

AUGUST 1985

Greenkeeper



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



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This issue

AUGUST 1985

Front cover: *The Royal & Ancient Clubhouse, St Andrews. From October 6—9, the historic home of golf hosts the 5th International Golf Tournament and Conference for Greenkeepers and Superintendents. Sponsored by Ransomes, an application form is included in this issue and details can be found on page 6.*

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Greenkeeper

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What a week!

THE 1985 Open Championship saw the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association represented for the first time at this prestigious annual event. Our hospitality marquee was hosted by members of the board of management and available to EIGGA members and non-members alike.

On behalf of the EIGGA executive, I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to the R & A, which was most generous in its contribution of a superbly positioned site.

Thanks are also due to *Greenkeeper*, the main sponsor of the marquee, and its publisher Michael Coffey, who is also a trustee of EIGGA.

Further sponsorship was given by national company members Ransomes, SISIS, Lely Import and T. Parker & Sons. We gratefully acknowledge the support these companies gave the association.

EIGGA sends its congratulations to Royal St George's and all those involved in staging the Open. Particular mention must be made of head greenkeeper Derek Scarborough and all his green staff for the course's fine condition.

Finally, my thanks go to my colleagues on the EIGGA board of management who manned the marquee — particularly national chairman Bill Lawson and Michael Coffey, who both worked extremely hard throughout the week.

Danielle Jones, EIGGA General Administrator.

THE initial reaction upon arriving at Sandwich was sheer pride at the sight of EIGGA and *Greenkeeper* flags flying high over the big marquee set in a prime position.

The first people I met were Michael Coffey and his wife Anthea before going on to meet Peter Wisbey at his home club North Foreland.

As the week went by, we had many visitors from all parts of the world, plus old friends such as Mr and Mrs Jack McMillan, Mr and Mrs Joe McKean, Jim Arthur, Dr Peter Hayes and Nick Park. The Press corps was well represented by editors Robin Stewart (*Greenkeeper*) Malcolm Campbell (*Golf Monthly*) and John Lelean (*Golf Greenkeeping And Course Maintenance*), as well as *Greenkeeper's* regular contributor John Campbell. It was also good to see Peter Wilson and Peter Dutton of the English Golf Union.

When Sunday finally arrived, everyone felt that all we set out to do had been achieved and followed the high standard set by SIGGA at last year's Open.

I would like to add my thanks to all the EIGGA board of management who took days out of their annual holidays to do a stint in the marquee and my special thanks go to president David Low for spending the full week with us and SIGGA member Frazer McNeill, who was also a loyal supporter throughout the week.

Bill Lawson, EIGGA Chairman.



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N.B. Registration Forms must be returned to the above address no later than 31st AUGUST, 1985.

First 300 registrations are guaranteed attendance, a ballot will operate thereafter.

ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND: Greenkeepers, Superintendents, Golf Club Officials on receipt of the relevant remittance by the pre-set date above.



Get Set For St Andrews!

The organising committee of Walter Woods, John Wilson, James Neilson, Chris Kennedy, Joe McKean, Scott Forrest and James Kidd has arranged a full programme for the 5th International Golf Tournament and Conference for Greenkeepers and Superintendents at St Andrews from October 6-9.

The events start on Sunday with registration at the Russacks Marine Hotel and an evening reception. Monday's practice for the international teams — SIGGA, EIGGA, the BGGGA, GCSAA, CGSA, the International Greenkeepers' Association will be represented — an afternoon Stableford and an evening Haggis and Neeps Supper Dance.

Tuesday is conference day, with papers from David Jones, Russell Brown, Gordon Childs, Nick Park, Rolf Lowgren, the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Association and the US Green Section, followed by a modern dance night. And the ladies haven't been forgotten — a full day's tour to Glamis Castle sets off at 9.30am.

Wednesday is the big one as far as golf is concerned! The 36-hole Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Team Golf Tournament will culminate with a flags lowering ceremony to a pipe band and team presentations. Ransomes invitation-only banquet includes the prize-giving ceremony.

An application form is included in this issue and full details can be obtained from Joe McKean on 041-427 4242.



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WE LIKE to think our picture says something about this young lady's intelligence, rather than the magazine's content! Four-month-old Lorna Paterson looks set to follow in dad's footsteps. Scott Paterson is a member of SIGGA's West section.

"I look forward to reading *Greenkeeper* every month,

but lately I've been forced to wait a couple of days before Lorna releases my copy." Scott said. "She snatches the magazine from my hands the moment I pick it up and she can't wait for the next edition. Neither can I — if I can get hold of it!"

Obituary — Bob Scott

After a short illness, Bob Scott died recently in an Aberdeen hospital.

Bob was the quietest of men, who began his working career as an apprentice blacksmith in the family business, but later, having been born and brought up in the mining district of Lanarkshire, he worked down the pit.

During this period, he played golf to relax and helped out on a nine-hole golf course at Rigside. He was a scratch player at the age of eighteen, and held that standard for some 30 years.

His love of the game inspired Bob to become a greenkeeper. He subsequently became the complete pro, with a career spanning 25 years at Rigside, Arbroath, Drumpellor, Hilton Park and, and for his last 15 years, Murcar Golf Club in Aberdeen.

To his wife Jean, daughter and son Tom, who is carrying on the family tradition in the bowling green contractual field, we tender our deepest sympathy, but express our appreciation for the time Bob always found for the younger members of the profession.

James Kidd, Estates Manager, Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses.



