

This issue

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Front cover: The new Nimbus controlled droplet application (CDA) sprayer has been launched by ICI Professional Products and is invaluable to the greenkeeper applying herbicides to turf, paths and around buildings. It has been designed to give reliable and accurate distribution of ready-for-use, oil-based formulations of herbicides, using optimum droplet size and low-volume application. Unlike water-diluted chemicals, there is no measuring, mixing or large quantities of water to carry. The hand-held sprayer is lightweight, so it can be operated for long periods and the system is simple to use. For further details and the name of your local distributor, contact ICI Professional Products on Farnham (0252) 724525.



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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.*

Greenkeeper