**MARCH 1985** 

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





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**MARCH 1985** 

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SIGGA president Jimmie Neilson is the course manager at Murrayfield GC, Edinburgh



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# Rigby Taylor

"That'll do nicely"

leve Barrater

THIS month's front cover shows Open champion Severiano Ballesteros, who has recently signed a deal with Rigby Taylor to endorse the company's products.

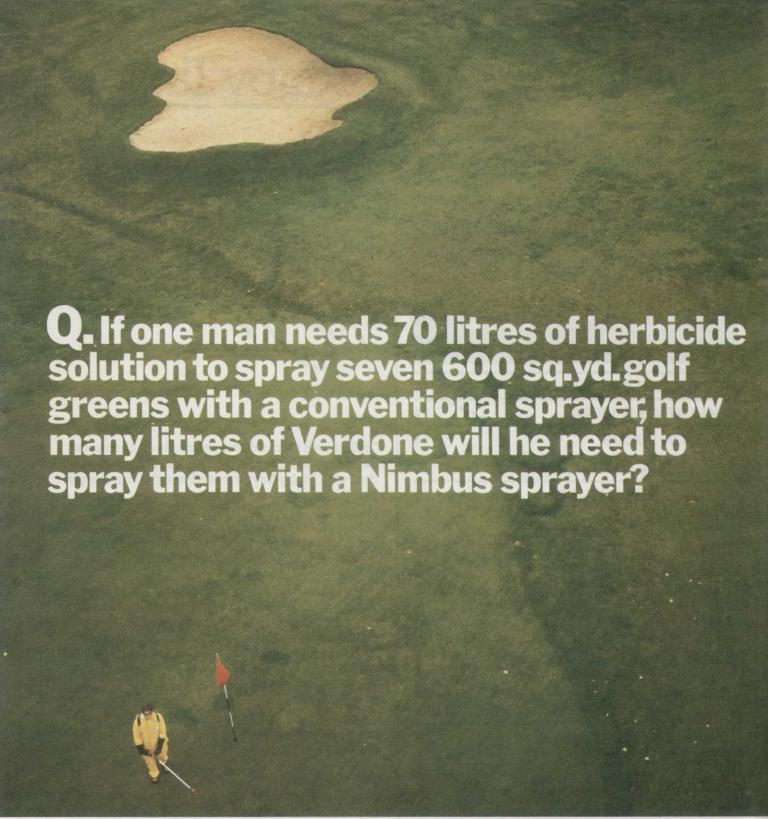
Seve contacted Rigby Taylor when he was in the final stages of completing a six-hole course in the grounds of his new home in northern Spain.

He required not only flagsticks, cups and tee markers, but turfcare products as well. These were duly supplied by Rigby Taylor and, in the course of conversation with marketing director Richard Lawrence, Seve discovered that many of his favourite courses where he has won in the UK are also supplied by Rigby Taylor.

So he was happy to lend his name to the range of products marketed by Rigby Taylor under the Mascot brand name.

Commenting on this promotional coup, a delighted Richard Lawrence said: "Rigby Taylor is proud that the world's foremost golfer is now going to be seen supporting the Mascot range. This is the first time Seve has endorsed products for golf course maintenance and I believe Rigby Taylor is the first company to be associated with such a prominent sportsman in this way."

Now Mascot products rank along with that wellknown American credit card and, among others. one of the world's most-admired watches perhaps less glamorous, but nonetheless, approved!



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.



#### Out · On · The · Course

#### Jimmie Neilson

Jimmie Neilson is the course manager of Murrayfield Golf Club and president of the Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

THERE are few courses with more enthralling views of the surrounding landscape than Murrayfield Golf Club, Edinburgh, which lies on the eastern slopes of Corstorphine Hill in a dominating position overlooking the beautiful Scottish capital city. The course is always kept in immaculate condition by an enthusiastic team of greenkeepers under the direction of course manager, Jimmie Neilson, 51.

"I've always been a keen golfer and it was my enthusiasm for the game that really attracted me to greenkeeping," Iimmie said. He's a friendly, genial Scot with an intelligent and shrewd viewpoint on many aspects of his chosen profession. "I have great support from a patient understanding wife, my married daughter and nineteen-year-old son, who has decided to follow in his father's footsteps and is in the fourth of greenkeeper a apprenticeship, training with me at Murrayfield.

"In addition to being addicted to the game, I play quite a bit of darts in winter. Wine making is another hobby that interests me and I enjoy sampling the product!

"I originally trained as an agricultural engineer and followed that occupation for 16 years, but found being involved with farming and harvesting work meant long hours in the summer, which limited the amount of golf I was able to play, so I decided to take up greenkeeping. I thought there might be more opportunities to indulge in the sport I love so much.

"In 1968, I started work at Swanston Golf Club on the south side of as pro/greenkeeper Edinburgh where I was responsible for the golf shop, as well as running the course. I was there for nine years and found it interesting and stimulating. At that time, sheep grazing was allowed on the course and you can well imagine the trials and tribulations of trying to keep the place in reasonable shape with animals roving around in bunkers and fouling the greens, tees and fairways. It was also very time-



Jimmie Neilson.

consuming and it finally came to the stage when I decided to have a change and concentrate more on greenkeeping.

"In 1977, I applied for, and was offered, the post of course manager at Murrayfield, which I was honoured to accept. We have an 18-hole course with some 900 members and a nine-hole course, Ravelston, which is run as a separate club with 450 members. We maintain the grounds and course."

Jimmie has a foreman and five assistant greenkeepers. He also has a self-employed estate handyman who, with an assistant, maintains walls, trees and ditches around the club grounds. He also has a retired man on a part-time basis to look after the lawns and gardens.

Jimmie has always been a loval and enthusiastic member of SIGGA, which he joined in 1970. "I have served the association in the capacity of secretary and chairman of the east section, have done a stint as general secretary of the national association and am now serving a term of office as president of SIGGA. I was also involved with the Greenkeeper Training Committee and helped to organise the greenkeeping educational syllabus for SCOTEC, which is now being implemented by our colleges."

I asked his opinion on greenkeeping as a career. "Let's put it this way, a greenkeeper won't become a millionaire through his job, but it's very satisfying to watch the course as it progresses through the seasons. Every year there is always a challenge to be faced and new lessons to be learned. The work is



Murrayfield's 18th green.



A panoramic view of Edinburgh can be seen from behind the 2nd green.

never dull and you get to meet a lot of nice people and make many friends in the industry. You can command great respect if you are willing to work hard and diligently to achieve high standards.

"Greenkeeping is a job for which you have to be healthy and there are good opportunities for any man if he is prepared to get the right training. He join a greenkeepers' should association and get involved with his branch, which allows you to meet greenkeepers from other courses and your broadens outlook experience of the profession.

"Murrayfield has a policy of training for education all greenkeeping staff, which is fully encouraged and supported by the club. It is unfortunate some head greenkeepers are not interested in training young staff because they are afraid they might eventually take over their job. This is a negative attitude. We have to encourage young men of the right calibre to come into the profession.

"At my club, we have excellent administration procedures with longterm plans for the benefit of the course. We have a green chairman and committee, plus the club captain and myself present at all meetings and no sudden changes can be made overnight. Everything has to be discussed in council. Our long-term plan is to improve the drainage and we have been doing this now for the past three years with another two to go. In addition, up till now, we have planted over 4,000 trees and this will continue.

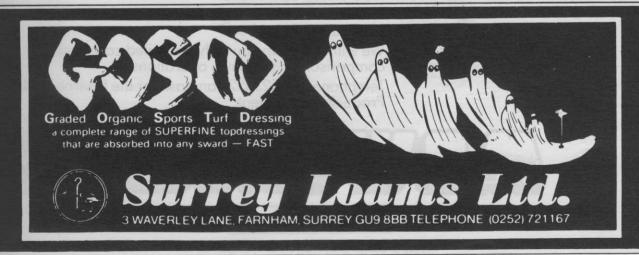
"I am fortunate to have a good green chairman, who has worked with me for over four years and is extremely interested in all that we do on the course. Our continuity of policy does not give us any of the problems that some clubs have. Constant change is not good for greenkeeping, is worse for the course and is a sad reflection on the way some clubs are run."

I asked Jimmie his views on golfcourse machinery. "There seems to be a reluctance on the part of some manufacturers to listen to suggestions from greenkeepers on machinery improvements and it is usually left to the local blacksmith to get simple alterations done. Equipment companies should pay more attention to our comments. After all, we are the people using the machines.

