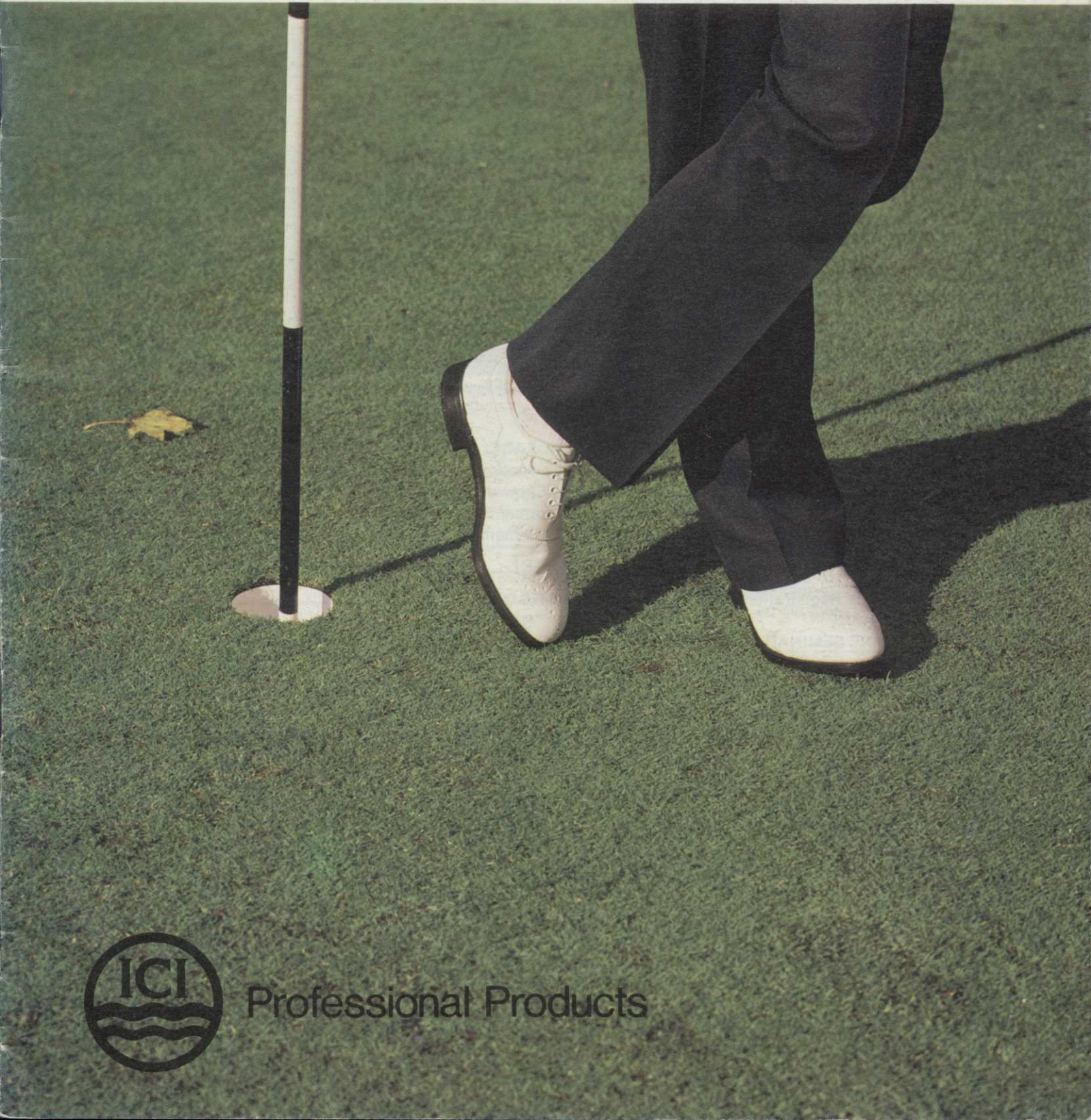


NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

Greenkeeper



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



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This issue

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1984

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Three hearty cheers!

THERE has been recent acknowledgement, at long last, for the humble greenkeeper—now often referred to as a superintendent—from no lesser mortals than Bob Hope, Tom Watson and Arnold Palmer.

As the daughter, sister and mother of greenkeepers, spanning more than 50 years, I applaud this recognition in the Press. I have often wondered where, without the greenkeeper and his loyal band of greensmen, would the club golfer or professional be?

My father, brother and son, each in turn, have restored fading golf courses with hard work and expertise, for low wages (compared to the tournament-playing professional) and with hardly any recognition. Sadly, my father and brother are no longer alive, but my son carries on the family tradition.

A greenkeeper needs to be a human wonder and a breed apart—not only requiring a love of nature, but the brain of a scientist, accountant and mechanic. First and foremost, he needs a sense of humour, for it still seems that committee members think they know the job better.

I would suggest that anyone complaining about the condition of a golf course and 'know all' committee members spend some time out on the course working as one of the team.

After days of getting soaked through and battling with the elements, they would realise that the greenkeeper does know best. Rarely, at the end of a hard day, is there a welcoming canteen offering a hot meal and there are often no showers for greens staff and only makeshift toilet facilities. It is no easy life—a greenkeeper has to be dedicated to his work.

Thank you, Messrs Hope, Watson and Palmer for bringing to light the fact that, without the genius and hard work of the greenkeeper and his staff, many of golf's pleasures would be lacking.

Remember, golfers and committee members everywhere, your greenkeeper and his staff are your most important assets, so get them to the top of the salary scale now!

Three generations later, I still see the greenkeeper being treated as lowly. Surely, as these three great men of golf have said, it is high time the greenkeeper was regarded in a different light and received praise according to the work he does?

Mildred Scruton

• *Mildred is the daughter of Stanley Smith, formerly head greenkeeper at Halifax Ogden and Alwoodley; sister of Raymond Smith, formerly head greenkeeper at Bloxwich and Stourbridge and mother of Gary Scruton, who has worked at Bloxwich, Scarcroft, Moor Allerton and is now the head greenkeeper at Otley.*

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The reclamation of indigenous turf

Eddie Park continues his series

NEWS that the STRI is to set up a specialised golf and bowling greens section with the active support of Jim Arthur has cheered all those with the true interests of golf greenkeeping at heart. The fact that Dr Peter Hayes and Jim consider their recommendations are so similar as to render closer collaboration essential is no great surprise to their friends.

Jim is in the direct line of descent from the old Board of Greenkeeping Research and received his post-graduate training at Bingley from R.B. Dawson and R.P. Libbey. Similarly, Peter is a botanist who has specialised in ecology of grasses and now inevitably finds himself reaching the same conclusions as to remedial treatment of damaged golf courses.

With this formidable array of expertise being mustered, there can be no excuse for clubs seeking or adopting less soundly-based advice.

Those who, like me, take an interest in vintage books on golf courses and their maintenance might recognise this extract from a book written by Norman Hackett in 1928. 'Are we in this country on the eve of an almost entire change of opinion and practice in regard to the production and maintenance of the finest turf? One of the advantages of the chemist and the scientist over the theologian is that the former are able to prove or disprove their theories. Within a comparatively short time their fellow scientists are able to confirm their hypothesis; it may be months or years but the truth is finally established.'

In passing, it has to be said that anyone who tracks through the history of greenkeeping will be amazed at the frequency with which matters have been discovered and then apparently discarded and the same old mistakes made again. Perhaps we shouldn't be though. A distinguished physician said to me recently that the extraordinary thing in human life is the way people fail to do the obviously right thing.

However, back to Hackett. He, of course, lived in Bingley and played a

very large part in the establishment of the Board of Greenkeeping Research, of which he was the first secretary. He also played a prominent role in formulating the treatments that helped to pull so many clubs out of the 'agricultural' disasters of liming and fertilising, which so characterised the 1920s. How quickly these things are forgotten!

It is clear from other articles in early editions of the board's journals that Hackett firmly believed that if experiments furnished proof that certain practices were harmful to fine turf, then people would cease to use them. Sadly, things have not worked out like that. There has been a general move, equally evident in farming and gardening, to the belief that, with new technology, man could master nature. The corollary to that belief was that golfers could order up whatever conditions they desired, regardless of ecological facts.

Attitudes

We may now, again, be at a point in history when a corner has been turned—at least in terms of attitudes if not achievements. We would do well to take stock and act wisely to ensure yet another false dawn does not occur.

I am frequently told what a pity it is that no good text book exists on greenkeeping. Perhaps early editions of Dawson and Sutton still have some merit. The last three years of the *Bingley Bulletin* provides up-to-date and sound information. The *Bingley Annual Journal* is, I suppose, symptomatic of the poor support golf has given the STRI. Bags of research on soccer and amenity grasses, but little of practical use to the golf greenkeeper.

We still hear talk of 'alternative theories' and the need to hear 'all sides of the argument' at seminars. A bit of democracy is all very well, but if it is a device to permit salesmen in disguise to extol the virtues of their system, machine or chemical it can go

too far. That is not to say everyone should hold identical views. There must be room for innovation, but we should be very clear that little is really new. Most good practices were discovered by experience nearly a century ago and had been investigated and checked 40 years ago.

Continuity, however, seems to falter in places like golf clubs. People hear of new theories, new chemicals, new machines and with the average golfer's view that course maintenance is really a pretty simple affair, the door is open to the latest gimmick. The salesman is in and although he may know nothing about the basic sciences of the subject, his job is, nevertheless, to sell his product.

There is now a real need for events to follow the course that Hackett was so hopefully predicting 56 years ago—that is for methods of management to be soundly based in plant ecology, as well as soil physics and soil chemistry and for new methods, new machines, new chemicals to be properly investigated by reputable research bodies before they are unleashed on unsuspecting consumers.

I believe the case against target golf in Britain, with resultant problems of Poa Annuua, thatch and cost, has been made in full by Nick Park in his *Golf Monthly* series. I do not propose to repeat the arguments, but rather to work on the assumption that you agree with us that in fescue/bent greens we can have, in this country, the finest golf turf in the world.

Many greenkeepers and club officials have been kind enough to share their experiences with me and it is my present task to present an analysis of the state of the art in the reclamation of fine turf. I meet and hear from many people who are convinced this is the right line to take, but have come up against the difficulties. Many have trodden a lonely path for too long and a sharing of views is always beneficial.

There are some other encouraging

factors, as well as the new alliance between Bingley and Jim Arthur. Most notable has been the splendid effort to get St Andrews back to its old self and we should congratulate Walter Woods and his staff on their success. It takes real courage and determination to produce a course like that. The reward comes not only in praise, but in the knowledge that for the millions watching TV across the world it was a most thrilling spectacle.

After hours of boredom and watching (or, more probably, not watching) some of the events on the PGA European Tour, it was magical. Much the same could be said of the Panasonic European Open at Sunningdale. American commentators rather scathingly, refer to real British golf (the original game!) as 'bump and run.' I would rather play and watch it than 'fly and splosh.'

Research

There is already some activity on the golf ball and equipment front. Thanks to the research department of a British manufacturer, we have been able to try some golf balls of lower weight and compression on fast, firm greens. Subjectively, I found them more enjoyable and easier to play but, no doubt, scientific research will follow.

The R&A is showing real interest in these matters and is to be congratulated for using some of the cash from the Open to promote higher standards in course maintenance. Money has already been allocated for research and training and other projects are being considered. At last, there are club officials considering their priorities in expenditure and moving course maintenance to the top. Thus, we have made an encouraging start to the real necessity of educating golfers and I can report that that will continue—not least in *Greenkeeper*.

So the future may be looking brighter, but we must look harder at the problems of the present. I am inclined to think that there has been too much argument and time wasted over policy setting and not enough on the difficulties of implementing policy, while satisfying golfers at the same time. Much of this will eventually be solved by the provision of adequate finance both to train and reward qualified course managers.

In the meantime, it is important for both clubs and advisors to realise that the present position is far from satisfactory. The annual advisory visit may produce an excellent diagnosis

and treatment plan, but implementation in the face of totally ignorant golfers and committees is too often doomed to failure or only partial success. Examples abound of demands for overwatering and over-feeding, as well as requests for "don't slit this week—we have a medal on Saturday."

