

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

APRIL 1985

# Greenkeeper

*& The International Greenkeeper*

Deutsche Fassung  
&  
Edition Française

BULLETIN Nr. 45



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APRIL 1985

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S.I.G.G.A. in Washington, Walter Woods, Jimmy Kid and Stanley Carr.



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# Comment...

I RECENTLY had the pleasure of attending the annual EIGGA men's dinner at Walton Heath, having played the historic course—thanks go to Clive Osgood for an enjoyable day (writes *Greenkeeper* publisher Michael Coffey). This event, masterminded by EIGGA members Hugh MacGillivray and Kenny McNiven, is first rate. The after-dinner speeches included a notable contribution from Walton Heath secretary Wing Commander Bill McCrea, who said that the greenkeeper gathering was the first occasion since the previous EIGGA men's dinner to fill the club dining room to capacity and there were a number who could not get tickets.

The theme of Wing Commander McCrea's speech was a topical, if familiar one—namely, greenkeeper training. He recalled that at the same event last year he had thought EIGGA was an association committed to improving greenkeeping skills and qualifications through better training. "I have to say I am disappointed by the apparant lack of progress," was his initial salvo. "However, I understand that the Greenkeeper Training Committee has recently recommended that a new *greenkeeping* syllabus be taught on block release at a number of selected colleges." As clubs appreciate that the golf course is their number one asset, he felt sure this system would receive good support from the clubs.

While we wholeheartedly endorse this view, regrettably the facts are often different. All too often we hear of greenkeepers having requests to attend college courses and conferences turned down. At least 15 clubs refused to pay for staff to attend the EIGGA conference at Warwick this month. This attitude must be changed and it is reassuring for greenkeepers to have such an eloquent advocate for training as Wing Commander McCrea, who will hopefully be able to persuade some of his more reluctant colleagues of the benefits.

It is also disappointing to note that a novel scheme, sponsored by Mentzendorf Kummel, to raise money from golf club members, is to be put to only limited use. According to the Peter Alliss article in April's *Golf World*, the National Putting Championship—at 50p a time for a club member to enter—will raise funds for the Golf Foundation and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, for which Mr Alliss, as president, is promoting the competition. Are the producers of the excellent 'putting mixture' aware of how many greenkeepers there are in Scotland, England and Wales who, unlike all the UK's golfing youngsters who benefit from the Golf Foundation, will apparently not gain from the proposed new 'Centre for agronomy learning. A sort of huge nursery where young and old greenkeepers could come to lectures and listen to the latest ideas on golf course maintenance machinery, etc'.

We thought that such an organisation existed in the Sports Turf Research Institute—albeit, until recently, sadly lacking in support from golf.

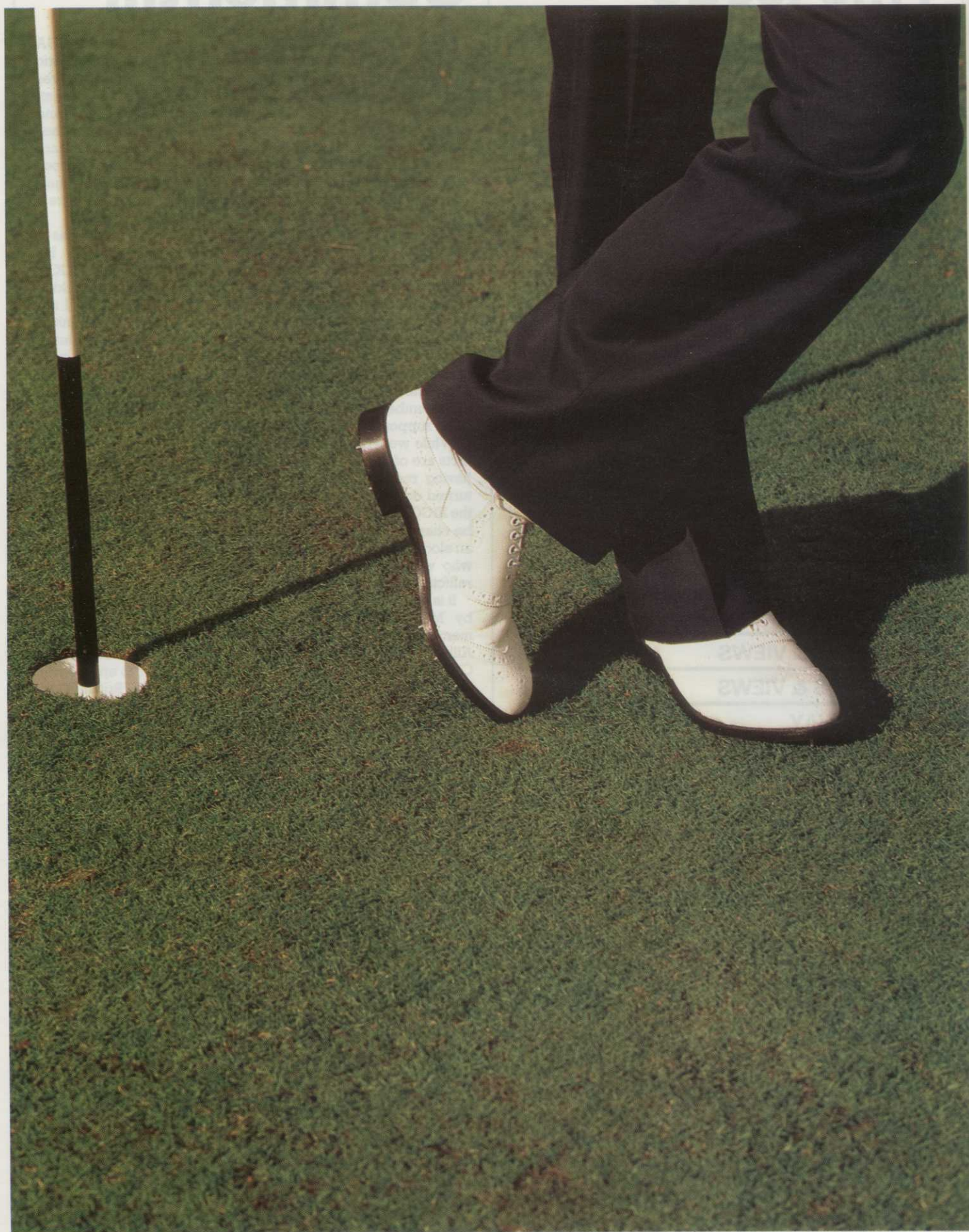
There can be no doubt that this competition is a highly commendable one. However, shouldn't the sponsors look again at the distribution of funds?

\*\*\*

The EIGGA annual general meeting—at Warwick University on March 24—elected the following national officers: president—Dennis Ayling (Sussex); vice-president—David Jones (East Anglia); trustees—Kevin Munt (Surrey), Hugh MacGillivray (Sussex), Michael Coffey; chairman of the board of management—Bill Lawson (North West).

• A full report on the annual EIGGA conference and AGM will appear in next month's *Greenkeeper*.

## Greenkeeper



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# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

*Students attending a phase three greenkeeping supervisors' course at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex wanted to know more about the role of a golf course consultant, so they wrote to the top man—Jim Arthur...*

What qualifications are needed for the job of golf course consultant?

During the inaugural EIGGA conference at Brighton in 1983, Dr Peter Hayes, director of the STRI, and I stated categorically that the term could be applied only to those advisors holding a degree in natural science or an equivalent qualification.

What is the nature of your profession?

In no way should an agronomist or golf course consultant attempt to act as a surrogate head greenkeeper. His function is quite different—namely, to advise a long-term programme, which must be agreed by the man who has to put it into effect. His functions are to diagnose basic problems and causes, measure progress, advise on new techniques and machinery and ensure 'the trade' complies with sound greenkeeping principles.

In this connection, the poor design work and bad equipment of a number of pop-up irrigation firms have been improved through the British Turf Irrigation Association, which was set up with my enthusiasm and co-operation, partly to discipline the industry and eliminate inefficient operators and partly to specify minimum standards, complying with good management standards laid down by qualified agronomists.

Equally, the gross over-use of complete NPK fertilisers, pushed for commercial reasons by some companies, has, to a large extent, been discredited by the action, over many years, of agronomists.

What it boils down to is that the advisor sees far more courses, far more of often the same problems and far more new machinery and techniques than it is possible for the average greenkeeper to—however interested he may be.

But no one can know a course better than its head greenkeeper and he has the more difficult task as he has to implement the agreed programme within the restraints imposed by available men, machines and money and in the light of variable

and unpredictable weather conditions. The weather always has the last word.

The advisor can also be of great assistance to the head greenkeeper in that he—unfair though it is—may have more influence with green committees and management in securing better equipment, better housing and, dare one say so, better remuneration.

Success is essentially a matter of team work, with no one part of the team—management, greenkeeper or advisor—more important than the other.

Do you use any 'external' information or is it all 'self information'?

I presume you mean do agronomists seek second opinions or the services of outside specialists. I certainly do in such specialist (and time-consuming) aspects as drainage, irrigation and soil analysis. This does not mean that I delegate the whole job and, indeed, I define the terms of reference on which I require the expert opinion.

Equally, it does not mean that I do not know anything about these aspects and, indeed, I can claim to know a great deal more about pop-ups, as one example, than the firms installing them as I have been concerned with such irrigation for a great deal longer—some 16 years in fact.

Increasingly sophisticated equipment, including computerised control systems, makes this more and more a job for the specialist, but I still lay down the rules and give guidance on basic layouts, as well as operation of the irrigation system.

I do my own mycological work as this is my speciality and I know from experience what to deduce from what I see under the microscope. If you see a few fusarium spores, it does not mean that the turf is suffering from fusarium patch disease.

Do you have regular places to visit?

The pattern of advisory work varies considerably but certainly so far as

the STRI's advisors and I are concerned, part of our work consists of regular repeat visits—especially when a remedial programme is being carried out over a period of years. Equally, a number of golf clubs will opt for occasional visits to check that they are still on the right lines or to deal with specific problems.

Needless to say, no advisor should ever receive retainers or considerations of any kind from any trade firm or, indeed, from any other body to influence their advice. An advisor's loyalty should be solely to his client—to see that his client's interests are paramount. But the reverse does not apply! When a client wants advice, he generally wants a specific recommendation, not some vague and totally disinterested comments or attitude to good and bad alike. A client pays for advice and cannot benefit unless he receives specific proposals.

Needless to say, he is not bound to follow that advice, but it should be given without fear or favour. I am sometimes accused of being prejudiced in favour of certain machines, systems or products and I fully accept that I am. Nevertheless, prejudice, i.e. pre-judgement, is my judgement based on years of experience, for which the client pays, knowing that it is not commercially influenced.

Another aspect of my advisory work is guiding the setting up of courses for major championships, especially where the greenkeeper may not have had this experience before and, more so, to ensure a consistent standard of presentation. I do this in my capacity as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the Royal and Ancient, work which I will still be doing for several years!

Are set fees involved?

Scale fees are charged by the STRI and myself—now, incidentally, the same. In other words, there is no question of charging what the market might bear—everyone pays the

same, though concessionary reductions may be made to some clubs.

Are you available for talks and lectures?

In the past, I have spent many, many hours of my time, given freely without even travelling expenses, addressing greenkeepers at lectures, seminars and courses. At times, attendances have been ludicrously low. My reward is often to be accused of self-advertisement, or to be attacked by greenkeepers who do not agree with what I have preached consistently for nearly 40 years.

I am abused in the greenkeeping press by prima donna head greenkeepers (many of whom I have been instrumental in placing in well-paid posts), who want no help from advisors and go round saying it is an admission of inefficiency if a club calls in someone like myself.

Therefore, I have decided to give no more talks for a year, especially as so many trade seminars tend to use people like myself to draw a crowd and then blatantly use the occasion for sales promotion and not education.

I am, however, a member of the Greenkeeper Training Committee and hopefully we will soon see a better training scheme than the old City & Guilds one, where the syllabus is so biased and misleading and based on horticulture or agriculture that it has to be 'interpreted' by the lecturers if it is to be of any use whatever.

Could you give an example of a problem area you have encountered

and the remedies you have given to restore first-class conditions?