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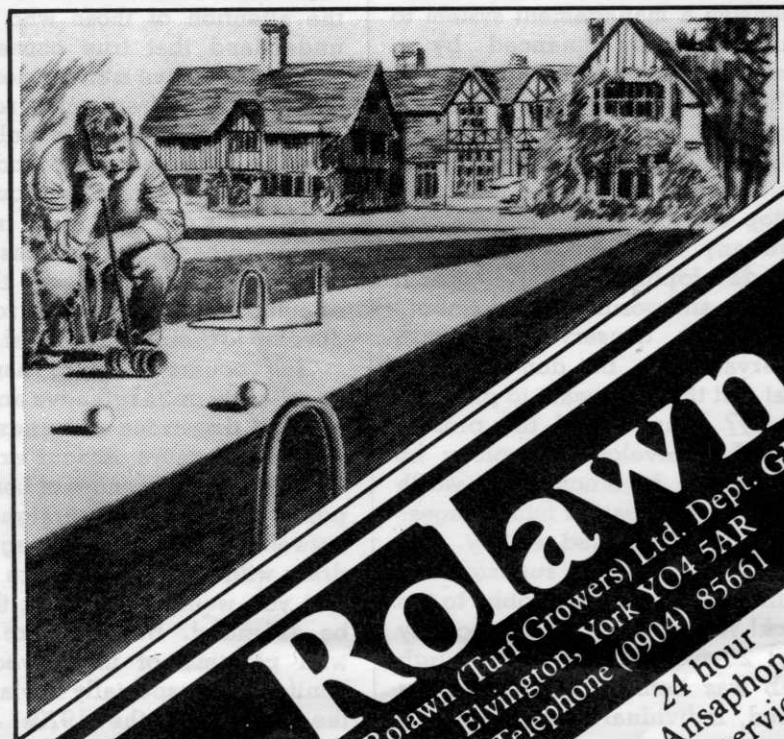
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CONSERVATION OR PRESERVATION?

VIRTUALLY all the most admired natural scenery in all its wide variety in Britain is the result of man's activities, directly or indirectly." Another "dogmatic Arthurian statement?" No, the view of one of the leading authorities in this country on conservation and national parks!

It seems a bold statement. What about the thousands of acres of northern heather moors? Not much would survive without regular muir burning or swaling (depending on which side of the border you come from), either for grouse moors or hill sheep farming.

Certainly, the primrose woods of my youth seem almost a thing of the past. This, despite the opinions of well-meaning, but misguided, conservation activists, is not due to picking the flowers (though perhaps mass digging up of roots is another matter), rather the end of coppicing, which left open, cleared woodland, coppiced stumps and spaced standards that rapidly colonised with primroses and bluebells in response to light and air — only for them to be suppressed when the coppices regrew on a seven to 14-year cycle.

Coppicing ceased when the market for poles, hurdles and other rural products ended. It is far too expensive a management system to maintain unless financed by a demand for the end product.

The problem with conservation is that it has become highly emotive and its chief protagonists seem to be urban country lovers who want to stop the clock! You cannot preserve any status quo in a living and developing ecology without intensive and positive management.

So, many conservationists are preservationists, but don't know it! What is it that they want to preserve anyway? Why should the present state of a developing ecology be regarded as so much more worth preserving than past or future stages?

Golfers are as bad as any. The sound of a chain-saw summons the battling conservationist lobby to the attack! We even had a case recently when 20-year old rubbishy, birch scrub was being cleared, leaving spaced, individual mature oaks, in the process of course extension and alterations, of the local con-

servationists seeking a tree protection order for the stumps! And this despite the fact that full planning permission and felling certificates had been obtained, with the full approval of the official conservation body which, like me, regard birches as a self-seeding weed!

Heathland courses are almost unrecognisable by comparison...

If you look at the photographs of many of our famous heathland courses taken at the turn of the century, they are almost unrecognisable by comparison with their present state. Most of our heathland 50 or more years ago was kept free from colonisation by trees due to a massive rabbit population — even if it was not grazed — but rabbits have been decimated by myxomatosis and intensively controlled.

Birch especially has alarming invasive powers and will soon convert open heather into uninteresting birch scrub, with self-competing and smothering 'weeds' struggling to survive, none being able to come to full maturity. Unless the problem of invasion is tackled at an early stage, it becomes prohibitively expensive and, of course, attracts the attention of those who cannot understand that true conservation demands positive management.

Hence, my frequently repeated requests to members to pull out a seedling birch on every round and to 'fell a tree in '83 and fell four more in '84.' This does not mean indiscriminate clearance. It does mean selective thinning to leave the best selected maturing trees room to develop to their full potential.

Golf course planting has been appallingly unimaginative and often has had disastrous and unexpected results. The more obvious examples — for example, avenues of Lombardy poplars planted in straight lines between fairways, blocking every drain with their roots — are so bad that you would not expect them to be defended. But they are! This, with planting of unrelieved dark conifers and especially *Leylandii* — the 'privet' of the 1970s — are examples of planting anything if only to get a quick effect.

Capability Brown could never expect to see much of his planting come to maturity, yet his belief in natural landscaping altered the whole concept of landscape architecture in England for centuries.

In passing, I do find it slightly alarming to see numerous trees that I planted 30 years or more ago! But this emphasises the speed at which trees grow and if you plant forest trees, you must try to envisage how big they will be in, say, 50 years time and give them room.

The best parkland courses are not noted for masses of individually spaced, majestic, mature specimens, which replace bunkers as natural hazards — with the course designed around the mature trees and not the other way round!

Perhaps as bad in my book is the unaesthetic planting of trees totally out of place — flowering cherries, etc, on open heathland courses. I once mentioned that a flowering cherry, planted by the 18th fairway in memory of a departed captain, was as much in place as his tombstone would have been. The next year, I saw, with some incredulity, a concrete plinth with bronze 'in memoriam' inscription near one green, behind which a liquidamber had been planted!

It has always been my main theme, both as a landscaper and conservationist (and in both schools, incidentally, I am professionally qualified) to work with nature, to produce a natural environment and to control that environment by positive management. Just as in large industrial landscaping schemes, my aim was to plant too closely to start with, thus having surplus maturing stock from subsequent thinning out operations to form the basis for the next stage of development. Planted or natural woodland is always in need of thinning out.

Quite apart from the need to aid turf management by increasing light and air, we must give a few individuals the chance to mature fully, rather than refuse to cull surplus trees and so end up with a mass of choked, distorted and self-smothered specimens.

How often do we see plantings — especially of conifers — which,

under the care of professional arboriculturalists, would have been thinned and brashed and managed, left to their own devices so that only the peripheral trees could develop to any satisfactory state, and one-sidedly at that, while the inner trees are mere etiolated beanpoles, with a tuft of foliage at the top, if not dead?

I am saddened by the opposition of a sizeable proportion of the conservation world to the establishment of new golf courses on the grounds of disturbing natural environments. By most people's management and standards, fairways today no longer receive granular, inorganic fertilisers; massive applications of lethal cocktails of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are not applied on a routine basis and positive management ensures the survival far more efficiently of the very habitat conservationists fear will be destroyed by pollution or traffic.