"Within the last 20 years, there have been great advancements in the multiplicity and sophistication of golf course machinery and the wide range of attachments now available has made a significant impact on the ease and speed with which most routine jobs can be done. I still prefer to cut greens and tees on the main course with hand mowers, such as the Auto-Certes, and mow the nine-hole with a triplex machine to save time and labour.

"Because of my early training in engineering, you will appreciate I am very particular about machinery and I insist that accurate daily records be maintained on the amount of repairs, spares and performance, etc, of every single machine. This is something I would advise every course manager to do. At the end of each season, it allows us to assess the condition and cost effectiveness of each item of equipment so that we are able to justify any new investment to the club committee when the time comes for replacement.

When I was an agricultural engineer, I used to visit many courses in Scotland doing tractor repairs. I came into contact with some great characters in greenkeeping, who were well worth listening to. Names that spring to mind are Jim King, who was at Luffness for many years, Jock Newlands and Harry (Bruntsfield Links). Davie Paterson (Fereneze) and the two Willie Ritchies (Kirriemuir and Montrose) to name a They were all greenkeepers and we would do well to emulate them and their kind."





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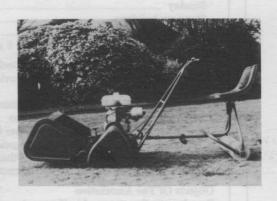
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#### **News & Views**

#### New Address, New Number

SIGGA's new office is now in operation at 82 Dumbreck Road. Glasgow G41. Telephone 041-427 4701. The office will be manned five days a week from 10am until midday and 2pm until 4pm on weekdays. General secretary Joe McKean will still be available on Uplawmoor 217 at other times. It is hoped an answering machine will be installed in the office

#### Central

The section held its ACM at Tulliallan GC. In a busy meeting, Elliott Small stepped down from the position of secretary/treasurer, which he has held since the section's inception in 1980. Elliott was presented with a crystal decanter and glasses as a token of the section's appreciation. Elliott gave his thanks and added how much he enjoyed seeing the section grow and prosper and hoped would support evervone successor in the same manner.

Sandy Brown, course manager at Crieff GC, was appointed chairman; Elliott Small (you can't keep a good man down!) vice-chairman and John Crawford, head greenkeeper at Dunfermline GC, takes over as secretary/treasurer.

#### **Ayrshire**

The section recently enjoyed a games night in the Irvine Ravenspark GC clubhouse. Darts, dominoes and pool were played for prizes of birds and booze (pheasant and wine)! Thanks go to the club for the use of its facilities and to the steward for an excellent

Inverclyde Sports Centre, Largs was the setting for a game using a larger ball than we're used to as the west section played Ayrshire at football. The younger and fitter west team took to the Astraturf surface, winning 5-3.

We hope that Alan McDougall's leg will be all right for the return match. With the minimum of fuss and effort, Ioe McKean officiated from the middle of the park, so look out Tiny Wharton!

The section's spring outing will be to Southerness GC on April 16 and the autumn outing, at Glasgow Gailes GC, will be on September 10. Iim Grainger.

#### Minimum Wage Scale And Basic Conditions Of Employment

Golf clubs often seek guidance from SIGGA on a fair wage for greenkeeping staff. Although the figures remain the subject of negotiation between the golf club and head greenkeeper, a wage scale has been formulated for 1985.

Head greenkeeper	Negotiable
Assistant head greenkeeper	£130 per 40 hour week (certificated)
Assistant head greenkeeper	£123 per 40 hour week (uncertificated)
Assistant journeyman	£113 per 40 hour week (certificated)
Assistant journeyman	£107 per 40 hour week (uncertificated)
Apprentice to start at 50% of certificated journeyman's wage	£56.50

After one years employment, an increase of 121/2% to .......£70.04 After two years employment, an increase of 121/2% to .......£84.08 After three years employment, an increase of 12½% to ......£98.12 After four years employment, an increase of 12½% to ......£113

**Basic Conditions Of Employment** 

40 hour working week, Monday to Friday. If not salaried, overtime to be paid as follows:-

Basic overtime ..... time and one half Saturday ...... time and one half until midday—thereafter, double time Sunday ...... double time Statutory holidays ...... double time plus one day

Statutory holidays ..... eight days annually, three local holidays and four weeks annual leave January 1 and 2, Easter Monday, May 6 and 27, September 30, December 25 and 26.

- Where accommodation is provided by the club, it should be rent and rates free
- 2. Where accommodation is not provided by the club, a suitable remuneration should be paid
- 3. Retirement pension scheme
- Car travelling expenses. Club business-25p per mile
- Telephone costs on club business
- Washing and toilet facilities as per Government (Health & Safety) Act
- Insurance accident policy to be paid by the club
- A clothing allowance of not less than £100 per annum
- Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations and SIGGA tournaments

#### **Objects Of The Association**

To advance the status of golf greenkeepers and to educate the members by way of lectures, discussions, competitions and functions of like nature; to assist the colleges involved in the training of apprentice greenkeepers and the golf clubs to our mutual benefit; to collaborate with the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and to promote golf greenkeeping.

Regions

WEST: A.McDougall, 17 Poplar Avenue, Newton Mearns. Ø 041-639 2109. W.Blair, 13 Redhall Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 2HP. Ø 031-443 3214. EAST: NORTH: I.Hamilton, 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife. @ Newburgh 40727.

E.Small, 2 Castle Park, Kincardine, Fife. Ø Kincardine 30780. CENTRAL: AYRSHIRE:

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#### **News & Views**

#### It's Still Not Too Late...

Bookings for the 1985 EIGGA conference at Warwick University from March 22-24 are coming into national headquarters fast and it is anticipated that there will be the largest-ever attendance of greenkeeper members. However, there are still places available so, if you have not already done so, book now!

There have been some amendments to the original programme. Hugh MacGillivray is

unable to give his paper — Irrigation On the Golf Course From The Greenkeepers' View — and his place has been taken by EIGGA member and course manager John Mullen, who will be talking on Power and Communications.

On the Friday afternoon, there will be a paper, starting at 2.45pm, by a representative of the government's pesticide safety scheme. John Philp, second in command to Walter Woods at St Andrews, will speak on behalf of SIGGA. John's subject will be The Open Championship From The Greenkeepers' View.

A team quiz, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, will be held on Friday night. Teams of three will answer as many general knowledge and greenkeeping questions in a given time. If you would like to take part, register your team or yourself as an interested individual on arrival at the conference reception.

Saturday evening's after-dinner speaker is John Wells, star of the West End revue Anyone For Dennis? Mr Wells will no doubt enlighten delegates on greenkeeping at No 10!

EIGGA's annual general meeting takes place on Sunday March 24, commencing at 2pm. In accordance with the association's constitution, a copy of EIGGA's accounts for 1984 are enclosed with this issue of Greenkeeper.

### THE GREENKEEPERS' TRAINING COMMITTEE TRAINEE GOLF GREENKEEPER REGISTRATION FORM

#### **Conditions of Registration**

- 1. Employment on the greenkeeping staff at a golf club or on a public golf course (suggested six months) prior to registration.
- Undertaking to attend courses leading to the appropriate certificates.
- 3. Membership of an official Greenkeepers' Association... YES/NO.

IVAIVIE	Surname	Christian name(s)
(Block Capitals)		
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DATE	Send for your FREE	D haddenstand
	TURNED TO: MR. W.	

#### London

This is my last chance to recap the two successful events that climaxed the branch's 1984 activities. First, the annual dinner-dance, which returned to the Post House Hotel, Heathrow. Tom and Anne McDonald are to be congratulated once again on their organisation and for providing a most enjoyable evening. The fare was excellent and the disco had even the least energetic of us grooving around the dance floor!

London ended 1984 with a seminar at Moor Park Golf Club. Dr Peter Hayes brought a distinguished team of speakers from the STRI at Bingley to lecture on golf course construction and maintenance. They enlightened not only the 90 greenkeepers who attended but, more significantly, 20 members of golf club committees, who went away realising that there is far more to our profession than just cutting grass.

Seating in the magnificent foyer of the Moor Park mansion was an added bonus and we are grateful to the club and secretary John Linaker for their co-operation. It is hoped a similar project will be possible in future.

Details of golf outings arranged for this year should be ready for next month's *Greenkeeper*.

David Low.





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## **FISONS IN FOCUS**

Greenkeeper recently canvassed contributors and a selection of readers for questions to put to Fisons — the leading company in the amenity market for fertilisers. Here we publish the comments of both sides...

In the past, your advertising has caused considerable comment among greenkeepers and agronomists. Do you believe there should be two grades of golf course, tournament and other?