There are many hundreds of courses throughout Britain and Europe that, prior to my advice, were disgraced by lush, thatchy, annual meadow grass meadows and now have excellent, fine, wiry, *Agrostis/Festuca* turf.

All the championship courses and hundreds of others in good order are maintained on the same basic management system that I have advised since joining the Research Station at Bingley just after the war. These are, in simplified terms, intensive deep aeration; minimal (nitrogen-only) fertiliser; controlled and limited irrigation; frequent (daily), but not too close, mowing; regular (weekly) verti-cutting; sensible, preventative treatment against weeds, pests, worms and disease with the accent on prevention rather than cure and regular 'compost' (never sand only) top-dressing, which today has to be mid-seasonal not in winter.

There simply is not space to describe in detail how and where this advice has worked, though I suppose better known examples are Turnberry for the 1977 Open, restored in just over two seasons from total dereliction to being widely acknowledged as superb links conditions, despite widespread criticism of its selection by the R & A at the time; Sunningdale, which suffered from waterlogged greens in the driest summer on record (1976), with six inches of stinking boggy thatch, but which, to within the space of two years, had meadow grass free greens and, latterly, Lindrick, restored to 60 per cent fine fescue greens and superb heathland

fairways inside three years after agricultural devastation.

There are, of course, hundreds of other less publicised results, but I must stress that I take no credit for these improvements. The head greenkeeper has done the work and my only credit comes from pointing him in the right direction, as well as getting the management to back him up.

I have never claimed to have invented the principles of sound greenkeeping, which have hardly altered basically (though very much in detail in response to changing pressures) since greenkeeping began. Neither do I claim any monopoly in giving sound advice and the STRI's special golf advisory service is now giving basically the same advice as myself.

Hopefully, we may see better agreement between the practical man on the ground at all levels and the advisor. Equally, it is to be hoped that some of the mad theories being promulgated, so far as you can judge merely for the sake of being different, will soon disappear as they fail to give results.

However, greenkeeping improvement, nationally and internationally, depends upon one basic factor and that is better education. There are no quick cures, just good, old-fashioned, sound, commonsense greenkeeping methods, now advised by all but a small minority of golf course advisors.

## Greenkeeper



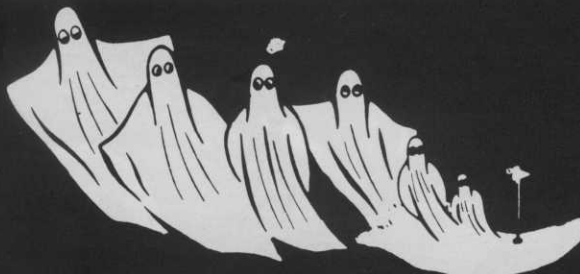
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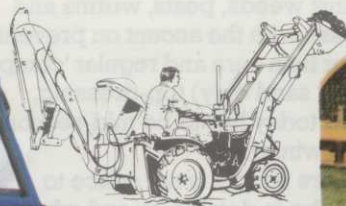
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*Jimmy Kidd, estates manager at Gleneagles, and Walter Woods, links manager at St Andrews, travelled to Washington for the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America conference and show. Jimmy reports the trip.*

## A capital show on Capitol Hill



A COUPLE of years have passed since SIGGA was represented at the GCSAA annual conference and show. It was, therefore, with a great sense of pride and responsibility that Walter Woods and I set forth from Edinburgh via Heathrow to Washington Dullis Airport.

The temperature in Edinburgh that day was an unseasonal 49°F. On arrival at Dullis at 5.00pm, the temperature was already -5°F and going down!

A rather agitated debate between us as to whether we should travel into Washington by taxi at the rate of \$30 plus tip or coach at \$9 was settled by a broken Scots-American accent encouraging us to "hurry up" and get into the bus. It was wonderful to hear once again the friendly voice of Stanley Carr from Del Rey, Florida, superintendent at the Gulf Stream Golf and Country Club.

A native of Tillicoultry, Stanley directed us to the GCSAA headquarters at the Sheraton Hotel, Washinton. There, we were met by associate executive director James Prusa who, in his usual efficient manner, had organised accommodation for us in the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill and within walking distance of some grand architecture.

The Smithsonian Institute has to be seen to be believed. The buildings record the history of everything from aviation to agriculture and natural history to art and the evolution of man display is vast.

This was the one and only occasion that I was delighted not to be accompanied by the wife, as the Natural History Museum contains some of the largest and most valuable stones in the world, including the largest uncut diamond. The Hope Diamond is priceless. I brought home photos so June and Caroline can drool at home.

Our Thursday and Friday thus occupied took our minds off the impending reason for our trip. Walter was to speak to the conference on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on The Thinking Superintendent and The Renovation Of The Old Course After The 1984 Open.

The GCSAA's organisation of all sessions is second to none. Carousels are available days previously. Slide projectors and rooms are laid on, leaving no excuses on the day.

The courtesy and attention paid to Walter during his first session and the comments afterwards were generous and encouraging to SIGGA.

We were particularly impressed by the quality of speakers, especially some of the younger superintendents, who have a lot to offer the profession. Their presentations were extremely professional and informative and not one of the older superintendents felt they could not learn something new.

The conference seminars cover such a diversity of subjects in a dozen rooms that it pays to be selective and choose a theme, whether it be budgeting and cost-control management, irrigation and machinery, preparation and renovation for major golf tournaments, man management and motivation, golf course architecture and many more.

To this end, and in the words of past-president James Timmerman, we went, we learned and we participated.

Walter's second session followed Robert Alonzi of Winged Foot Golf Club on preparing for the 1984 US Open and Theodore Woehrle of Oakland Hills preparing for the 1985 US Open. It is never an easy task speaking at conference level, but performing at such a gathering of internationals is even more nerve-racking. Walter was extremely relieved when his second 15 minute session was over.

The international session on the Monday was started by Rolf Lawgren of the Swedish Golf Federation. I followed with The Natural Experience Of A Game On A Classic British Golf Course.

The session began a little nervously as a voice admitted to having dropped a few slides. He was most apologetic and warned that they could now come up in the wrong order! I stood there saying: "Why me?" But a nod of confidence and reassurance from Walter set me off again with confidence.

Some sterling work from the back of the room and only one slide out of 80 was misplaced. I was exceptionally proud to see in the audience a large presence of the GCSAA's executive committee. It was our intention not to let our friends down and from the complimentary comments and



Ransomes stand.



Walter Woods at the lecturn.

attention paid to both of us, I felt we accomplished all we set out to do.

We were both encouraged greatly by the support from the 'classic' clubs in the British Isles, such as Turnberry, Troon, Royal St George's, Wentworth and others, whose superintendents and committee members contributed information and transparencies.

After our sessions were complete, it was time to take in the show. The GCSAA projection was for some 80,000 square feet of exhibits, which was extended later to 91,000 square feet, and more than 250 companies in attendance represented by some 2,000 top management and marketing personnel.

Three days were needed to cover the entire range of exhibits. The irrigation companies, whose

equipment—with the advent of printed circuits and micro-computers—has reached the stage of high sophistication needed to cope with the intricate programming necessary in the sun belts of America to prevent wilt, did good business.

Some of the financial problems of our clubs could, it would appear, be solved by a golf car fleet, which is big business in the USA with new shapes resembling modern cars and claiming "streamlining at 15mph."

One of the exhibits that attracted great attention at all times was the very best of British—our good friends Ransomes. Buying a company in the States called Wisconsin Marine has led to a goodly share of the grass-cutting market. Our friends in the States know a good company when they see one. We wish them

the best of luck.

Tuesday evening was taken up with the conference banquet and an unbelievable 1,250 people in the Sheraton Hotel Ballroom to hear retiring president Jas Timmerman confer the prestigious Tom Morris Award for services to golf on past US president Gerald Ford. His response to the award was most humble and his remarks a credit to his golfing partner Bob Hope. In fact, it appeared as if Hope had written the speech, such was the humour of it.

When the 1985 GCSAA conference and show closed, the expected relief from the organisers was tinged with regret. They live and breathe the GCSAA and its showpiece and are now looking forward to 1986 and San Francisco.

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## Berks, Bucks and Oxon

Since taking up the chairmanship in August, I would be the first to admit we have had some problems. First, communication to branch members has been poor, but I can assure you

every effort is being made to see this will not be the case in future.

There have been some problems regarding subscriptions—if any member has paid his sub for the year and not received a new membership card, please contact the general administrator on 0473 711810 or me on Henley 578147.

The branch AGM was held at Goring and Streatley GC. I thank all members who attended on what was a cold winter's night. It was agreed that the present committee would be re-elected. Since, D.Smith has left EIGGA and the committee has co-

opted others to serve and help get the B, B & O going.

Presently, committee members are W.McMillan (chairman), J.Brearley (vice-chairman), S.Schmitz (secretary), E.McCabe (golf administrator), E.Valentine (treasurer) and A.Collis.

Ed McCabe is working hard to organise some golf outings, so we can all look forward to playing soon. We are also discussing the possibility of arranging some lectures for next winter.

I would like to think that 1985 will be the year the B, B & O gets on its feet and becomes one of the most healthy and friendly sections of EIGGA, but please appreciate that the branch is only as good as the support members give it.

Belatedly, I wish you all success in 1985 and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

*W.McMillan.*

## ITS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

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## London

The AGM of the London branch was held at Aldenham. Tom Low (Hartsbourne) was confirmed as chairman in succession to David MacIndoe and Chris Greenwood (Muswell Hill) was elected to join the present committee of Mike Peters, Tom McDonald, Derek Mason and David Low (branch administrator).

The meeting was lively and constructive and followed by a buffet lunch. As usual, the food served by the Aldenham catering manager Martin and his staff was excellent.

In the evening, we listened to two very interesting talks. Our thanks go to Jon Allbutt of Synchemicals for his talk on the Safe And Effective Use Of Chemicals. The evening was concluded by John Linaker, secretary of Moor Park, who made us aware of the economics and organisation involved in running the world-famous club. Tom Low described Mr Linaker as being to the secretaries what Jim Arthur is to greenkeepers.

The spring tournament will take place at Aldenham on April 23, teeing off at 2.00pm. An evening outing will be held at Hartsbourne on July 5, starting at 4.30pm. Those wishing to participate should contact me on 01-950 4270 as meals cannot be guaranteed if not requested beforehand.

Any EIGGA members living in

*Continued on page 16...*

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## The Learning Process Goes On

A recent head greenkeepers' supervisory course at Elmwood College, Fife, attracted 23 students. Organised by the college and supported by SIGGA, three students travelled up from England, while another came from the Channel Islands to attend.

A varied programme was offered, ranging from the role of a supervisor, health and safety, conditions of employment, report writing and budgetting to public speaking, which doesn't come easy, but can be mastered with practice.

As might be expected, not all the subjects offered met with complete approval, but it's a fact that something appearing irrelevant at the time can prove useful later on. However, we are waiting for written comments from students and these will be taken into account when preparing next year's programme.

SIGGA feels that this type of course is extremely useful and will continue its involvement.

*Joe McKean,  
SIGGA General Secretary.*

## The 1985 Kubota Golf Challenge



This year's Kubota event takes place at The Belfry on October 17-18. It is now a four-cornered match with a team from The Association of Golf Writers entering the fray. Each association is responsible for selecting eight players. The timetable is:

### Thursday October 17

Arrive at midday; practice round, 1pm; team photos, 5.30pm; cocktails, 7pm and dinner at 7.30pm.

### Friday October 18

Breakfast at 7pm; semi-finals, 8am-9am; buffet lunch, midday-2pm; final and third-place play-off; 1pm-2pm; cocktails, 7pm and dinner/prize-giving at 7.30pm. Departure is after breakfast on Saturday.

## Central

A one-day seminar was held at Dunfermline GC recently and, due to tremendous interest, a limit of 130 had to be put on the number of places available.

A good cross-section of greenkeepers and club officials was in attendance when Dr Peter Hayes, David Boocock, Roy Woolhouse and

Gordon Macadam of the STRI gave an insight into the many aspects of golf course work. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. Thanks go to the STRI for providing such excellent speakers and to Dunfermline GC for the use of its clubhouse.