Some golfers are now more difficult to fool. There is a great thirst for knowledge about course maintenance and in almost every club there seems to be talk of "getting rid of that meadow grass," etc. But clubs continue to be rather insular institutions and correct information takes time to get around. Committees continue to try to get away with phoney excuses, but increasingly they are being rumbled. The quite appalling conditions on some courses once the wet weather sets in can be so bad I am astonished that anyone wants to play.

It is now some years since I went to a course where, in winter, they played off temporary tees into the rough (the fairways were so wet they couldn't be cut even in October) and from the rough (having teed up again) on to temporary greens. They purchased their first fairway slitter 15 years ago, but it has stood and rusted ever since. Anyone who has to pick up the bits after perhaps many years of this sort of devoted mismanagement deserves all the encouragement he can get.

To return to my theme—you can't fool all the people all the time... I remember looking at a series of annual reports of a club where conversion of grass types to Poa annua both on greens and fairways resulted in an almost annual series of misfortunes. Drought damage, soft wet greens, disease—you name it, they had it. And in 18 out of 21 annual reports, they actually claimed there had been 'exceptional' weather. In England?

Twice this year we have seen Press reports of neighbouring courses staging tournaments where one is closed after showers, but the other stays open and play continues. You do not have to be too clever to guess where the aeration is defective. And not all punters are fooled when a course is described as being in 'marvellous condition' when they can deduce for themselves by the behaviour of ball meeting turf that the real condition is well scarified meadow grass growing on wet thatch.

That word 'condition' is not conducive to keeping my blood pressure down. It seems to me to be the word used for a totally subjective judgement by a man who cannot

recognise what he is seeing! I'm not very happy, either, to be told a course is well manicured. Manicurists belong in beauty salons, not on golf courses. Far too often, through ignorance, a committee will force a greenkeeper to use too great a proportion of his scarce staff work time on unnecessary trimming jobs when he knows the real requirement is for time spent on good husbandry—aeration, hand treatment of problem areas, top dressing, etc. They don't realise such jobs even exist. This obsession with manicuring at the expense of good husbandry is one of the chief barriers erected by clubs to make the reclamation of indigenous turf—luxury turf—impossible.

People often say to me "what do you use to thicken up turf density in reappearing colonies of bent and fescue?" Well, the answer is not to be found in a bag or a hosepipe. It lies in getting the sward into the best possible health—structurally, bacteriologically, pathologically and chemically.

At *Golf Course '84*, we heard a great deal about American methods. Perusal of an American or Canadian greenkeepers' magazine and its adverts is, for me, a frightening business. I appreciate how well they have done in managing to grow 'golf' turfgrass at all in the face of their varying difficult climates and soils. I recognise the value of some of their basic research. Just so long as they do not try to inflict their methods on us as so many are totally irrelevant to our climate.

Golf originated and prospered in the UK precisely because nature had endowed us with perfect turf for the game. In praiseworthy attempts to improve it, we must be careful not to spoil it altogether.

Mistakes

For those faced with undoing the mistakes of the past, a prime difficulty is the mania for what I call 'gradualism', which requires you to say: "let's try to get through this nasty business smoothly—there must be a middle way." We are dealing with nature—a brutal mistress and we are relatively powerless for all our modern technology. Next time you are in a bookshop, take a look at a new book by David Bellamy called *The Queen's Secret Garden*. It is a beautiful book about the 49 acres of Buckingham Palace gardens. In such a place, with such resources of money

Continued on page 15...

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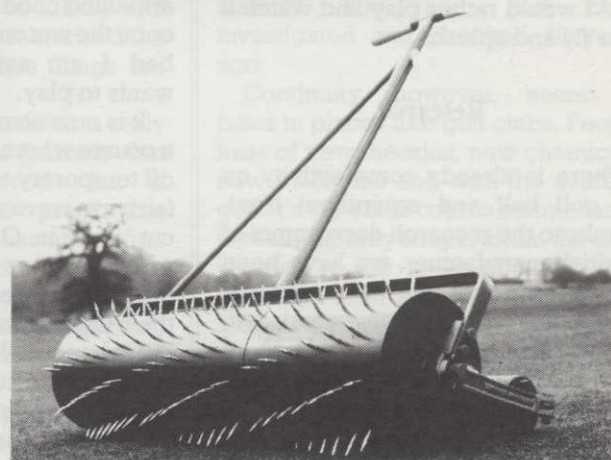
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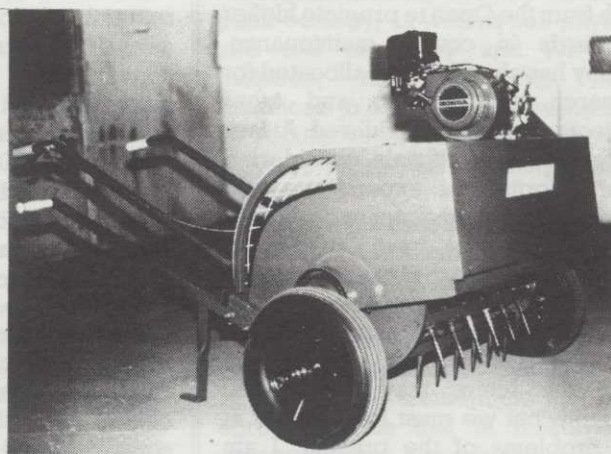
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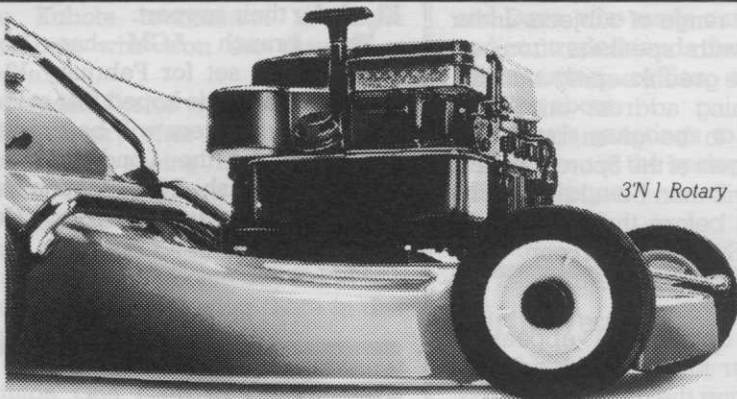
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Headquarters News

You will all doubtless be pleased to hear that I intend to keep my end-of-year HQ news fairly short! Details of EIGGA's forthcoming educational conference are given on this page. I am pleased with the way plans for the conference are progressing and look forward to it being an exciting and successful event.

In my notes last Christmas, I reflected on 1983 being a gratifying first year for EIGGA. Everything had galloped along at such a pace and it was pleasurable to look back on the achievements of a few short months. This year has been different, but just as satisfying. The pace has slowed somewhat, which was inevitable, but I feel the association has broadened its outlook and attitude and has matured as a result.

I occasionally hear people ask "What is EIGGA doing for its members?" The answer is "Everything in its power." The process of change is painfully slow and arduous, but we continually strive to effect change and improvement where necessary. I agree that it is most frustrating for members when they are not aware of the efforts being made on their behalf. Sometimes a degree of confidentiality has to be maintained in order to assist the achievement of our aims, but I can assure you that, although the wheels of progress turn somewhat slowly, they are turning constantly in order to make EIGGA a strong and powerful voice in the industry.

With the festive season almost upon us, now is the ideal time to purchase EIGGA clothing! I will do my best to get orders delivered as soon as possible. Blazers are navy, feature the EIGGA emblem and cost £43.50. Ties are also navy with a gold emblem and cost £3.75. Pullovers, supplied to us by a top manufacturer, come in navy, bottle green, camel and wine and cost £15.

Finally, I wish all members and their families a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Danielle Jones, General Administrator.

EIGGA Annual Conference

Notice of the association's annual conference to be held at Warwick University from March 22-24 is being distributed with this issue of *Greenkeeper*. The conference will have a wide range of subjects under discussion with speakers from all aspects of the greenkeeping industry.

The opening address on Friday afternoon is to be given by Dickie Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council. Delegates will then be addressed by 13 speakers before the association's AGM on Sunday afternoon. The president and one of the trustees will be elected at the AGM and nomination details will appear in *Greenkeeper* together with a formal notice covering the meeting.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the conference, giving demonstrable support to the association.

London

David MacIndoe, who was chairman of the branch during its formation, has left West Herts and moved across the sea to Ireland, where he takes charge of the two courses at Killarney.

We all wish David and his family every success. He will be missed by his many friends and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his time and effort in ensuring that the branch found its feet. I'm sure his enthusiasm has rubbed off on many of us.

David's successor as chairman of the branch is Tom Low of Hartsbourne and no doubt we can all learn from his wealth of experience.

The dry summer had to end eventually and it did just that on the day of our autumn meeting at Porters Park. Over 40 members and guests enjoyed their golf on a course prepared by Martin Smith and his team. It was, as usual, in excellent condition.

Barbara Norton and her staff made sure everyone forgot the miserable weather by preparing a superb meal. Mike Peters, Norman Exley and Tom MacDonald organised the cards and competitions and my personal thanks go to them as I was unable to attend. Tom Low presented the prizes and entertained the audience with his debut address as chairman.

The results were: 18 hole

Stableford, 0-14 section—C.Slater, who won the Parker shield and Rigby Taylor decanter; 15-28 section—A.Grew, who received the Patisson trophy and the fourball better-ball medal—C.Barker and R.Cameron. The branch's thanks also go to Kingston House, Synchemicals and King's for their support.

The branch AGM has been provisionally set for February 12 at Aldenham and it is hoped that at least two guest speakers will be present. On behalf of the London branch committee, I wish all EIGGA members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

David Low.

Surrey

Branch activities for the winter include a lecture by Honey Bros on chainsaw safety, at the RAC club, Epsom on Monday November 12 (7.30pm); a talk by Martyn Jones at Malden GC on Monday December 3 (7.30pm); a turkey trot also at Malden on Monday December 17 (11am); a presentation by Lloyds of Letchworth at Walton Heath on Monday January 14 (7.30pm) and a talk at Woking GC on PGA course presentation on Monday February 11 (1.30pm).

The branch AGM will be held in March on a date to be arranged—details will be published in *Greenkeeper*. Application forms for competitions from Ken MacNiven, 5 Warren Farm Cottages, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey. ☎ Bookham 54312.

East Anglia

When a golf tournament was arranged for Bury St Edmunds, we all knew it would be a good day, but I don't think anyone thought it would be so good. Everyone made us feel welcome, none more so than the captain and chairman of greens.

The food definitely proved the way to our hearts and a special mention goes to Sterlie for organising the players and preparing the course so well—a job he can do with his eyes closed.

The results were: 1st greenkeeper, 0-18 section, winner of the SISIS trophy—P. Sylvester, 39 points; 1st greenkeeper, 19-28 section, winner of the Rushbrook salver—Steve

Freestone (Eaton), 40 points; 1st guest prize—T.Barton, 41 points; 2nd greenkeeper, 0-18 section—R.Smiff, 37 points; 2nd greenkeeper, 19-28 section—Richard Mitchell (Eaton), 36 points and 2nd guest—D.McKinney.

Jeff Feyers won the honorary members' prize with 37 points and the booby prize was won by 'BBC'—Big Bob Chesham—our very own SISIS rep. The branch's representative for the Kubota tournament is Roger Plumber, who won the play-off at Eaton.

I would like to wish John Young a full recovery after illness. We look forward to seeing him about next year. On a more happy note, congratulations are in order for Dick Scott, who has been appointed head greenkeeper at Costessey Park. We look forward to playing there in due course.

Our 1984 season ended on a high at Frinton Golf Club in October. Roy Vernon had the course in good shape, the catering was good and Frinton's wonderful hospitality was greatly appreciated.

