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Greenkeeper



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Where were you?

AS A delegate to the EIGGA conference at Warwick University recently, I was both impressed and depressed. Impressed by the programme and organisation, depressed by the dismal attendance, writes *Greenkeeper* publisher Michael Coffey.

The organisation by the EIGGA board of management, and especially by general administrator Danielle Jones, was faultless. I have been involved in the organisation of such a conference and can appreciate what was achieved in putting together such a programme—Saturday was the best conference in my 'greenkeeping' experience.

Warwick is a purpose-built, modern campus in nearly 400 acres of open countryside with excellent accommodation and some of the best lecture theatres anywhere in the UK. The food was adequate and plentiful and while the cafeteria style catering may be economic, it certainly didn't appeal to me, but the formal dinner was excellent.

After lunch on the Friday, Dickie Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, opened the proceedings by commending all those who attended and ended by stating that he would return to his club and enquire why none of the greenstaff was there.

It is worthwhile to recap that this conference was open to all in the golf-greenkeeping industry at a basic all-in cost of £98 for three days, which is less, you would imagine, than one club member's annual subscription. So, why were so few greenkeepers and, indeed, members of EIGGA present? Perhaps it was not publicised enough although all *Greenkeeper* readers certainly received details.

There is, of course, the apathy that exists in greenkeeping, as much as in other professions, to outside-hours training and additional education. There is also the very real lack of support from clubs to pay for their staff to attend. No doubt all these will receive attention from the organising committee for next year's event at the same venue.

All this was of minor concern to those at Warwick, for

there was a noticeable atmosphere—a buzz as interesting paper after paper was presented. The variety of topics, excellent presentation and the detailed question and answer sessions impressed enormously.

As always, the discussion kept going well after dinner with many a clash or meeting of minds—very stimulating, even if you are not at your best the next morning! It quickly became obvious that delegates from a wide range of courses were concerned chiefly with similar problems—dealing with committees, chemicals, conservation and the like. There was full debate on all topics and a feeling that if anyone had any help to offer, it should be shared.

One of the definite plus points was the attendance (and subsequent editorial comment) by Malcolm Campbell, the editor of *Golf Monthly*. Malcolm holds the welfare of course and greenkeeper at heart and his news report on the conference was of great interest. I have no doubt that his points will be taken up before next year's conference.

On the down side, was the position of the tournament pros as put by Tony Gray of the PGA European Tour. The list of requirements for a tournament venue received less than total acclaim from a body of men who see precious little of the £4.5 million prize currently on offer to this elite band of professionals. Many delegates questioned the wisdom of allowing professional golfers to speak with such freedom and apparent authority without having a clue on how a course is actually prepared and what happens when 'the circus' leaves town.

A point put forward by one distinguished delegate who suggested that it is time for the PGA European Tour to sit down with the head greenkeepers and discuss what is practical for a venue—which has to be played for the rest of the year—met only with a lukewarm response.

The weekend was not all fierce debate, however. None of the diversions was more amusing or well-attended than the mastermind quiz on Friday night, won by a team of greenkeepers representing South Wales, but which contained two Scotsmen! They took away handsome decanters from the sponsor Rigby Taylor.

There was much to offer those at Warwick and a quality in depth, which has been lacking in the past. No doubt further progress will be made by next year and I trust you will be there.

This issue

MAY 1985

Front cover:

The tractor mounted Verti-Drain, seen at Meon Valley Golf Club. The machine was hired from Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) now one of the countrys leading experts in the operation of this highly popular aeration machine. For further details contact Brian D. Pierson (0202) 822372.

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Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd

Managing Director: Michael Coffey

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Contributors: Jim Arthur, John Campbell, David Jones, Jack McMillan, Eddie Park, Donald Steel, Peter Wisbey and Walter Woods

All advertising matter, editorial copy and correspondence should be sent to: *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. ☎ 0255 507526

Subscription rates:

UK—£14 Continent and USA—£25 Eire—IR £19

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B. Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex.