Golf courses, in fact, make excellent conservation areas and, indeed, many of the hundreds that I have advised take positive action to look after special local fauna and flora under threat, whether this be natterjack toads or rare orchids. Badgers, incidentally, are safer on a golf course than anywhere in Britain, though, thankfully, mass gassing and eradication as part of a campaign against recurring bovine T.B. has hopefully stopped.

The rough of any golf course is probably only bettered by one other environment regarding the absence of disturbing humans and that is motorway verges.

What is more important is that golf courses both prevent agricultural exploitation of our heathlands and reduce trespass and disturbance. I often think the greatest enemies of birds are bird-watchers — especially the army of twitchers who descend on some previously unspoilt habitat, or even someone's garden, to merely say they have seen some rare vagrant!

Of course it is assumed that such golf course construction will not involve total destruction of a site to create an 'identikit course', with the 1st taken from some US course, the 2nd from a Spanish one, the 3rd from Scotland and so on.

In fact, the greatest architects always used the land they were given to its best potential, but with modern earth-moving on a massive scale making recontouring rather more feasible than in the days of horses and wagons, you wonder if, in the absence of this restraint, the same

principle would have been adhered to!

Conservation-minded head greenkeepers often work closely with officers of the nature conservancy, as well as the local county naturalist trusts. Rarely is it necessary to spray herbicides on even semi-rough and, in any case, the weeds in close-mown turf are usually common or unremarkable and not the rarities you find around the rest of the course.

Conservation programmes can be formulated to ensure survival of endangered flora, either by positive protection or indirect encouragement. A good example is the controlling of water tables. Many courses I advise have established small conservation areas, not left to their own devices, but managed properly, primarily to keep out people!



BY JIM ARTHUR

Positive management programmes in woodland clearance have created more attractive environments for flowers and birds. Thinning out — and, indeed, coppicing in some cases — has produced kaleidoscopic carpets of spring flowers in place of dense, shaded, bramble-infested, smothered woodland. You do not get too many birds in the dense pine wood, or even in smothered birch scrubs. They live and feed on the perimeters. Mown grass between controlled, open rough attracts a far wider range of wildlife than dense scrub.

Water features, if built naturally (please no lakes halfway up hills!) are a great attraction to all wildlife.

I do get a little aerated when

sensible management is stopped because of the ill-thought-out, if well-intentioned, objections of those who are, the worst enemies of their own wishes. Dead elms due to be felled on one course were (temporarily, I am glad to say), reprieved 'because they would attract woodpeckers.' Has anyone ever seen a woodpecker tackling iron-hard, dead elm, which would resist a pneumatic drill? Dead willows, perhaps. Elms, no!

Anguished screams greet the felling of any tree yet, within a few weeks, no one can remember what it was like. Sensible removal of shallow-rooting, totally unsuitable, quick-growing *Leylandii* is resisted to the last ditch, yet when they are cleared (assuming they have not blown down), the improvement is the subject of favourable comment.

All I ask any conservationist is a truthful answer to five questions.

● Why is the present condition more worthwhile preserving than, say, the open habitat of 30 to 50 years ago?

● Do you accept that all trees grow and have you thought whether the ones you want to preserve will have the room to grow to maturity unless you remove others nearby?

● Why do you want to preserve trees, misguidedly planted years ago, that are not natural to the environment of your course — for example, poplars, *Leylandii*, flowering cherries, etc?

● Would not a more open course of heather or gorse be more attractive than dark, unrelieved avenues of alien conifers, dank and dark in winter and fly-ridden in summer?

● Do you accept that golf is a game associated with open spaces and does not need to be screened from either public gaze or fellow golfers?

If the answers indicate that members prefer to play up dark avenues of ever-increasing swamping trees (the weak ones dying on their feet) and do not like open heathland or links, then I cannot help them, but I suppose everyone is entitled to their preferences. It would be a dull world otherwise.

My aim is, however, to make sure protestors know what are the inevitable results of their adopting an ostrich-like attitude to a constantly developing ecology and to understand both the benefits of timely action and costs of repairing the inevitable disasters caused by procrastination!

Next month the theme will be the link between sensible conservation and natural management.

Out ● On ● The ● Course

Bill Lawson



John Campbell met EIGGA chairman and Heswall GC course manager Bill Lawson.

HESWALL is one of those delightful and interesting courses on the Wirral peninsula. It overlooks the Dee Estuary to the Welsh coast beyond and this contributes to an impressive panoramic backdrop.

Although it cannot be termed a

seaside course, it has all the essential ingredients, with a whiff of the ozone and gently undulating terrain. The exposed nature of the course layout and vagaries of wind and weather all combine to convey an illusion of links golf at its best.

The testing course's trim and tidy condition bears testimony to all the dedicated efforts of the articulate and likeable course manager Bill Lawson, 48, and his enthusiastic greenkeeping staff. "I'm a Liver-

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The Dee Estuary and Welsh coast provide the backdrop as a Hydromain works the 18th green.

puddian," Bill said "and came to Heswall Golf Club 20 years ago with my wife Wyn because we liked the area." The couple now have a 16-year-old daughter Kirsty.

Bill is undoubtedly a knowledgeable and engaging personality who has the interests of his profession at heart. As chairman of the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, his administrative ability and ambitious drive make him an ideal candidate for such a responsible position. Under his leadership, EIGGA is bound to progress in the right direction.

I'm pleased to say Bill is an avid reader of *Greenkeeper*. He added: "I would like to see a little more emphasis towards the younger greenkeeper. It pleased me to see a contribution from one of my staff in a recent issue. More young men in the business should be encouraged to write for the magazine — it's the ideal way to communicate."

But back to the man... How, I wondered, did he break into the profession?

"I came into it straight from school because I relished the challenge of an outdoor life. I started off working for a landscaping company building golf courses in the Merseyside area and was involved in the construction of Lee Park Golf Course on the outskirts of Liverpool, where I eventually became head greenkeeper. I moved to Heswall in 1965.

"Maintaining a golf course on its estuary is not an easy task — there is little shelter and we are often buffeted by the elements. The soil on the course is mainly heavy and the prevailing wind keeps it cold until well into the growing season. Therefore, spring growth is usually late with us. By comparison, there are tree lined courses of great quality, such as Sandiway and Delamere Forest, nearby and unfortunately golfers sometimes try to compare us with these sheltered courses where growth response is much more rapid early in the season.

"Another problem we have to contend with is the amount of weeds that move around the estuary. There are areas on my course where I must keep the rough under control. If I don't, weeds like spartina will quickly invade the turf. So I have to be constantly on the watch for any infestation of marshland weeds. Species such as toadrush, mat grass, etc, can quickly take over."