*John Crawford,  
Section Secretary, 1 Katrine Drive,  
Crossford, Dunfermline KY12 8XR.*

## EIGGA News & Views Continued...

Hertfordshire, Middlesex and north and west London who have not been notified about events in the area should contact me so that I can check the mailing list.

*David Low.*

## East Anglia

People on the move lately include Dick Scott, who left Cottessey Park to go to Thorpness and then left Thorpness. Mick Clark has been promoted

to head greenkeeper at Gorleston—we wish him well.

Congratulations to Dave Jones are in order for the first part of the Diary of A Greenkeeper (January/February). I thought it was first-class—even I could understand it!

Diary dates for this year's golfing events include: May 15—Bungay (if the clubhouse is finished); June 19—Newmarket; August 6—Cambridge Hotel; September 6—Purdis Heath and October 16—Maylands (to be confirmed).

*M. Lathorpe.*

## North West

Heswall Golf Club was the venue for a talk by Nick Park on Greenkeeping And How It Affects The Golfer, which was illustrated by some fine slides of historic golf courses.

The 73 members and guests enjoyed a question and answer session with Nick and Eddie Park. My thanks go to both speakers who travelled from Sheffield to provide a memorable evening. Thanks also go to the captain and council of Heswall GC for use of the clubhouse.

*Bill Lawson.*



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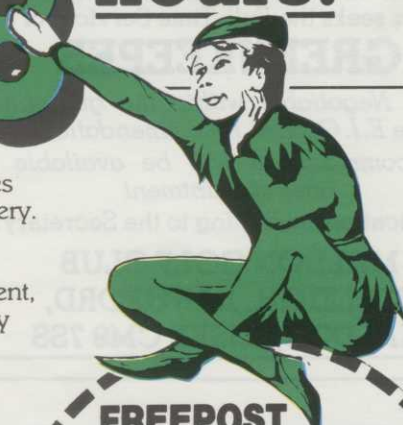
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## Let's Get The Priorities Right

It seems a pity that the EIGGA and SIGGA pages in *Greenkeeper* are devoted solely to branch news. There are no 'views' to mention. Is this due to a lack of material perhaps?

I offer some thoughts on technical greenkeeper education as a follow-up to Jim Arthur's article on this subject in the November/December issue and Peter Wisbey's comments in October's *Out On The Course*.

Providing an opportunity for greenkeeper training at college is one of several benefits that can come out of sound management—staff relationships, staff accommodation, wage scales, clothing allowances and priority to course machinery and maintenance in club budgets are others.

Golf club committees run businesses; they are not likely to give continued preferential treatment to the workforce unless they consider such a policy a worthwhile investment.

Those responsible for a club's financial security and standing will always value and respect good greenkeepers who work together,

efficiently and conscientiously and keep open channels of communication with club officers.

The head greenkeeper/course manager can only act as a representative for the interests of all his staff if each member contributes to the team effort and approach by pulling his weight, standing independent on occasions and giving feedback to the head man.

So, let's all be prepared to promote ourselves and our profession. Only by this means can we and greenkeeping as an applied science have a secure future.

*David Merrills, Porters Park GC, Herts.*

## Shades Of The Past

Let me take you back to the beginning of the century with a few extracts from a club handbook that may be of interest. 'The letting of grazing for the season (1919) was considered by the committee and it was agreed that the greenkeeper should have the let for the season for the sum of £24.' Very cunning those old greenkeepers! As well as keeping the grass short, it was

fertilised at the same time and there was a plentiful supply of mutton for the winter.

Forget your modern grass-cutting equipment. For £30, the greenkeeper found a horse suitable for grass cutting. Presumably, it pulled a gang mower! A horse had a two-fold use, as it produced a ready-made supply of organic material to help make compost. At the end of the season, the farmer would buy the horse back from the club for £20.

There was no problem conveying sand and other material around the course as the greenkeeper purchased a secondhand wheelbarrow.

A number of golf clubs employed scythe gangs twice yearly to cut the grass. Golfers of old accepted vastly different conditions to their counterparts today—long grass and firm greens to name but two. But they adapted to the conditions and adjusted their shot-making accordingly.

As we approach the latter part of the century, things have certainly changed with machinery, fertilisers, watering systems, etc, etc. But have these modern inventions made our jobs any easier or more enjoyable?

*Jim Grainger, Ayrshire.*

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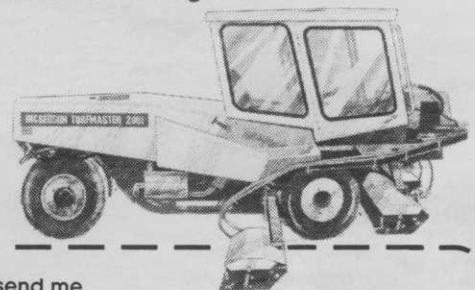
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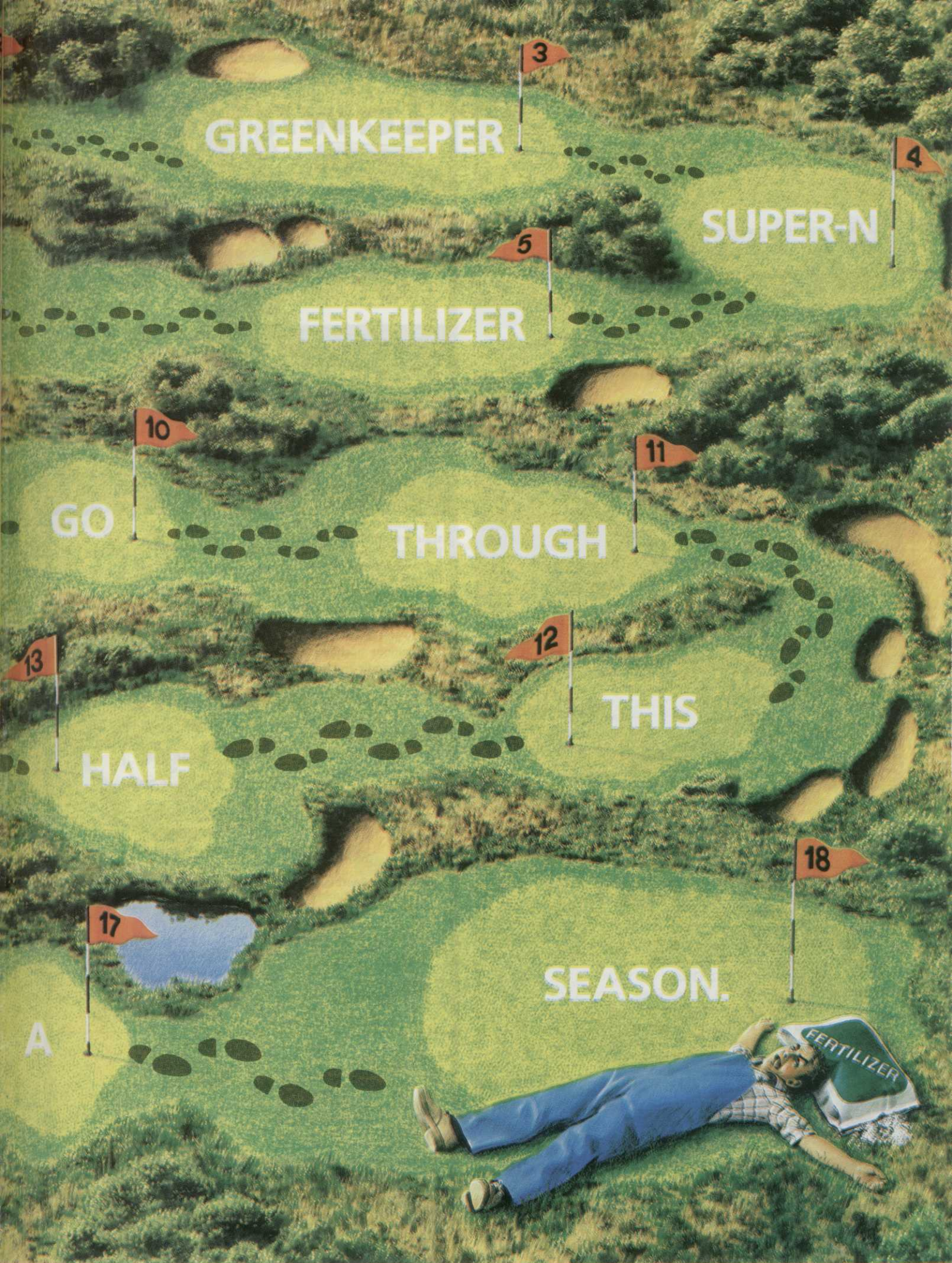
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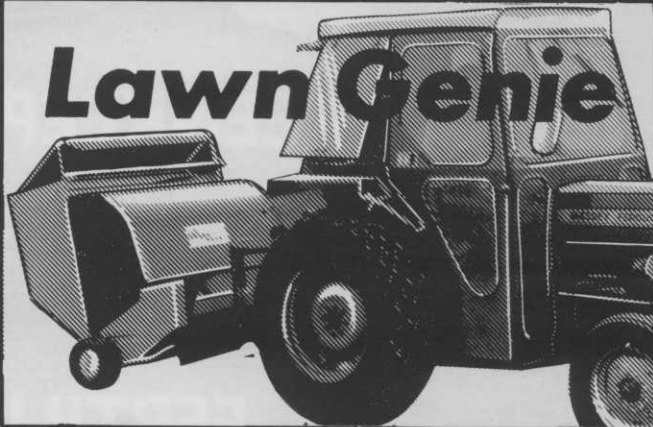
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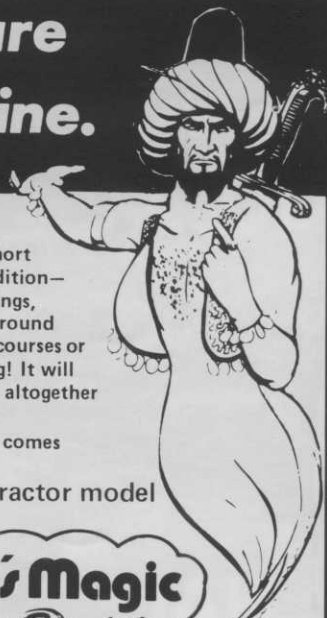