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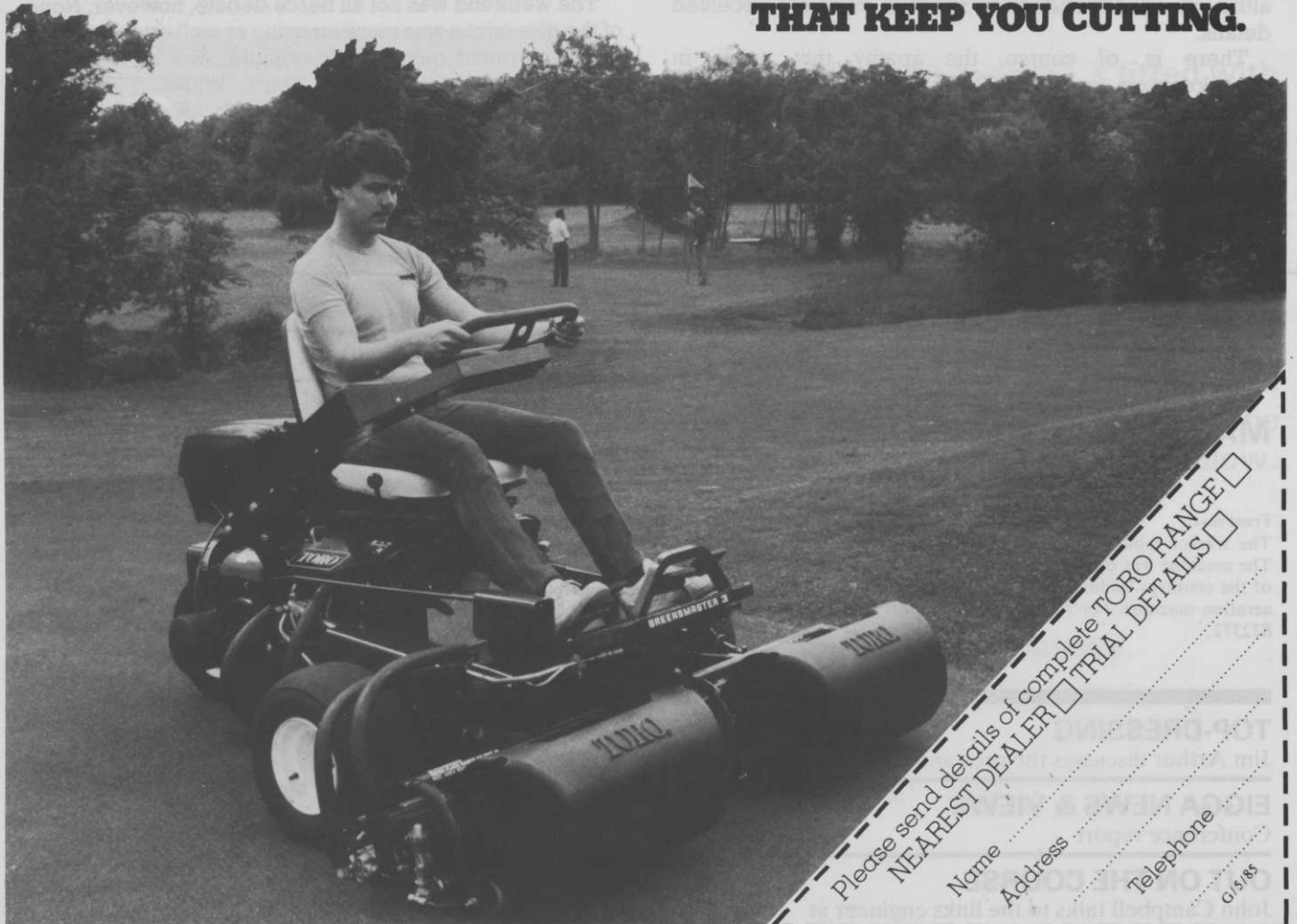


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TOP-DRESSING

By Jim Arthur

PERHAPS in no other area of greenkeeping is there so wide a division between theory and practice than in the question of what top-dressings to use and how to formulate and prepare them.

Few would debate the uncontested published evidence over the past 80 years of the link between phosphate fertilisers and annual meadow grass invasion. Perhaps more might feel inclined to argue as to whether annual meadow grass is such a deep-dyed villain as many of us have contended for many years, especially if they are only interested in course condition for summer tournaments and not all-year-round golf.

On one course, subject to unconventional treatment, it is admitted 'that the greens are 100 per cent annual meadow grass and it does not matter.' The fact that this is a symptom of serious problems below seems to have escaped notice.

Few fertiliser companies would try to dissuade golf clubs from buying nitrogen-only fertilisers, though they still sell NPK mixtures. I was, however, horrified on a recent advisory visit to see a written recommendation from one company advising the immediate application of 12oz per sq yd of lime to greens because their tests showed a pH of 4.7! They were good, 90 per cent *Agrostis* greens!

But with top-dressings, every facet of argument affects decisions. Whether to make your own or buy in is the chief point of discussion. My feeling is that unless you are lucky

enough to have consistent and freely available supplies of black, sandy, humus-rich topsoil virtually free from clay, either on the course or nearby, it then becomes too unpredictable a matter to try to make your own if you have to rely on variable sources of bought-in 'soil.'

With links courses, a more consistent supply is often achieved by stacking sand and seaweed and giving it time (with turning) to completely break down.

Some clubs are fortunate in being able to buy the large quantities they require of the eminently suitable black humus-rich soil from the fens—adding the correct sand as needed. Note that this is not a peat, but a neutral rather than acid source of humus, which is so difficult to provide from other sources.

Such clubs have existing generous shed accommodation, virtually compost factories, with sophisticated and expensive bulk shredding and screening and even in some cases sterilisation machinery.

The biggest arguments against home production are the huge cost of setting up such large soil sheds and handling equipment and the difficulties in getting suitable basic materials with which to produce good top-dressing.

If such shed and screening equipment is not available, my advice

is to buy in. I am unimpressed with the usual argument that 'it gives the men something to do in wet weather.' Some years, we could wait forever for wet weather, with an empty compost shed. Today, we are not, on busy courses, top-dressing in winter and so we want very finely screened *dry* material for spring and summer use. And with modern tractor cabs, many operations on the course can be carried out in wet weather. (If clubs provide their greenkeeping staff with decent accommodation and warm drying rooms, they will work outside more readily and efficiently in the wet.) In any case, no business can survive by employing staff unproductively just to keep them busy.

Cost is often raised as an objection to buying in, but even home production is not free. If you cost in labour, buying in sand and either extracting raw materials from the course or buying them in, not to mention subsequent handling and screening (but not making any allowance for capital investment in machinery or sheds), then the true cost of home mixing is about £12 to £15 per tonne and often more.

With good-quality imported dressing available at under £30 per tonne delivered, even if 100 tonnes are bought in each year—and most clubs, sadly, buy less—it is a relatively minor cost. The rub comes when we talk about what to buy!