Prospects

Bill has some interesting views on the prospects for young men coming into greenkeeping. "If a lad likes to work out of doors in all kinds of weather, I would recommend greenkeeping as a career, but I would like to see clubs give him

every opportunity right from the start of his employment," he said. "Education and training are important, so he should be allowed to attend the nearest and best college with the facilities and syllabus to teach the science of turf culture and other related subjects.

"Young lads should not be merely regarded as a source of cheap labour for a few years and then cast aside. This is a difficult time for greenkeeping — a lot of people don't understand a lot about our business and have too much to say about it. If a young man can stand the pressures, I would have no hesitation in advising him to take up greenkeeping. He has to be aware that a lot of diplomacy and tact is needed, for we have to deal with all kinds of people.

"Few greenkeepers could honestly say that criticism does not affect them. If it doesn't, then I am not too sure they think enough about the job. While we should be prepared to accept constructive criticism, there are times when we have to listen to unfair opinions about the course's condition after a golfer has had a bad round. One has to be thick-skinned at times to shrug off ill-timed remarks that are unjustified. We constantly tread a difficult path and it would be true to say that most greenkeepers worry about their jobs.

"I think greenkeeper training at present is as good as its ever been

and by saying that I don't mean it is perfect by any means. The educational facilities in Scotland are by far the best. But now that we in England have arrived at the stage of picking out four or five colleges with the right type of syllabus and lectures, educational training now is going forward and standards should gradually rise as this is reflected in better quality maintenance.

"The only thing that worries me is the difference of opinion over the type of greens we want. Golfers tend to forget that greenkeepers will produce what they can to the best of their ability. It is difficult for young men attending colleges to be told the way to prepare a golf green and then get other opinions through the media preaching something entirely different.

"I have been associated with greenkeeper training for the past 15 years and am involved with the Cheshire College of Agriculture. We have a close relationship with the English Golf Union and the liaison committee, as well as working closely with the trade. We are well in advance of most colleges now, but the thing

that concerns us still is the diversity of opinion in the media about greenkeeping practices. I think there should be uniformity of teaching on this subject, so there is no confusion in the minds of young men being trained.

"Greenkeeping experts, such as Jim Arthur, Peter Hayes and yourself are the only competent people with the length of experience to voice an opinion and I'm not sure about anybody else.

Experience

"Once a head greenkeeper has had five years plus experience on his own course, he should have acquired enough local knowledge to allow him to adapt his skill and training to keep the course in satisfactory playing order to satisfy the membership. However, there are occasions when we have problems and it makes sense to bring in a properly qualified agronomist to give an independent, expert opinion. He can also help when it comes to getting an essential item of new machinery, for his advice may influence the committee on the

necessity to make the investment."

"We now have very efficient, sophisticated equipment for mowing, but I would like to see some improvements in the methods of aeration from shallow to deep penetration without causing quite so much disturbance to the playing surface of greens. I wouldn't deny that the modern machinery for this task does a good job, but this is one phase of maintenance that seems to upset a lot of golfers. There are times of the year when they accept that this kind of work has to be done and they are prepared to put up with a certain amount of inconvenience. But some of this work is completely unacceptable to them and I am inclined to agree.

"I would like to see improved methods of aeration for golf greens, whether it be hollow or slit tining, etc, at the depth we require with the minimum surface disturbance. The modern machinery for aeration is good, but I am concerned that it is getting bigger. It causes upheaval and does do a certain amount of damage to the turf. Only time will tell what the long term effects of some

Continued overleaf...



Heswall's clubhouse occupies a commanding position.

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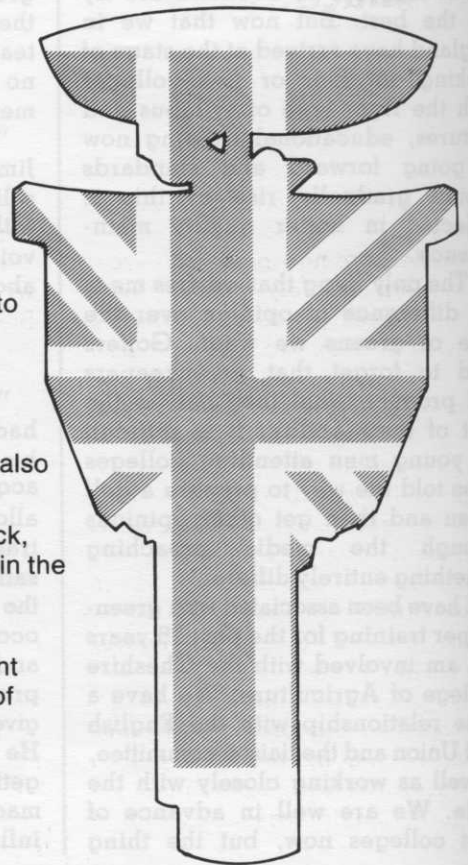
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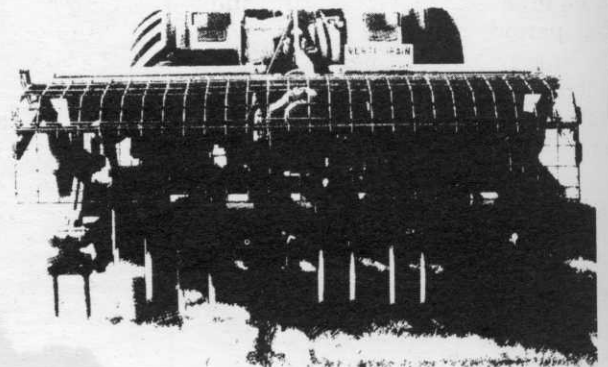
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Out ● On ● The ● Course Continued...

of our greenkeeping methods are going to be."

"Vandals are now part and parcel of modern society and greenkeepers have got to expect some intrusion at times from them. Their favourite game is to damage turf on the greens — having a reserve of quality turf can help restore good playing conditions as quickly as possible. I remember one occasion when we had some of our greens vandalised overnight before the Cheshire Championship. Huge lumps of turf were gouged out of the greens and it was a dismal sight, but we were undaunted.

"By patiently gathering up all the displaced bits of turf and painstakingly replacing them like pieces of a jigsaw, we were able to get the greens back into reasonable shape for play.