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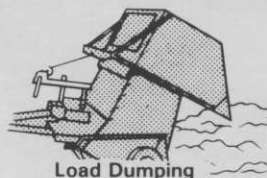
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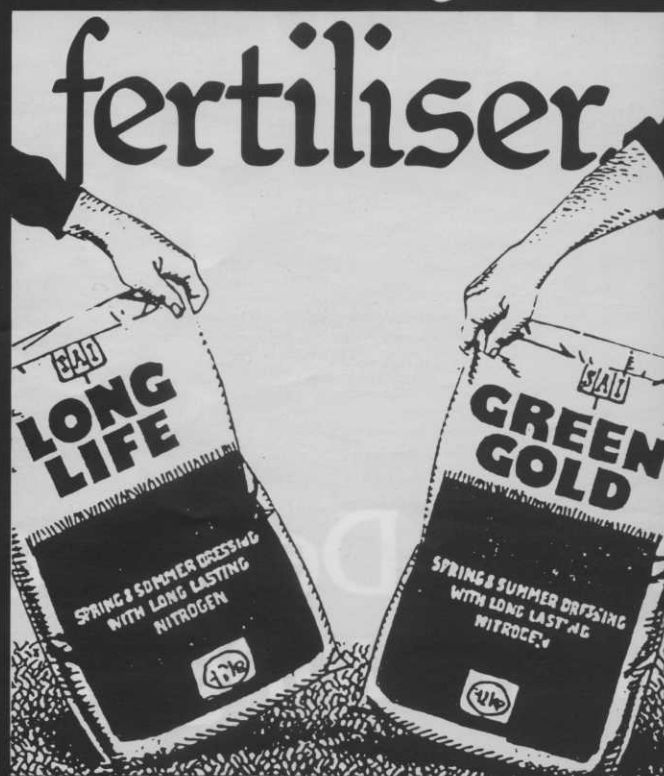
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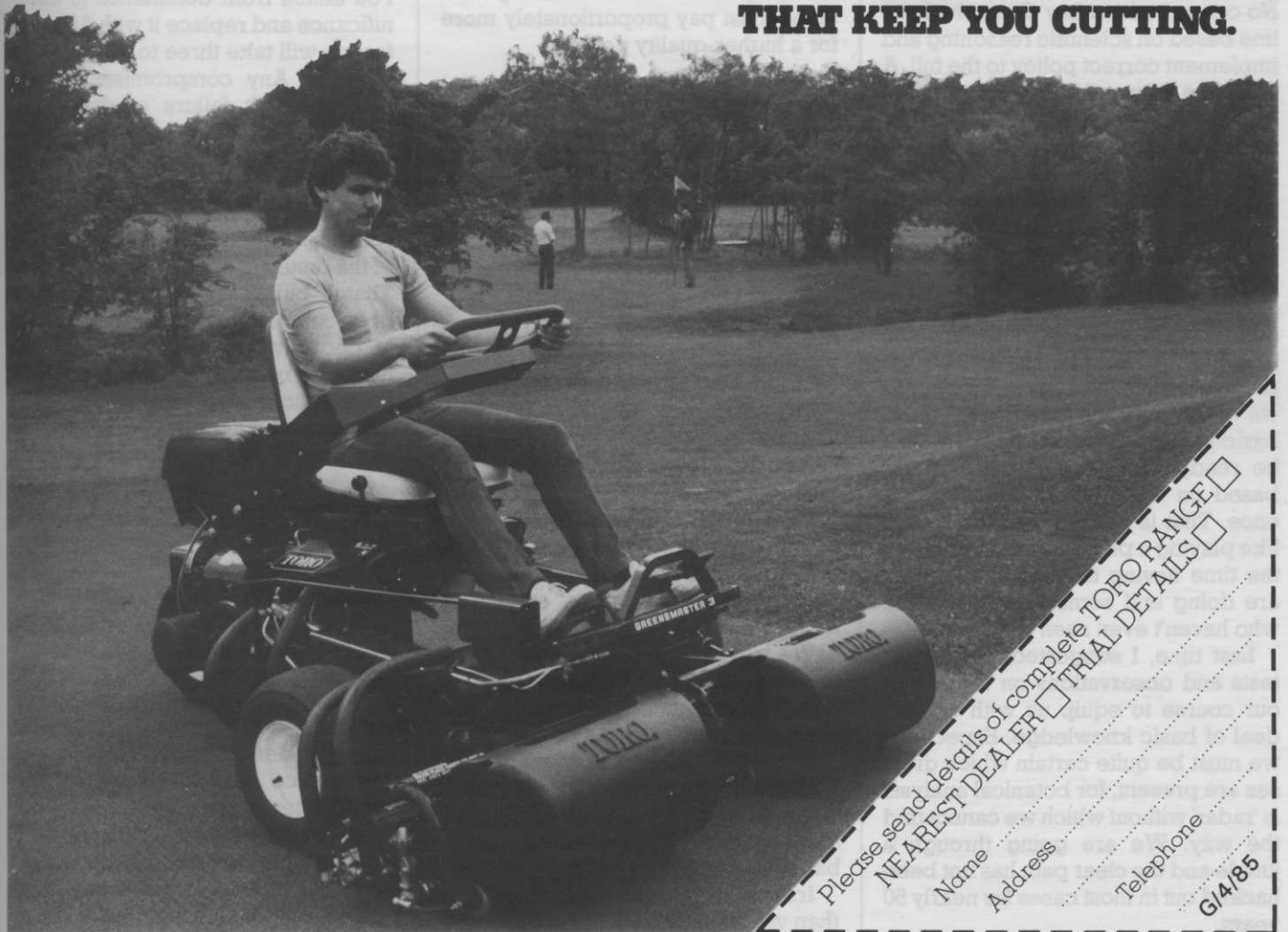


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# The reclamation of indigenous turf

**Eddie Park details the implementation of policy to remove thatch and *Poa annua*.**

WHILE writing this series, I have become ever more aware that events are rapidly overtaking us. Many greenkeepers have assured me that the arguments about policy are now less important. They find them easier to accept, but they are much more concerned about the golfers for whom they cater.

Their worry is how to live with the frequently unreasonable demands of members and committees. Their only refuge is to seek compromises and, as many are finding out, compromising with nature just does not work. I suspect we have yet to see the worst side-effects of some of the methods being used today.

So, let us look at this another way. No compromises! Lay down the hard line based on scientific reasoning and implement correct policy to the full. A sentence from a book by Sir Daniel Hall in 1909 is worth quoting: "The object of the scientific man should be to lay down principles which the practical man in his turn must learn to apply to his own conditions; success is only possible when he, too, does some thinking."

For us, the principles were laid down long ago, but we must do some thinking on all the details of implementation to achieve success. And we must not be deflected from these basic principles by anyone. We must be ready with proper explanations, based on the first principles of science. That is not easy. At times, it is like playing a piano concerto while all the time having to explain what you are doing and sometimes to people who haven't even seen a piano.

Last time, I suggested a series of tests and observations on the site of our course to equip us with a good deal of basic knowledge. Especially, we must be quite certain which grasses are present, for botanical analysis is 'radar' without which we cannot find the way. We are going through a jungle and the clear path has not been hacked out in most cases for nearly 50 years.

I regard qualified agronomic advice as essential, but it must be

genuine and well-based in science. The sort of superficially impressive stuff we sometimes read, which may concentrate purely on the soil and never even mention the grasses, is unlikely to help us.

Few people in the past 50 years have successfully achieved an agrostis/fescue sward, let alone maintained one when they have got it. So, we must immediately consider if we have the skilled manpower to complete this programme.

I have always believed that the majority of our present generation of head greenkeepers could, with a little extra training, carry out the function of full course managers. But it is difficult, worrying and time-consuming and clubs must pay proportionately more for a higher-quality person.

## Craftsmen

Additionally, an 18-hole course needs a minimum of four skilled craftsmen—not just pushers of mowers. Fine grasses require higher standards of treatment, more care in cutting and verti-cutting, extra time in more frequent top-dressing and skilled turf work as well as great care in the use and application of such chemicals and fertilisers as we still require.

Over-dosage means disaster, under-dosage means an expensive failure. Therefore, we must use better means of measurement and intelligent calibration of sprayers. Aeration must be effective and, yet, keep disruptions to a minimum. It can be done and quickly, but it does mean extra skill and care.

We will need to make better use of the sophisticated machinery we demand. That means higher standards in everyday machinery maintenance.

Obviously, we will save money on fertilisers, chemicals and, perhaps, watering equipment, yet we will need to spend it on staff, staff facilities and better machinery.

Irrigation is a much more skilled job than we have rated it in the past. The correct balance of water, allowing for varying permeability in different

areas of the green, the use of rain gauges, moisture meters, soil thermometers, weather forecasts, wetting agents, etc, all call for great judgement. We will have to spend the money if we want success.

To attract and keep top-quality staff, we must offer proper salaries and proper working conditions. Health and safety inspectors are already looking at golf clubs and they will demand not just safety-guards, belts and pulleys, but heated staff-rooms with cooking facilities, toilets, showers, etc. Too many clubs have been too mean for too long.

I think we must be prepared to make some estimate of the potential of the site based on an appreciation of its terrain and such vegetation as we could reasonably hope to achieve. Not every club has the potential of St Andrews or Sunningdale. (Or—dare I say it?—Carnoustie or Hoylake.) The members have a right to know what might be achieved and, equally, a right to know how long any remedial programme should take.

From my observations, a plan to remove thatch, if properly implemented, can be successful in little more than two years. A plan to reduce *Poa annua* from dominance to insignificance and replace it with *Agrostis/fescue* will take three to four summer seasons. Any compromises will be paid for with failure or greatly increased time.

Let us start on our programme. Thatch has been caused by an over-production of grass roots combined with a reduction in the decomposition of the resultant excess organic matter. Thatch builds up rapidly, especially over compacted soil, partly because of poor surface drainage, which inhibits the bacterial activity that should be decomposing the thatch. Fungicides and other chemicals, used too often, may have a similar effect.

So, really deep aeration carried out with great regularity will not only allow surface drainage, but get some air (and bacteria) into the thatch layer. The great trick is to push it hard enough, often enough and deep enough to get it over quickly. Undoubtedly, deep slitting is traumatic at first, but skilled men find ways of reducing surface damage and, as we get re-invasion by deeper rooting grasses, the disturbance is much reduced and slitting frequency becomes less.

Unhappily, too many clubs set their sights no higher than the destruction of thatch when the real joy is to go further and destroy the *Poa annua* as well.

Here we must pause and have

another good, hard think. The basis of our vegetation is the association of plants living together more or less in harmony with each other. This plant association has arisen, perhaps over a long period, from the particular mix of ecological factors affecting the site. Change the ecological factors and the plant association will change in a fairly ordinary manner under the influence of the laws of adaptation and natural succession. If the new environment is suitable, there will be infiltrations of new species that may become dominant.

The composition of the plant association may change markedly with some plants being ousted or much reduced in frequency. These things *will* happen, like it or not. Nature's laws are just as certain as, for example, Newton's law of gravity. The apple *does* fall to the ground—it *does not* fly off into mid air.

I am now the proud possessor of a considerable collection of old books on golf, lawns and sports turf stretching back for over 80 years. Again and again I read about the various ways of influencing environmental factors that were frequently suggested, especially in the cases of fertility and moisture. This interference with the environment was actually almost entirely for golfing reasons, yet it has usually been justified in agronomic terms. 'You can't grow grass and/or water,' sounds good agronomic sense to the layman, but it just is not true. In ecological terms, what this interference with the environment did was to ensure a change in the composition of plant association—usually to convert



A group of grass species. 1. Mixed bents. 2. Fescue. 3. Rye. 4. Common bent. 5. Poa and bent.

*Agrostis/festuca* to *Poa annua*.

Now we want to convert it back again and we must look closely at those ecological factors that caused the original change. By now, you might be saying: 'I wish he would stop going on about ecology and just give me a straightforward programme to follow,' which is exactly my point. If we are to use the changes in environmental factors to control our grasses, it is a subtle business with frequent changes in direction to accommodate the weather, volume of play, etc. It's a bit like a referee playing the advantage rule!

However, let us make a rough game

plan for when we start to reduce a *Poa*-dominated sward—minimum fertiliser, minimum water, maximum aeration—because *Poa* thrives on a compacted wet fertile sward and the very opposite suits the fine grasses. We must add to this good husbandry, as I have previously defined it, and good craftsmanship. Simple enough in principle, but where do you start?

First, let us clear up two common misunderstandings. We do intend to kill off as much *Poa annua* as we can, so don't let's kid ourselves or our members. Turf density will fall and we must explain that we are going to replace this coarse weed grass with something finer and better. Also, the harsh treatment we are imposing to achieve this will not have to continue with the same intensity once we are back to the finer grasses.

Rectification of faulty drainage may well be the first priority with deep slitting still my first choice for aeration. How deep? As deep as you can comfortably manage without problems of long tines bending. How often? Tees and greens fortnightly and fairways monthly. Try it out and you will get some idea in six months if compaction is being sufficiently reduced and soil structure improved. You will see if water is still ponding in heavy showers on the greens and also if they remain frozen for too long in winter.

Whether you can continue this treatment in drier weather depends largely on your members allowing it and your powers of persuasion. Certainly, do not use water to close opening slits.

*Continued overleaf...*



A comparison of root growth—*Poa* is on the left, *Fescue* on the right.

## Eddie Park Continued...

Perhaps the easiest thing is to stop buying fertiliser and even to sell off stocks that are not now needed. The treasurer quickly becomes an enthusiast! A little iron and ammonia plus some organics, costing well under £100, will be the only required supplements for the greens per annum.

However, I believe that good brought-in top-dressing is well worthwhile. The mixtures of Norfolk peat soil and sharp sand undoubtedly provide a low-grade fertility and even on the most unpromising soil we can gradually build up good greens, dressing them little and often (say, once a month in the growing season) at a cost of perhaps £2,500 per annum.

I know staff can provide free compost in the winter, but how free? Labour costs can be staggering and do you really have suitable ingredients? I would much prefer to see the winter working time devoted to conservation of the off-course environment. Too many courses are smothered by overgrown trees, hawthorn and bramble scrub. Neglect

of conservation in order to make compost is a false economy.