The fact that we beat the captains by seven matches to four with three halved was a real bonus. It was only the second greenkeepers' victory and both have been at Frinton. The captains even had overseas help from Fred Davidson, all the way from good old St Louis, Missouri, but it was definitely our day.

The prizes were as follows and presented by Frinton captain David Irwin. 0-17 section, winner of the Ransomes watch—T.Manning, 39 points; George Newson, 36 points; R.Smiff, 33 points. 18-28 section, winner of the Victa Cup—Brian Lemmon, 36 points; E.Everett, 35

points; Walley Mann, 29 points.

R.Maidstone, J.Williamson and B.Oxley won the guest prize with 37, 36 and 35 points respectively. Sterlie Goddard won the tea caddie with 16 points.

All in all, it was a good day for Roy Vernon to be celebrating 40 years at Frinton—well done, mate!

We hope you've all enjoyed '84, but don't forget the back-room boys Steve and Dave, who made our branch tick, and our trade friends that helped with the starting, raffles and general chasing about.

Season's greetings to one and all and see you in the spring.

Mick Lathrope.

North-West

The autumn meeting was held at Wrexham Golf Club and, after early morning rain, the weather improved to allow the competition to be played in dry conditions. Thanks go to the club for the way they entertained us and our guests. Head greenkeeper Keith Holmes and his staff did a fine job in providing an excellently conditioned golf course. The event was once again sponsored by Ellesmere AG.

Competition winners were: greenkeeper prizes—Ellesmere AG Trophy, P.Darlington; 2nd C.Davies; 3rd A.Campbell and 4th T.Adamson. Winners of guests' prizes included T.Robinson, who received cut glass presented by Rigby Taylor for finishing first, while second prize went to K.Fisher, secretary of Wrexham GC.

Bill Lawson.

Sussex

Thanks go to Mannings Heath GC for hosting a late-summer evening meeting. As usual, the course, food and service were excellent and the turn-out for this popular venue was the best of the year so far.

An autumn tournament was held at Rowlands Castle. The result of the morning medal was: 1st—Dennis Ayling, 68; 2nd—Bob Tingey, 70; 3rd—Dennis Lumley, 71 and 4th—Michael Butrymowicz, 71. The result of an afternoon Stableford was 1st—Bob Tingey, 43; 2nd—Michael Butrymowicz, 40; 3rd—Dennis Lumley, 36 and 4th—Roy Jones, 36.

Winner of the Sussex plate for the best gross medal score was Bob Tingey (Holtye). Bob was also nominated golfer of the year. Once again, a warm thank you to the secretary and club for hosting the event. Thanks also to head greenkeeper Dick Bull for preparing the course and also to the catering and bar staff for looking after us.

The last golfing event of the year is a turkey trot at Lewes on December 4 starting at midday.

Evening lectures at The Ugly Duckling, Haywards Heath are now underway on the first Tuesday of every month. Please support these occasions.

Plumpton College has arranged a number of one-day lectures covering a wide range of subjects and full information can be obtained from N. Rigden at the college on 0273 890454. Details about the Sussex branch from me on Crawley 25301.

Clive Dryden.

APPLICATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF E.I.G.G.A.

To be returned to the General Administrator, E.I.G.G.A., 2, Golf Cottage, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

I wish to enrol as a

<i>Full Member</i>	<i>@ £18 p.a.</i>	
<i>Apprenticed Member</i>	<i>@ £12 p.a.</i>	<i>Delete as applicable</i>
<i>Trade Member</i>	<i>@ £20 p.a.</i>	

Name of Applicant

Home Address

Tel. No. Club or Company

Address

Preferred Mailing Address: Club Home

Title

Registered Greenkeeper or otherwise

Certificates Signature

Further number of Membership Forms required



From The Executive Committee

SIGGA's executive committee would like to take this opportunity to outline the stages of apprenticeship.

Stage 1—Apprenticeship Registration Form. Application for a form should be made to section secretaries of SIGGA. Forms should be completed, on behalf of the applicant, by his head greenkeeper. When signed, forms should be sent to the greenkeeper training committee at the address on the form.

Stage 2—Enrolment At College. After about six months on a course, enrolment at a college should be made. The three-year course consists of phase one in the first year and phase two, which spans the second and third years.

Log Book. On registering, applicants will be sent a log book by the greenkeeper training committee. This must be signed by the head greenkeeper as each stage of the apprenticeship is completed. This serves as proof of competence at tasks on the course.

Stage 3—Certification. College certificates will be given when students pass exams in each phase. Registration. Send completed and

signed log books, plus copies of college certificates to the general training committee, for listing in the UK Register of Certificated Greenkeepers. In return, a certificate will be sent. The registration fee is £1 and this must be forwarded, with all the relevant enclosures, to the general training committee.

In some cases, registration can be granted to greenkeepers without college certificates. The main requirement will be a minimum of ten years work experience on a golf course. Applications should be accompanied by recommendations from past or present head greenkeepers or club officials.

Central

The annual autumn golf outing was held at Braehead Golf Club. Our thanks to the captain and committee of Braehead for their courtesy and hospitality.

Billy Whitfield of Stirling GC, only two days after completing the Glasgow Marathon, still had too much energy left and spreadeagled the field with a 64 net which, coupled with his spring tournament 69 net, won him the Ransomes Salver. Gordon Smith of Crieff GC with a net 69 won the Aitken Trophy and Brian Finlayson of Braehead used his local knowledge to win the scratch prize with a 76. The visitors' prize was won by Tom Currie of Braehead.

The section committee has organised a talk and slide show by

Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles and Walter Woods of St Andrews (January date and venue to be announced) and—in conjunction with the east section—a one-day seminar by the STRI (Bingley). Further details, February date and venue to be confirmed.

The section, with Bowens of Markinch, organised a demonstration of machinery at Dunfermline GC. An excellent afternoon was much appreciated by those who attended. Our thanks to Hugh Galloway of Bowens, Kubota, Dick Scotcher of Nickersons and Keith Vertigan of SISIS. Thanks also to Dunfermline GC for the facilities.

North And Midland Section

Nearly 60 members enjoyed the courtesy of Braemar Golf Club for the autumn outing and AGM.

Prize winners were: 1st Class—J. Urquart net 65; 2nd Class—B. Cocker net 64; 3rd Class—I. Noble net 62; Veterans—D. Livingstone net 64.

Winner of the Meldrum Memorial Trophy for the best aggregate score for the spring and autumn tournaments was D. Cardno with 142. Mike Dennis of STS excelled himself with an awesome net 62 to take the trade prize.

At the AGM, secretary Doug Grassick resigned and, on behalf of the section, I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and wish him all the best for the future.

The new secretary is Iain Hamilton of 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife KY14 6BU. ☎ 0337 40727.

APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP OF SIGGA

Name of Applicant Age

Full Postal Address

..... Postal Code

Golf Club or Company

Position at Club or Company

Registered Greenkeeper or not Certificated

I enclose my annual subscription of £14.

Signed

Section Secretaries

AYRSHIRE — J. Grainger, 3 Castlepark Gardens, Fairlie, Ayrshire.

CENTRAL — E. R. Small, 2 Castle Park, Kincardine, By Alloa.

EAST — W. Blair, 13 Redhall Avenue, Edinburgh.

NORTH — I. Hamilton, 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife.

WEST — A. McDougall, 17 Poplar Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

GREENKEEPER

TRAINING

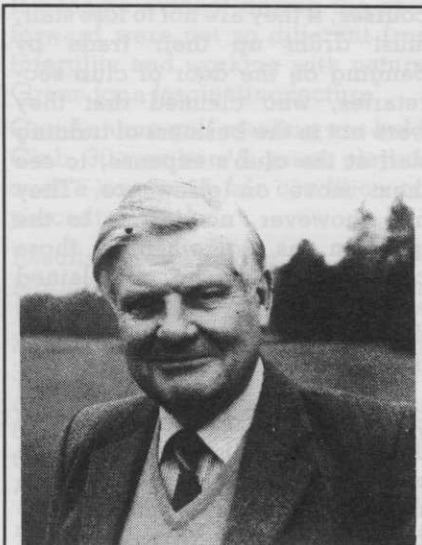
At Golf Course 84 held at Cambridge this spring I stated my beliefs that the five major problems looming in course management over the next decade were not arguments about the relative merits of different management techniques but much more fundamental factors.

The most important of these is certainly the effects of ever increasing traffic, pedestrian as well as vehicular.

The second is the inefficient management system of so many golf clubs and the lack of continuity created by constantly changing Green Committees or varying management structures. It has often been said that the only recipe for success is to have an amiable dictator at the helm, but it is, of course, essential that he is pointed in the right direction.

Thirdly, we suffer from a plethora of conflicting advice, often based on totally unjustified deductions from very narrow research by blinkered soil physicists, who seem to have only just discovered or invented sand. Basic greenkeeping principles, as opposed to techniques, have not altered since greenkeeping began, if only because we all ought to be trying to encourage the fine turf forming grasses and not that ubiquitous weed, annual meadow grass.

Fourthly, we must combat the totally false standards and irrelevant advice based on American greenkeeping practice. Even this is gaining less favour in the States as clubs realise they can not afford the high costs of such artificially maintained standards. Not only are American problems diametrically different from ours, but even the ball game is different, let alone the budgets. I was asked in view of the change in attitude by some American clubs if I thought that there was scope for British advice in America. If so, perhaps there was scope for me and what would I do if I found myself charged with advising a major U.S course? My reply was to the point. I would get the hell out of there on the nearest aeroplane.



By Jim Arthur

The American influence leads to demands by misguided players of all standards and of commentators, who should know better, for colour and greenness whilst ignoring quality. Critical comments by one on the state of the Old Course for this year's superb Open Championship at St. Andrews reveal how wide is the gulf between the standards of those influenced by the American school with "lovely lush fairways" and holding target greens and those of us who struggle with varying degrees of success to retain the standards of golf, not, I might add, because we want to go back to "playing with crooks and pebbles to hacked-out holes" but to enable golfers to play to full greens for 365 days a year and to be able to control the ball, which is possible only from tight lies and not from lush meadows.

The fifth factor is by far the most important problem facing us in the next decade, namely technical greenkeeper education, which is at present fragmented, variable (and sometimes appallingly bad) and often irrelevant. To quote one item, during the early stages when training young men and dealing with plant structure, the

plant is always a bean or a geranium and never grass, yet it is grass structure about which they need to know.

Some seven years ago, after some preliminary field work, the Greenkeeper Training Committee was set up with the aim of establishing greenkeeper education to be eventually controlled in England and Wales by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

This scheme has, in the opinion of most critics, been an almost total failure, though there were a few honourable exceptions. The whole programme tottered to the edge of bankruptcy until a year ago when a new Chairman, Mr. A. S. Gardner, was appointed to rescue it.

The reasons for failure were debated at a conference which he chaired at the S.T.R.I. at Bingley in November, to which delegates from all the agricultural colleges offering greenkeeping courses — some 47 in all — were invited. Only 14 colleges sent delegates!

Of the 1300 greenkeepers registered under the scheme, no more than 300 (and this is possibly an over-estimate) qualified by passing City & Guilds Part II, and the rest are there by virtue of registering as existing head men or assistants. The list itself is in desperate need of being brought up to date. Not a very impressive output over seven years.

What is worse, is that we were told that although 47 colleges advertised greenkeeping courses (though some did not gain sufficient initial response to start them) only 19 colleges actually submitted students for examination. One college, boasting of special facilities, could produce a mere eight students for examination, and then only by calling in three other local colleges in the county.

This proliferation of courses was seen by some of us as partly due to an attempt by lecturers to justify their existence! Significantly, a very few colleges produced by far the majority of students for examination and these by common

continued overleaf...

Greenkeeper Training continued...

consent taught the best courses.

What is undeniable is that a number of courses ceased halfway through the syllabus, or perhaps never started, with the inevitable hardship of the minority of students prevented from furthering their education and qualifications. What is perhaps more arguable, is the content of the courses and frankly I have been horrified to discover what rubbish some students are taught under varying interpretations of the same City & Guilds syllabus.