Our position is one of reacting to the requirements of a market. If courses of varying grades are required by the playing public, then that is what they must be given. In golf, it is the course itself that is the player's opponent. How taxing that opponent should be is a question for the club authorities and the result should meet the needs and desires of their customers — the club players. Obviously, this can only be ascertained through discussion and comment and if our advertising has stimulated this, then all to the good.

Are Fisons aware of all the research here, in Europe, the US and other areas of the world since the early 1900s, which confirms, beyond any doubt, that phosphates encourage annual meadow grass and potash discourages fine fescues? Do they accept that annual meadow grass is not only not inevitable, but the source of 90% of all greenkeeping problems? If they knew, was it commercially impossible to formulate (largely organic) nitrogenous mixes now used by the majority - going back to the standard practices of 40 and more years ago?

Our technical staff at the Levington Research Station keep fully abreast of the latest technical and experimental data from the UK and abroad. From that knowledge and their considerable experience, they do not believe that annual meadow grass is the source of 90% of all greenkeeping problems. Other factors contribute much more than 10% of a greenkeeper's troubles.

We agree annual meadow grass is not inevitable, but the influence of phosphate is only one factor in the balance of a grass sward. The species profile can also be influenced by, for example, poor drainage, inappropriate soil conditions, overwatering, misapplication of products, degree of use and so on.

Fisons' policy on fine turf fertiliser formulation is to offer the greenkeeper a reliable and effective choice. Used as recommended, the Greenkeeper 1 and 2 formulations (which contain phosphate and potash) are aimed at replacing the P and K nutrients removed in clippings. Over a year, the average phosphate and potash levels in the soil should not vary significantly.

Should phosphate and potash levels be considered adequate or even excessive, then the nitrogenonly formulation Greenkeeper Super-N is available.

We recently commissioned the Taylor Nelson Group market independent company - to undertake a major investigation into fine and outfield turf care. Their report showed that those golf greenkeepers who used organic nitrogenous mixes did so principally because of the prolonged release characteristics. Using this formulated information. Greenkeeper Super-N as a consistent and reliable slow-release nitrogenous fertiliser.

What would Fisons' defence be to the statement that the two worst causative factors so adversely affecting greenkeeping over the past two decades were agricultural fertiliser companies selling inorganic NPK inexperienced fertilisers and irrigation companies installing badly designed pop-up systems with the wrong equipment? The irrigation companies, starting later, were so much quicker to spot this error, setting up the BTIA and a generally agreed code of practice. Yet, only last year, Fisons were still plugging NPK and are still not committed to organic nitrogen.

As a specialist horticultural company, Fisons Horticulture has never recommended, and would never recommend, that agricultural fertiliser formulations be used on fine turf. These products are totally inappropriate. We cannot comment on the activities of the irrigation industry, except to agree that poorly conceived and installed irrigation

systems may have caused problems on golf courses.

A code of practice is only required where there is a substantial risk of the consumer being misled. With fine turf fertilisers, this is not the case. There is a large selection of formulations on the market and government legislation that demands a complete and accurate description of the contents of a fertiliser. This is clearly more binding than a voluntary code of practice.

Our recommendations regarding NPK fertilisers are covered in the answer to the last question.

Fisons sell autumn fertilisers. Virtually no greenkeeper would apply even low nitrogen fertilisers in autumn, partly because they are not needed and partly because they induce not only disease but, because of high phosphates, annual meadow grass as well. Would they contest the statement that autumn 'greenkeeping' fertilisers benefit only the sellers of those fertilisers?

Another significant point brought out by the Taylor Nelson Group survey is that 25% of all golf green fertiliser applications are made between September and March. This is corroborated by our sales figures, which show that a considerable number of golf greenkeepers do apply autumn fertilisers.

Published experimental evidence indicates that a low autumn nitrogen application encourages grass recovery from both summer stress and wear and autumn cultural operations, such as scarification. The implication is obviously that autumn treatments are considered by many greenkeepers to benefit the turf more than the fertiliser company.

Do Fisons think urea-nitrogen is equivalent to hoof and horn and dried blood? Do they know of the research that says urea is little better than sulphate of ammonia and a lot more expensive?

No, we do not believe urea is equivalent to hoof and horn. Urea can, however, be seen as a rapid-release

nitrogen source with a broadly similar effect to dried blood. One of our main aims is to supply a product that is safe, consistent, easy to apply and reasonably priced. We incorporate urea into the granular Greenkeeper range because it is cheaper than dried blood and considerably less phytotoxic to turf than sulphate of ammonia.

Hoof and horn is a slow-release nitrogen source - quite an effective one, providing the particle size is right. We have formulated our slowfertiliser. release nitrogenous Greenkeeper Super-N using IBDU, an organic compound reported by the STRI to be particularly effective on fine turf.

Why do Fisons advocate fertiliser treatment for fairways where there is no loss of plant nutrients, as the cuttings are returned and such NPK fertilisers bring in droughtsusceptible grasses and, worse still, produce leafy pastures from which it is impossible to impart backspin and, consequently, stop on a ball?

It is this area where the use of agricultural fertilisers rather than specialist formulations has had its most detrimental impact on golf.

However, fairways are like any other artificially maintained plant community - nutrients are lost through leaching, but there is an imperfect nutrient return. We recommend a modest fertiliser application to maintain nutrient levels and to support a healthy sward. This is certainly not designed to produce a leafy pasture.

Why do Fisons set so much store on soil analysis when all the results

usually prove that P and K levels are too high?

In the past, we offered free soil analyses as a service to customers, many of whom were used to having greens analysed on an annual basis by previous advisors. We thought this was unnecessary and the company policy was to try and limit, where possible, the amount done. We now carry out virtually no turf soil analyses for customers.

Why did Fisons advisors (and perhaps they still do) invariably recommend liming fairways and greens? Do they think there is an ideal pH? If so, why do our best courses show such a wide range of pH values on fairways and greens-from just over 4.0 to well over 8.5 - yet the same grasses grow equally well at all parts of the pH range if phosphates and potash are kept low?

We have never recommended liming in that way - only where turf has suffered because the soil has been proved to be excessively acidic, leading to poor sward density, which cannot compete with weeds and moss. Indeed, we do not believe that there is an ideal pH for the soil of a golf course.

Is it not true Fisons were basically phosphate producers and had to buy their nitrogen from a competitor. So they had a vested interest in plugging the 'virtues' of phosphate.

Fisons Horticulture Division has, for over 20 years, been totally independent of any agricultural fertiliser concern and formulates its own fine turf fertilisers. Considering the operational scale of major

agricultural fertiliser companies, it is inconceivable that they would attempt to influence a market as small as the fine turf industry.

What is Fisons' view of rival companies selling organically based nitrogen, which most greenkeepers want and has been used for 60 years and more?

We believe in free and fair competition and also recognise that there are some sectors of the market for which we do not cater. However, our products are obviously filling a significant demand, otherwise they would not be commercially viable and would be dropped from the range. Again, we do sell a product based on an organic nitrogen compound -Greenkeeper Super-N.

How would Fisons answer the charge that commercial interests have caused the deterioration of our golf courses and view the influence of the poorer club golfer, who cannot stop on firm greens and screams for more water and fertiliser? Would you agree it is up to the 'average' club golfer to improve his game rather than the greenkeeper produce a course that flatters it?

The 'average' golfer is the backbone of most golf clubs - they are the reason for the club's existence. The majority of clubs should, and must, cater for his needs. This does not mean bunkers should be filled in and the course levelled to make it easier. Clearly, there should be an appropriate level of challenge in the game. It is the greenkeeper's task to match that challenge, with his course, to the requirements of the club's customers.



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:

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Telex: 367257 - TELSER, G. for TIS.