I would suspect that most of the foregoing is acceptable to many, for aeration and infertility are not hard to understand. However, I would suggest that if all this is done, and done fully, our attempts to reclaim indigenous turf will fail if we do not also rigidly control the amount and frequency of artificial irrigation.

I have acquired a good deal of practical experience in this subject and intend to devote most of my next article to it. I believe that, in the last 25 years, we have lost sight of reality, in quantity and frequency, of artificial watering. Changed objectives and methods must be combined with taking full advantage of mechanisation—men and machines must always be in a state of readiness for any task. There will always be that window in the weather when it is ideal for top-dressing, scarifying, aerating or whatever. Miss it and you may wait for weeks and dilute the ecological advantage you seek.

Every daily decision must be balanced and take into consideration: the golfer's demands (probably confused), aesthetic factors (very subjective), finance, greenkeeping technology and the environmental consequences. I have deliberately put these in ascending order of importance. The last is by far the most important and the most abused. And I did say *daily* decisions—therefore, committees can only make a limited input and they should realise that there are no easy options.

Finally, you may wonder if you can expect to see *Poa* dying out in droughts and in winter before an improvement is made in soil structure. Somewhat confusingly, after an improvement in soil structure, *Poa* looks greener in winter due to winter growth.

Initially, there will be a return on most sites of increasing colonies of *agrostis*—both *tenuis* and *stolonifera*. On the best sites, if watering is kept down, you will have small but invasive colonies of *fescue*. This will give a patchwork of differing colours of grasses, which is not to be judged solely by appearance, but by play in all conditions. We will return to these problems in a later article.

## GREEN

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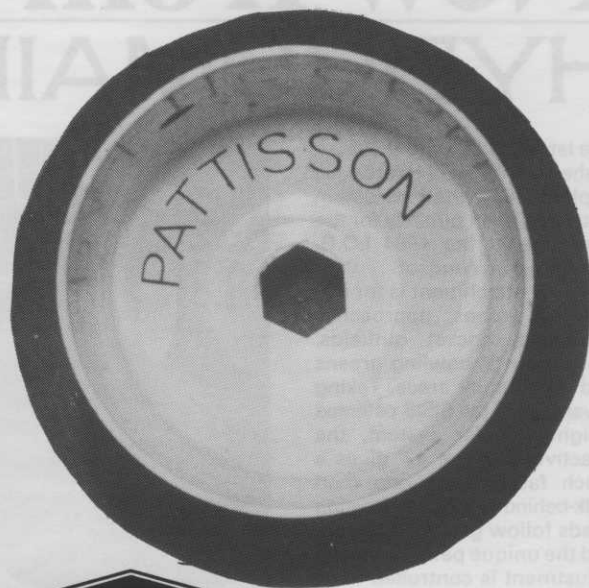
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# New from sisis for '85

## HYDROMAIN ROTORAKE

(PAT. APPL. FOR)

The latest addition to the comprehensive range of Hydromain implements is the Hydromain Rotorake, seen publicly for the first time at the 1984 I.O.G. Exhibition at Windsor.

The new attachment is for use on golf greens, approaches and tees, cricket outfields, tennis courts, bowling greens and all amenity areas. Taking advantage of the SISIS patented weight transfer system, the effective width of 42" gives a much faster work rate than walk-behind machines. Floating heads follow ground contours and the unique patented depth adjustment is controlled from the driver's seat.



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The need for a faster method of marking athletics tracks in one pass has been evident for some time.

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tank is rear mounted on a conventional tractor for good weight dispersion and holds sufficient material to mark several tracks. The front-mounted booms are easily folded for road transport between sites. Ask for separate leaflet.

### NEW AERATOR

Up to 12" penetration can now be obtained with a newly designed SISIS aerator incorporating their patented variable pressure frame for larger h.p. tractors.

This heavy duty aerator with 7ft effective width can be fitted with interchangeable tines: either sharpened slitting tines for normal ground conditions, including fine turf areas, or thicker heavy duty tines for extremely soft conditions. Suitable for tractors of 30hp and above. When ordering please specify make and model of tractor. The tractor requires additional spool valves, available from your tractor dealer. It is not part of the SISIS package.



### MARK II TRIO-ROTORAKE

A further improvement to the popular Trio Rotorake now incorporates larger diameter wheels, and an optional collector whilst retaining the

depth control mechanism and contra-rotating reels. All standard reels are interchangeable with existing Trio and Auto Rotorakes.

### Scarifying Heads for LITAMISA

A set of 4 scarifying units are now available for fitting to the ever popular SISIS 6ft Litamisa, for use on flat areas.

These are mounted alternately between standard brush units to give simultaneous scarification brushing and collecting across a 6ft. width. Care must be exercised on undulations.

These units can only be fitted to machines supplied since 1974/75. The shafts of the appropriate models are 2" square and previous models now 10 years old cannot be converted. When ordering please be sure to quote serial number (Not suitable for fitting to the 4ft sweeper).

### TWICE AS MANY HOLES PER SQUARE YD.

SISIS can now supply adaptors to fit the current model Autocrat. The adaptors accept pairs of 3" hollow tines with suitable connectors to fit existing machines. These give a closer hole pattern (approx. 2 3/4" centres) which is particularly useful for removing plugs of thatch.

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## Notebook

### Jacobsen in "New Deal"

In last month's issue we reported on the state of play concerning the distribution of Jacobsen machinery in the United Kingdom with Orag International featuring prominently — Orag having advised us that they had reached a "caretaker" agreement with Marshall Concessionaires.

This month reveals what looks like being the final chapter in the Jacobsen saga and an interesting and exciting one for U.K. users it has turned out to be. In an interview with Greenkeeper Lindsay Marshall head of Marshall Concessionaires gave us the up to date news "Marshall Concessionaires have after much detailed discussion reached a new agreement with the Jacobsen division of Textron. This for the first time gave us direct dealings with our Supplier - nobody in the middle. Jacobsen are giving considerable assistance to us with a new pricing structure which will mean reductions to dealers and thus to the customer - indeed a "new deal" all round. This I am sure will reassure our existing customers and interest many new ones".

Looking to the future Mr. Marshall advised that Jacobsen are actively engaged in examining ways of producing their equipment in Europe either by building their own plant or by acquiring an established manufacturer. There is also the possibility of licensing a company to manufacture their products on this side of the Atlantic. Textron have cash available for such a project and view Europe as a major area for future expansion.

Returning to the current U.K. situation Mr. Marshall confirmed that large quantities of spares for the full range have already arrived at Marshall's depot and containers of new machines are due shortly. He added "Jacobsen are the world leaders in professional turf equipment and they intend to get their share of the U.K. market. Worldwide they hold about two thirds of the greens cutting market with machines like the unbeatable Greens King IV. Already moves have been made with the first new Area Manager appointed our new advertising campaign started and Jacobsen are actively seeking more dealers and Area Managers for the Midlands and North.

We are of course very pleased with the outcome and through the support we have received from Jacobsen look forward to giving customers old and new a great "new deal".

**Lindsay Marshall at the Jacobsen Stand, G.C.S.A.A. Show Las Vegas 1984.**



### Monsanto Go Sonic with Lucky Mascot

In a further move to strengthen their already impressive coverage of the amenity chemical market Bolton based Rigby Taylor have signed a seven year agreement to market Monsanto's unique non residual total weedkiller Glyphosate, under the trade name "Mascot Sonic". This product up till now has been exclusively marketed by May & Baker Limited.

Commenting on this exciting development Rigby Taylor's Chairman Derek Phillips said "Glyphosate is a well established market leader and fully complements the existing Mascot range, whilst being backed by the considerable expertise and research and development facilities of an internationally respected company — Monsanto".

"Sonic" will now firmly establish Mascot as the brand leader in the highly specialised amenity chemical market, we as a company are naturally delighted and look forward to a long and successful co-operation with Monsanto".

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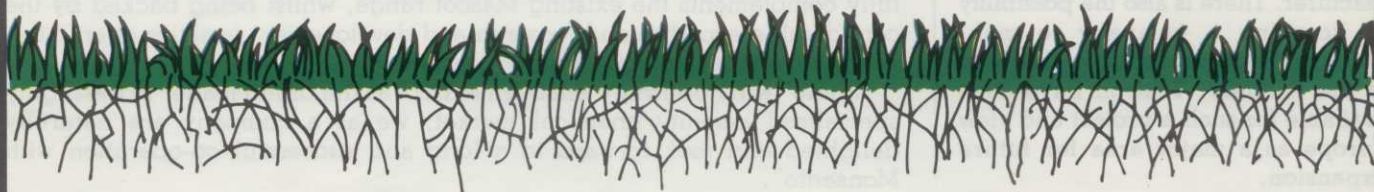
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one reverse gear with non-slip drive and separate disengagement.

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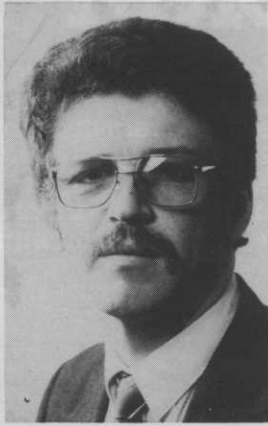
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## People, Places, Products



Nigel Gallop.

British Seed Houses has added Nigel Gallop to its technical team advising in the Midlands and South Wales. Nigel, qualified in horticulture and turf culture at the Mid-Glamorgan College of Agriculture and Horticulture, joins BSH from the National Sports Centre for Wales. He lives in South Wales and is married.

Kubota Tractors (UK) has appointed John Cook as general sales manager of its power products and engine division. John, 55, has worked in the industry for 30 years—previously, he was with Villiers Mag and Honda, where he was a member of the power products development team. John's hobby is football, having been a qualified referee for 23 years and a member of the Kent FA.

After representing Ransomes in the north for nearly 40 years, Glyn

Vaughan retired recently. He joined Ransomes as a messenger from school in 1938, but it wasn't long before he was serving in the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean and Pacific. He returned to Ransomes as a ledger clerk, later becoming a trainee lawn mower demonstrator and subsequently a grass machinery rep for the north in 1958 when he moved to Yorkshire. Glyn was appointed grass machinery field sales manager in 1977, a job he held until retirement. Glyn and his wife Lilian live in Knaresborough.

At a banquet held in Harrogate, attended by Ransomes' grass machinery dealers and the company's sales staff, Derek Smith of Henton and Chattell and Brian Skeen of B.Skeen Horticultural Machinery gave Glyn a set of golf clubs. Ransomes' sales director Guy Catchpole presented him with a cheque.

Glyn's successor is Richard Patchett. He joined Skipton Golf Club as a trainee greenkeeper, gained his City & Guilds in greenkeeping and sports turf maintenance at Askham Bryan College and was promoted to head greenkeeper at the age of twenty-one. Now 23, Richard marries in June. When playing golf regularly, his handicap is eight.

The IOG is to have a new national chairman. George Lane, head groundsman of the University of Bath and vice-chairman for the last two years, takes over from retiring chairman Norman Robb on April 11 at the institute's AGM. The new vice-chairman will be NEC member Ray Johnston, a foreman with Sefton council.

The third National Turfgrass Conference will be held at Nottingham University from September 25-27. For further information, apply to the NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ. ☎ 0274 565131 (day) or 0535 273188 (evenings).

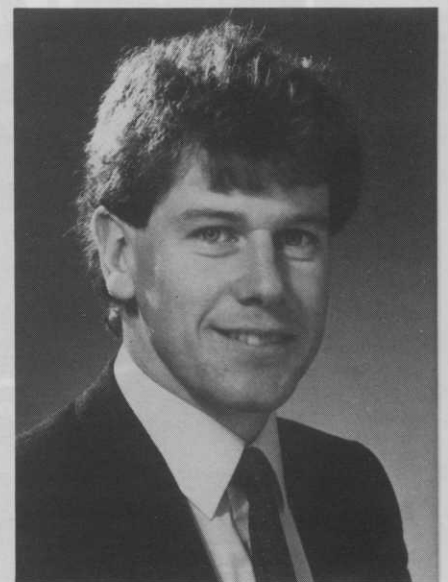
Steve Clement has joined Golf Landscapes as a construction supervisor. A graduate of Writtle College's amenity horticulture HND programme and, more recently, a landscape officer, he will initially control site operation on landscape and playing field contracts in the south and east.

