

Greenkeeper

& The International Greenkeeper

Deutsche Fassung
&
Edition Française

BULLETIN Nr. 47



Test Your Knowledge of Sportsground Maintenance

(Turn the magazine upside down to read the answers at the foot of the page.)

1. Which Company is Europe's leading manufacturer of sportsground maintenance equipment?
2. Which Company has been producing the best maintenance equipment, for more than 50 years?
3. Which Company is renowned for its design policy of robust construction and ease of operation?
4. Who designed the first Rotorake and still supplies the best scarifiers on the market?
5. Which Company regularly asks groundsmen and greenkeepers what they want, and then comes up with the goods?
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8. Who gives a first class after sales service?
9. Which Company continuously develops and improves their machinery?
10. Which Company has a range of more than 60 items of equipment to maintain all types of turf and hard porous surfaces?
11. Who exports their equipment to all continents of the world?
12. Which manufacturer still supplies spares for 25 year old machines?

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OCTOBER 1985

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Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd

Managing Director: Michael Coffey

Editor: Robin Stewart

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. Tel: 0255 507526

Subscription rates:

UK—£12 Continent and USA—£20 Eire—IR £17.50

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B.

Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex.

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Stop Press... Windsor

ANOTHER Institute of Groundsmanship international exhibition has come and gone, producing its usual gamut of news.

Just about the biggest story to break at Windsor was that Morrison has become the sole distributor for Jacobsen, as well as Morrison lawn and turfcare equipment. Ron Higgins, managing director and international co-ordinator of Morrison Industries New Zealand, said: "Over the past two years, Morrison Industries has re-established a firm base here in England - in premises, technical support, sales representation and service. This has meant considerable investment. The company is committed to manufacturing top-quality mowers, giving value for money in both domestic and professional markets. With the inclusion of the superb Jacobsen range, Morrison Industries can offer one of the most extensive ranges in the UK."

In addition to distributing Jacobsen's products, Morrison Industries is now responsible for servicing the American firm's equipment from Morrison's new UK base at Kings Lynn, Norfolk and through a network of service agents. Chris Smith, general manager of Morrison UK operations, will direct the

new venture, liaising with Curt Kimpfbeck, Jacobsen's director of international sales, who is based at Racine, Wisconsin, USA.

With justification, SISIS was shouting about its new introductions on to the market. The latest Autocrat gives a true 4in x 4in x 4in tine performance, providing 100 holes per square yard. Twin head adaptors increase the number of holes to 180. Meanwhile, the Hydromain Fourteen is now available with a Kubota twin-cylinder, water-cooled diesel engine.

Fisons Horticulture revealed the results of a £4.5m investment with the introduction of a new Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers manufactured by a new production process that incorporates vermiculite as a density adjuster. Carried out at the company's latest Ipswich plant, this process produces a granule ideally suited to fine turf fertilisers. The vermiculite makes the granules light in colour, so greenkeepers can see where they've covered, yet the granules remain unobtrusive when spread.

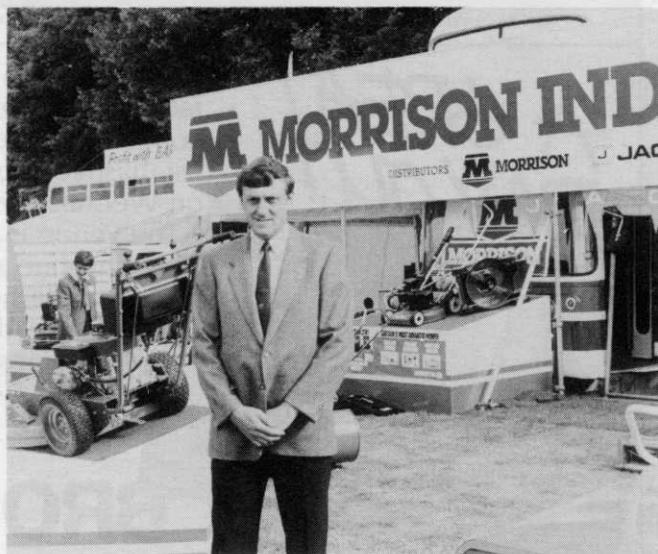
Nobody can deny the many major benefits of May & Baker's CDA (Controlled Droplet Application), which is a system for applying chemicals in an undiluted form using a spinning disc applicator. You don't need to add any water to the CDA range and there's no handling or transferring of chemicals. The system also offers greatly improved efficiency and flexibility.