There were some moments of unconscious humour, as when the Surrey delegate objected to the English being asked to follow the precedent of Scotland on how to educate students properly — not without its irony as half the greenkeepers in Surrey seem to be Scots!

Generally, however, there was ample evidence to prove the points which for years I have hammered home to little or no avail in England, namely that a City & Guilds horticulturally based and biased course bored the pants off first year students, with its seemingly total irrelevance to greenkeeping, so that many first year students left half way.

Too many courses resulted in the dilution of the quality of both lecturers and facilities. Similarly, day release for Part II anyway was difficult if not impossible because of the lack of facilities and lecturers. Block release must be the answer as I and many others have contended for the past decade. It is defeatist to say that clubs will not pay for young greenkeepers to attend residential courses, when, to quote one example, the cost of a three week residential course at Plumpton in Sussex for Phase II costs only £83.00 for under 18's and £96.00 for older students for the three weeks. This college opts for two blocks of three weeks in a year as an alternative to the more usual three blocks of a fortnight each. It is, of course, in the discussion at night rather than the lecturers themselves that the students gain so much.

Furthermore, the nationally acclaimed courses based at Elmwood College near St. Andrews, attract students from as far away as the Midlands and the South of

England. Significantly, the chairman of the Education Committee for those courses is a greenkeeper, to wit, Walter Woods, and the College staff sit as members.

It is clear too that colleges who have a vested interest in running efficient and well patronised courses, if they are not to lose staff, must drum up their trade by banging on the door of club secretaries, who claimed that they were not in the business of training staff at the club's expense, to see them move on elsewhere. They had, however, no answer to the question as to whether those committee men who complained were still in the employment of the firm who originally trained them!

One thing is certain, bad courses and bad interpretation of the City & Guilds syllabus must obviously go. Less obviously we should switch to a specialised greenkeeper syllabus from Phase I, based on a B. Tec syllabus, which is equivalent to Scotec. at Elmwood. Mixed classes of greenkeepers and groundsmen with the former in marked minorities were unhelpful. We have too little time to be able to waste any on irrelevant subjects.

The trainers themselves must be trained. Too many lecturers still need to go out on golf courses and learn greenkeeping from qualified head men, and too many training courses still refer to such heresies as "the ideal pH. figure", "the need for lime", "the value of granular fertilisers" and worse. At Windsor some of the demonstration plugs illustrating different grasses on one college stand were wrongly named!!!

Never let it be said that I am trying to use the Greenkeeper Training Schemes to further my ideas. To start with, they are not my ideas alone. For another, they are more and more universally recognised and, thirdly, Bingley and I are in complete agreement on basics, and basics are what it is all about.

It does not take a genius to deduce that the solution lies in taking Part II on a block release basis at a few centres, where the syllabus and the teaching methods can both be independently examined and controlled on a regular and systematic basis. Part I is difficult with so many entrants under the Manpower Services

Schemes, but even that is best, I feel, on a block release basis. We must change to a different basis. Scotland led the way with Scotec and is now changing again to modular training in Scotland which replaces it. Even their scheme is not immune to criticism — I was horrified to discover that 10% of one limited syllabus was devoted to tree and shrub planting — but they are willing to learn.

Above all else we must achieve a willingness to accept the need for better education at all levels. Employers must accept that they are likely to lose talented and ambitious youngsters, but where will they recruit the replacement for their present head man when he retires in a score of years if we have no well trained successors? Head men must accept that they must train their staff and none of this "I am not paid to do it, so why should I, when I then lose the chap and have to train the next?". Greenkeepers are, their own worst enemies. Too many are apathetic about training; do not attend meetings and regard their Association as a mere golfing society — particularly true in certain parts of the country.

Perhaps most important of all, golf clubs and golfers themselves must pay for the education of greenkeepers if they wish to enjoy playing their own courses under good conditions all year round.

Greenkeeping is at the crossroads. Ignorant but influential sections of the golfing public, aided and abetted by equally ignorant commentators, scream for green grass, lush fairways and holding greens. Only good greenkeepers can hold the fort.

Those greenkeepers who deride advisers, presumably because they think (rather than the advisers) that they know it all, do greenkeeping a disservice. They should remember that advisers are *complementary* to greenkeepers and not competitive and provide a totally different service. If these men, when applying for a post with a club who employ an adviser, stated in their interviews that they would not work with an adviser, then all would know where they stood. They wait, however, for a few years and then lay down an ultimatum. Many such die-hards are not born and bred greenkeepers and have neither the memory to go on of

Greenkeeper Training continued

what good course condition is all about, prior to the disastrous two decades of over-watering and over-feeding, nor knowledge of the physics of the game which might make them more eloquent defenders of the old standards of fine, firm, fast, all-weather greens and tight lies, which is what essentially the game is all about. Worse still, they ruin lovely heathland and links courses left in their charge and eventually someone has to come and reverse it all.

Seminars are no alternative to formal training. All too often they merely provide a platform for the propagation of some nonsensical, come-today, gone-tomorrow ideas, leaving their listeners confused. I, for one, am addressing none this year and further hope that we shall see less trade-motivated meetings unless they are unashamedly designed to inform about the products or machines involved and not disguised as education.

Far better for such firms to straightforwardly entertain their customers rather than to pretend to be part of an education scheme.

KENT BRANCH NEWS

An evening meeting was held at Chestfield Golf Club in September, the numbers attending were disappointing, however those absent were the losers.

Dr. Bryn Green from the University of London, who spoke at length on the ecology of golf courses in Kent.

A survey was carried out in 1983, of 20 of the 41 courses in the county. Dr. Green made full use of slides to explain the various management practices relevant to links, downland etc.

It became evident during the evening, that the ideas that Dr. Green put forward were not so different from those of many greenkeepers namely; infertility and working with nature & not against her. Many thanks to Dr. Green for a fascinating lecture.

Our Autumn golf meeting was held on the 4th October, at Canterbury Golf Club. 30 members & guests played a morning medal & afternoon stapleford over a course in fair condition considering the amount of rainfall in the preceding weeks.

Results were as follows:

Morning

1st. Chris Lathem, 63 nett.
2nd. Paul Joiner, 66 nett.
3rd. Dick Knappett, 67 nett.
all from Broome Park.
Scratch. Mike Smith. 75 nett.
Guest. Dave Erica. 70 nett.

Afternoon

1st. George Brown, Broome Park, 34pts.
2nd. Steve Suttle, Sene Valley, 33pts.
3rd. W. Ellis.
Trade. Geogg Yelland. (Rigby Taylor) 39pts.
Guest. P. Summerfield, 36pts.

Thanks go to the Captain, Committee & Staff of Canterbury Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable. Thanks also to the following companies for donating prizes; Ransomes, Paice & Sons, T. Parker & Sons, Rigby Taylor and Patissons.

The spring meeting will be held at Rochester & Cobham Golf Club on the 9th May 1985.

On the 28th November 24 members visited the premises of Lely Imports at St. Neots where we received a guided tour of the warehouse, stores, workshops etc.

After an excellent lunch we boarded the coach for the short trip to Manns to see construction of the impressive TORO 350D. We toured the various departments, seeing each stage from chassis assembly to the finished article (less units which are still built in the U.S.A.).

Many thanks to Graham Dale of Lely and Ted and Dick Kingsland of Kingslands (Sandwich) Ltd. for their hospitality.

Among the events planned for 1985, are a visit to Royal St. Georges to see preparations for the forthcoming Open and Ransomes machinery 'clinic' organised by Paice & Sons.

Watch this space!

P. A. Wisbey Seasons Greetings to all members.

The reclamation of indigenous turf—continued...

and men, it is fascinating to see that much of the book is concerned with the variety of weeds to be found. Even at the royal household, man does not even begin to defeat nature!

We, too, cannot beat nature—we must work with it and so, again, we are back to ecology. We intend to replace coarse grass or weed grass with fine grass. That means we intend to shift to a management that provides conditions to suit bents and fescues, not *Poa annua*. Whatever the golfer thinks he would *like*, he can't get away from that reality.

The middle way, or doing it gradually, probably will not work at all or the timescale would be far too

long. If you can get the worst over in two years, you have a chance. Spin it out maintaining poor conditions for much longer and everyone loses patience. Too many good greenkeepers and their chairmen have departed the scene for good trying that one. It certainly takes time for complete reclamation and a lot of it. Eventually the fine grass comes back. Many panic at that stage by trying to increase turf density too fast. Be patient. One day you suddenly realise that resilience has returned even in dry periods. We then have firm, fast greens. The principles of the past (which are unchanging) have been successfully combined with the

methods and machinery of today.

I will close with a quote from Donald Steel, who is not only a fine architect and expert golfer, but a veteran member of green committees and someone who actually understands greenkeeping. "If golf is not played on firm, fast greens, it is only half a game," he has said.

The restoration of this traditional British turf does not only make for better golf—it is the only way in our climate to produce economically and ecologically viable and manageable golf turf.

Next time, we will look at the reasoning behind the policies that work and how to prepare for action!

Pattisson's Place In The Market

H. Pattisson and Co was founded in 1896 and has a deserved reputation among greenkeepers throughout the UK for service and reliable products.

The company first made leather boots for horses and ponies pulling mowers on golf-course fairways. Founded by Arthur Pattisson Cole, the company was based in a small south London workshop. Target apparatus for rifle ranges was also made at this time.

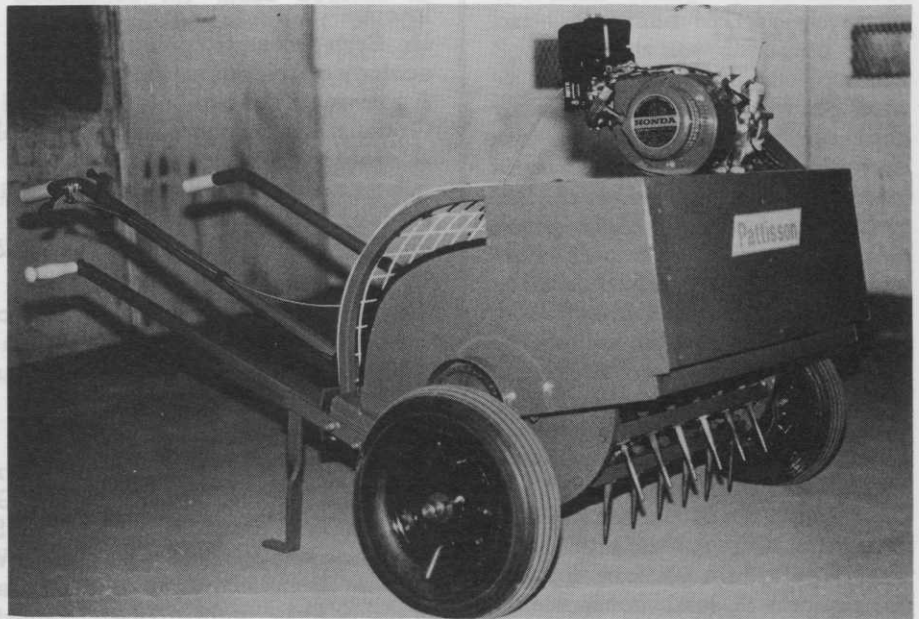
In 1925, Arthur's son Harold realised the potential of tractor mowing. An engineer, he had already produced the first Pattisson tractor—the Metropolitan—followed by the Ford Model T engine Mark 1, which was an immediate success.

By 1926, a full range of greenkeeping tools was being made forcing the company to move to larger premises at Stanmore, Middlesex.

Turf spiking machines were put into production in 1935 and, by the start of the war, a large business was being built up. But, like many other companies, Pattisson was put over to producing a variety of military hardware to help the war effort. Engines and rollers for airfields, mortar bombs and camouflage machinery all carried the Pattisson stamp.

Since the war, the product range has continued to grow and the Roll Up Metal Mat Co was purchased in 1964. Three years later, the world's first hydraulic-powered gang mower was pioneered by Pattisson.