"Security at our isolated equipment sheds on the course is a problem that has become more serious over the last 18 months. We have had three break-ins in succession within that period and on each occasion the thieves took the petrol tanks off machines. The price of petrol makes it a much sought after commodity by villains and it is not a pleasant experience to open up your sheds in the morning and find all the petrol tanks gone, particularly when you have a heavy mowing schedule planned. I know from bitter experience that new petrol tanks are not easy to get in a hurry.

"We plan to increase security by fencing in the whole equipment compound and fitting the sheds with a burglar alarm and lights. Some of the machinery is now kept near the clubhouse."

With a keen interest in greenkeeper training, Bill has specific points on how to deal with staff. "The type of training I prefer to give a young lad from the first day he comes is, first and foremost, to make him part of the team and let him know that he is not being employed just to rake bunkers.

Sophisticated

"I like to put him with other members of the staff handling sophisticated machinery. I don't mean that he should be using the equipment from day one, but once he has become familiar with the course, it is good for him to get acquainted with all the machinery at an early stage by talking to the operators and seeing how servicing is done.

"Any young man with enthusiasm and a keen interest soon picks things up and quickly learns some of the tricks of the trade. By patiently coaching him along and studying his attitude to the job, you soon find out when he is ready to handle expensive items of sophisticated equipment.

"Over the years we have trained seven young men who have had the ambition to succeed and they are

now all skilled greenkeepers in various parts of the country. One of them, I am pleased to say, has got himself a job in Delaware, USA. I have enjoyed the privilege of helping to expand their practical knowledge on many aspects of course maintenance and the club has always taken a keen interest in their training and education."

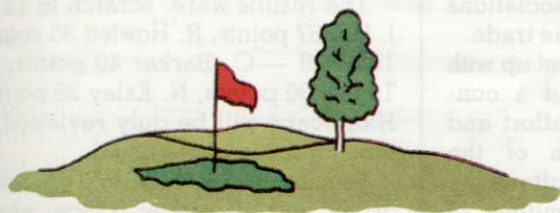
Bill remembers particular individuals who were a great help to him in the early days of his career. "I recall how helpful Tom Bridges, head greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool, was and also Bill Bridges of Wallasey Golf Club. They were men you could go and talk to because they had been in greenkeeping a long time. I also had lots of good advice from Duggie Pate at Royal Birkdale.

"I have always considered Heswall a beautiful site to work on and I'm fortunate in that respect. The clubhouse is in a commanding position overlooking most of the layout, so I can't afford to have an untidy course. At the same time, we don't pay too much attention to the ponds on the course, for we like to preserve a natural look to them. We do some work on the edges to keep them opened up for the wild duck that visit us from the river, but we don't keep them groomed like they do on American courses.

"Most of our rough can easily get very thick, so we have to keep it cut short. I like to look upon Heswall as the kind of course that all players will enjoy and, as far as I'm concerned, that is the object of the exercise. The pattern of greenkeeping on any golf course is largely up to the man in charge and it is up to him to maintain a standard of upkeep that will please the membership. That has always been my policy."

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Dear Sir

The following letter was sent recently to the editor of *Golf World*.

We note with great interest in Peter Alliss' column in your April issue there is to be a National Putting Competition sponsored by Mentzendorf Kummel. The proceeds of the competition are to be divided between the Golf Foundation and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, the latter to be for a '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.

Apart from the fact that the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association represents only a section of greenkeepers in the UK, a centre for learning and advice already exists nationally in the form of the Sports Turf Research Institute which, although recently having received funding from the R&A, has been severely short-changed by golf, as a game, in the past.

We wonder what the competitors in this excellent competition will get for half their money?

The Board of Management, English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

Peter Alliss replies thus:

I am delighted that the instigation of our putting competition has caused such a stir in your world. Along with the Sports Turf Research Institute and a couple of other notable agronomists, the dust is really flying. I couldn't be more pleased.

One of the problems, as I re-read my article, is that perhaps every 'Y' hasn't been crossed and every 'I' dotted, but I can assure you that it is our intention to make sure that any monies from the competition will be devoted to the furtherance of golf, either by paying for equipment

to get young golfers started, or in some way to further the cause of greenkeeping and grounds-manship.

I feel that one of the main problems in golf, over the 35 years or so I've been watching it closely, is that too many people have gone off in too many directions. There is an enormous amount of jealousy, envy and non-sharing of secrets. Any suggestion that someone from another part of the world could teach our so-called experts anything is beyond comprehension.

Once again, let me assure you that whatever monies come into the 'kitty' will be put towards furthering golf. Whether they will end up on your table, the STRI's table or somebody else's table, I know not.



Peter Alliss.

North West

The first meeting has taken place of the Cheshire College of Agriculture liaison committee. The committee's function is to work with the Greenkeeper Training Committee and the college tutors in order to help prepare a suitable syllabus for the City & Guilds golf greenkeeper courses.

Represented on the committee are the golf unions, secretaries' association, greenkeepers' associations and representatives from the trade.

The committee has been set up with advice from the GTC and a considerable contribution of effort and time by Dennis Mottram of the Cheshire College of Agriculture.

The North West committee of EIGGA is at present establishing

a winter programme of seminars and lectures — the first being a one-day seminar at the Cheshire College of Agriculture in October. The date and programme still have to be finalised, but one of the speakers will be from the STRI. Members will be informed of the final arrangements at the earliest opportunity.

We would like to hear from members with requests for speakers at future lectures and seminars and their views on last winter's programme of events. Contact me on 051-606 9856 or Terry Adamson on 0978 832908.

In future would members please contact me or Terry Adamson if they have any queries or want information on any subject regarding EIGGA or the North West branch, as our chairman Bill Lawson, you will appreciate, has a heavy work load this year.

The chairman's shield was contested at Chester Golf Club between the North West and a team from Chester GC. The result was a win for EIGGA. Thanks go to everyone concerned at the club for a very enjoyable evening's golf and dinner. *Raymond Hunt.*

London

It has not been much of a summer so far, but at least it stayed dry for our evening outing to the Hartsbourne Country Club.