One of the most popular calling points, as usual, was the Rigby Taylor stand. Rigby Taylor took the opportunity to launch a new range of slow-release fertilisers - Mascot Microfine.

Finally, the best 'live show' of the week was staged by BASF, which uses a turtle for promoting Floranid, so what better than to bring Florie to meet her public? A giant turtle, together with keeper, happily whiled away the time in a corner of the BASF stand. Visitors were invited to guess the beast's weight and win a trip to the BASF headquarters in West Germany!

Obviously, it is impossible to detail all the displays, but it was generally agreed that a wide range of new and revolutionary lines contributed greatly to A Good Windsor!

There'll be more news on these and other items from the show in the next issue's Notebook pages.



Ron Higgins of Morrison Industries.

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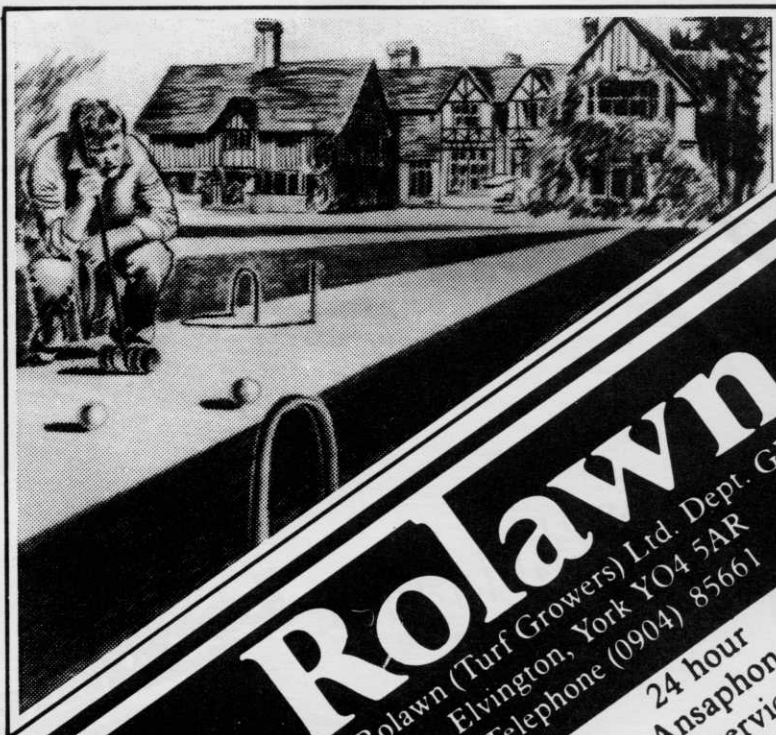
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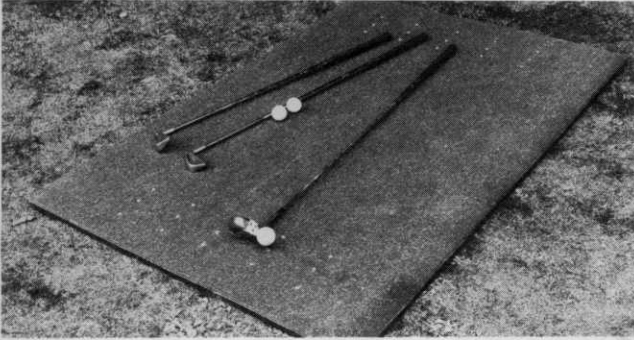


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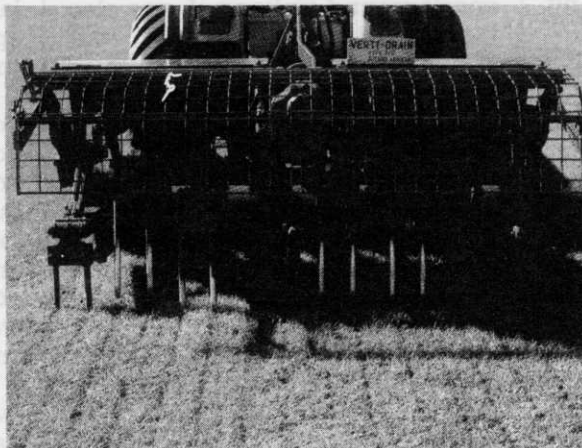
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Out · On · The · Course

by John Campbell

Derek Green is the links manager at Royal Liverpool GC — known across the world as Hoylake.