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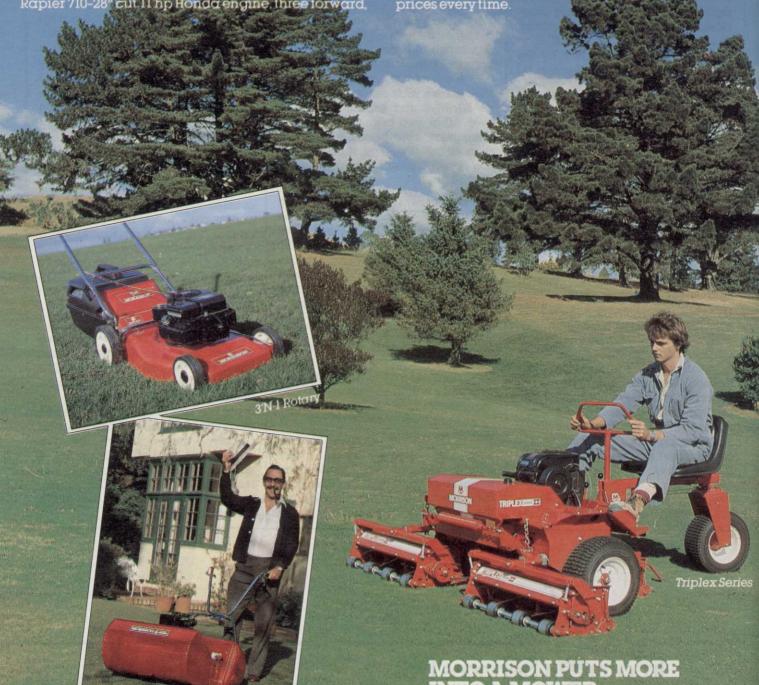
Or the Morrison Olympic 600 Cylinder Mower with its unbeatable finish and clip rate of 85 cuts per metre (78 cuts per yard). Then there's the new rugged Rapier 710-28" cut. 11 hp Honda engine, three forward,

one reverse gear with non-slip drive and separate

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And the Morrison 3'N'l Rotary It's a rear discharge mower, a catcher mower and a mulcher.

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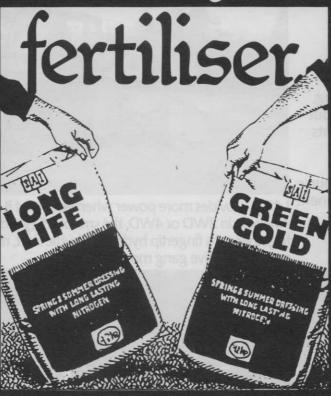
**B7100HST** has a powerful 16hp diesel engine, controlled by hydrostatic transmission, which includes creep speeds as standard. It will earn its keep all over the course.



**B8200** With a 3 cylinder, 19hp engine, it's ideal for the heavy work on course. Also available with hydrostatic transmission.

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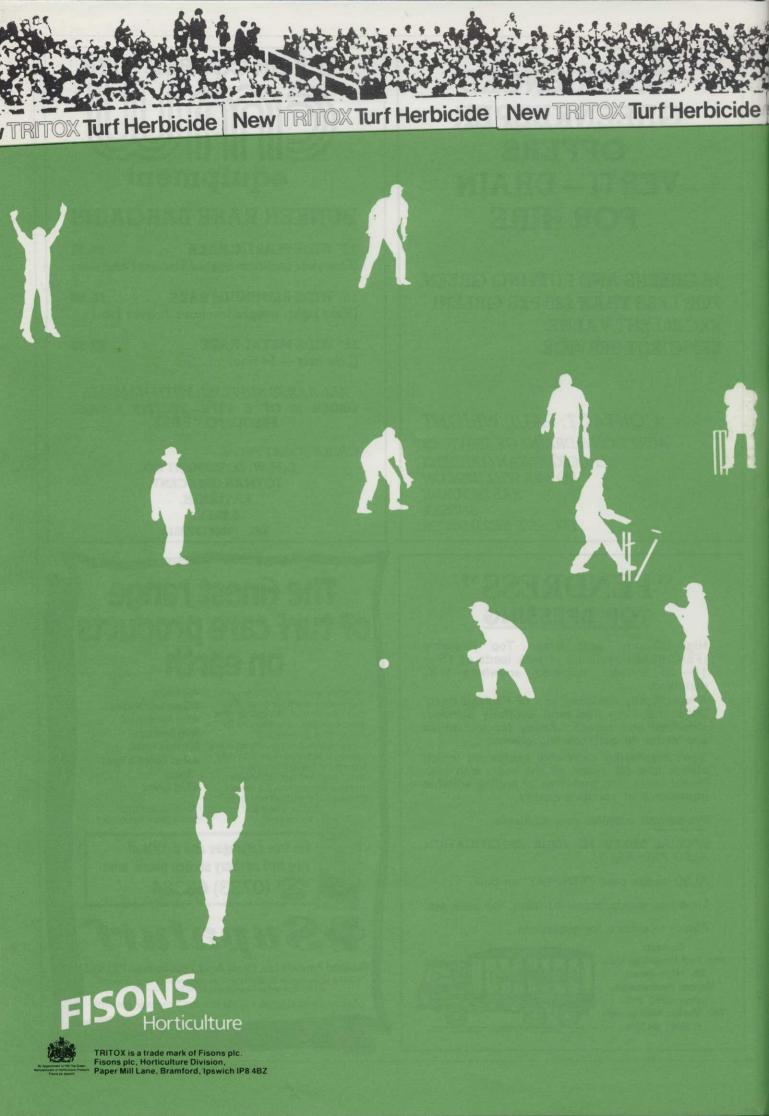
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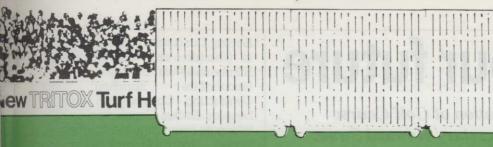


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# **Building our future**

A profile of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors by its general secretary Howard Swan.

IN recognising the need for an uplifting of standards in golf-course construction generally, 1981 saw a few of the more prominent and competent contractors discussing and eventually formulating the aims and objectives upon which the BAGCC was founded. The fundamental objective was to improve standards through representation of member companies and the dissemination of knowledge and information to and from the various parts of inter-related industries.

Initially, members strove to improve by informal education and in early 1982 the first BAGCC education session was held, with 35 delegates at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Preston. This event laid the fundamentals that were followed by many in the field. The second education session at Writtle College in 1983 was equally successful and the BAGCC began

to expand its role in this sector.

The association now has six full members, some of which specialise intensively in golf-course construction. Others rely on the construction and similar activities in other turfgrass areas to supplement golf-course work. In addition to the full members, details of which are set out here, the association also has 12 associate members representing suppliers, irrigation companies and other specialists having a direct bearing on golf-course construction. The BAGCC is represented on the National Turfgrass Council and, through its sitting member, has organised a number of day seminars on sand-based constructions and may become involved in the production of an NTC book on a directory of sands for use in golf and other turfgrass areas.

Members of the association meet at quarterly intervals to discuss policy and programme and are looking to consolidate the existing membership during 1985. Close liaison is kept with other golf associations and in particular with members of the British Association of Golf Course Architects, with whom many BAGCC members work. Joint discussions were held during 1984 with a view to producing a contract document for golf-course construction designed specifically by the two associations for that usage. It is anticipated that, during

1985, such a document will be produced.

The future will see the British Association of Golf Course Constructors working actively through its membership to increase awareness of constructional activity and the need for thoroughness, professionalism and quality in that work to maintain its coveted position of being responsible for the vast majority

of United Kingdom golf-course construction.

Those who attended a BAGCC members' meeting recently at The Post House, Crick, Warwickshire were: H.Swan-Golf Landscapes, B.Pierson-Brian D.Pierson (Contractors), R.Blyth-Land Unit Construction, R.Wilson-Southern Golf, Ms K.Colling-Southern Golf, G.Rawlinson-Chipman, J.Cheeseman-Eccles Contracting, T.Banks-Banks Horticultural Products, P.Roberts-Toro Irrigation, J.Franks-British Seed Houses, M.Perkins-Mommersteeg International, M.Coffey-Greenkeeper.

A structure for the association was agreed and these secretarial posts confirmed: J.Cheeseman-membership, R.Blyth-publicity, B.Pierson-meetings,

H.Swan-general secretary, T.Banks-treasurer.



Eccles Contracting-based at Hyde in Cheshire and also Scunthorpe, Humberside-started life as the Lincolnshire Spraying and Contracting Company in 1929. It became Eccles Contracting in 1948, taking its name from the founder J.G. Eccles. Upon his retirement, the group of companies was taken over by Faber Prest Holdings of Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

From its original agricultural contracting base, the company moved into civil engineering and has latterly diversified into land reclamation, landscaping and recreational surfacing, which embraces playing fields, athletics tracks, synthetic surfaces and golf courses.

In 1984, Eccles Contracting contributed a turnover of £5.1m to the £38m of Faber Prest Holdings. The company's work is generated mainly from local authorities in the north and Midlands on selective tendering lists. However, if a contract involves a specialised surface, such as a golf course, the company works beyond its usual regional limits. In fact, work has been carried out as far afield as Saudi Arabia.

Eccles Contracting is fully equipped and staffed professionally and can prepare projects from initial survey to completion, although occasionally building works have been carried out as part of a wider scheme.