In 1976, the company led the trend



The SP aerator for all surfaces. A long-standing design has been updated to cope with hollow tines, pruner knives and solid tines.

into direct selling with a fleet of fully stocked vans. This resulted in many more greenkeepers becoming responsible for purchasing and, in due course, controlling their budgets. An agent took over the distribution of Pattisson's merchandise in Scotland in 1979—in January, this will become the Sports Turf Service of Newbridge, Midlothian.

As a further move to strengthen the Pattisson name with golf clubs country-wide, the van operated by Peter Marshall in the north has joined forces with Sports Turf Services (Bradford) and the Midlands van, operated by Adrian Whyles, has combined with E.T. Breakwell.

Vans operated in the south-east and south-west will remain under the direct supervision of Pattisson's sales

manager Peter Dell. "Now that we have made these moves and reorganised our business, we are confident that traditional customers, who have been long supporters of Pattisson, will be as well serviced as before. As a manufacturer, we shall once again be able to concentrate our efforts on the machinery side," Peter said.

"We currently produce some 20 items of aeration machinery—strong, reliable, efficient and, above all, good value. Pattisson's 'blue' machines are rugged, simple to operate and maintain. What's more—they are all British!

"Our Tractor Mounted Vertirake (TVR) is unique and the fastest and most efficient slitter for golf course

Continued on page 27...

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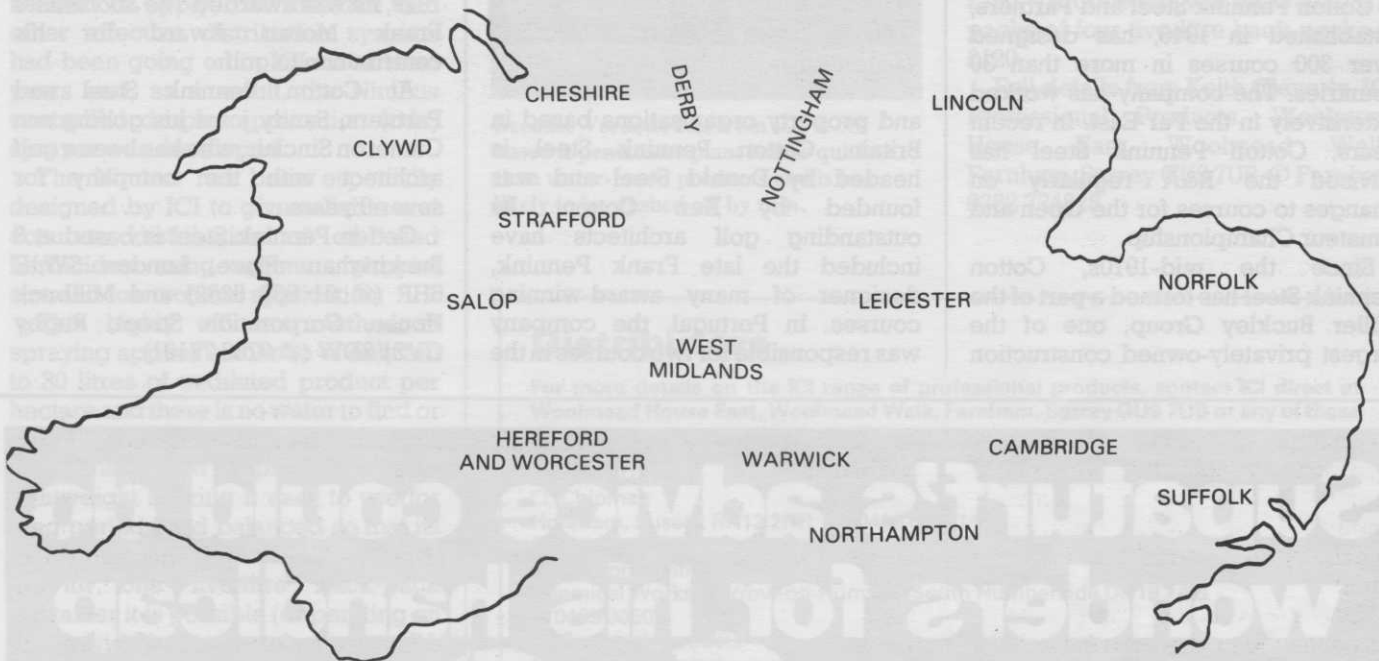


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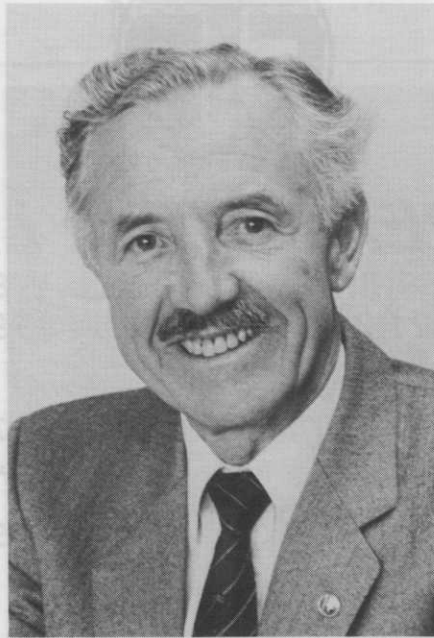
People, Places, Products

Alexander 'Sandy' Sinclair, immediate past president of the European Golf Association, has been appointed chairman of Cotton Pennink Steel and Partners. He is past president of the Scottish Golf Union and a former Scottish golf captain.

For almost four decades, Sandy has been a prominent amateur golfer, having been semi-finalist in the Scottish Amateur in 1947 and 56. He was a Scottish international and winner of many championships and open tournaments at club, county and district levels. He is currently the Scottish seniors champion, having also won the title in 1979.

Cotton Pennink Steel and Partners, established in 1946, has designed over 300 courses in more than 30 countries. The company has worked extensively in the Far East. In recent years, Cotton Pennink Steel has advised the R&A regularly on changes to courses for the Open and Amateur Championship.

Since the mid-1970s, Cotton Pennink Steel has formed a part of the Miller Buckley Group, one of the largest privately-owned construction



Sandy Sinclair.

and property organisations based in Britain. Cotton Pennink Steel is headed by Donald Steel and was founded by Ken Cotton. Its outstanding golf architects have included the late Frank Pennink, designer of many award-winning courses. In Portugal, the company was responsible for two courses in the

Algarve regarded as masterpieces—Vilamoura and Palmares.

Sandy Sinclair brings a wide knowledge of the game and a business background to the company. He is a director of Reed Stenhouse UK and a fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute. Born in West Kilbride, he lives in Bothwell, Lanarkshire. He is also the current deputy chairman of The British Insurance Brokers' Association in Scotland.

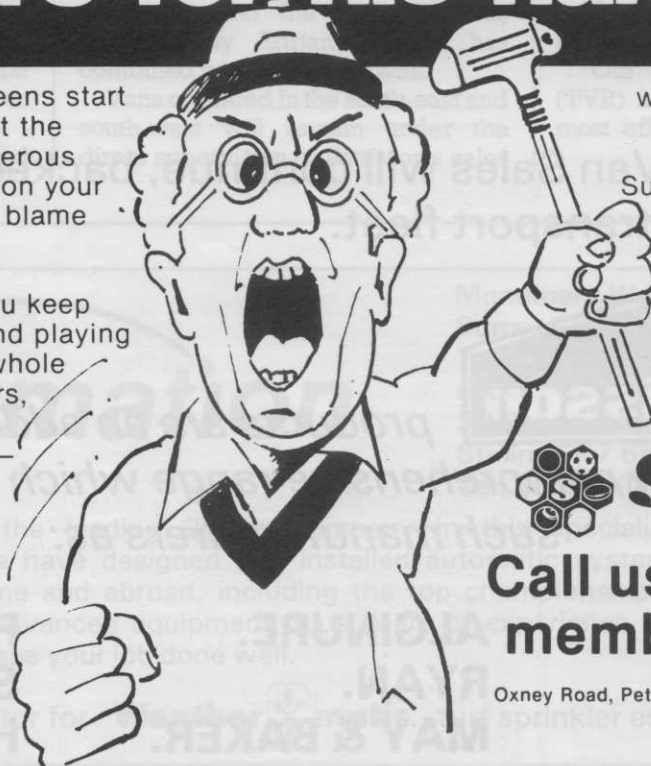
He was chairman of the R&A amateur status committee from 1978 to 81 and chairman of the selection committee between 1969 and 75. During this time, Great Britain and Ireland won the Walker Cup from the USA for the first time since 1938. In 1979, he was awarded *The Scotsman's* Frank Moran Award for his contribution to golf.

At Cotton Pennink Steel and Partners, Sandy joins his golfing son Cameron Sinclair, who has been a golf architect with the company for several years.

Cotton Pennink Steel is based at 5 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR (☎ 01 630 5252) and Millbuck House, Corporation Street, Rugby CV21 2DW (☎ 0788 77191).

Supaturf's advice could do wonders for his handicap

When the condition of the greens start to affect golf scores you'll get the message fast. The more vociferous members may come banging on your door glad to find someone to blame for their poor performance. Supaturf are experts in turf management and can help you keep your grounds looking good and playing well. We produce and sell a whole range of products — fertilisers, grass seed, weed-killers and other turf maintenance aids — that are suited to fine turf and hard wearing grass alike. We supply some of the country's best known sporting venues — grounds that need to maintain the highest standards of excellence. That's because



we've proved our products are good and our service and back up is good too. Supaturf has a professional advisory service that you can call on any time, free of charge. Call us and we'll help you and your members get better results.



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What's New From ICI?

When ICI started marketing a range of pesticides and growing aids specially for the amenity market, the aim was to use as many development ideas from research colleagues as possible. Apart from chemical developments, there was the need for an effective, purpose-made sprayer.

Research departments had spent several years looking at numerous spray systems. One used the 'electrodyn' method, which ICI Professional Products Manager Keith Cleverly wanted to use for herbicide application. Unfortunately, this principle wasn't suitable for the total and selective weedkillers users needed to apply, but research into other effective distribution systems had been going on in ICI for several years and, as a result, the Nimbus controlled droplet application (cda) sprayer was developed.

The Nimbus has been especially designed by ICI to give reliable and accurate distribution of oil-based herbicides using optimum droplet size and low-volume application.

This highly efficient method of spraying applies a volume of only ten to 30 litres of undiluted product per hectare and there is no water to find or carry.

A hand-held sprayer, it is lightweight making it easy to use for long periods and balanced so that its operation is comfortable.

With one five-litre back-pack container it is possible (depending on swath width) to treat an area up to 1/2 hectare (1 1/4 acres) in less than two hours. In the same time, it is possible to treat five miles of roadside verge in a 2ft swath using a five-litre back-pack.

A key feature of the Nimbus cda sprayer is the variable swath width control. Simply by turning a knob, the spray band can be varied from narrow (20cm) through medium (40cm) to wide (80cm). A separate flow rate adjuster allows the herbicides to be applied at the correct rate for the type of weeds encountered.

"We realised early on that any hand-held sprayer must be well-balanced, lightweight and durable, so we have spent a long time ironing out the wrinkles. This is definitely the best cda sprayer now available," Keith Cleverly said.

The Nimbus sprayer and three cda herbicides will be available from early 1985.

Bullseye cda is a total herbicide



Because Verdone cda from ICI is oil-based it penetrates plant leaves quicker than water-based products and is less likely to be washed off by rain.

containing aminotriazole, atrazine and diuron, which is applied early in the season to give long-term residual weed control on roads, footpaths, industrial sites and uncropped land.

For application during the growing season, Snapper cda will be marketed to give economical control of established weeds. It contains aminotriazole, atrazine and 2,4-D to control existing weeds and give long-term residual activity.

Verdone cda contains two selective weedkillers, mecoprop and 2,4-D. This is ideal for late spring and summer use.

The user price of the Nimbus cda sprayer will be £75. Bullseye cda and Snapper cda will be available in packs of four five-litre back-packs at £190. Verdone cda will be available in packs of four five-litre back-packs at £120.

