by Bob's father Robert and still sold and serviced by the company include Atco, Qualcast, Ransomes and Webb. Today, the range has grown to include Allen, Flymo, Hayter, Mountfield, Stihl, Victa and Westwood.



Pictured at the opening day, Graham Biggadike (East Berks), Fred King of Robert H. Andrews and Gordon Payne (Maidenhead).

Backing For Burt's Boys

The second in a series of training days by May & Baker at Warley Park Golf Club, Brentwood in Essex was held recently.

The company is assisting in a Youth Training Scheme started last autumn by club chairman Burt Green. Twenty young greenkeepers are undergoing a comprehensive training programme at Warley Park.

May & Baker's environmental products department set up a series of training sessions covering every aspect of chemical control in fine turf and amenity areas. In the first session, safety, spray machinery, calibration and chemical supply were covered.

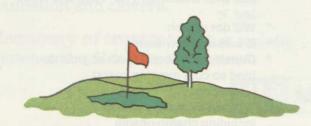
In the second, turf diseases and turf pests were the subjects dealt with, in conjunction with soils, green construction, grasses and cultivational control methods. SISIS demonstrated the Hydromain System.



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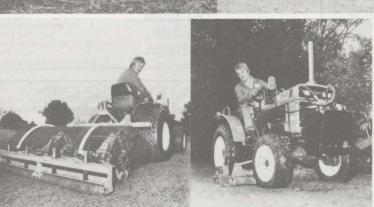
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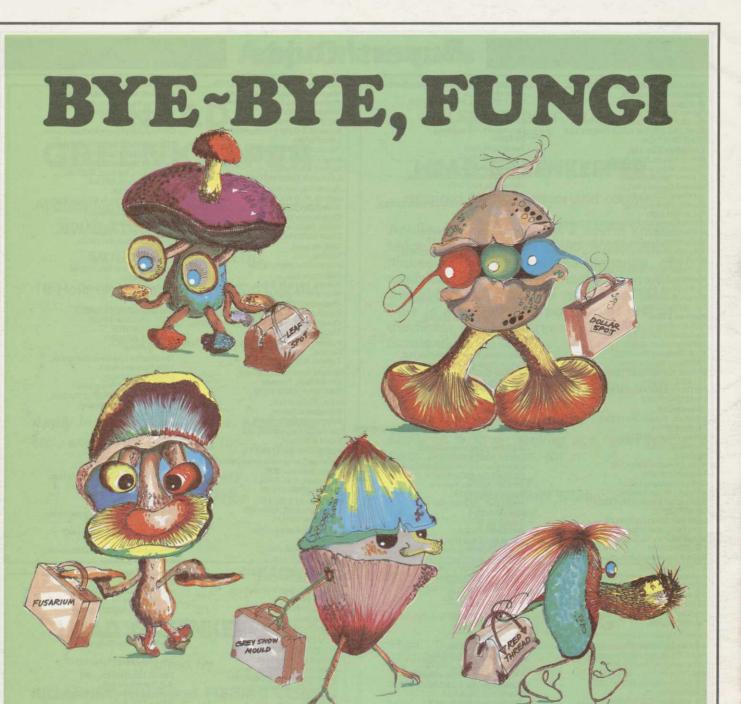
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