It is essential to get a physical analysis carried out. A glance at the table of comparative results shown on

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Grade	Diam. mm.	Sample A %	Sample B %	Sample C %	Sample D %
Stones	> 8	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Coarse gravel	8-4	Nil	Nil	Trace	1
Fine gravel	4-2	Trace	Trace	Trace	3
Very coarse sand	2-1	6	Trace	1	2
Coarse sand	1-0.5	29	1	1	8
Medium sand	0.5-0.25	55	69	5	11
Fine sand	0.25-0.125	6	27	19	18
Very fine sand	0.125-0.05	Trace)	1)	12)	22)
Silt	0.05-0.002	Trace) 4	2) 3	27) 74	20) 61
Clay	< 0.002	4)	Trace)	35)	19)
Loss on ignition (humus)		8	2-3	27	1
Calcium carbonate ('lime')		Nil	Nil	Nil	4

this page reveals how wide can be the variation and, indeed, many top-dressing mixes sold are appallingly bad and also very inconsistent from batch to batch, according to the source of 'soil' used.

Sample A is a nationally available, well-advertised dressing, which regularly and consistently shows equivalent analysis results. It has a satisfactorily narrow range of sand size particles (84 per cent between 1mm and 0.25mm), a satisfactory humus content and is acid. Above all, it has only four per cent fines—ie very fine sand, silt and clay combined.

Sample B was a locally made-up mix, now withdrawn, and it can be clearly seen that it was really only a very fine, dirty sand.

Sample C was a home mix, showing an appalling combination of 74 per cent fines with 27 per cent humus—in fact, a compost derived from heavy soil and farmyard manure. Even adding large quantities of sand would never reduce that awful clay content and clay and sand make bricks!

Sample D was also bought-in. It was literally a sand/soil mix with no humus

and 61 per cent of fines. No wonder it sealed the surface and caused ponding.

There must be many other comparisons that can be made and Dr Peter Hayes at Bingley and I are collaborating on a survey of available materials. Samples have been collected from bulk deliveries and, therefore, should not have been tarted up!

What we need, of course, is a very low fines content and a sand particle range that is not too spread out—as the small particles infiltrate into the spaces left by the large particles. The material must be lime-free (for inland courses anyway) and have a sensible humus content. In other words, what good practical men have known for years by just looking at it and rubbing it between finger and thumb, plus that essential other ingredient experience!

I do not have the space to get involved in controversies of sand-only versus compost top-dressings, except to say that changing policies in mid-stream is disastrous and your material should equate physically

with what is below the grass.

Equally, it is difficult always to condemn buying in top-dressing expensively bagged as opposed to bulk deliveries if there are no storage facilities and it is, of course, much easier to handle the material around the course.

The problem is that smaller amounts tend to be bought to compensate for the doubling of price.

The balance must favour using a quality controlled, bought in top-dressing with consistent analyses and quality, unless you are lucky enough to have suitable raw material available in quantity on the course or are a links course, making top-dressing from sand and seaweed alone.

Nothing changes in greenkeeping, in principle, only in detail to compensate for increasing pressures due to play, with higher standards being demanded, yet less time in which to carry out the work. These top-dressing problems have not altered at all since the start of the century and sand and seaweed is as sound a policy now on links courses as it was a hundred years ago.

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Conference Report

The third annual conference of the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association took place at the University of Warwick in March. Although the attendance figures were lower than expected, the conference was considered very successful, both in terms of content and the quality of papers.

The conference programme was opened by Dickie Jeeps and the days programme continued with talks by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and golf-course constructor Brian Pierson.

The following day was devoted almost entirely to papers given by EIGGA members. This was felt by many to be an innovative step on the part of the association and the exercise proved very worthwhile, prompting the comment that it was good to see golf greenkeepers representing themselves in such a professional manner.

On the third and final day, the morning session began with a paper by a representative from the Institute Of Groundsmanship, followed by Tony Gray of the PGA European Tour.

The final event of the morning was an open forum. In the afternoon, the association held its third AGM. Chairman Peter Wisbey opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the 1984 AGM were read and approved as a true record of that meeting and the general administrator Danielle Jones reported that EIGGA membership, including those who had not yet renewed

subscriptions, stood at 847, with 57 of those being new members this year.

EIGGA branches are: Surrey, Sussex, Kent, London, East Anglia, the East of England, South Wales, the North-West and Berks, Bucks and Oxon and the association has ten company members—seven of which are national companies, three regional companies.

Danielle Jones said that all EIGGA members should have received a copy of the 1984 accounts in the March issue of *Greenkeeper*. The accounts for the previous year, as at December 31 1984, were:

Income—£13,103.94
 Expenditure—£10,827.67
 Stock of clothing—£1,544.13
 Balance of income over
 Expenditure—£732.14

A proposal that the 1984 accounts be adopted was made by T. Adamson. D. Harradine seconded the proposal.

The chairman reported that EIGGA's primary concern in 1984 had been to get greenkeeper training going in the right direction. He felt that the association was well on the way to achieving its aims, as it was now represented on the Greenkeeper Training Committee, together with the other greenkeeping associations, the national Golf Unions, the Secretaries' Association, the Sports Turf Research Institute and Jim Arthur.

Chairman Peter Wisbey added that to be represented on the GTC was a great step forward for EIGGA and that the association should do all in its power, together with the other organisations concerned, to establish the best facilities for greenkeeper training. It was imperative for all involved to unite in order to achieve this aim and it was very important to have the golf unions and the R & A on the side of the greenkeepers, as they stand more chance of influencing golf clubs to educate their greenstaff, he said.

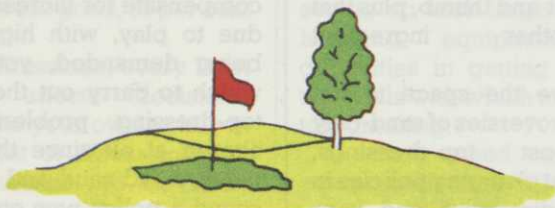
The chairman remarked that he was sorry to see so many empty seats at the conference, but felt that the conference had been extremely successful. He asked those present to raise support for the 1986 conference.