Clients also include landscape architects, private clubs and golf-course architects. Eccles Contracting is a full member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, the British Association of Landscape Contractors and the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. Eccles Contracting and Faber Prest Holdings both stage annual golf tournaments at Lindrick.

Contact: Eccles Contracting, Brickfield Street, Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire. © 045 74 63425. The company is also at Eccles House, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe DN16 1FS. © 0724 865861.

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Golf Landscapes has been responsible for over 70 constructional projects throughout Europe. The company has a reputation for high-quality workmanship and efficiency of construction. Its personnel, from director through resident site supervisor to plant operator, are highly qualified and experienced in the technical, managerial and site organisational aspects of modern

golf-course construction.

Golf Landscapes can offer a wide range of services ranging from feasibility studies on new sites, consultancy on golf course provision and construction and fee-based construction management. Design and specification proposals are based upon proven methods thoroughly tested and analysed in the laboratory and in the field. The company works closely with the country's leading schools of agronomy and is able to draw upon the services of the most prominent golf-course architects to provide a design and build approach to a new course.

A significant proportion of the specialist golf-course construction work undertaken by Golf Landscapes is at existing golf clubs and comprises renovation and reconstruction work to greens and tees and extensions and rearrangements of current layouts. Many golf greens are unable to withstand the heavy usage to which they are subjected and, despite rigorous maintenance and surface treatment procedures, do not perform adequately. When that point is reached, reconstruction may be the only answer.

Golf Landscapes is in a position to advise on, specify and carry out such works to the highest standard. The replacement of the foundation and rootzone of existing greens is not expensive when carried out to traditional methods and specifications. Certain cost savings may be effected by the utilisation of the PM green® construction technique, which incorporates a sand rooting medium over an intensively drained base. Such a method significantly reduces disturbance to the course during reconstruction and indications suggest that play can be recommenced more quickly after work than with more traditional methods. Additionally, the technique is economical, reducing overall costs by up to 30 per cent over traditional reconstructions.

While best known for specialist golf-course construction work, the company has a full range of turf drainage and ancillary equipment, together with trained and experienced operators. Accordingly, Golf Landscapes is able to undertake drainage works of all kinds on existing golf courses, to greens, tees and fairway areas, ditching, etc.

The company's appointment as area distributor for TORO irrigation equipment in 1982 extended Golf Landscapes' ability to undertake a broader approach to golf course, sportsground and landscape construction. Golf Landscapes Irrigation has a team of experienced personnel who have the expertise to design, install and service efficiently and effectively TORO systems. Such a service is backed by a fleet of machinery developed by company specially for irrigation installation.

At its Brentwood base, Golf Landscapes holds a comprehensive stock of irrigation spares and UPVC pipes and fittings, available at competitive prices, to meet service needs. Planned maintenance is offered by the company's service engineer, as is a seasonal start-up/ close-down programme for existing irrigation systems.

The company has developed its own programme of constructional management in golf and sportsground fields, but particularly in relation to golf projects in Europe and further afield. In such cases, Golf Landscapes will take overall responsibility for the construction work, from specification and planning to day-to-day on-site supervision. Control of constructional activity is achieved by a resident site supervisor, suitably qualified and experienced, who is able to direct local resources of plant and labour. Material ordering and importation is controlled at this level. Such a site supervisor would, where required, have a working knowledge of the local language.

Overall project supervision is afforded at director level with regular site visits and inspections timed to suit constructional intensity. In essence, the programme is comprehensive, leaving only the payment of purchases to be handled by the client.

Golf Landscapes' construction management programme is available as a fee-based package, designed for and tailored to individual project requirements.

Golf Landscapes is a founder member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, a member the British Turf Irrigation Association and an international member of the Golf Course Builders of America.

Golf Landscapes, Contact: Ashwells Road, Bentley, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9SR. Ø 0277 73720.

Land Unit Construction has been building golf courses to championship standard for the past eight years but, due to the decline in new-course construction, the company has in alteration specialised extensions to existing courses.

Lately, Land Unit Construction's works have included 'mini' land drainage using a 35mm perforated pipe and backfilling to the surface with Lytag drainage medium, which is proving to be successful.

The company's recent involvement with Omnisport has opened up a new market in sand-filled synthetic tees. with proper tee inserts, mainly for winter use.

Contact: Land Unit Construction, Folly Farm, Hanslope, Milton Keynes MK19 7BX. Ø 0908 510414.

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Brian D.Pierson (Contractors) has recently completed its 50th golf course contract, including major alterations on four Championship courses, together with many other famous courses.

The company has just finished work on a new nine-hole course at Radley College, major alterations to Alresford Golf Course (precipitated by a new by-pass) and has virtually completed a new 18-hole course at Redditch.

A significant part of the company's

work has been the renovation of existing courses, where defunct bunkers present only a maintenance cost without relevance to modern play. Many courses have a variety of small tees, which again present high maintenance costs for relatively few teeing positions and the introduction of large teeing areas is increasingly important.

Drainage is a recurring problem on many courses and it is essential that this work is carried out by experienced contractors. All too often. well-meaning agricultural contractors, while fully conversant with the principles of drainage, fail to realise the importance of preserving the fine turf and damage to soil structure caused by heavy plant.

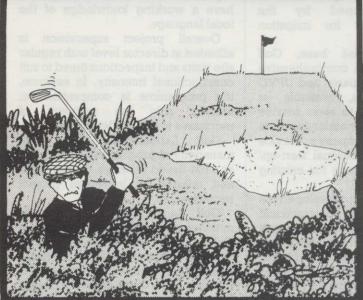
The company is now diversifying into specialist maintenance in an effort to provide a continuity of service. It now has available for hire the full Cushman range and has recently added the Cambridge Soil Vibrator and the successful Verti-Drain, which has been put to use on over 30 courses since its purchase last year.

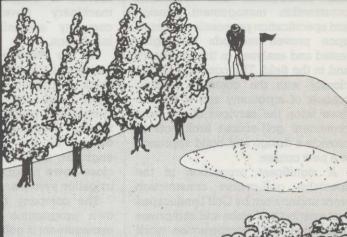
Brian D.Pierson is becoming increasingly involved in overseas contracts and it is hoped that work will

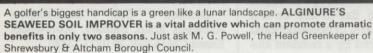
> More BAGCC details on page 26...

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#### **British Association of Golf Course Constructors**



Brian Pierson and Donald Steel stand on the 17th tee of the new course at Abbey Park, Redditch.



A Southern Golf construction — the 7th green at Bonmont Golf Club, Geneva.

commence on a new golf course in Tenerife this year, with possible follow-ups on the Costa del Sol and in Portugal.

A new facet of activity has been golf-course construction at Letham Grange in Arbroath and Bashley Park Leisure Centre at New Milton, where the company has provided construction expertise, programming and site management utilising the machinery and skills of the client's own staff.

The company was originally formed to specialise in golf-course construction and, while it has enjoyed successful years, the landscaping and sportsground section has developed to such an that six fully landscaping units are operated throughout the south and there have been significant inroads into the local landscaping and sportsground construction market.

Brian D.Pierson (Contractors) looks forward to the future with great confidence and the ability to meet the demands of the ever-increasing leisure market. The company is a founder member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, the British Association of Landscape Industries and an international member of the Golf Course Builders of America.

Contact: Brian D.Pierson, 27 Vicarage Road, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 6DR. Ø 0202 822372/ 824906. Southern Golf director Jeremy Pern is the first to admit that one of his company's finest achievements did not turn out exactly as he had hoped. It took two years to complete in difficult conditions, was generally considered a triumph over adversity and is now a battlefield! Built in arid semi-desert 50 miles north of the Persian Gulf oil complex at Abadan, the 18-hole Ahwaz Golf and Country Club has been the scene of some of the bitterest fighting in the Iranian revolution and the Iran-Iraq war.

First to go was the massive pump house, which served 22 kilometres of irrigation piping and 130,000 square meters of artificial lakes. It was blown up only hours after the greenkeeper and pro had fled. For Southern Golf it meant the loss of an international showpiece, demonstrating all the construction skills built up since the company was formed in 1972.

Specialising in large-scale prestige projects, the company has sent its teams of soil scientists, irrigation specialists and agronomists to 11 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

During the last three years, Southern Golf has built over 150 greens on courses in the UK, Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland and elsewhere on such varied terrain as peat bogs, sand dunes, gravel beds, forests, heavy clay farmland and rocky mountain slopes high in the Alps.