Full details from Keith Cleverly, ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. ☎ Farnham 0252 724525.

Distributors

For more details on the ICI range of professional products, contact ICI direct at Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB or any of these distributors.

ENGLAND

- Chipman
Horsham, Sussex RH12 2NR ☎ 0403 60341/5
Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate, Yorks HG1 1EP ☎ 0423 68658
- Joseph Bentley
Chemical Works, Barrow-on-Humber, South Humberside DN19 7AQ
☎ 0469 30501
- Supaturf Products
Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 3BI ☎ 0733 68384
Unit 31, Stirchley Trading Estate, Hazelwell Road, Stirchley, Birmingham
☎ 021-459 9617
- E T Breakwell
814 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 4BJ ☎ 021-744 4477/8/9
- Brown & Sons Seeds
101 Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2PE ☎ 0272 736831/2
- Maxwell Hart
612 Reading Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks RG11 5HF ☎ 0734 785655
- Applied Horticulture
Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex ☎ 040 381 3535
- Fyffes Monroe HS
Forstal Wharf, Aylesford North, Nr Maidstone, Kent ME20 7AJ ☎ 0622 77373/4/5
- Quarry Lane, Chichester, West Sussex ☎ 02437 84263/4
- Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8JH ☎ 0736 710304
- Sports Turf Services (Northern)
Units 2 & 3, Bowling Back Lane, Bradford ☎ 0274 729575

SCOTLAND

- Richard Aitken
123 Harmony Row, Govern, Glasgow G51 3NB ☎ 041-440 0033
- Stewart & Co (Seedsmen)
Stronghold Works, Mayfield Industrial Estate, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 SB2
☎ 031-663 6617

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Richardsons Fertilizers
Herdman Channel Road, Belfast BT3 9AP ☎ 0232 741122

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- Dardis and Dunns Seeds
Ashbourne, County Meath ☎ 0001 350110

People, Places, Products

Continued...

After joining Ransomes Sims and Jefferies as an office boy 51 years ago, Jack Rivers rose to be commercial manager of the grass and farm machinery marketing division. Jack is pictured (left) with his wife Win on his retirement being thanked by sales

and marketing director Guy Catchpole. "He was well liked and respected by both staff and members of the farm and grass machinery trade in this country and overseas," Mr Catchpole said.

Jack spent his war service in the administration of the Sussex Regiment's REME workshop and was responsible for maintaining Bofor anti-aircraft guns and vehicles. He landed in Normandy shortly after D-Day and was among the first support troops to cross the Rhine.

Philip Threadgold, 35, has been appointed to the new position of sales director by Charterhouse Turf Machinery. He was a sales manager when the company first commenced trading 18 months ago. Since then, Philip has proved himself by establishing the Verti-Drain machine as a major piece of equipment in the turf maintenance market place.

Mike Smith, previously marketing services manager to May & Baker's environmental products department, has been appointed UK sales and marketing manager.



Mike Smith.

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Fen Turf Dressings Ltd.,
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Market Harborough,
Leics. LE16 7NL.
Tel: Market Harborough
(0858) 64346



New Rider Rotary Introduced

Designated the T1648, the new Ransomes Rider Rotary has been developed for maintaining frequently cut grass areas and, because of its manoeuvrability, it is also suitable for working in confined areas.

There are two unusual features on the mower—a diff lock and speed limiter. The first improves traction and automatically disengages when

turning. The speed limiter is a safety device and prevents the machine from making a tight turn too quickly.

Powered by a 16hp Kohler engine, the mower is steered by a single rear wheel, has instant forward and reverse drive, as well as infinitely variable speed control.

The floating cutting head, which can be adjusted for height of cut, has three high lift one-piece blades with spindles positioned to avoid the need for synchronisation.



The T1648 from Ransomes.

• Visitors to Ransomes' stand at the IOG exhibition were prompted to discuss the company's after-sales service. On each day, there was a TV to be won in a competition where the number of Ransomes genuine parts in a bin had to be guessed. The number

of parts in the bin was altered each day and the three televisions were won by a Stafford parks gardener, an agricultural engineer from Bishops Castle, Shropshire and a housewife from Dunbar in East Lothian.

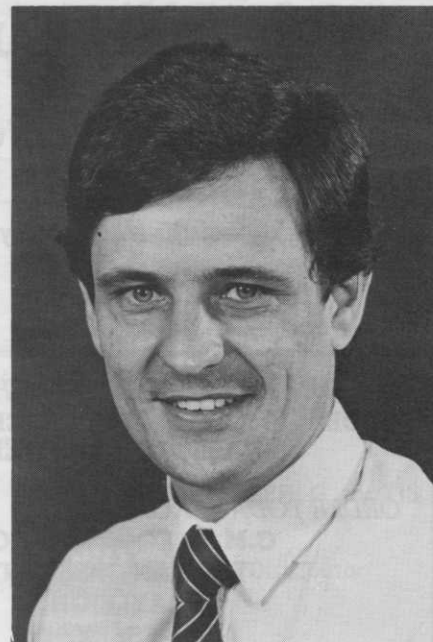
**Greenkeeper thanks the trade
for its continued support.
A very merry Christmas
and a happy and prosperous
New Year to all readers.**

Burts & Harvey Comes Back

"A traditional name with an exciting new future," is how John Arthur, recently appointed business manager of Burts & Harvey, described the company following its acquisition from Diamond Shamrock by May & Baker Agrochemicals. After deciding to re-instate the familiar Burts & Harvey name, which disappeared after the company was taken over by Diamond Shamrock in 1979, John sees continued expansion for Burts & Harvey in its new role as an independent trading company within the May & Baker group, yet having the opportunity to draw upon the financial and research resources of Britain's fifth largest agrochemical concern.

"Operationally, Burts & Harvey has also been reinforced with the appointment of a contracts manager, Bernard Veale, along with support from a technical manager, Graham Paul, a commercial co-ordinator, Jill Howard, and a special projects manager in 'Benny' Goodman. Other appointments will be made shortly," he added.

The target markets for Burts & Harvey—namely, industrial sites, highways, local authorities and amenity areas—remain. A comprehensive product range incorporates a package of total weedkillers for all industrial situations, a selection of grass-growth regulators, fungicides and selective herbicides for highway and local government users, and the kerb spraying unit, which has been specifically designed around B & H total weedkillers.



John Arthur—business manager of Burts & Harvey.

People, Places, Products Continued...

SAI has appointed a new senior rep to spearhead the company's planned growth in the Scottish professional horticultural market. David Morrison, who comes to SAI from a horticultural sales background in Scotland, will be concentrating his efforts on the sports turf and amenity markets. SAI, combined with its parent company ICI, is already a leading force in the Scottish garden products market.



David Morrison.

Reconstruction work on the 13th and 14th greens at the Selsdon Park Hotel golf course in Surrey by Chipman is part of a continuing programme of maintenance by the company. Orders have already been placed for the reconstruction of the 10th green and the putting green adjacent to the pro's shop next September.

The programme commenced in 1981 with drainage for the 2nd and 11th greens. The next year saw the reconstruction of the 16th green and drainage of the approach. In 1983, the 18th green was reconstructed and the 16th green drainage completed. Other work has included the stripping of existing turf, removal of thatch, reforming lands, drainage, sand amelioration and re-establishment of putting surfaces.

Enquiries to John Collins, Chipman, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2NR. ☎ 0403 60341/5.

Alan Fairhurst, 61, amenity and industrial rep for Synchemicals of south-east London, died recently.

Alan was with the company for over 25 years, initially with Thomas Foster

& Sons — Synchemicals' spread garden supplies wholesale subsidiary in St Helens. He joined Synchemicals as a retail rep 12 years ago.

For the past 18 months, Alan was in semi-retirement, but worked on amenity and industrial business in the north. With his wide knowledge and experience in horticulture, he soon became a familiar figure on golf courses and sportsgrounds, giving technical advice.

Together with Eric Soothill, Alan wrote *The New Field Guide To Fungi*, published by Michael Joseph and *The Blandford Guide To Trees Of The British Countryside*, published by The Blandford Press.

New and current publications from The Sports Turf Research Institute include *Technical Terms In Turf Culture* by Dr Peter Hayes (£2.50), John Shildrick's *Turfgrass Manual* (£2.50), *Turfgrass Seed 1985* (30p) and the latest *Sports Turf Bulletin*, which includes articles on rabbits becoming immune to myxomatosis, winter fairway maintenance and heather on the golf course. ☎ 0274 565131.

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19" WIDE ALUMINIUM RAKE £6.50
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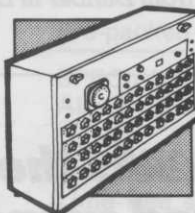
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Tritox From Fisons

Takes A Bow...

A new selective turf herbicide from Fisons Horticulture has been formulated from three active ingredients. Tritox is recommended for use on both fine and outfield turf and offers greenkeepers the essential advantages of reliable control of a broad spectrum of weeds at a reasonable price.

Tritox contains MCPA, Mecoprop and Dicamba as sodium and potassium salts, and product manager Jim Watts explained that this particular formulation, which does not include 2,4-D, is a valuable one for the turf and amenity market: "These active ingredients are well-proven in turf use, giving no phytotoxicity problems to grass when used according to the recommendations. The weed spectrum covered by Tritox is wide and the product highly effective—Dicamba, in particular, is a powerful herbicide in this situation. Tritox has been approved under the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme—a rigorous and independent assessment of product efficiency."

Tritox is available in five litre and 20 litre polythene containers, each carrying full instructions, firmly attached so they're easily accessible wherever or whenever the product is used. Tritox is available nationwide, via Fisons' network of appointed stockists, and the cost is about £15 for a five litre container, £57 per 20 litres.

Further information from Fisons Horticulture Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk.

☎ 0473 830492.

There'll Always Be Plenty Of Rain While Roberts Reigns!



The Javelin Micro 44 hose-reel offers a low cost, instant form of irrigation.

Working in conjunction with agricultural specialists Javelin Irrigation, Peter Roberts, UK manager of Toro Irrigation, is marketing Javelin's new Micro 44 hose-reel irrigator in the sports turf markets.

Driven by hydraulically activated, variable speed control bellows, the Micro 44 winds in 120m of 44mm diameter flexible hose, which feeds water to an adjustable, part-circle rain gun, mounted on a two-wheel trolley. The Micro 44 is designed to deliver water from 20 gallons per minute at 60psi up to 50 gallons per minute at 100psi, covering areas up to 55mm in diameter. An automatic cut-off device switches the water off when each run is completed.

The Micro 44 is capable of watering

an entire soccer pitch, applying approximately 0.5in of 'rain' in a day, during which only one move is required to reposition the machine. A selection of four different nozzles is supplied as standard.

Toro Irrigation has appointed three new area distributors. Par 4 Irrigation Systems Service of Ripon has been given the north east and Yorkshire territory, while Greenline Distributors of Banbridge, Co Down is responsible for Northern Ireland. Turf Irrigation Services, a newly formed company headed by Robin Hume which has taken over the sports turf irrigation division of E.A. Yates (Sandbach), is now the distributor for the north west, Midlands and Wales.

turf Irrigation Services Ltd

If you are thinking of having an Irrigation System installed, considering updating an old or partial system or simply require spare parts or service Turf Irrigation Services Limited are the company to speak to:

Phone: ROBIN HUME on 04775 255.

Betchton, Sandbach,
Cheshire. CW11 0TS.
Telephone: 04775 - 255

Telex: 367257 - TELSER. G. for TIS.

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People, Places, Products

Continued...

A chain saw is only as safe as its user and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has devised a series of four training courses at Newbury, Berkshire to aid users. The series starts with a basic course—on December 20 and 21—covering the maintenance and use of chain saws on fallen and felled timber.

The intermediate course on January 8 concentrates on tree felling. An advanced course on January 9 deals with felling hung-up trees and the use of winches. A second advanced course on January 10 covers working at heights.