The chairman reported that, at the 1984 AGM, the board of management had been asked to consider raising the full subscription for 1986 to £50. This matter had been discussed thoroughly at board level and the conclusion had been that such a rise would be inappropriate at this time.

Steve Noye, branch administrator

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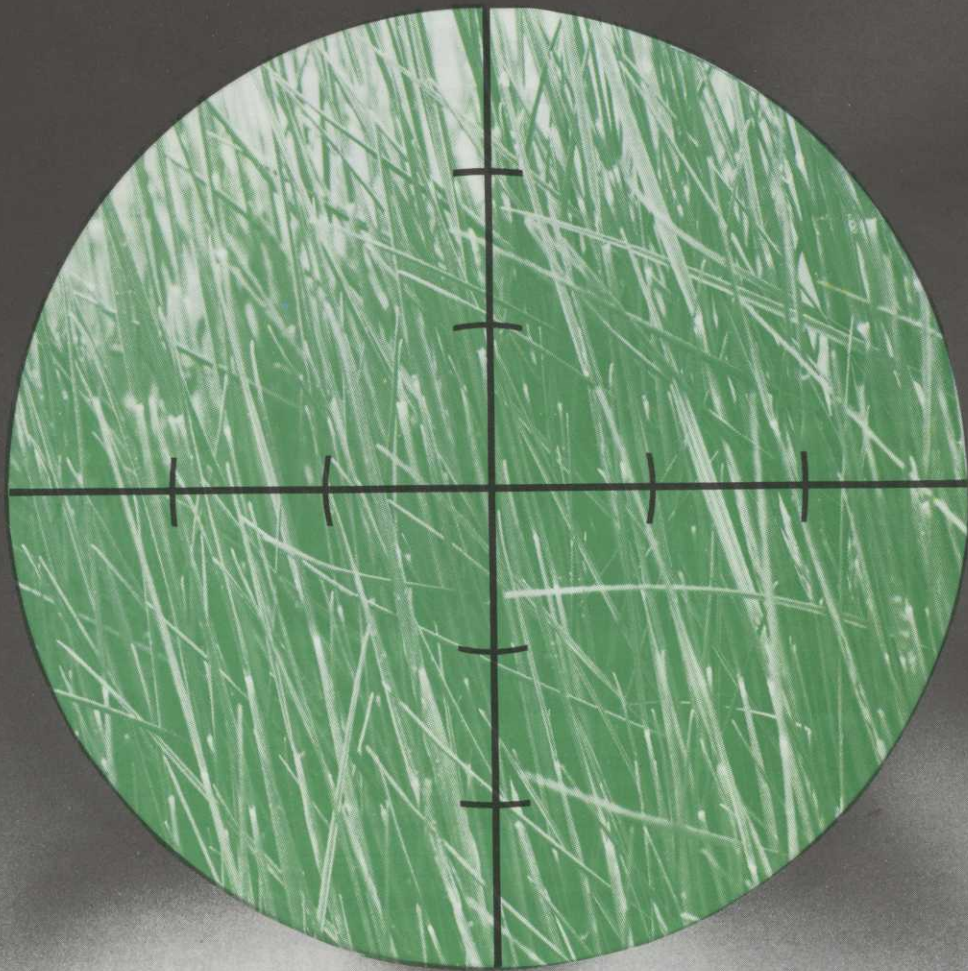


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Out·On·The·Course

THERE can be few more responsible jobs in golf course equipment engineering than that of looking after the vast range of machinery at St Andrews. And I know of no one better qualified than the man who has done the job in such a skilled and competent fashion over the past 15 years—George McLaren, 40, the Home of Golf's links mechanic.

I have known George since he first joined the staff and readily testify that he is an engineering genius, capable of completely overhauling tractors, triplex mowers and all the other items of specialist equipment so essential for the upkeep of a golf complex like St Andrews.

George and his wife both belong to St Andrews. The couple have three children and George is a devoted family man, an avid reader and knowledgeable on many subjects.

He loves discussing mowers and his views on the pros and cons of the different kinds of machinery reveal the character of a man who knows what he is talking about. So much so that some manufacturers like to pick his brains occasionally, but he often comes up with practical ideas for modifications.

"I was brought up in a farming community and am a countryman at heart," George said. "After leaving school, I started working for an agricultural and car repair specialist in St Andrews where I received my training in the overhaul of tractors and agricultural machinery. We also had to maintain a lot of the equipment used by the university for sports and recreation areas.

"When I first accepted the position as links mechanic, I really wanted a job with better prospects, more interest and variety and it was not long before I discovered that there was a lot more to keeping a golf course than just cutting the grass!

"I find the complex nature of fine turf management presents a constant challenge. I am not cooped up in the workshop all the time and there is always the opportunity to get outdoors to see how equipment is performing. Four 18 hole courses and a nine-hole layout require a whole range of sophisticated maintenance machinery.

"In my time, we have built up our workshop and are increasing the facilities as time goes on. Whenever we buy another machine, it may mean adding some new item to our range of tools, but apart from re-boring and re-

George McLaren



John Campbell talks to the links engineer at St Andrews.

grinding crankshafts, we don't have to use any engineering companies. We can do most of the overhauls and repairs ourselves.

"The basic workshop machinery that is essential to us is a cylinder grinding machine, oxy-acetylene and arc welding equipment, drills, jacks, hand grinders and a whole range of workshop implements, plus the special tools for doing certain jobs—some we make up ourselves, such as extractors, etc, for dismantling engines.