Walter Woods, son of the St Andrews links supervisor, has joined the irrigation division of the company installing TORO equipment and systems in the south east and East Anglia. He commences work as an irrigation engineer at the Berkshire Golf Club, where Golf Landscapes is currently installing a TORO single head control irrigation system to the 36-hole layout.

The Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America is to hold a mid-year turfgrass conference and show at the Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis from September 19-24. It will feature seven of the GCSAA's most popular continuing education seminars, staff technician training courses, a national trade show, research conference, golf/turfgrass market research workshop, equipment demonstrations and a national golf championship to benefit turfgrass research.



At the celebration dinner, Derek Smith, Glyn and Lilian Vaughan and Brian Skeen.



Richard Patchett.

The seventh exhibition organised by the north-west zone of the IOG will take place at Ribby Hall Park, Wrea Green, near Blackpool on October 1 and 2. Over 100 companies took part in the 1984 event. Space application forms can be obtained from Ray Johnston, 9 Cedar Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 9AD. ☎ 051-525 7967 (day) or 051-525 9805 (evening).

Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex has been contracted to rebuild two more greens at West Kent Golf Club, Downe in the second phase of reconstruction works. Two greens were built last year to traditional methods, but the club has now chosen to rebuild the 6th and 10th by the Prunty-Mulqueen technique, undertaken exclusively in the south by the company.

The technique, which combines a free-draining rootzone mix with an intensively drained base, is claimed to show significant economies over traditional construction methods. The contract, which includes updating the irrigation system to TORO 650 series heads, is valued at nearly £16,000. Golf course architects to the club are Hawtree and Son.

Steetley Minerals has brought out a new Vitax Key Range booklet. Dealing with the various categories of feeds and fertilisers within this range, which was first introduced in 1981, its pages contain application details, a series of comprehensive tables of quantities required, a review of Key Range grass seed mixtures and the key to which 'Key' should be used for particular turfgrass areas. The free booklet is obtainable from Steetley Minerals, Vitax Department, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB.

At its recent AGM, the National Turfgrass Council decided to offer associate membership, allowing individuals or companies to have closer links with the work of the council. Previously, membership was limited to associations or other bodies representing particular sectors of the industry. Participants at the second NTC conference at Keele initiated the change.

Privileges of associate membership are a discount on attendance fees for NTC workshops and conferences, 20 per cent discount on the post-free prices of all NTC publications and a

newsletter. The annual fee for 1985 has been fixed at £15.

For membership or further information, write to the National Turfgrass Council, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

Kubota Tractors (UK) has received an order for 26 14hp G3HST diesel ride-on grass-cutters. J.E. Coulter of Mallusk, Northern Ireland is supplying the machines to the Northern Ireland housing executive (19 units) and Belfast city council.

### DALE HILL AND THE VERTI-DRAIN

Dale Hill Golf Club, Sussex has informed *Greenkeeper* that it has not sold its Verti-Drain machine as was stated in the March issue.

The club is actively engaged in aeration work on several other golf courses and full details can be obtained on Ticehurst 200112.

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## Fine Cut From The New Guard At The Tower Of London

A sixth Huxley TR66 Hydraulic Reelmower has been added to the machinery fleet of London's Royal Parks Division of the Department of the Environment.

Based at the Tower of London, the latest arrival joins TR66 mowers operated by staff at Regents Park, Hyde Park and Greenwich Park. All are mounted behind Ford 1210 Compact Tractors.

The TR66 triple reel mower, now cutting the Tower's 17 acres of grounds, has met with the approval of head gardener Stephen Bryer.

"Workrate has proved to be faster than the trailed gangmowers previously employed and, being mounted, the TR66 is far more manoeuvrable in restricted areas, producing a fine, uniform finish."

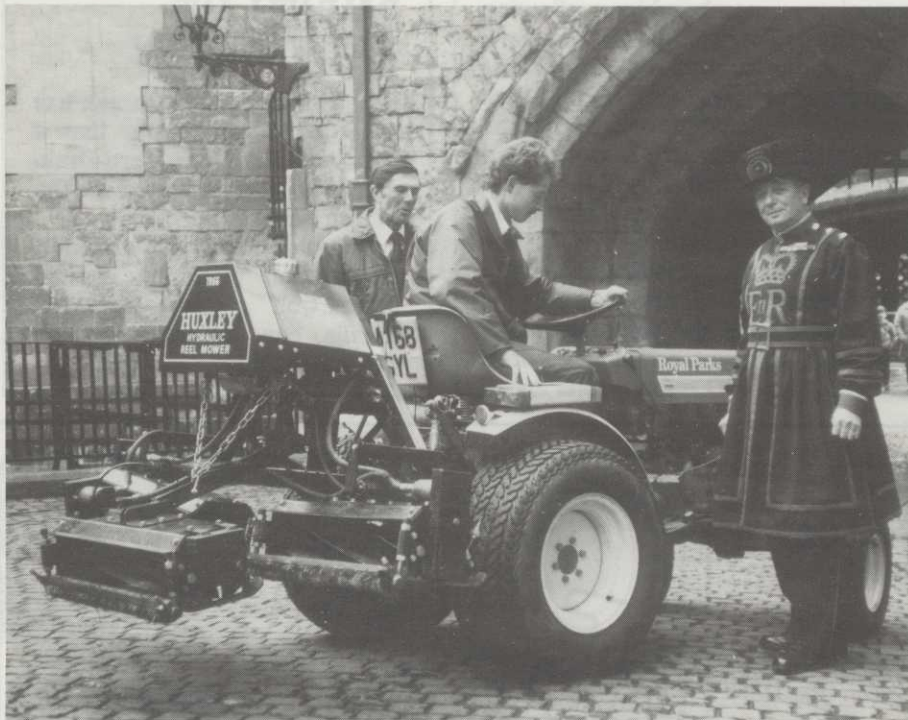
Although kept busy throughout the year, Stephen and his two assistants are at full stretch during the summer tourist season. Grass cutting is then the most important task, with one man on a tractor/mower combination and the others with pedestrian controlled machines.

Equipped with three, pivot-

mounted cutting cylinders giving an overall working width of 66in (1.68m), the Huxley-built triple reel mower has its own self-contained hydraulic drive system powered by a pump on the tractor's pto shaft.

To go to work, the operator simply connects the tractor's three-point linkage to the mower and slides the pump on to the pto shaft. Forward, neutral and reverse reel drive are selected by a three-position spool valve on the frame.

Suitable for most compact tractors in the 16hp to 24hp class, the TR66 weighs 432lb (196kg) and costs £2,995. Full details from Barry Huxley at Huxleys Grass Machinery, Hillside, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8JG. ☎ 0784 38666.



The Huxleys TR66 Hydraulic Reelmower keeps another royal appointment.

## Scots Invade English Market!

Reekie Engineering, the Scottish-based agricultural and grass machinery manufacturing company, has established a sales, distribution and assembly base at Witton, Birmingham. Operations include distribution throughout the UK of Bolens ride-ons, garden, lawn and estate tractors, Claymore commercial vergecutters and rotary mowers and Gloria nylon line trimmers and garden shredders.

Additionally, Claymore Grass Machinery (UK) is distributing on a local basis Green's Power Mowers and Green's-Hinomoto compact diesel tractors. Claymore intends to add its own designed and manufactured products. Full details from John Jebbett on 021-784 9498.

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## The PM Green Technique

Using sand in greens construction is not a new thing. Some of the most natural, oldest and traditional links are based on nothing else. Therefore, in modifying the Prunty Mulqueen construction system for winter games areas to golf green use breaks no new ground in principle, but adapts a highly successful and economical technique to a problem area in golf turfgrass.

Poor drainage is, after all, the fundamental problem in the UK—this was highlighted in Caroline Ward's 1982 STRI survey. It is the waterlogging of golf greens that puts them out of action on the majority of occasions. Intensive usage, heavy demand in poor conditions, impaired soil structures and inefficient maintenance intensify the problem. The result is inadequate infiltration of surface water leading to an unhealthy and undesirable growth of grass—in other words, thatch.

Temporary measures may be

undertaken to improve matters. These include slitting, deep spiking and sand injection, but it is much better to provide the right answer permanently.

The PM green uses the Prunty Mulqueen technique, specifically developed to remedy surface water drainage problems in turfgrass subject to intensive use. In such cases, play in poor conditions causes soil compaction which, when associated with heavy thatch, prevents water passing into the soil.

The PM green combines an intensive drainage system with a high sand content growing medium for putting surface turf. The technique was developed in Ireland primarily for soccer and rugby pitches and has been employed successfully many times over the past ten years.

Where appropriate, the existing turf from the putting surface is removed, as is any thatch layer. A piped drainage system is introduced into the formation and any drains present are connected into the new system. These laterals and main

drains will vary from green to green in intensity, spacing, etc, but are essentially installed 300-400mm below the formation.

Interlocking into these piped drains is a series of narrow slits, backfilled to the surface with porous material of known characteristics. Above this drained formation, a specially selected sand or a mix of sand and organic matter is spread to a depth of 100-150mm. This growing medium is prepared by hand for reurfing or seeding.

It is this combination of intensive drainage and highly permeable rootzone mix that allows a controlled permeation of water into the drains, so preventing puddling and waterlogging. A healthy growing environment for fine turf is promoted.

In every construction, it is essential that the new green is adequately watered and an integral part of any proposal would include the provision of a TORO pop-up system, either under block electric solenoid valve control or under single head valve-in-head control.

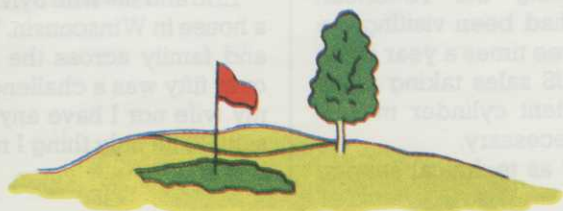
The main advantages of the PM green are:

- A simple construction method that enables poorly performing greens to be rebuilt with minimal disturbance and disruption to the course. When compared with other reconstruction techniques, significantly less material has to be removed or transported to the new construction over existing fairways.
- Intensive drainage and a free-draining growing medium, ensuring all-round play. Winter greens become a thing of the past.
- Against traditional reconstruction methods, cost savings of up to 30 per cent are possible. This may be equivalent to £2,000-£3,000 on each green rebuilt.
- Healthy growing conditions to promote the establishment of fescue and bent putting surfaces—the fine turf traditionally associated with golf in Britain.
- Easy and straightforward irrigation and nutritional management.

The construction technique is protected by a UK patent and, under a licensing agreement for Britain, the greens can now be found at Davenport GC, Cheshire; Shaw Hill G and CC, Lancashire; Ruxley GC, Kent and Telford New Town, Shropshire, where Wrekin council is developing a short golf course with greens based on this principle.

Further details from Howard Swan at Golf Landscapes on 0277 73720.

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## Recognition For The 360

A 1985 Design Council Award has been given to the Nickerson Turfmaster 360. Following detailed research, Nickerson Turfmaster designed a machine with a 70in wide cut and then spent three years developing and testing the 360.

"It has been a real success. We found customers wanted a more versatile machine than was currently available to cope with a variety of conditions, not only on golf courses, but wherever grass is grown in large areas. Other requirements for the machine were a high degree of manoeuvrability and economy of operation," Graham Templeton, the company's commercial director, said.

The judging panel noted Nickerson's attention to performance, safety and styling. Twenty-two winning companies will receive their awards from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire on May 2.

The 360 is able to climb nine-inch kerbs when moved from site to site and over ten acres can be cut on just three gallons of petrol. It is powered by an electric start 12hp petrol engine and has single rear wheel steering with four forward gears. Cutting speeds of 1, 3 and 5.5mph provide 252, 84 and 46 cuts per yard. The machine's low centre of gravity and three widely spaced wheels make it safe to operate on slopes of up to 25 degrees.

The operator can lift all three cutting cylinders without leaving the driving seat; two cylinders at the front and one in the centre of the machine with either five or seven blades

ensure a fine finish. The cutting units are fitted with counter balanced springs to allow the cylinders to float over undulating surfaces and provide an even cut. Height of cut can be changed easily without using tools.