The emphasis will be on practical tuition, therefore classes are limited to six persons per day. Course fees are £25 per day (plus VAT).

For bookings and further information about other courses in agriculture and amenity horticulture, write to Chris Tomlinson, ROSPA Agricultural Adviser, Cannon House, Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS. ☎ 021-233 2461 (ext 267).

Horsegear of Holcot Road, Brixworth, Northampton constructed the IOG's new show administration pavilion at Windsor. Work began on its designs well over a year ago and plans, drawn up by Brixworth architects Myles & Sims, were displayed at 1983's show.

The building covers 2,104 sq ft and comprises a large exhibition display and information area, Press office, administrative accommodation, boardroom/restroom, washroom,

kitchen and store. Based on the firm's Blok-Hutten log cabin style, the shell was built from 50mm thick Scandinavian Pine. Mounted on brick piers, the building was erected in six days.

Full details from Horsegear's managing director Frank Gear at Gable House, Holcot Road, Brixworth, Northampton NN6 9BN.

☎ Northampton (0604) 880640.



Horsegear's managing director Frank Gear hands over the keys to Dai Rees, chairman of the exhibition committee. With them is IOG exhibition committee vice-chairman Derek Walder.

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Write with full details in the first instance to:

The Secretary,
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Hallowes Lane,
Dronfield,
Sheffield S18 6UA

Morrison Secures UK Base

It is only 18 months since Chris Smith, as managing director of CNS Mowers, decided to market Morrison Mowers in his native Norfolk. Twelve months later, he was appointed sole UK concessionaire for Morrison Mowers. A subsidiary company was formed and commenced trading on January 1. Stock intake was agreed and sales forecasts set for the remaining 1984 season.

By the middle of January, all stock had been placed or sold. New stocks were ordered and new machines introduced to the range.

Chris went to see Morrison in New Zealand and supervised changes to the UK range and organised the shipment of more new stock and spares. On his return, he reviewed the distribution network and implemented a concentrated advertising campaign directed to the trade. "The interest and sales exceeded my expectations," Chris said. "We have appointed new distributors and increased the number of retail outlets to achieve national distribution."

After the parent company in New Zealand had undergone ownership changes, Chris became general manager of Morrison Mowers (UK)—a company he owned jointly with Morrison Industries. The company, based in Thornham, Norfolk, is the European headquarters for Morrison, handling all affairs in the UK and initially co-ordinating sales in other European countries.

"As well as the Olympic 600, 500, and 400 cylinder mowers, we now have the Triplex III at the top end of the range, which is a 71in cylinder mower with an electric cutter head

lift, 11hp Honda engine with variable cuts per yard," Chris said.

"The new robust Rapier 710 11hp 28in cut has been welcomed by local authorities who appreciate its manoeuvrability and work capacity. The new Golfmaster 600 has a full width 24in cutting capacity to reduce

time and labour with motorised transport wheels and back lapping facilities. Lower down the range, there is the 3'N'1 discharge, catcher and mulcher rotary machine."

For further details, contact Chris Smith on 048526 464.

Lots Of Innovation From Lely

Introduced at the IOG show, the new TX 2160 HST tractor offers hydrostatic transmission and has the versatility expected of tractors from Lely.

One pedal operation controls the forward and reverse giving variable speeds from zero to 15kmh. A hand control is fitted as standard to allow full wheel braking facility without loss of power, providing exceptional manoeuvrability at the same time.

A tough, reliable high-torque diesel engine with the 3-cylinder in-line configuration reduces vibration and noise. Fuel consumption is good due to the swivel combustion chamber system. The 2160 is available in either two or four-wheel drive.

Full details from Lely Iseki Tractors, Crosshall Works, Gt North Road, Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. ☎ 0480 76971.



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fertiliser that will:*

- * Encourage a deep hard-wearing turf
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- * Will not scorch
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- * Is low cost
- * As used by many courses including championship

People, Places, Products Continued...

Golf Landscapes, a specialist contractor in golf courses, playing fields, landscape construction and turfgrass drainage, has appointed Graeme Francis as technical manager. An HND graduate from Writtle College's amenity horticulture programme, he joined the company two years ago as construction supervisor and has worked on contracts throughout the UK, but primarily on intensive environmental refurbishments in London. Based at Golf Landscapes' Brentwood, Essex office, Graeme's new responsibilities will include pricing and estimating and he will have overall control of the contract buying scheme.

The company's irrigation division, an area distributor of TORO, now has Robin Vasey as sales manager. He is an ex Icopal and Wright Rain rep. Robin is responsible for the development of the company's market plan and the design of irrigation schemes using TORO.

This year's international exhibition at Royal Windsor produced stand numbers of over 300, which is a record and makes it the biggest show of its kind in the world. There was also a record attendance of over 31,000, many of whom were overseas visitors, and buyers from Australia, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Holland, Portugal, Eire, Japan and the USA.

Johnsons Seeds has recently issued a new brochure covering the standard J range of turfgrass mixtures and master blends for the 1985 season.

The catalogue has been designed to simplify mixture selection and uses clear headings to cover recommended purposes, sowing rates, mowing heights, which are complemented by a second table setting out alphabetically a list of 50 different turfgrass areas, from airfields to verges, showing the recommended J mixture or master blend.

Mixture formulations are tabulated for easy reference and detail how tolerance to mowing and trampling changes progressively across the range. An innovation is the use of

colour-coded histograms which display the percentage by weight of each cultivar used in the mixture. These show the range of species used and relative proportions in each mixture.

The J range is formulated with leading cultivars prominently featured in the merit lists issued by the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley—a copy of which can be obtained for 30p, either direct from the STRI or Johnsons.

Write for free copies of the *Turfgrass Seeds Brochure* to Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston, Lincs PE21 8AD, together with literature covering the JR reclamation range of grass seeds and the JF range of wild flower and grass seeds.

The turf and landscape exhibition—*Turfworld '85*—at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from March 5-7 has been extended to include an outdoor lakeside setting. There is also a revised price scale for exhibition space providing 'dramatic cost reductions.' *Turfworld '85* is sponsored by *Turf Management*, which will hold a turfgrass congress at the same time.

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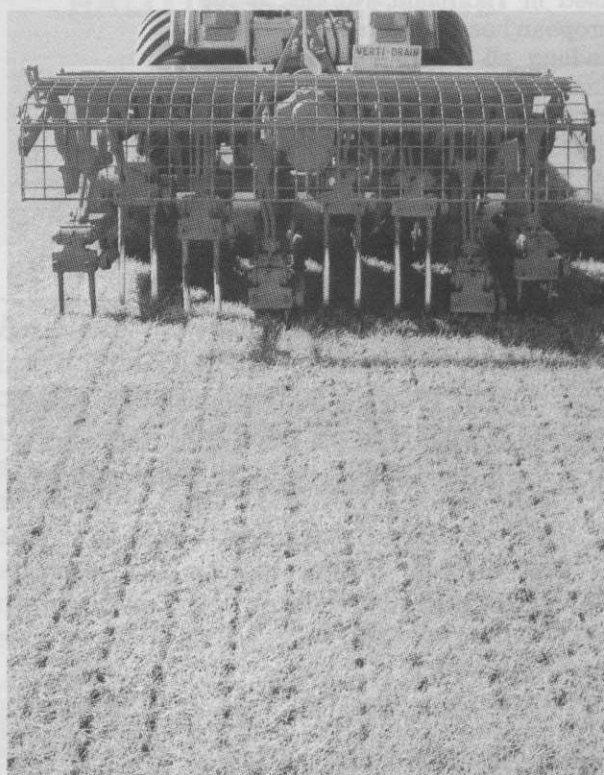
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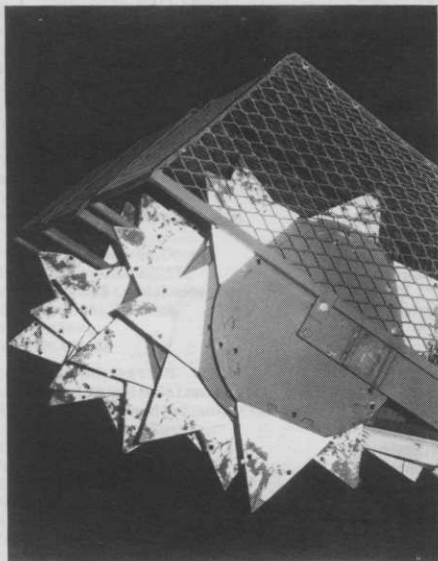
THE SPECIALISTS IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION

Pattisson's Place In The Market—Continued

fairways. Special comb fingers between each blade prevent turf tearing. The transmission by pto shaft means a consistent result from 32 double-ended blades. Likewise, the self-propelled Turf Piercer is an excellent and economical golf green aerator with 72 four-inch tines.

"The Parkover trailer gang mower has also been updated recently after over 20 years in production and has a number of new features. At under £5,000, you have a fairway or parks mower that will last a generation.

"In closing, Pattisson may not be among the most fashionable companies, but when you've been in existence for almost 100 years, you have seen all the 'fashions' come and go. What is the name golfers know? Well, assuming they have holed-out and looked into the cup, Pattisson. On course in more ways than one!"



Pattisson's Turf Slitter with alternative tines for control of deep compaction.

Secretaries See Off Opposition

The golf club secretaries retained the Kubota Trophy at St Pierre, Chepstow recently. Under the captaincy of Gordon Payne, ten greenkeepers, drawn from SIGGA, EIGGA and the BGGGA, and a side of golf club stewards failed to match the mighty secretaries (pictured below).

Everything rested on the last



contest between the secretaries and greenkeepers and, despite a collapse by their middle order, the secretaries gained the half point needed for victory. Earlier, they had beaten the stewards by 5½ to 4½ who, in turn, had defeated the greenkeepers 6-4.

Only S.Farrington (Littlestone) and Lindsay Anderson (Powfoot) won both their matches, Lindsay drubbing the secretaries' secretary John Crowther 6 and 5.

Alternative To Soggy Surfaces

Built on the Hovercraft principle, the Hover-Dry supports itself on a cushion of air—the surface is left untouched except for the removal of water and small debris.

Powered by an 8hp Briggs and Stratton engine, the Hover-Dry's fan drives the air down to form a cushion of air and disperses it as a fine mist outwards to the four foot diameter skirt. There, the mist is caught in the suction from the fan and forced up to deflectors, which cause the water droplets to fall into a 15 gallon reservoir, while the air continues to circulate through the fan.

The water is either emptied

manually through a drain in the base of the skirt or the Hover-Dry may be fitted with a pump and a length of hosepipe, so the water can be emptied off the playing area as drying progresses.

The body of the Hover-Dry is constructed of tough glass fibre, so there is nothing to rust. There are few working parts and the machine is light, easy-to-handle and comes complete with a pneumatic tyred trolley.

Full details from Hover-Dry, Glandford Mill, Glandford, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7JR. ☎ Cley 740446.

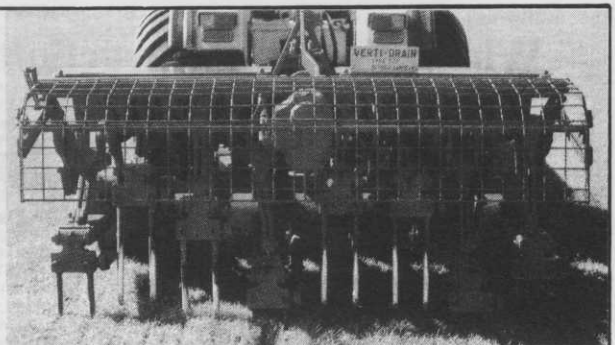
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People, Places, Products

Continued...