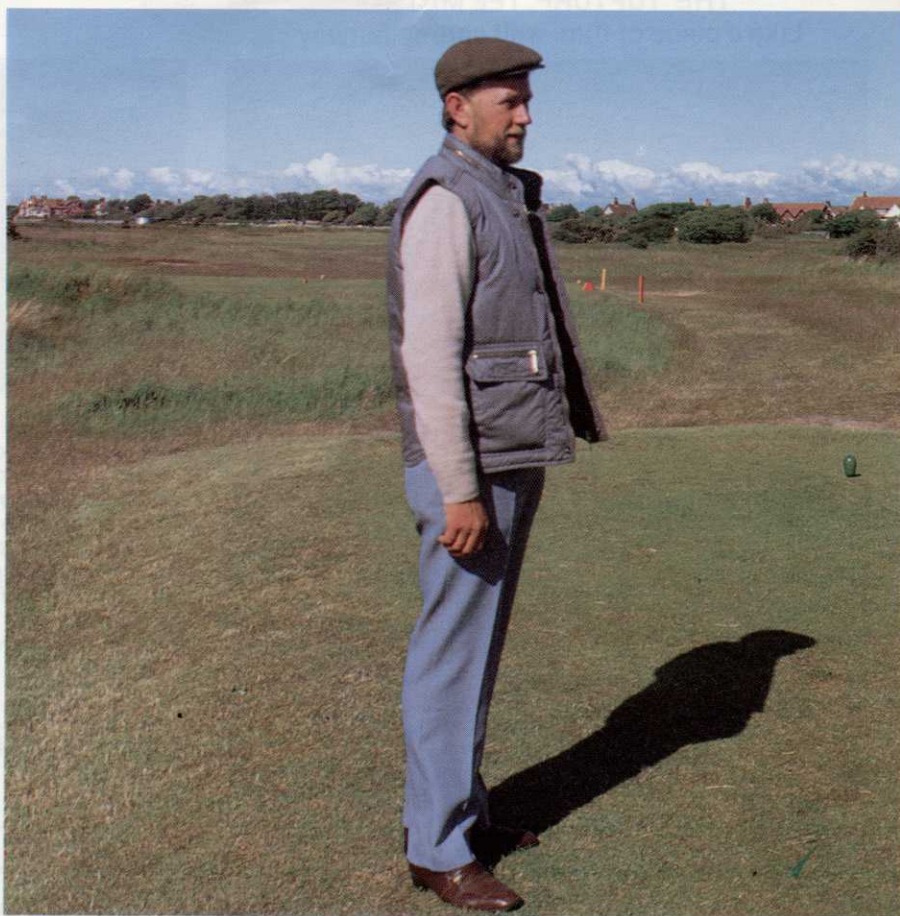
THE links of Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake is acknowledged to be one of the finest tests of golf in the world. At first sight, this tough, epic course is uninspiring to behold on a large, flat expanse of land. The area of the links is large and there is an air of wide open space. Low, artificial two-foot-high banks called cops are a predominant feature along the edges of fairways.

At the far end of the links, from the 9th tee, you get a magnificent view of the estuary sands and the Welsh coast across the Dee. Along the sea dunes grow myriads of wild briar roses, which give a lovely scented aroma when in flower. They also have a practical golfing function as a hazard and are zealously protected as part of the natural flora of the links.

In the *Badminton Book On Golf* of 1890, Horace Hutchison wrote: 'The links of Hoylake are associated in the mind of every golfer who has played upon them with the most perfect greens in the world. Though in summer of a glassy keenness, they are beautifully true. More long putts are sunk at Hoylake than on any other links.'

My memories of Royal Liverpool go back nearly 40 years to the days when Tom Bridges was head greenkeeper, so I was interested to talk to Derek Green, who has recently taken over the post of course manager at this famous club. Derek, 39, lives with his adaptable and industrious wife Jennifer and six-year-old son in the greenkeeper's cottage. He lists his hobbies as golf and steam engines and he likes to work on a preserved railway at Welshpool.