Transport latches enable the cutting units to be folded inside the wheel track to make it easy to load the machine on to a small trailer.

The chassis is made from tubular steel and the body panels from glass

fibre. Designed and built in Britain, the Nickerson Turfmaster 360 costs £3,740. Optional extras include grass catchers and cabs with tinted glass.

• *As we went to press, the death of Nickerson Turfmaster's Matt Templeton from a heart attack was announced. The sympathies of Greenkeeper and his many friends in the industry are extended to his family and colleagues.*

## 'Our Man In America' Returns To Ransomes...



Back at Ipswich, Eric (right) talked to John Blackmore.

It is now three years since Eric Ramsey joined Ransomes' subsidiary in the USA. Eric recently returned to Ipswich for a brief visit and took the chance to meet up with old colleagues.

Prior to joining the American company, Eric had been visiting the States two or three times a year since 1966, but with US sales taking off, it was felt a resident cylinder mower specialist was necessary.

Now working as technical service

manager at Ransomes Inc, Eric celebrated 40 years service with the group while in the USA when, true to tradition, he was presented with a watch by the company's president Helmut Adam.

Eric and his wife Sylvia have bought a house in Winsconsin. "Moving home and family across the Atlantic when over fifty was a challenge and neither my wife nor I have any regrets," Eric said. "The only thing I miss is a pint of bitter!"

# 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.

**TORO**  
IRRIGATION  
PRODUCTS

Regional Distributor



TRITOX Turf Herbicide    New TRITOX Turf Herbicide    New TRITOX Turf Herbicide    New TRITOX Turf Herbicide



# TEST MATCH

## SCORE CARD

Tests show that new Tritox scores in every match.\*  
% weed control 4 weeks after application.

	Tritox	Brand leader
Plantain	89	74
Yarrow	97	91
White clover	89	74
Daisy	91	69
Mouse-ear chickweed	86	68

\* Turf weed control trial results — Levington Research Station

### 1st. Test: weed control

Extensive trials by Levington Research Station staff show that Tritox has a faster kill of common turf weeds — and it is effective against 'difficult' weeds such as knotgrass. They're not just knocked out — they're dead.

### 2nd. Test: value for money

Tritox proves so efficient there is less need for a second application. You use less product, less time, less labour — and save money.

### 3rd. Test: formulation

Tritox has been approved under the Agricultural Chemical Approvals Scheme, an independent endorsement of product efficacy. The active ingredients are MCPA, Mecoprop and Dicamba.

### 4th. Test: packaging

Tritox is easy to handle and apply. It comes in sturdy 5-litre and 20-litre polythene containers. We even attach the instruction leaflet so that it's always at hand.

### 5th. Test: distribution

Tritox is widely available through Fisons national network of stockists.

This is the breakthrough in weed control you've been waiting for.

Put it to the test!

**FISONS**  
Horticulture

TRITOX is a trade mark of Fisons plc.  
Fisons plc, Horticulture Division,  
Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4BZ

**NEW**  
**TRITOX**

SELECTIVE TURF HERBICIDE  
Proved better in the field

## Walkover Declared



With sales of soluble and liquid products on the increase, there is a need for equipment other than watering cans and hose-end dilutors to apply these products quickly and accurately over medium to large areas.

The new Walkover Whippet at £48 (plus VAT) is now on the garden market following field trials in the amenity turf sector, where its 24in big brother has provided the country's professional groundsman with a cost-saving piece of spray equipment.

The Whippet, with its 12in spray pattern, has a light but durable chassis plus a ten litre container mounted on wheels. It is capable of covering 100 square yards in five minutes.

Full details from Walkover, 21 London Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5DF. ☎ 0223 842726/844288.

## New Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures Now Available

Hunters of Chester is now offering two lawn seeds, Supreme and Sovereign, which are also suitable for golf and bowling greens and cricket squares. Supreme is made up of 70 per cent Frida chewings fescue and 30 per cent Highland brown top bent, while Sovereign contains 50 per cent Dawson slender creeping red fescue, 30 per cent Waldorf chewings fescue and 20 per cent Highland brown top bent.

Other mixtures in the range include Sports lawn seed (golf tees, tennis courts, hockey fields and cricket outfields), Outfields mixture and Sportsfield renovation mixture

## Four More For You

Supaturf Products has launched four new products.

Fertiliser SSP/SR (15-4-4) is formulated to reduce frequency of application and, by containing part of its nitrogen content in the form of IBDU, gives slow-release properties and resistance to leaching. The nutrient-release pattern is geared to the nutritional needs of the turf and makes optimum use of available plant foods. Phosphate and potash are included in a balanced ratio to encourage healthy and even turf growth.

Supaturf No 7 Grass Seed is recommended for heavily worn fine turf areas. Fescues and Browntop combine to form a compact fine-leaved sward with good drought tolerance. The inclusion of turf-type ryegrass perennials gives rapid establishment, high-wear tolerance and strong root structure.

Regulox K offers up to 14 weeks control of all grasses including Ryegrass. The new improved formulation controls production of grass seed heads and promotes production of finer grasses in sward. If required, it can be mixed with selective weedkiller. Regulox K gives five to seven weeks control for the following spring when sprayed during autumn.

Finally, Atrinal Plant Growth Regulators for pot plants, hedges, ground cover plants and ornamental shrubs cuts maintenance costs by reducing mechanical trimming of hedges and shrubs, promotes branching and improves shape by enhancing foliar cover on lower, often stripped parts. ☎ 0733 68384.

(soccer and rugby pitches).

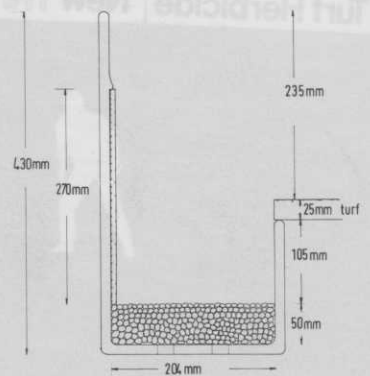
Completing the line-up is Wasteland general mixture, which provides a quick green cover and can be grazed or mown.

With this mixture, it is recommended that Hunters' Fix 'n' Grow clover inoculant be used to ensure good clover establishment.

Prices range from 73p/lb for Wasteland general mixture to £1.40/lb for Supreme lawn seed and quantity discounts of up to 20 per cent are allowed on orders of more than 110lb.

For further information, contact Brian Hunter on 0422 823787 or Peter Hunter on 0244 47574.

## Channel News



A cross-section of the new ditch channel from Wener And Longstaffe.

A new bowling green ditch channel, designed to comply with the laws of the game, has a high-backed gully made from glass reinforced cement. This two metre unit, weighing about 37 kilos, is quickly installed and easy to handle compared to the normal two foot precast concrete sections. Four corner units are available to complete the set.

From Wener and Longstaffe Amenity Landscaping, the ditch channel gives a 235mm difference in height from the top of the green to the top of the bank. This allows for turf to be placed over the low side and, so, protects the woods as they fall into the gully.

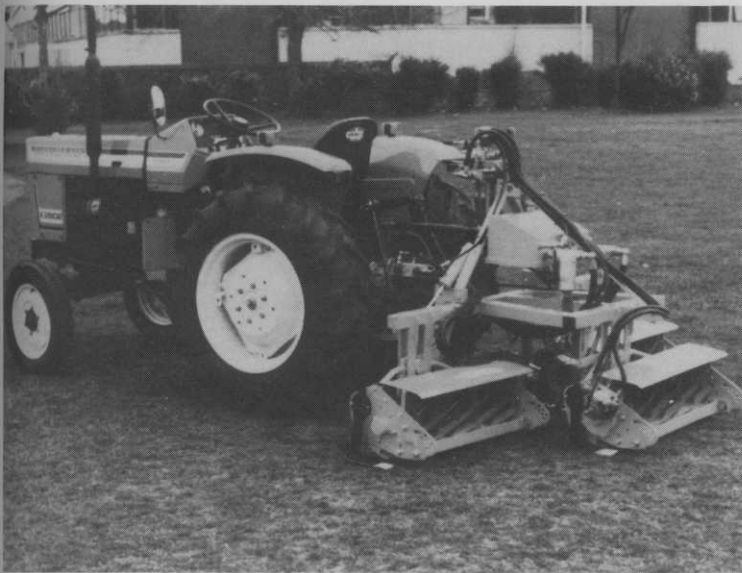
It is available as part of a package enabling clubs to buy the channel complete with synthetic grass backing (to further protect the woods), adhesive and infill. Low-backed gullies are also available in glass reinforced cement.

Prices and further information from Wener And Longstaffe, Amenity Landscaping, First Floor, 33 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5UW. ☎ 01-441 0189.

## For Safety's Sake

The Health and Safety Executive has published a new guide to the Poisonous Substances in Agriculture Regulations, which came into operation last August. Clearly illustrated, it provides advice for all who work and distribute pesticides, whether self-employed, an employer or an employee.

A Guide To The Poisonous Substances In Agriculture Regulations 1984, from HM Stationery Office or booksellers, costs £4.20.



**HYDRAULIC HY-RANGER**  
Triple (7 ft.) & Quintuple (11 ft. 6 ins.)



**RANGER TRAILED & HY-RANGER MOUNTED GANGS**  
30 ins. & 42½ ins. gangs to give large choice of cutting widths

In the battle to maintain fine grassed areas, there is no finer weapon than a GREEN'S mower. Every machine is built to cut in even the worst conditions and built to last.

Every machine is designed for minimum maintenance and when that seasonal maintenance is required our watchword is accessibility.

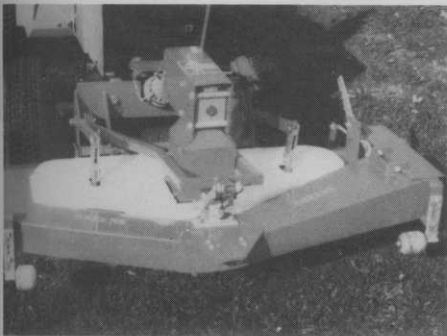
When a spare part is needed our central stores pride themselves on being able to deliver that part within 24 hours (often for machines much older than their operators!).



We can help make your task easier, and more cost effective. Call us for information and advice, and the address of your nearest stockist.



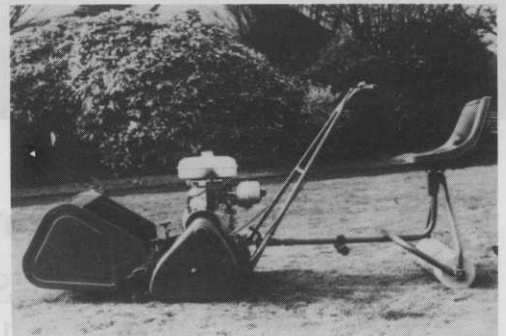
**HYDROSTATIC GREENSMaster**  
30 ins. & 36 ins. cutting width