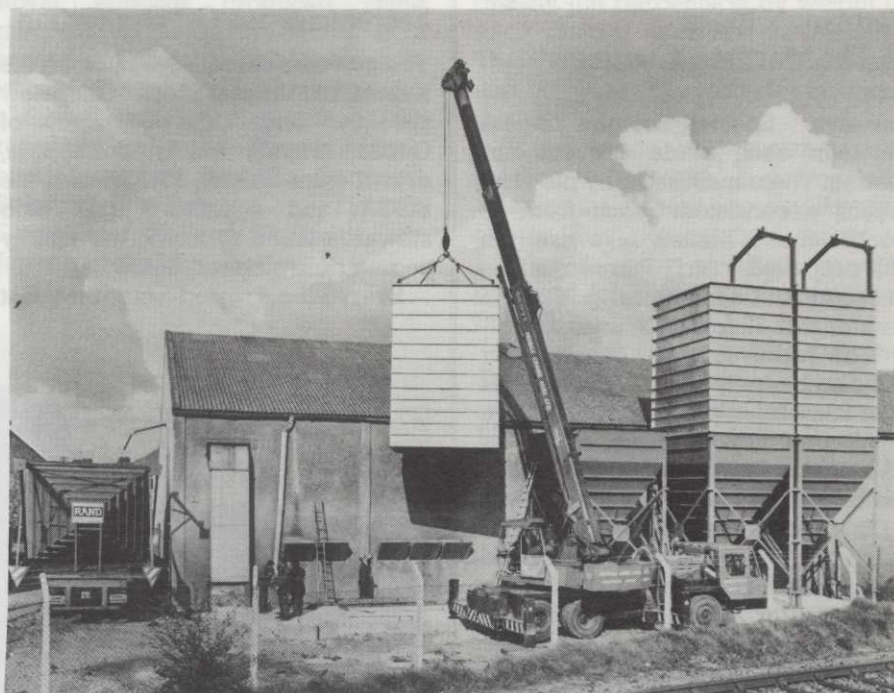
British Seed Houses has been awarded a FEOGA grant valued at about £61,000 by the EEC Commission. The grant is a contribution towards the company's expenditure in improving its production and distribution facilities at Avonmouth. In addition, British Seed Houses will also receive a grant from the UK government.

New seed-cleaning equipment has been installed and will enable the company to improve productivity and yet maintain the high traditional standards of purity and quality of finished product. Additional land alongside the present premises has been purchased and this will be used to improve loading facilities for seed being collected and distributed from the warehouse.

For the second year running, British Seed Houses was awarded a gold medal at the IOG exhibition, Windsor for stand design and layout.

Great interest was shown in the BSH renovation mixture A8, which contains the proven Loretta and Derby turf type perennial ryegrasses for overseeding worn areas of outfield turf. Chelsea and Millwall football clubs have overseeded their pitches this season with the A8 mixture.

During the course of the show, BSH also learned that the Sports Turf Research Institute, in its latest *Turfgrass Seed Guide*, had rated all its main grass cultivars very highly.



New storage bins for British Seed Houses.

Salary Scales For Groundsmen

The 1985 salary scales published by the IOG recommend a flat-rate increase of five per cent to current rates. The new scale, exclusive of London Weighting, is:

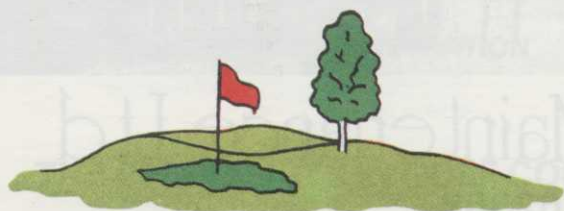
Head groundsman	£7,216
Deputy head groundsman	£6,311
Assistant groundsman	£5,411
Assistant groundsman (unskilled)	£4,505
Junior groundsman (aged 17)	£4,062
Junior groundsman (aged 16)	£3,606

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Technical Certificate	£351
Practical Certificate	£135

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Appointments

EXPERIENCED TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE REQUIRED To cover the London area, Herts and Essex

Rigby Taylor Limited, a fast expanding company, require an experienced technical representative to promote a wide range of products, particularly their Mascot chemicals.

Good salary plus generous bonus incentive schemes.

Fringe benefits include luncheon allowance, B.U.P.A., contributory pension and use of company car.

Apply in writing giving brief details of career to date to:

**The Sales Director,
Rigby Taylor (South) Limited,
Unit 7, The Riverway Estate,
Peasmarsh,
Guildford,
Surrey. GU3 1LZ
Telephone: Guildford 34557**

All enquiries treated in the strictest confidence.

GRASS MACHINERY SALES REPRESENTATIVE North of England

Due to the retirement of their Senior Representative Ransomes, a leading manufacturer of tillage and grass cutting equipment, are seeking a replacement for this important position of Sales Representative in the North of England. Experience in grass machinery products and commercial matters would be a benefit.

The most important criteria is a positive personality and the ability to communicate and sell at all levels.

Applicants for this job should ideally be more than 35 years old.

We offer a good salary, company car, company pension scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Application forms are available from:
**KEN BURKITT, Personnel Administrator,
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies PLC,
Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG
Telephone (0473) 712222 Extension 368**

RANSOMES

Due to retirement through illness

ELY CITY GOLF CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its 6866 yds. par 72 meadowland course. No accomodation available

Salary negotiable

Apply in first instance to:

**The Secretary,
Ely City Golf Club,
Cambridge Road,
Ely, Cambs.**

giving full details of previous experience and qualifications.

WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB

requires

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in golf course management. Scotec or City & Guilds certificates essential.

Salary and conditions negotiable, house available.

Apply to:

**The Secretary,
West Herts Golf Club,
Cassiobury Park,
Watford
Tel: 0923 36484**

Appointments

CANTERBURY GOLF CLUB

wish to appoint a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a progressive career in greenkeeping techniques and have the experience and knowledge to maintain and improve a first class wooded parkland course.

A thorough knowledge of course machinery and its maintenance is essential, as is the ability to direct and motivate a staff of our four assistant greenkeepers.

An attractive remuneration package will include a negotiable salary of not less than £8500. Accommodation is not provided.

Apply in writing stating age, experience, present position and salary to:

**THE SECRETARY,
CANTERBURY GOLF CLUB
SCOTLAND HILLS
CANTERBURY CT1 1TW.**

PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB

require

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in course management, machinery maintenance and have the ability to lead and motivate staff.

Salary negotiable.

Commence February 1985.

Accommodation available.

For an application form and further details, please contact the Secretary, Pontefract and District Golf Club, c/o 24 Fair View, Carleton, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 3NU.

Completed application forms should be returned by Friday, 4th January 1985.

HARTLEY WINTNEY GOLF CLUB

requires

GREENKEEPER/GROUNDSMAN

Applications are invited for the above post, from persons of proven ability, and experience in Golf Course Maintenance.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing, stating age and experience to:

**Honourable Secretary,
Hartley Wintney Golf Club,
London Road,
Hartley Wintney, Hants.**

THE WARRINGTON GOLF CLUB

invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

commencing early spring 1985. Must have sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping, staff supervision and machinery maintenance.

Salary circa £8750.

No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing giving age, course experience and/or qualifications to:

**The Secretary,
Warrington Golf Club,
London Road,
Appleton,
Warrington WA4 5HR.**

Closing date for applications 31st January, 1985.

Readvertisement

BOROUGH OF DARLINGTON

PARKS, CEMETERIES AND OUTDOOR
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD GREENKEEPER

STRESSHOLME GOLF COURSE

Misc. Grade 8 £6264 — £7005 (plus Foremans differential) (pay award pending)

Applications are invited for the above post from fully qualified and experienced Greenkeepers to maintain this large 18 hole municipal golf course.

Applicants must be able to show proven ability in this field and be capable of supervising labour.

Preference will be given to persons holding the National Diploma of Turf Culture or related City & Guilds Certificates.

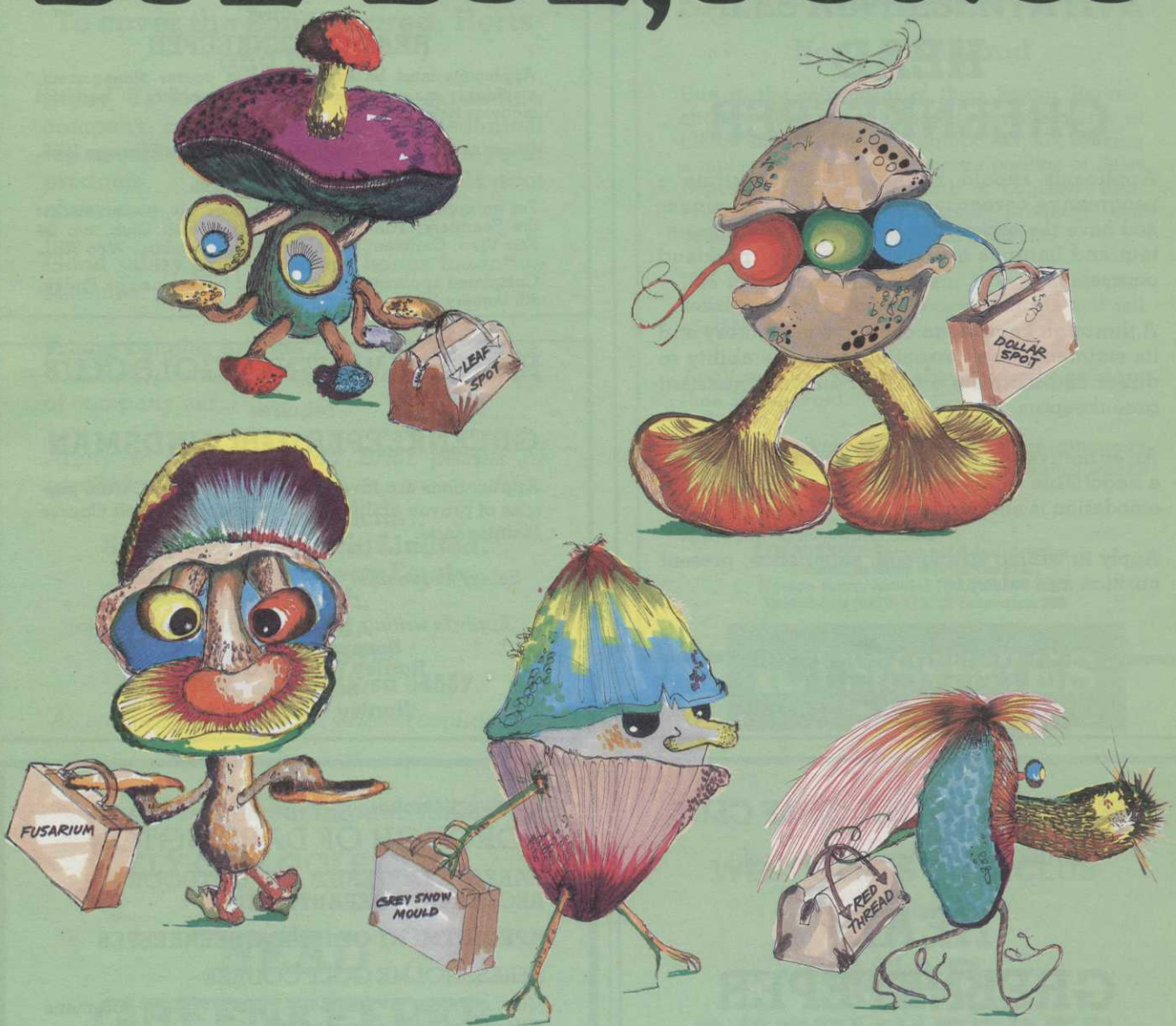
Assistance with removal and relocation expenses will be available where appropriate.

A closed shop policy is in operation and all employees are required to join the appropriate union.

Application forms and further details are available from the Head of Personal and Management Services, Town Hall, Darlington, Co. Durham. Tel: (0325) 460651, ext. 324, to whom they should be returned by January 21st 1985. Previous applicants need not reapply.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.**

BYE~BYE, FUNGI



'CONTACT'

Rigby Taylor Limited
Rigby Taylor House,
Garside Street,
Bolton, Lancashire BL1 4AE
Tel: (0204) 389888

MASCOT FUNGICIDES



'SYSTEMIC'

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

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