"When we get a new range of engines to deal with, we have to adapt some of our tools to suit them. Any tools we don't have, we can borrow from local garages where we have a good arrangement. We help them and they help us."

When asked to predict future trends in golf course machinery, George said, "I think we are going to see a greater use of diesel powered engines in a much wider range of mowing equipment. This will reduce running costs and, in some respects, would improve maintenance. Diesel engines give less trouble and they last longer than petrol ones. Running costs, too, could be halved.

"We use 100 gallons of petrol a week on average in summer. With diesel engines, much less fuel would be needed and substantial savings could be made by using agricultural diesel.

"The Japanese have shown it is possible to make powerful, compact

diesel engines with the introduction of mini-tractors, which are now being used widely. I am sure the design and size of these engines will become even smaller and they will be available in all sizes to fit any kind of mowing machine."

I asked what advice on machinery maintenance he would give greenkeepers. "The main thing is to keep machinery well-lubricated and if this is done regularly it will last much longer. There can be no doubt that proper care and maintenance pays dividends—machinery is easier to operate when kept clean and well-oiled and any adjustments that need to be done can be detected more easily.

"I have seen mowers coming in for overhauls at repair agents from local authorities in a deplorably filthy condition. They never get cleaned or washed down and are just put back into the sheds and started up the next day without any checking. Operators who do this never make good workmen. With no pride in their machines, they only abuse them and they are also a liability to their employers.

"The 'average' 18-hole course must keep a good tool kit. I would suggest a spanner and socket set, electric drill and selection of drills and a four or five inch grinder. If they want to do any simple overhauls, such as cleaning points, they will need extractors. A compressor is useful for inflating tyres and a sand blasting machine for cleaning plugs.

"With mowers, it is important to keep the blades sharp and accurately set if they are to do a good cutting job. Cylinder blades should be taken out every winter and ground down to obtain a satisfactory cutting edge and they should be back-lapped at regular intervals through the mowing season.

"Triplex mowers have revolutionised greenkeeping. They can produce a good finish akin to hand mowers on the greens. A great selling point with these machines when they first came on the market was that they did the work of two men and that should allow staff more time to concentrate on other jobs.

George had strong views on the subject of irrigation systems. "It is my job to look after the watering system at St Andrews and this can involve quite a lot of time in the dry summer months. Automatic installations have become extremely sophisticated—the ultimate systems now being offered with individual head control. I



George checks aeration equipment.



Transporting the Ryan heavy-duty turf cutter.

feel that the more simplified the control and upkeep of the systems, the better it is for greenkeepers. There are less chances to make mistakes. I have yet to see a trouble-free irrigation system, so the art and skill of fault finding is important to deal with breakdowns.

"No equipment, however good, can succeed unless there is an availability of spares. There is nothing more frustrating than to have a vital machine sitting in the sheds due to lack of spares

when it is badly needed on the course. We always have a good stock of spare parts here—we could carry more, but there is always the problem of storage. We keep all the necessary things, such as bottom blades, spark plugs, drive belts, hydraulic hoses. Spare chain links are also essential."

Finally, I wondered if the Open Championship and other major events at St Andrews created much more work for George. "I am kept quite busy," he said. "The most critical time

for us is during pre-tournament preparations. Contractors want to plough in new cables and water pipes. We have to accompany them to make sure that permanent lines don't get damaged. Last year's Open went smoothly and we had few problems.

"In closing, I would mention my assistant, who is proving invaluable in the workshop—Walter Woods Junior. He has proved to be an intelligent, skillful engineer, who has made the most of his training."

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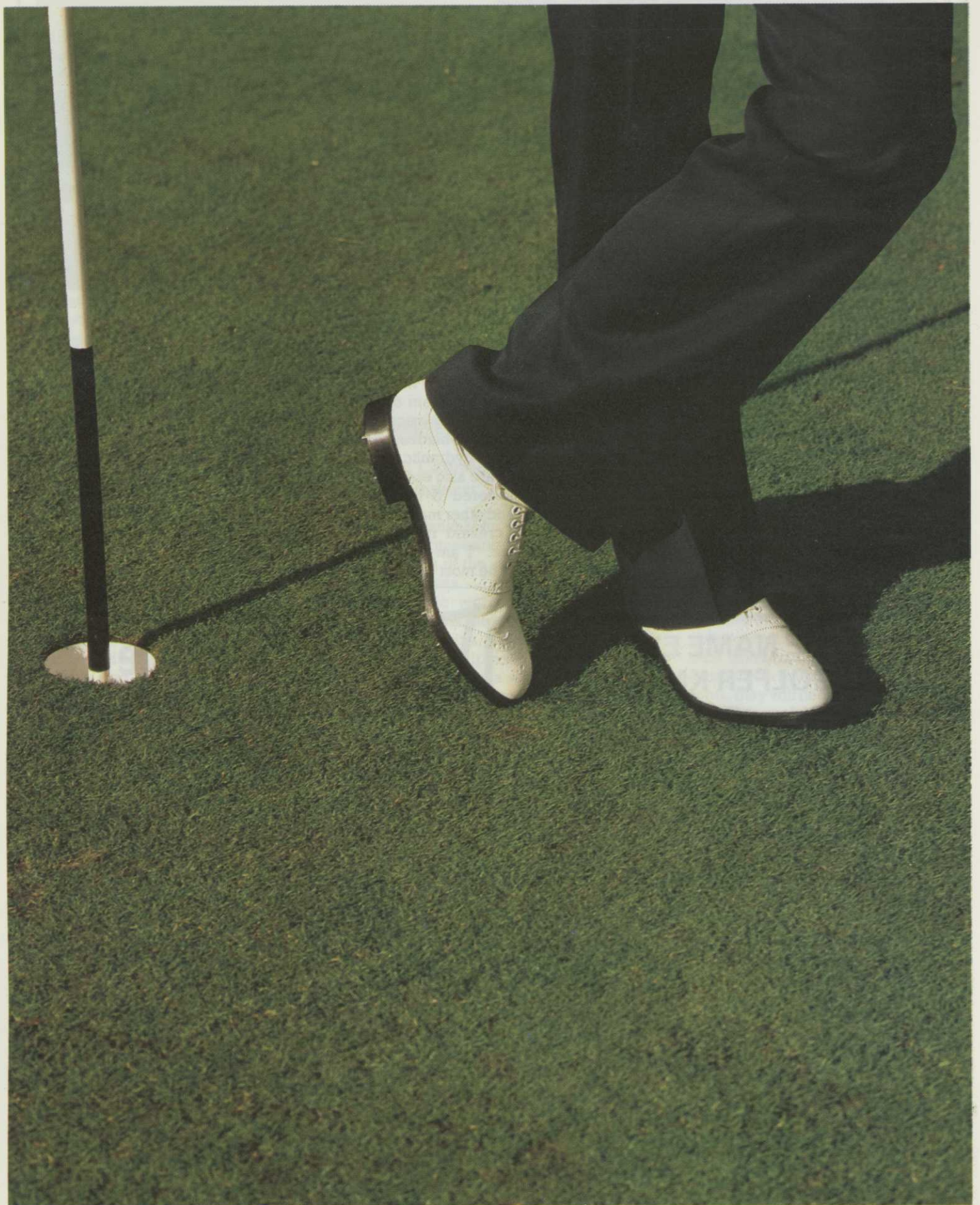
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GREENKEEPER MAY 1993