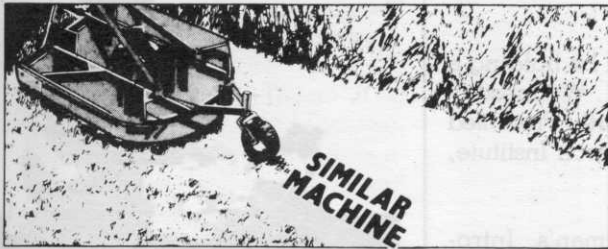
As usual, Tom Low and his staff had the course in excellent condition and his wife Joyce prepared a lovely supper. We are also indebted to the artisans for the use of their clubhouse, which they are hoping to extend by next year. I'm sure we will have contributed in a small way to their bar profits!

It was nice to see Peter Brimmell and Alan Moffat of T. Parker & Sons once again giving their support. Congratulations are due to Alan on his recent marriage. Good luck, Sue.

The results were: scratch to 12 — J. Hill 37 points, R. Howlett 35 points; 13 to 28 — C. Barker 40 points, A. Taylor 36 points, N. Exley 35 points. Handicaps will be duly reviewed in time for the next event.

Tom and Anne McDonald are again organising the dinner-dance, which

Continued on page 20...



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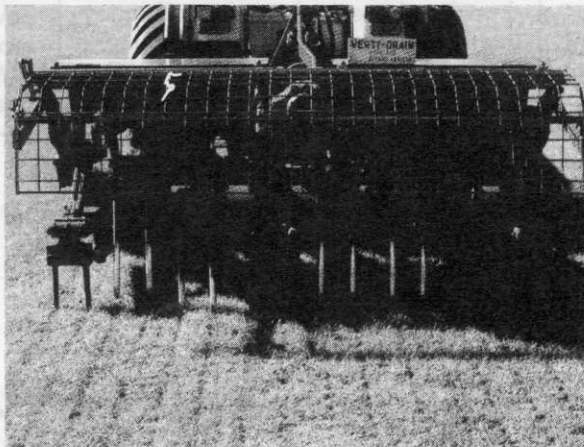
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will be held at the Post House, Heathrow on Friday November 15. Please phone Tom on 01-950 7469 or me for details. To avoid the drink/drive problem, mini-buses can be arranged from different areas.

Finally, remember to advise the branch if you are coming to the autumn meeting at Muswell Hill on October 3.

David Low.

East Anglia

We've had two tournaments this year and they have both been excellent. Newmarket, where 'Uncle Mick' nearly got a prize (not the booby either), was great. The course was in great shape. Well done the keeper — I didn't catch his name, but I'm sure we will all remember his course.

First greenkeeper in the 0 to 17 handicap section and winner of the SISIS Trophy was Trevor Manning, who is the first assistant at Newmarket. Trevor won on a countback from D. Wells, who had 37 points. In third place was Larry Coytie (Romford) on 35 points.

In the 18 to 28 division, the Atco Cup went to Steve Freestone (Eaton) with 35 points. M. Jones and J. Barnard were placed second and third. D. Freeman won the guest prize with 37 points, while the booby prize went to P. Barrigan.

Thanks go to SISIS, King and Supaturf for some of the prizes and to Newmarket for a great day.

Paul Bertenshaw could not be at Newmarket as he was helping his wife have a baby. It was also good to see John Young up and about after serious illness. Let's hope it's not too long before he makes a complete recovery.

Mick Lathorpe.

Surrey

The Surrey branch will be holding a one-day seminar on Wednesday November 27 at Wentworth. Presented by the Sports Turf Research Institute, the format will be:

9.30

Assemble and Chairman's Introduction.

10.00-11.00

Principles of Golf Course Drainage (i.e. greens, tees, fairways and bunkers)

11.00-11.45

Construction of a Golf Course

11.45-12 noon Discussion

12.00-12.30

Grasses and Special Reference to *Poa annua*

12.30-1.30 Lunch (£7.25)

1.30-2.15 Turf Diseases

2.15-3.15

Problems of Maintenance

3.15-3.45 General Discussion

3.45 Disperse

Please remember, club secretaries and greens committee chairmen are welcome and the charge for the day will be £9.

Surrey would like to offer its best wishes to G. Watt who has retired after 29 years as head greenkeeper at Purley Downs. Mr. Watt is returning to his home town of Edinburgh, where we hope he will enjoy many years of golf. His replacement is D. Andrews.

M. Hale, Administrator.

Book Review

MOTOR LAWNMOWERS 2

ATCO, FLYMO, HAYTER, HONDA, MOUNTFIELD, VICTA, WEBB



Owners Workshop Manual



The success of the first *Motor Lawnmowers Owners' Workshop Manual*, published by Haynes Publishing, has led to the introduction of a companion volume for a new generation of motorised mowers. Makes and models covered are: Atco, Commodore 14, Flymo TL Micromo, Hayter Hobby, Honda HR17 and HR194, Mountfield Emblem and M3 Power Drive, Victa Silver Streak and Webb 14.

All have been stripped down and rebuilt in the company's workshop and the text includes step-by-step photographs.

This manual will also be of help to those whose mowers are not listed, but have a Tecumseh or Briggs and Stratton engine or, in the case of the Flymo, a Kawasaki two-stroke engine. The first manual related to some of the earlier Atco, Flymo, Ginge, Qualcast, Suffolk, Victa and Webb models — both cover only pedestrian-controlled mowers and not the ride-on type.

Motor Lawnmowers 2, by J. Parker, costs £7.50.

Fisons are putting on

Cushman's Contribution

For the fifth successive year, Cushman equipment played a vital role in preparations for the Open Championship.

The Cushman machines that helped Royal St George's head greenkeeper Derek Scarborough and his six assistants are two 3-Wheel Turf Trucksters equipped with Cushman and Huxley turf maintenance implements, all supplied by Paice and Sons of Maidstone.

Royal St George's acquired its first Cushman Turf Truckster in 1978. Delivered with top-dresser, sprayer, aerator, greens brush, moleblade and fertiliser cyclone spreader attachments, the machine and implements were used to help prepare the course for the 1981 Open.

The second Cushman arrived at Sandwich in January, purchased as a back-up to the club's original machine during the build-up to this year's event and for maintenance of the greens, bunkers, tees and their surrounds after the championship.

Because the two Cushman units will be in everyday use nine months of the year for either specific turf-care or load-carrying duties, they have tipping rear dump boxes for transporting materials, pedestrian machines and hand tools. When either is needed for top-dressing, fertiliser spreading, slitting or brushing, its dump box can be removed by simply extracting three pins. The appropriate attachment can then be coupled to its hydraulic linkage or mounted on the load-carrying platform behind the cab.



Royal St George's head greenkeeper Derek Scarborough.