"I was born at Shirley outside Birmingham and, after leaving school, I did a five-year apprenticeship with the Birmingham parks department at their horticultural centre Kingsley Park, where I specialised in turf culture for the last three years," Derek said. "At the end of my training, I



Derek Green.

passed the Institute of Groundsmanship first-class examination. I was attracted to golf-course management, for I considered it a much bigger challenge than sportsground upkeep. I was also interested in the flora that abounds on the much greater areas of golf courses.

"My initial job was as first assistant at one of the Birmingham municipal courses. Then, at the age of 21, I moved to Gay Hill Golf Club on the outskirts of the city as head greenkeeper. From there, I moved to Woburn, where I remained for ten years.

"Woburn was an incredible challenge at that point in my career. I went there in 1975 as head greenkeeper to take charge of the new 18-hole course, which was almost completed. In 1978, I was given the job, with a staff of four, to build the Duchess Course. We started in May and completed most of the construction work the day before Christmas, having sowed out the first nine holes. They were open-

ed for play the following year. Then we reconstructed nine greens on the Dukes Course, built the putting green and landscaped the clubhouse surrounds, laid out 38 acres of car parking space and the nine-acre practice ground.

"It has always been my ambition to take charge of a links course, so when the vacancy arose at Royal Liverpool I thought the time was right to apply for the job. At the interview, I was most impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of club officials. I was eventually offered the job and here I am!"

When I asked Derek if he was overawed by the history and tradition of his famous club, he said: "I don't think that anyone could fail to be inspired by the atmosphere, the clubhouse and setting of the links out on the end of the Wirral peninsula. I think the course is crying out to be restored to its former glory and prestige among the great championship links. I am keen to bring

back the fescues and bents by gearing our management programme to encourage the return of these linksland grasses.

"Although annual meadow grass is a problem, my main concern at the moment is getting rid of areas on the fairways that have a high percentage of ryegrass and it will mean completely returning these particular places. We don't have a proper turf nursery at the moment - last year, parts of the practice ground were lifted for turf repair jobs. The intention this year is to establish a large tract of spare ground between the 3rd and 14th fairways as a turf nursery, a large part of which will have turf of a lesser quality for bunker revetting and general repairs and we will also have a 1,000sq yds of fine quality turf for greens.

"One of my main priorities in the forthcoming months is to get more topdressing on to all the important areas, such as greens, tees and approaches, to build up good surface levels and make the turf firm and resilient to cope with all the wear and tear. So, for the rest of the year, that will be my main objective. We are going to reshape a lot of the fairways and semi-rough to add to the strategy of play and make the course layout more attractive.

"We also have to tackle the worm population in many areas, for their activities are changing the character of the links turf and this is a factor contributing to the amount of weed control that has to be done."

I asked Derek if he looked forward to having big tournaments at



Hoylake town in the distance dominates this view of the 11th green.

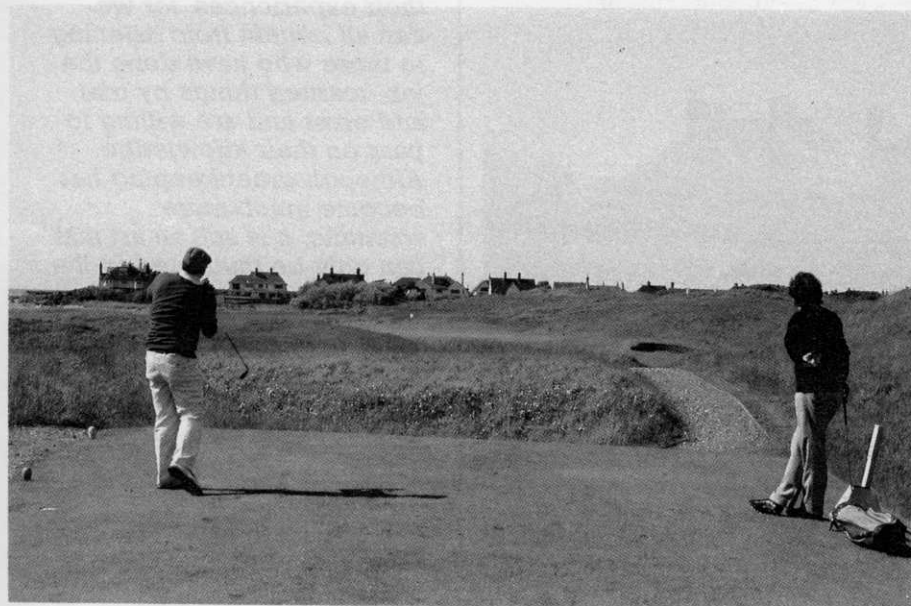
Hoylake. "I would love to see a major PGA European Tour event or the Amateur Championship here. A major event would be good for the club and the greenkeeping staff. This famous links has a great reputation and we must strive to maintain it constantly in first-class condition to please the members and attract the interest and attention of championship and tournament officials.