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If you don't happen to be overrun by quite such a wide and tenacious range of weeds, then ordinary Verdone will probably do the trick. (It's cheaper as well.)

To find out more about how you can prepare yourself and your course for the day Sevvie turns up to play a round get in touch with ICI to find out your nearest Super Verdone distributor.



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EIGGA CONFERENCE REPORT—CONTINUED...



An attentive audience in the lecture theatre.

for East Anglia, had received a clear indication from his branch members that they would not be prepared to pay the increased sum. The board of management also felt it could not justify charging this amount.

The figure of £50 had been submitted with a view to increasing the association's holdings, thus enabling it to employ a full-time administrator. It had become clear that, if the subscription was raised to this level, EIGGA would lose a high proportion of its membership.

David Jones felt that the original idea of a full-time administrator seemed to be of a person who, as well as dealing with the day-to-day administration of the association, would travel around the country visiting golf clubs and promoting EIGGA. He made the point that this would mean providing a car to the person concerned and a salary of approximately £10,000 plus expenses. He questioned the wisdom of using the members' subscriptions to pay a person to travel up and down motorways and stay in hotels as he felt this was not value for money.

The chairman then reported that the figures proposed by the board of management for subscriptions in 1986 were: the full subscription to be raised to £20, the apprentice subscription to remain at £12, the trade subscription to be raised to £25 and national and regional company membership subscriptions to be £125 and £75 respectively. He added that the idea of employing a full-time administrator

had been postponed, as the real cost of employing someone could be in excess of £40,000.

A.Low proposed that figures suggested by the board be adopted. T.Low seconded the proposal and the motion was carried on a show of hands. The chairman informed the meeting that EIGGA's first president Jack McMillan was retiring from the post after two years in office and that a new trustee was to be elected to replace David Jones, who was also retiring from this post.

Sussex had proposed that Dennis Ayling should be EIGGA's new president. This suggestion was endorsed by the chairman. The North-West branch had proposed David Jones as vice-president and the board of management had proposed Kevin Munt as trustee. No other proposals had been received. All three proposals were approved and the motion carried on a show of hands.

The chairman said that Jack McMillan had done an excellent job as president and was pleased to inform the meeting that the board had invited Jack to become an honorary member of EIGGA.

Peter Wisbey indicated that there was a need for a clarification to the wording of the EIGGA constitution, concerning the gold diploma. At present, the item reads: 'Any head greenkeeper with City & Guilds Management or Turf Culture certificate or any other appropriate certificate as determined by the management board, and over five

years practical experience as a head greenkeeper; or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience...' It had come to the board's notice that the wording had been interpreted to mean 'Any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a greenkeeper.' It was intended to apply to any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a *head greenkeeper*, but with no certificate. The board, therefore, submitted that the item should now read: '...Or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience *as such*,' the two last words to be added to the constitution.

D.Archer asked approximately how many diplomas had been issued to date. The figures are: five bronze, 18 silver and 17 gold, making a total of 40 since the inception of the association.

Speaking as EIGGA's new president, Dennis Ayling said it gave him great pleasure to thank Jack McMillan for being a splendid ambassador of the association. Dennis felt honoured to be asked to carry on where Jack had left off. He also thanked the administrator for her efforts. The president felt that the conference had been a huge success, especially the papers given by EIGGA members.

At a meeting of the board of management, following the AGM, Bill Lawson was elected to take over from Peter Wisbey as chairman of EIGGA. Bill is chairman of the North-West branch and a highly respected member of the board of management.

I can assure all members that, in Bill Lawson, the association has a fine successor to the retiring chairman Peter Wisbey who, throughout his term of office, has worked tirelessly on behalf of EIGGA and to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the dates for the 1986 conference have been set at April 4-6 1986, with the venue once again, the University of Warwick.