Other leading tournaments where Cushman equipment will be helping with course preparations in 1985 include the Panasonic European

Open at Sunningdale, the Bell's Scotch Ryder Cup at The Belfry and the Suntory World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth.

Market Chance

RiteFeed was formed because there seemed to be a gap in the market for a reasonably priced range of liquid organic feeds. It took a year of investigation and laboratory work to make sure it would be possible to make this product. Consequently, the business commenced trading in February, producing a liquid organic feed for turf maintenance, which is manufactured from farmyard slurry.

The manufacturing process results in a concentrated liquid that is fine enough to be applied through Cushman-type spray equipment. This

was quickly joined by an iron tonic, following requests from distributors for such a product.

A first-class service with a high quality product is the aim of the company and, in this respect, the product is establishing a reputation. RiteFeed is available from STS in Scotland, Breakwells in the Midlands, Town & Country in Essex and Tarleton Compost in the north west. Other distribution outlets are being sought.

Full details from RiteFeed, Aqueduct St Mill, Aqueduct Street, Preston, Lancashire PR1 7JN. Tel: 0772 53521 or 0524 791615.

a fine spread at IoG

People, Places, Products

Parker's golf greenkeepers' tournament was staged in sunshine at Cuddington (Banstead) Golf Club and supported by 70 greenkeepers from the south east.

The Parker Bowl was won by Eric Green (Woodcote Park) with 39 points.

Company chairman George Parker and Mrs W. Parker presented the prizes and the rest of the winners were: Glyn Pavitt (Royal Mid Surrey) on 38 points; Derek Gould (Langley Park) 36 points (on back nine); Joe Newman (Downshire) 36 points; Alan Moreton (West Byfleet) and Kevin Munt (Hankley Common).

The company wishes to thank the captain and committee of the club, secretary David Scott and head greenkeeper Hugh Riggins and staff for a course in superb condition.

Bourton-on-the-Water based firm Complete Weed Control has signed a franchise agreement with Richard Hirst of Market Overton, near Oakham to run the company's activities in East Anglia.

Richard, a graduate in horticulture from Wye College, has had 30 years agrochemical experience in England and overseas and for the last eight years was May & Baker's regional development officer for the East Midlands.

This now makes a total of ten regional franchise centres within the Complete Weed Control national network. Contact Richard Hirst on 057 283 323.



Directors of T. Parker & Sons, their wives and the prize-winners gathered after the event.

The Vitax department of Steetley Minerals has appointed two new area sales executives. John Riggall, 27, from Stratford-on-Avon will be responsible for the further development of the Vitax growers' range of commercial fertilisers in the Midlands. An experimental crop husbandman with the National Vegetable Research Station, John has been in the horticultural industry for more than eight years and was educated at South Warwickshire and Sparnsholt Colleges.

David Hooper-Nash from Cardiff will work on the company's Vitax retail interests.

Supaturf Products of Peterborough, a member of the Palmer group of companies, has a new distribution centre - the fifth - with Turf Maintenance Supplies of Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire joining the group.

TMS, distributors of fertilisers, grass seed, top-dressings and other turfcare products, will now be the distribution point in the south for all Supaturf products, along with existing TMS products.

The distribution centre is next to the M25 at Dromenagh on the Seven Hills Road, Iver Heath. Phone Michael Tibury on Denham (0895) 832626/834198. The company will now be referred to as TMS, a trading division of Supaturf Products.

The success of Supaturf has spread still further afield - to Switzerland and the exclusive lakeside Lausanne

5 completely new fine

Golf Club, which opened in 1921.

Head greenkeeper at Lausanne is Ian Tomlinson, who has been using Supaturf fertilisers and Aqua-Gro wetting agents. Ian was formerly greenkeeper at Moor Allerton Golf Club in Leeds, where he first used Supaturf products. When he found they were not available in Switzerland, he requested supplies to be sent out.

One of Scotland's most famous head greenkeepers has retired. Scott Walker of the Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, in return for 37 years service, has been granted the freedom of his four 18-hole courses by Gleneagles Hotels.

Our pictures show that work by Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) has been completed at Radley — the new course was designed by Donald Steel and constructed by Brian's company — and an extension to Weymouth GC is well under way.

Due to the new Weymouth by-pass, the Hamilton Stutt designed course requires seven new greens and 12 tees. The contract was started in March and, as can be seen, the adverse weather hasn't helped.

Brian reports continued demand for his Verti-Drain with bookings for autumn "looking good." Brian added: "The results have been so successful that the majority of clients have re-booked and we are considering buying a second machine to meet the demand."

Full details from Brian D. Pierson (Contractors), 27 Vicarage Road, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 6DR. Tel: 0202 822372/824906.



A view of the 9th green with the Radley clubhouse beyond.



Construction of a new 18th green and practice putting green at Weymouth, showing the problems of working a heavy clay site in wet weather.

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If Parking's A Problem...

As an important officer of a golf club or country club complex, few would argue that you warrant a guaranteed space in the car park. After all, if it's impossible to leave your car safely when arriving for duty, the management can hardly expect you to start a job of work. And how many times have you been frustrated or boxed-in by a casually parked visitor? Deliveries, too, can become a frustrating and time-consuming experience for everyone if the driver can't get close to the allotted dropping-off point.

From George Fischer Sales of Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7EE (Tel: 01-253 1044), the AutopA car parking system is a simple and effective method of car parking space reservation — ideal for where space is allocated to the greenkeeper, professional, secretary, captain or steward.

The hinged AutopA post consists of a length of tubular mild steel, closed at the top and heavily galvanised for maximum weather protection.

It incorporates a locking mechanism that is totally enclosed and inaccessible to vandals. The base plate, which also holds the pivot shaft, is specially cast, galvanised and pre-drilled ready for bolt fixing.

Fixed boundary posts prevent parking in the intermediate spaces.

When locked in the vertical position, the post forms an effective barrier. A key is required to release the locking mechanism before the post can be lowered to the horizontal position for a vehicle to pass over it into the parking space.

The post can be locked upright with the car in position, providing extra protection against car theft.

In addition to the AutopA hinged post, matching removable and fixed posts are available. The removable post is especially useful where it is necessary to allow the entry of vehicles at infrequent intervals. Consisting of a galvanised steel tube, it is fastened into the ground by means of a padlock passed through a locking pin.

Also in the AutopA range, the fixed bollard, as its name implies, is concreted into the ground to provide a permanent obstruction.