Jeremy Pern and managing

director Ray Wilson-who, as a trained accountant, also looks after administration, marketing and client liaison-travelled over 200,000 miles between them last year.

Much of Southern Golfs success is due to the golf-course architects it has worked with and for. These include Commander John Harris, Don Harradine, Robert Trent Jones, Brian Huggett and Neil Coles. And, despite the ever-rising costs of building a full-sized prestige golf course from scratch, there is every sign that the company's expertise will remain much in demand.

Southern Golf aims to start work at the beginning of spring and to pile in enough resources to have 18 holes completed autumn by depending on local conditions, ready for play the following year. "That's where our specialists come in, our agronomists, soil scientists and greenkeepers, who make sure that the drainage, seed and fertiliser we put in produce a green and healthy sward and that it stays that way," Jeremy Pern said. "There would be nothing more embarassing than spending all that time, money and effort and then have it all die on you. There are no clay courts in golf!"

Contact: Southern Golf and Landscapes, 85 West Street, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 6AH. © 0926 492898.

• The sixth BAGCC member is Chipman.

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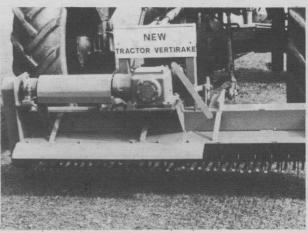
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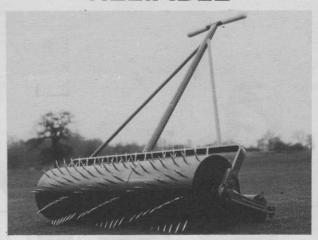
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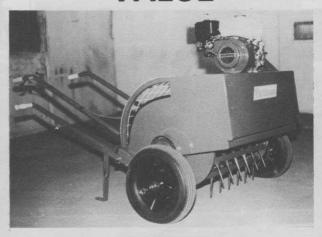
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#### **Notebook**

#### R & A Supports Turf Research For Golf

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews has agreed with The Sports Turf Research Institute to provide £80,000 spread over four years to finance a programme of research into some of the most urgent problems affecting golf courses. The project will be in three parts.

- 1. A research investigation into the construction of pure sand golf greens. This work will involve looking into the construction and maintenance problems associated with the use of 100 per cent sand constructions. Fertilisation of golf greens is a controversial subject, with many people applying excessive amounts of phosphate in the mistaken view of its beneficial effects. On sands, or soils with a high sand content, the problem of fertilisation becomes more acute because of the inherent nutrient deficiency of sands. To fully evaluate the effects of fertilisers on sand greens, a large experiment will be set up at Bingley. The study will include measurements on aspects of playing quality, changes in botanical composition, including annual meadowgrass invasion, and thatch development over a number of years.
- In conjunction with the University of Aston, Birmingham, a research student will study the properties of golf turf and relate this to the

playing qualities of golf greens. The project will involve studying the characteristics of golf green turf in relation to the roll of golf balls and ball bounce and spin properties.

3. A new research project will investigate fairy rings, including superficial fairy rings (thatch fungi), about which little is known. Particular emphasis will be placed on the control of these fungi and a range of chemicals will be evaluated for this purpose.

It was due to the efforts of the R & A Golf Club in the 1920s that the Board of Greenkeeping Research (as forerunner to the STRI) came into being 56 years ago.

#### **Business As Usual** For Jacobsen & Co

Much speculation has arisen regarding the future of the Jacobsen Bunton and Ryan brand names in the UK following the announcement by Lindsay Marshall of UK importers Marshall Concessionaires that, due to the adverse dollar/pound exchange rate, the company was to cease acting as the main importer.

Walter Kuhnen, managing director of Orag International, the main European distributor based in Switzerland, confirmed to Greenkeeper that a new UK importer is being sought after talks with

Charterhouse Turf Machinery failed to fructify.

However, Mr Kuhnen added that a 'caretaker' agreement has been reached with Marshalls to continue as main UK agents at least until the IOG exhibition at Windsor in September, when it is hoped to announce new arrangements for the UK under the Orag umbrella. Customers need not be concerned about the availability of spares or new machines, Mr Kuhnen concluded.

#### Paul Goes It Alone

Until recently head greenkeeper at Dale Hill Golf Club, Paul Wright has set himself up in business as Aeration & Drainage Services. Paul has purchased a Verti-Drain from his former club, where he first recognised its contribution towards easing compaction.

Dale Hill acquired the Verti-Drain last June and soon took on the aeration of other golf courses — now Paul is to continue the good work.

His machine is mounted on a tractor with a hydrostatic gearbox, which gives the variable forward speed essential for a satisfactory performance from the Verti-Drain.

With a background as a greenkeeper at several clubs, Paul feels he is well-qualified to assist others with the valuable aeration operation.

Contact Paul Wright at Aeration & Drainage Services on 0323 506725.

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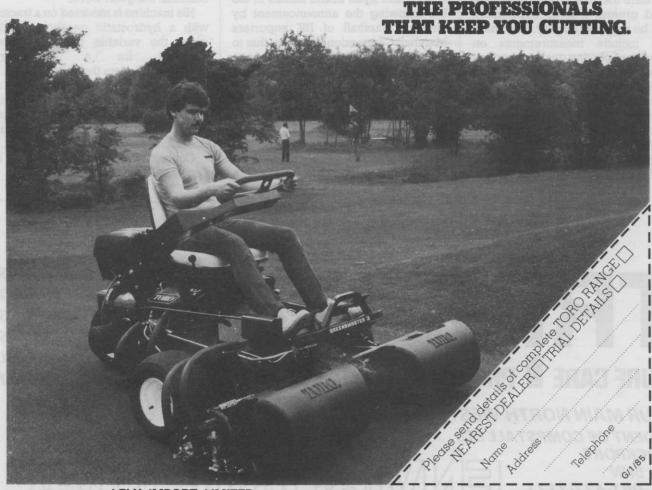
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#### **Ransomes For Ryder Cup Course**

Ransomes has won an order worth nearly £100,000 from The Belfry Hotel. "This is the largest single order we have had from a golf club," sales director Guy Catchpole said.

The Belfry, situated at Wishaw, north Warwickshire and nine miles from the centre of Birmingham, has two 18-hole golf courses-the Derby and the Brabazon-and stages the Bell's Scotch Ryder Cup Match in September.

"In addition to demonstrations here, we visited Ransomes' factory to see the back-up we expect when committing ourselves to a company for such an important part of our operations," Belfry chief executive Brian Cash said.

A wide selection of Ransomes equipment, including four triple greens mowers, is being supplied to the Belfry through the company's dealer near Stafford, Burrows (Grass Machinery).

#### More Folks For **Fisons Sales Force**

Fisons Horticulture is increasing its sales coverage of the industry's professional side by four sales staff. "This expansion forms part of a complete sales re-organisation," sales and marketing manager Nigel Woodland said.

David Hull is operating the new professional horticulture sales force. He joins Fisons as national sales manager from Monsanto.

Promotions from within Fisons' existing sales force include Mike Burdett, who becomes key account manager for the south eastern region, and Ron Page, who takes on the new position of regional sales manager for the west central area.

The new post of amenity technical



Belfry chief executive Brian Cash signs the agreement while director Allan Hunter, horticultural officer Jack Broady and Ransomes sales director Guy Catchpole look on.

advisor has been filled by Keith McKee, previously southern area sales supervisor. Keith joins Bob Hardwick, who has been the Fisons' grower technical advisor for several vears.



David Hull.

#### **For Course Consultations**

Malcolm Kenyon and John Jemmett have formed Western Golf Course Consultants based in north Devon. Malcolm's commercial experience was formed in the seed-supply industry when he supplied grass seed mixtures and advised golf courses and playing fields for some 25 years.

John spent 30 years in the experimental and trials fields with most growing plant species and grasses. Before, he worked in the family nursery business.

Contact Malcolm Kenyon on 0271 44633 or John Jemmett on 0271 62177.

> Contact SIGGA on 041-427 4701

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#### **CUSHMAN**

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#### **New Fairways For The Falklands**

When what is perhaps the world's smallest golf club—with just 23 members—has its course dug up by an invading army and is then shelled by the Royal Navy, it has to rate among the top hard luck stories in sport. That is what happened to the golf course at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, but there are now plans for the damage to be repaired.

Golf-course architect Bryan Griffiths of Golfconsult Associates, Epping recently flew to the Falklands to assess restoration of the old ninehole course or the construction of a new 18 holes. Hopefully, construction costs will be met by commercial and industrial sponsors.