Danielle Jones,
General Administrator.

EIGGA At Open

**Courtesy of the R&A,
EIGGA will have a tent—
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tented village at Royal
St George's. Further details
in next month's magazine.**

London

By now, the season will be getting into full swing and the greenkeepers' golf league, organised by Michael Peters, will be well under way, so make sure you phone your results through as soon as possible. The final will be played on the afternoon of our autumn meeting, which is set for Muswell Hill GC on Thursday October 3.

We have been welcomed back to Northwood again and will have an evening's golf on Monday August 19.

The annual EIGGA conference was an outstanding success, but it was disappointing that no other members of the London branch managed to attend. Hopefully, this situation will be rectified next year.

Reinforcements did arrive, however, on Sunday morning. Alan Moffat of Parkers organised a mini-

bus a couple of days before the event and a dozen members arrived to see me during a nerve-racking experience when I chaired the conference's final session. It was also an honour. As Steve Noye and Bill Lawson will testify from the previous day, it was almost as frightening as presenting a paper, but something we would not have wanted to miss.

Any branch members who would be prepared to stand up and give their views or theories on any aspect of greenkeeping would be welcomed. What about junior and apprentice members? Could you fill a short spot of, say, 15 minutes on how you see the profession? You have until April next year when we again return to Warwick.

The AGM on Sunday afternoon gave rise to some interesting discussion but, as usual, people who are vociferous at branch AGM's throughout the country were not in attendance. As has been said many times before, members should be saying: 'What can I do for EIGGA?' Not: 'What can EIGGA do for me?'

Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcome. If necessary, put them down on paper and send them to me and they can be

discussed at branch committee meetings. As your representative on the EIGGA board of management, I will be pleased to take them to board meetings, too.

David Low.

East Anglia

With just a couple of exceptions, there hasn't been much going on in this neck of the woods. I did attend an excellent demonstration by Anglian Land Drainage at Woodbridge GC. Ben Bunting, the manager of ALD, took a few of us down for the day to see the Verti-Drain doing a marvellous job.

The second event was at an hotel in Norwich where a seminar was arranged by Collier Turf Care Distributors. It was a very interesting day, which was well attended by sports and amenity people. Firms represented included May & Baker, SISIS, Anglian Land Drainage, Mommersteeg, Rolawn and several others. All in all, a good day.

M.Lathorpe.

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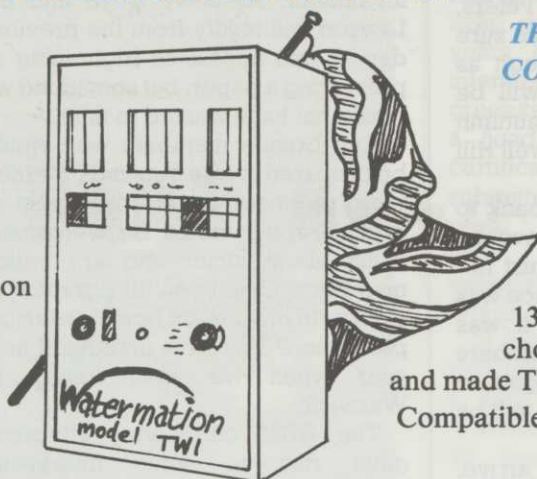


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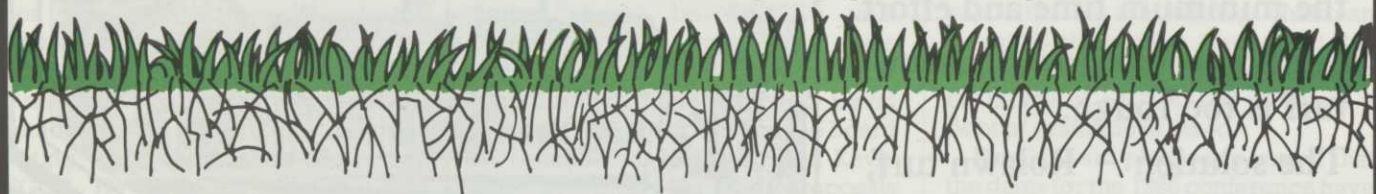
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West

The section has held a committee meeting and new sub-committees have been formed.

The SISIS Pairs Trophy for greenkeepers and convenors was held at West Kilbride GC. The golf was played in cold, but dry, conditions which seemed to help the general low scoring, but this must be put down mostly to the excellent condition of the course. The West section thanks Jim

Paton and his staff and congratulates him on having the course so good so early in the year.

Prize-winners were: A.Hastie and A.Meechan (Bellshill GC)—65; D.Fleming and I.Ferguson (Hilton Park GC)—67 and J.Paton and B.Gossman (West Kilbride GC)—69. Fifteen teams took part in the competition which, along with the excellent attendance at the section's AGM, has given the section a great start to the year's activities.

Ayrshire

The first of the season's events was held at Largs, when Greenkeepers from the West section came to play five-a-side football. Later in the evening, everyone adjourned to the Picketlaw Hotel for the annual stag-night.

The section AGM was held at Prestwick. Chairman Harry Diamond thanked everyone for their participation in the past year's events and, in particular, the Open Championship Draw, which was a great success, and will be run again this year.

The secretary stated that the section's funds were healthy and there was an influx of new members this year. He looked forward to meeting them at the Spring outing.

The draw for the four-ball knockout competition has been made. Harry Diamond is organising this competition and will be in touch with the competitors. Harry can be contacted on Ayr 241258 during working hours if anyone has a problem arranging matches.