**HINOMOWER ROTARY**  
Front & Mid-Mounted  
49 ins. cutting width



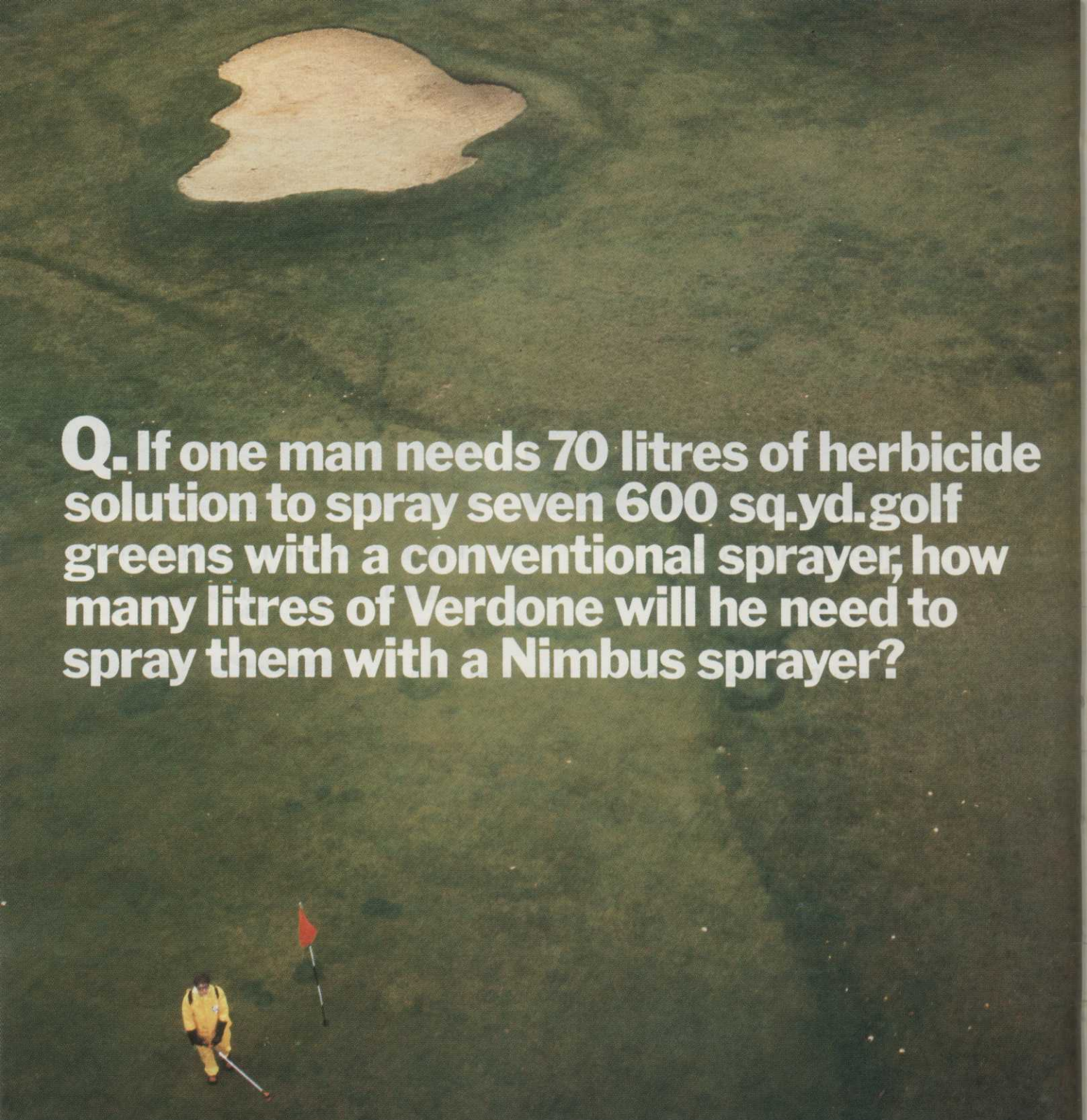
**HINOMOWER 398**  
Hydraulic cylinder mower  
on C17 Hinomoto tractor



**ZEPHYR**  
Standard & Superfine

**ARBROATH**  
SCOTLAND DD11 3DR, U.K.

Telephone (0241) 73841  
Telex 76559

An aerial photograph of a golf course. At the top, there is a large, irregularly shaped sand trap. Below it, a person wearing a bright yellow protective suit is walking on a green, holding a long-handled tool. A red flag on a pole is visible nearby. The background is a vast expanse of green grass.

**Q. If one man needs 70 litres of herbicide solution to spray seven 600 sq.yd.golf greens with a conventional sprayer, how many litres of Verdone will he need to spray them with a Nimbus sprayer?**

**A. 5 litres.** How do you make that out?

Well, it's quite simple really: the Nimbus is vastly more efficient, quicker, cheaper and easier to use than any other spray system.

It has a battery driven atomiser disc that distributes droplets of oil based herbicide of exactly the right dimensions – 200-300 microns (at maximum spray width).

That makes the Nimbus far more efficient simply because less of the spray drifts away or drips off the plant.

In fact it uses the herbicide so sparingly that 5 litres can cover up to half a hectare of ground. That's how it manages to work out so much cheaper.

And because one back-pack full of herbicide goes so far the chap using it doesn't have to continually stop and refill. That's the main reason why the Nimbus works out so much quicker.

Even when he does stop and refill the task's a lot easier than usual: the three controlled droplet application (c.d.a.) herbicides for the Nimbus come pre-packed and ready for use straight from the pack. There's no need to cart large volumes of water around, no measuring and mixing and no need to carry a large tiring back-pack of diluted herbicide.

Bullseye c.d.a. is a total herbicide ideal for early season application to roads, footpaths and uncropped land.

Snapper c.d.a. is a total herbicide ideal for use from April onwards on the same sort of ground.

Verdone c.d.a. is a selective weedkiller ideal for late spring and summer use on established greens and other turf areas.

(All three will be available from January '85.)

Which just about covers everything from the club car park to the 18th hole.

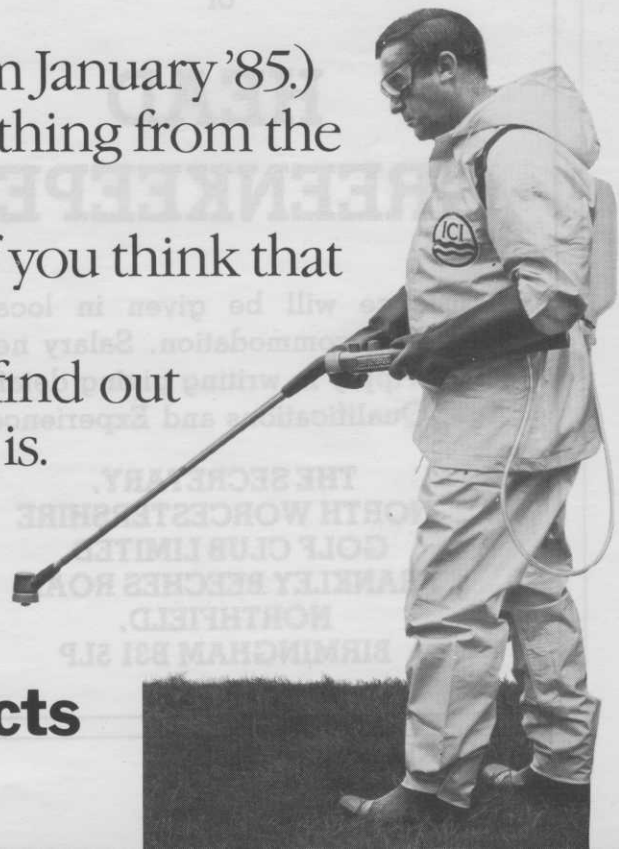
Q: What should you do next if you think that all sounds like a rather neat idea?

A: Get in touch with ICI and find out where your nearest Nimbus dealer is.

Contact: Farnham  
(0252) 724525.



**Professional Products**



## GARESFIELD GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

from persons of proven ability and experience in all aspects of course maintenance, who have a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance and the ability to direct and motivate staff.

Salary circa £6,300. Rented accommodation may be available.

*Applicants should apply in writing, giving brief details of prior experience to:-*

**THE HONORARY SECRETARY,  
GARESFIELD GOLF CLUB,  
CHOPWELL,  
TYNE & WEAR. NE17 7AP**

## CHESTERFIELD GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully qualified, experienced, able to show proven ability in all aspects of golf course maintenance in addition to being capable of supervising staff.

Preference will be given to persons holding the National Diploma in Turf Culture or the relevant City & Guilds Certificate.

The successful applicant will be offered a service tenancy of a detached house located on the site.

Salary negotiable.

*Applications in writing to:-*

**The Honorary Secretary,  
Chesterfield Golf Club,  
Walton,  
Chesterfield S42 7LA.**

## THE NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE GOLF CLUB LIMITED

Applications are invited for the position  
of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Assistance will be given in locating suitable accommodation. Salary negotiable. Apply in writing giving details of Age, Qualifications and Experience to:

**THE SECRETARY,  
NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE  
GOLF CLUB LIMITED,  
FRANKLEY BEECHES ROAD,  
NORTHFIELD,  
BIRMINGHAM B31 5LP**

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

required by

## REDDITCH GOLF CLUB

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of turf management including the use of greenkeeping machinery, and possess the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Accommodation

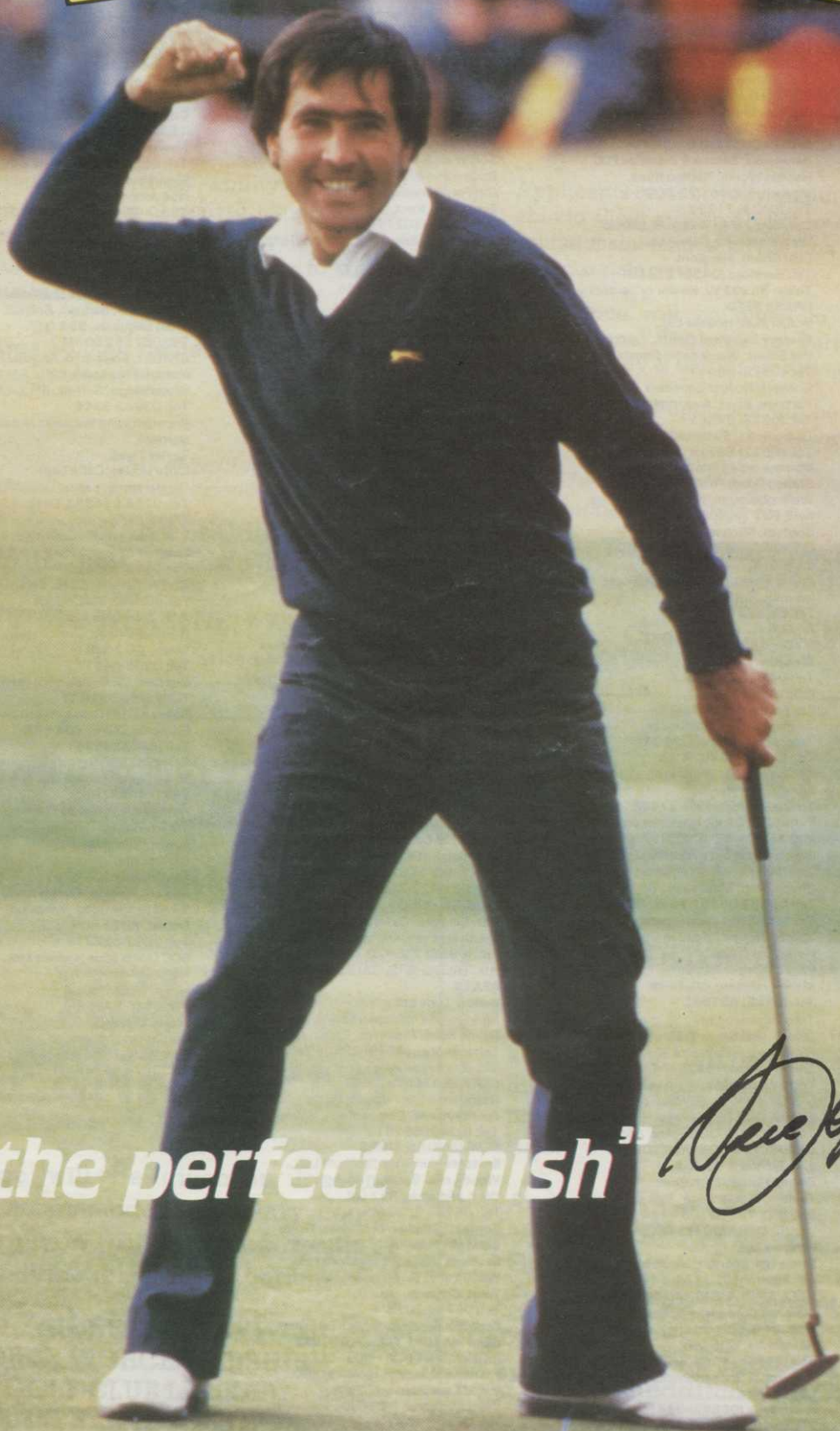
Godd Salary

*Apply in writing giving full details of experience to:-*

**The Secretary,  
Redditch Golf Club,  
Green Lane,  
Callow Hill,  
Redditch,  
Worc's. B97 5PJ**



# MASCOT



*“For the perfect finish”*

*Peter Baker*

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Unit 9A, Warwick Industrial Estate,  
Budbrooke Road, Warwick CV34 5XH  
Tel: (0926) 401444,

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