Hinged posts cost from £46.50 — bolts are extra and fitting is excluded. The more ordered, the less they cost. Removable posts cost from £53.75 — fixed bollards, £26.50.



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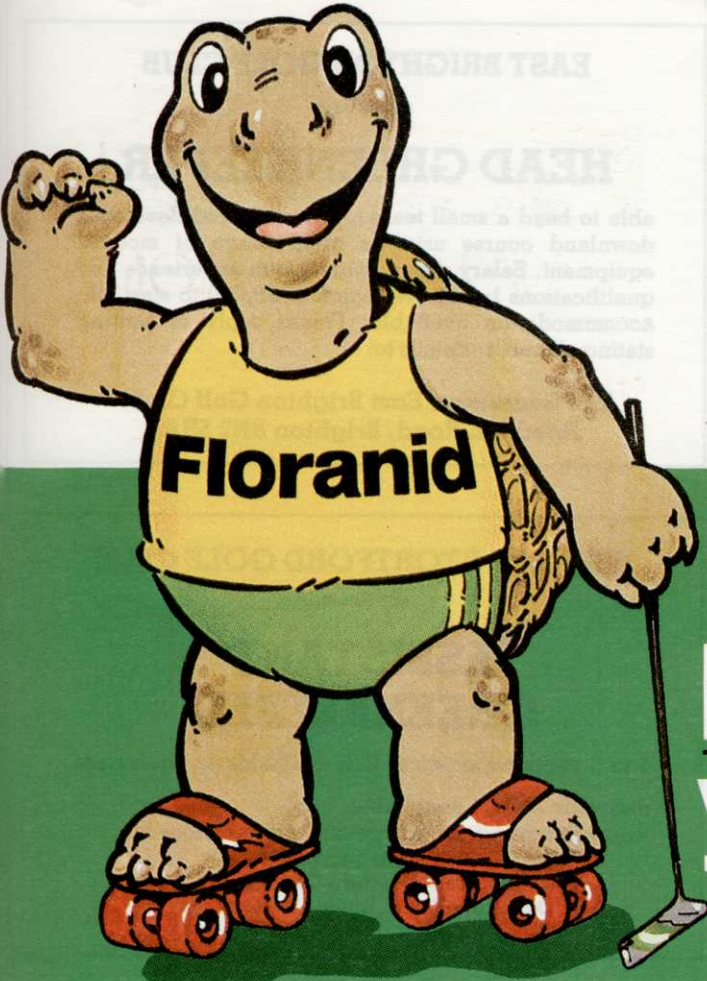
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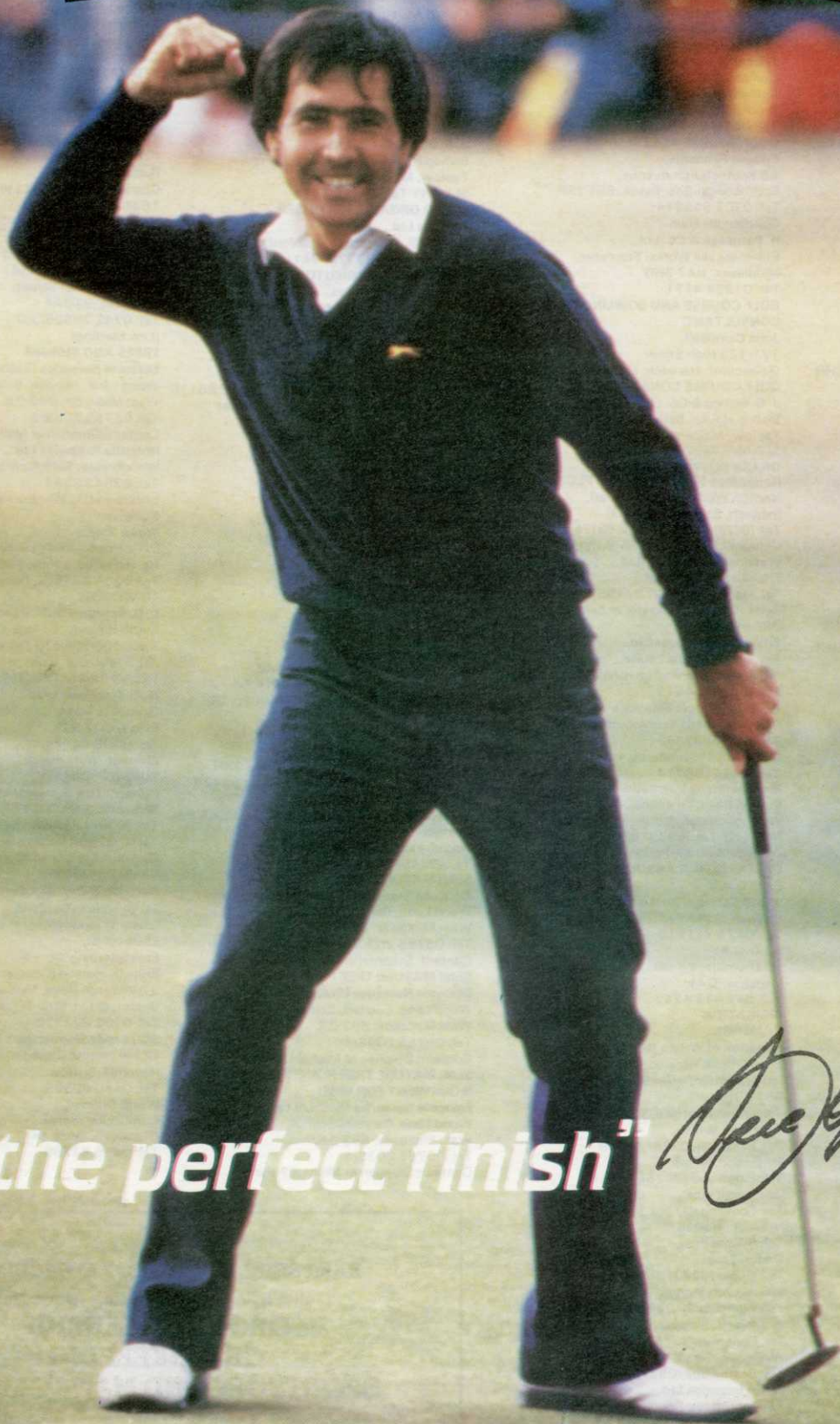
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