Bryan, who was a guest of the Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt at Government House, has travelled the world appraising golf project investment and course design. So far, he has worked in 37 counfries, including Ghana, the Seychelles, Barbados and Venezuela. Nearer home, he designed the Telford Golf and Country Club course.

#### **Interest In Absorbing Product**

Maxwell Hart reports heavy demand for its water-absorbing Broadleaf P4—a Polymer that may be mixed with any planting medium to create a well-conditioned, water-retentive, growing environment.

P4 can absorb up to 400 times its weight in water. Thousands of tiny reservoirs are formed. Then, as required by the plant root system, water is released on demand, resulting in vigorous, robust plants

with strong and extensive root systems.

With unlimited drying out and rehydration capacity during its lifespan of about five years, Broadleaf P4 is a long term solution to soil conditioning. It reduces evaporation, inhibits leaching and limits the build-up of harmful salts. Broadleaf P4 upgrades the structure, hydration capacity and aeration of any soil, sand or compost. It is safe in all types of soil and with all kinds of vegetation.

Maxwell Hart says P4 is a major contribution to growth promotion. For example, it alleviates moisture stress in transplanting or growing on. Hanging displays require much less attention and for newly planted trees and shrubs P4 is already proving a boon.

Typical application rates mean that the 25 kilo bags of Broadleaf P4 are very good value. More details from Maxwell Hart on Wokingham (0734) 785655.

#### Obituary

George Hitchcock, 81, died recently. He came from a greenkeeping background and started work with his father at Langley Park Golf Club, Kent in 1918.

In 1935, Henry Cotton asked George to join him at the Royal Waterloo Golf Club in Belgium, where he stayed until 1940 when, with the assistance of Aubrey Boomer and the Prince of Wales, George managed to escape the advancing Germans.

During the war, he worked as a civilian at Southampton with the diving service. In 1945, again encouraged by Cotton, George took up the post of head greenkeeper at Coombe Hill Golf Club, Surrey, where

he stayed until 1978 when he retired. In his hands, the course was always in perfect condition.

There was a large attendance of greenkeepers, professionals and friends in the trade at the funeral. With Mrs Hitchcock was daughter Mary, son Jim and brother Wally, who was the professional at Langley Park. Jim, who now lives in South Africa, will be remembered for winning the Dunlop Masters, playing in the Ryder Cup and giving creditable performances in the Open.

George's memory will continue at Coombe Hill in the form of a competition to be played annually.

#### **New Range Of Turf Fertilisers**

C. Taylor and Sons of Oxted, Surrey has introduced Hurstridge 2000 to complement the range of Hurstridge Fine Turf Dressings and prescription mixes already marketed by the company.

The new 2000 range consists of four spring/summer and three autumn/ winter fertilisers. Included in the range is a nil-phosphate fertiliser to meet the demand for increased nitrogen and potash levels where there is already adequate phosphate available.

C. Taylor also offers a low-cost soil analysis service. Cores are taken and a 12 point guide prepared giving recommendations of balanced fertilisers and top dressings to suit individual requirements in order that a correct level of acidity, balanced nutrients and improved drainage may be achieved.

Full details from C. Taylor & Sons, Hurstridge, Crowhurst Lane End, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9NT. © 0342 892194.

#### **NTC Golfturf**

Three constituent members of the National Turfgrass Council in the Golf Turfgrass industry are planning to combine to hold a short conference in October.

Following their involvement in GOLF COURSE 84 the British Association of Golf Course Architects, British Association of Golf Course Constructors and the British Turf Irrigation Association, will under the auspices of the NTC, host three days of lecture and seminar sessions in mid October, at Woodhall Spa Golf Hotel, Lincolnshire.

The proposed event, which extends the aim of bringing together the various parts of the golf turfgrass industry, will feature national and international presarchitecture, entations on construction and irrigation at technical levels, as well as social and golfing events, there is likely to be a 'wives' programme also whereby the 'widows' of the various principals and managers of the Associations' members may be a part of the whole NTC GOLFTURF concept.

Education and discussion will be the essentials of the programme, and details will be issued shortly.

Further enquiries to John Shildrick Secretary NTC, 3, Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ.

Telephone: Bradford (0274) 565131.



#### The Battle Between **Heather And Grass**

Heather on a golf course has always produced mixed emotions from golfers and greenkeepers. To the golfer who finds his ball resting among its wiry stems, it can be a problem but, at the same time, he probably marvels at the sight of a course ablaze in drifts of colour. The greenkeeper, too, appreciates the attractive features of the heather, but it is often the case that where the heather is inundated with grasses, the area is, in fact, very unattractive.

The heather and grasses battle it out and neither wins, occasionally the coarser grasses will gain the upper usually hand, but more appearance is of patchy weak heather with grass foliage and flower stems sticking out and large clumps of grass, particularly along the sides of paths.

Traditional management of heather does little to control the grass. Cutting hard back in the spring will encourage the grass at the expense of the heather; autumn trimming will improve the appearance, but in mild winters especially the grasses will continue to grow slowly.

A close examination of the rough in a natural heathland soil will show a diversity of young plants including young heather seedlings, but they appear to be supressed by the mat of vigorous grasses and only the young trees and gorse seedlings appear to be able to compete effectively for light and nutrients. The solution to this problem would seem to be the repression or removal of the grass to allow the heather to dominate.

A glance through some text books

#### Can You Help Name Names?

This photo is believed to have been taken before the first international greenkeepers' match between England and Scotland, in the mid-1930s at Barnton, Edinburgh. If older greenkeepers recognise anyone, they are asked to contact the editor at Greenkeeper, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich CO12 3AP. @ 0255 507526.



on the subject usually only reveals talk of eradication of heather with little or no advice on the management of heathland rough. An example of this is a section on heaths in Reginald Beales' book Lawns For Sports, published in 1924. He wrote: 'Some of the best and most beautiful inland courses have been won out of rough heaths, such as Sunningdale and Walton Heath. Gorse, bracken and heather should be cut and the ground broken up by steam tackle and allowed to lie fallow for as long as conveniently possible.'

In 1984, some preliminary work was

carried out at St George's Hill to assess the potential of Dalapon as a controller of a diverse range of grasses, while leaving the heather undamaged and free to grow away to form a thick cover. At Walton Heath, some spraying was also carried out with the same aim, but head greenkeeper Clive Osgood decided to try larger areas using the Cushman.

Dalapon is not recommended for overspraying any plant and spray guards are used to prevent accidental spray drift. However, there have been

Continued overleaf...

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#### Continued from previous page...

reports that when applied as an overall spray before heather growth commences in January/February there is no damage. As there are a number of different application rates for Dalapon and some of these are applied as dormant sprays, the objective was to find a rate of application and a time when the grasses would be controlled or suppressed allowing the heather to flourish.

The rate of application for Dalapon varies according to the crop being treated and, so, various rates were tested to try and establish a rate that would kill grass, but not heather. Treatment commenced in February at St George's Hill and March at Walton Heath. A knapsack sprayer fitted with a flooding jet and set at low pressure, 1 bar (10 psi), was used at St George's Hill. The Cushman fitted with size 0 nozzles was used at Walton Heath.

The results indicated that when the Dalapon was applied at between 10-11.2 kilos per hectare (9-10 lbs per acre) in February-March in a water volume of 337-560 litre/hectare (30-50 gallons per acre) a good kill was achieved with most of the grasses.

At Walton Heath, the treated areas showed a marked difference in their untreated surroundings. The majority of the grasses were killed and by midseason there was a proliferation of wild flora and a considerable increase in growth by the established heather. The young second generation heathers were also growing out of the areas of dead grass.

The site at Walton Heath was inspected again in October and November and the treated area was still easy to identify by its lack of long

#### Watermation Wins Again

Jack Wheeler, Watermation's customer services manager, received a golden circle distributor award from Weather-Matic at its annual sales conference in Houston, Texas recently. Weather-Matic manufactures lawn and turf irrigation products and Watermation of Woking, Surrey has been the sole UK distributor for 15 years. Due to Watermation's success, largely in golf irrigation, Weather-Matic has increased sales steadily. Watermation has now received the award a record eight times since 1975.



grass. A close inspection did show that the fescues in particular were coming back but, as yet, only as young plants. This application rate seemed to be the best from the point of view of tolerance by the heather, very little effect was noticed and they grew away well after treatment.

Some important lessons were learned during these trials particularly when using the Cushman—great care is needed to avoid any spray drift on to fairways, tees, etc; when spraying has been completed, avoid driving or walking across other areas until sprayer wheels and feet have been washed

down; as a general precaution, it is best to avoid spraying near greens, tees, etc and cleaning out spraying equipment, paying particular attention to nozzles and filters, is very important to avoid the possibility of spray damage with later treatments.