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The Greenmaster, with a three-wheel design, means that it can turn within its length. The tight-turning design, coupled with two independent, hydraulically driven, front traction wheels, allows this rear-steering triplex to cut up to and around the edges of greens, collars and traps.

A single forward reverse pedal gives the operator additional control in tight turns, together with the variable speed kit which provides speed control from 0-3.5mph and allows the operator to select the constant ground speed that ensures a constant clip as the cutting units mow. For a finer clip at low heights of cut, or for easy manoeuvring in tight spots, the speed is simply adjusted downward.

The 300 is designed with hydraulically-driven traction wheels, reels and reel lifts. These enclosed, self-lubricating power systems give longer service and require less

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Maintaining a quality cut in low ranges demands frequent and precise adjustment. TORO's quick-disconnect cutting units allow fast and easy removal of the reels for servicing.

The balanced eight-blade cutting units are interchangeable, as are all the baskets and reel motors. And these quick-disconnect cutting units allow fast, easy conversion to thatching or spiking reels.

The spiral blade pattern of TORO's thatching reels means less wear on the drive motors through more efficient thatching and throwing of thatch into baskets. The spacing between blades over the three reels 59in thatching width is adjustable from 1/2in to 1 1/2in.

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Just two applications can give season-long control and consistent results can be achieved year after year. Application is quick and easy—there is no need for huge quantities of water to be sprayed—and it can be applied through a knapsack or vehicle-mounted spray. The standard rate of application is five litres in 200 litres of water to treat one hectare.

Packs of Holdfast contain four x five litres and cost £280.

Full details from ICI Professional Products, Keith Cleverly, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. ☎ Farnham (0252) 724525. Or John Clowes, 10 Ivybridge, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 7LH. ☎ Hóddesdon (0992) 461895.



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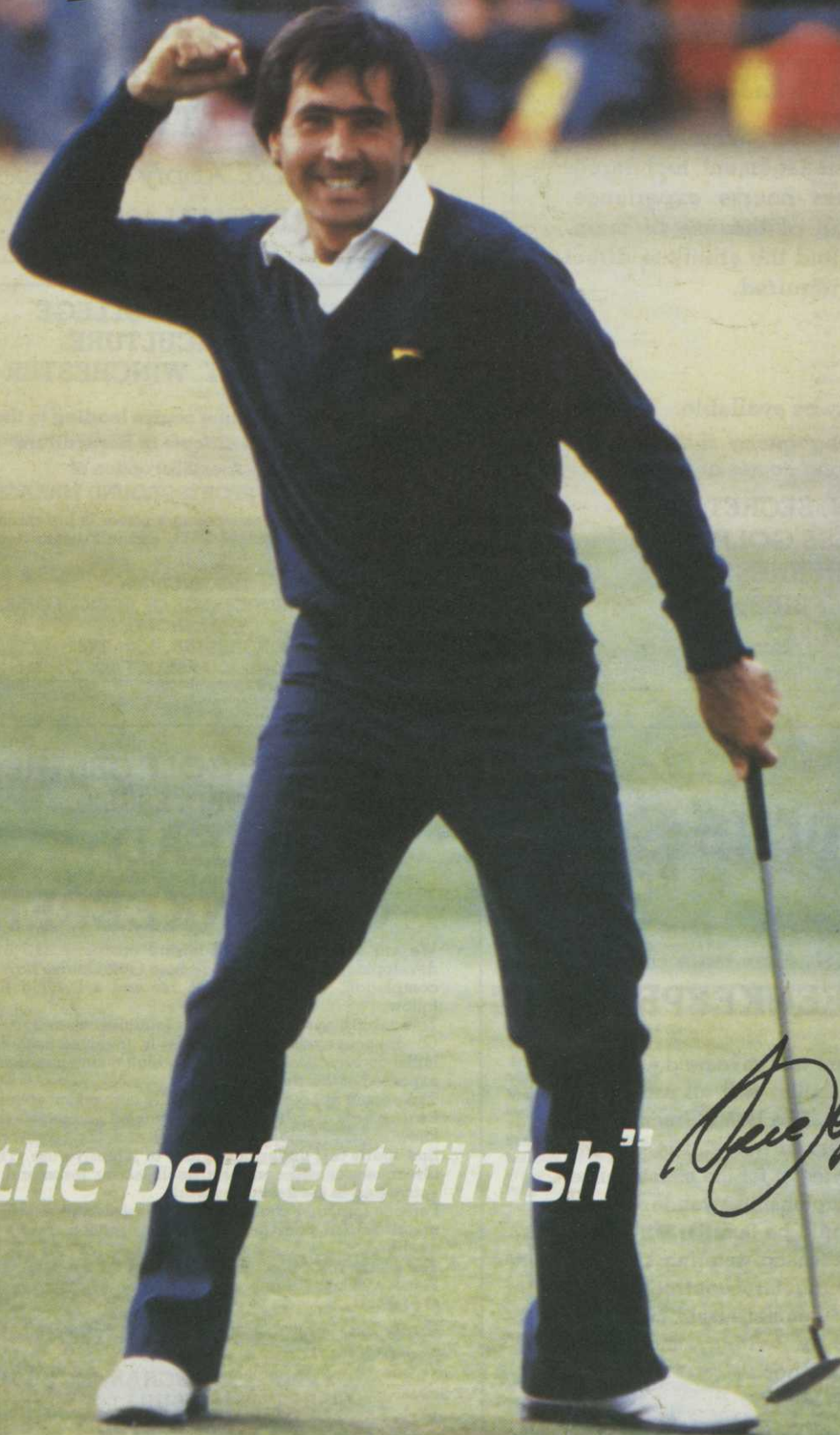
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