Work is continuing on this project and it is hoped that more specific information on heather and grass species treated will be gathered. Synchemicals would be pleased to hear from clubs preparing to carry out trials. The company can supply a trial report upon request. Full details from Synchemicals, 44 Grange Walk, London SEI 3EN © 01-232 1225



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#### Where There's A Wall There's A Way

A short hole with a small teeing ground, the 11th on the Ailsa Course at Turnberry has always worn badly. To overcome the problem, management decided to use winter's lull to rebuild the tee and increase its size fivefold.

However, the hole's location against the sea was a major problem. A wall 50 yards long and 17 feet high in places and strong enough to keep out the sea on one side while holding up 2,000 tons of in-fill and earth on the other was needed.

Estimates of cost jeopardised the entire project, then came the brainwave. During the last war, Turnberry was used as an RAF fighter base and parts of the old runway still remain. With a hired HY-MAC, course manager Russell Brown and his 12 staff broke the concrete into manageable blocks.

Using them to build the wall, the team completed the project within a week and at a fraction of original estimates. With the wall in place, Brown and his boys cut into a nearby mound and moved 2,000 tons of rock and earth to build up the new tee before covering with turf taken from the nearby Culzean Estate.

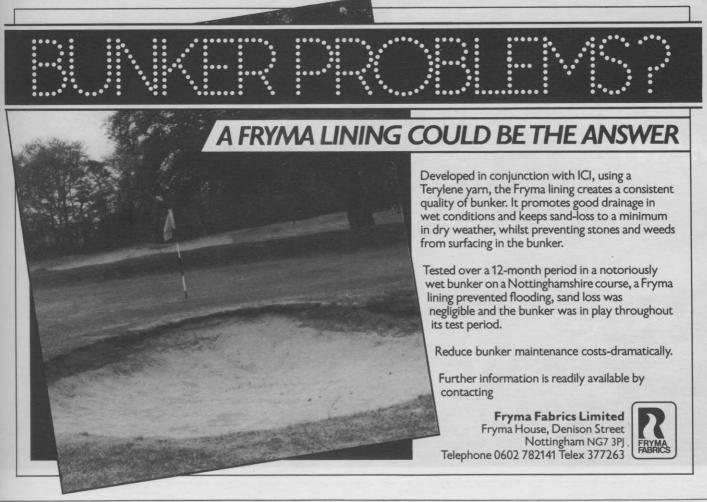
The project was part of a winter programme of improvement that included enlarging the tee at the famous lighthouse hole 9th and lengthening the 12th hole by about 50 yards. The tee has been taken back into ground recently purchased and

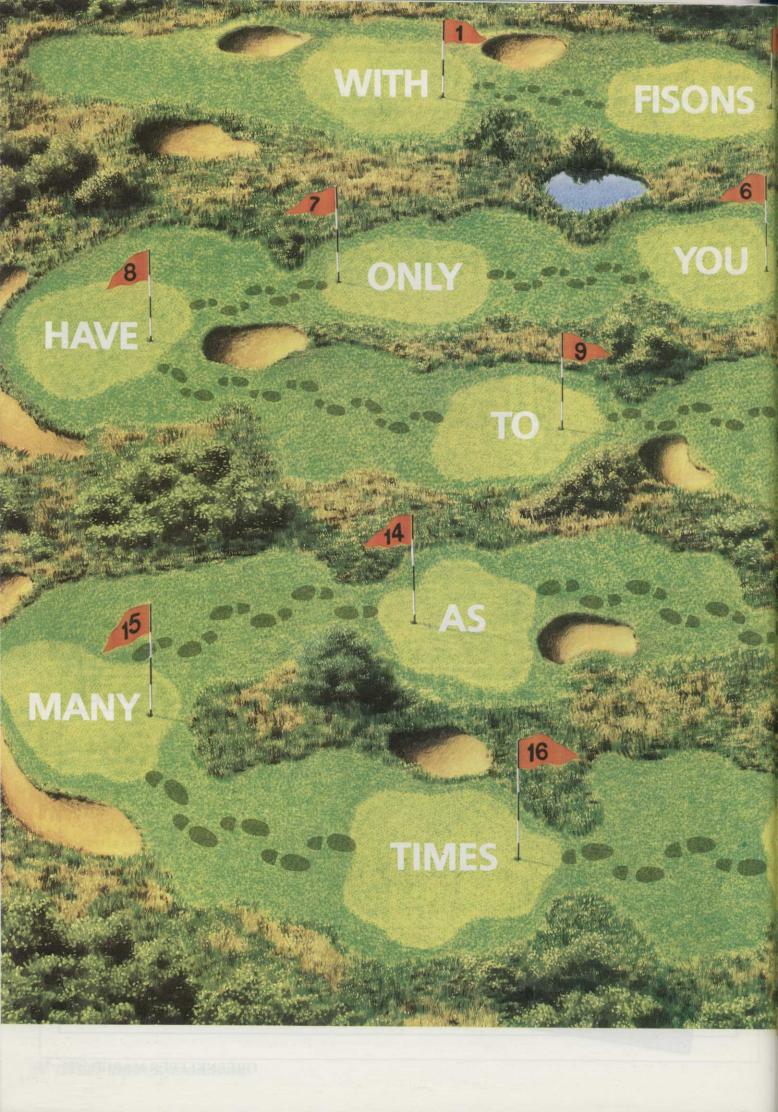
brings two large bunkers, previously too close to the tee, into play.

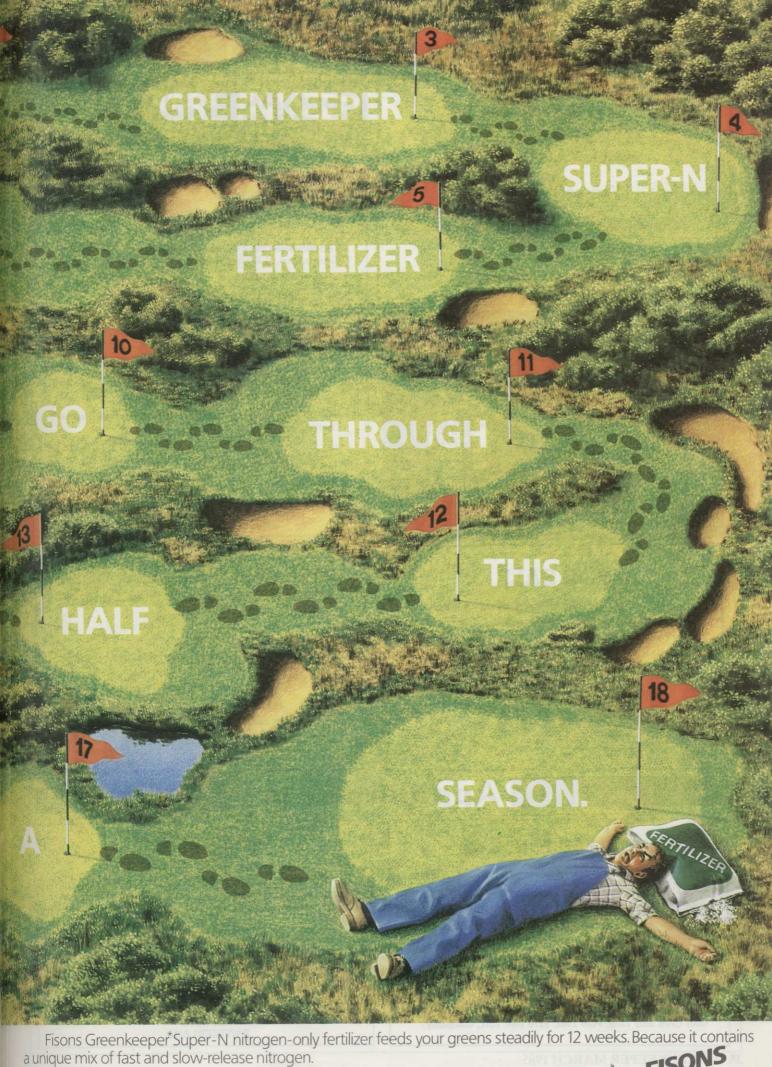
In addition, 40 bunkers have been, or are being, refaced. "Most of the changes have been planned for some time," Turnberry general manager Chris Rouse said, "although the lengthening of the 12th hole has been done mainly with the 1986 Open in mind."



The wall that Russell Brown and his boys built.







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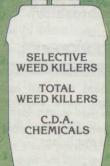
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