"Although we have automatic irrigation laid on to fairways, greens and tees, I intend to use it only when absolutely necessary, the objective being to keep the minimum moisture levels that will promote and encourage the natural characteristics and vigour

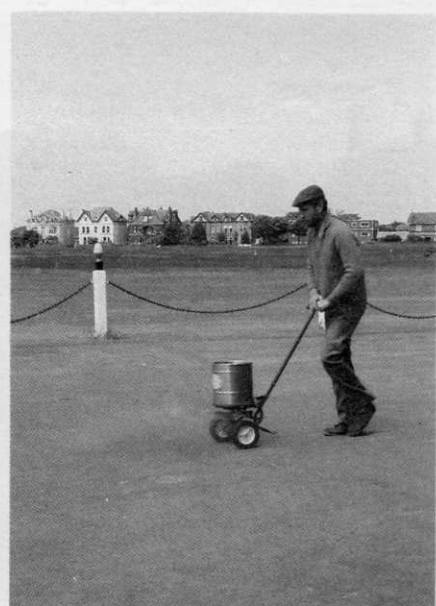
of seaside turf. In addition to this, we will concentrate on frequent topdressing and aeration to produce a resilient playing surface."

In discussing the pros and cons of pedestrian mowers versus triplex mowers for cutting greens, Derek said: "I don't think there is any difference at all in the quality of cut. However, the aesthetic appearance of the greens cut with single unit machines seems to give a greater visual impact. At Hoylake, we probably do 80 per cent of our greens mowing with pedestrian mowers and resort to triplex mowers when staff are needed to get on with other work priorities. For example, if we are topdress-

Continued overleaf...



On the tee at the short 11th.



Fertiliser is applied...

Hoylake – Continued...

ing and want the greens cut first, we then use the triplex machines to free the maximum number of staff to concentrate on the top-dressing programme."

I asked Derek what encouragement he would give to a young man coming into the profession. "I think it is important he works with an experienced greenkeeper, who will take the time to explain and teach him properly. If he feels that this part of his training is being neglected, he should be prepared to move to another club. The main hope for the future is that EIGGA will come up with a proper greenkeeping educational course within the next few years, so that young men can get a really good training in theory and practice.

"I would exhort all young men to use their initiative more and not to sit down and wait for someone to do it for them. When I started in greenkeeping, we attended evening classes and spent a lot of our own time looking at other courses and comparing notes. Some young men today don't want to go anywhere unless they are getting all their expenses paid and, quite often, they are not prepared to make any effort of their own volition to advance in their job.

"I really think a good



Hoylake boasts a first-class, modern compost shed.

greenkeepers' association can do much for its membership. For many years, I was a member of the IOG and secretary of the local branch in Birmingham. I joined EIGGA when it was first formed and I've now moved to an area that has a strong group. I know they are moving in the right direction and hope they will establish a good educational scheme for the younger generation's benefit."

Looking In The Mirror

We asked Derek Green for his views on Greenkeeper, how the magazine can be improved and the type of features he would like to see in it.

"I enjoy reading

Greenkeeper very much – it's a good publication. I would like to see a machinery section with all the simple engineering jobs, etc, covered. Fifty per cent of our time is often spent keeping equipment in good working order.

So, articles by a competent engineer should be featured – someone who could explain with the aid of photos and illustrations how to carry out everyday maintenance tasks.

"I would also like to see more articles on the general upkeep of golf courses and the problems that arise and how they can be tackled. Let us have more practical experts (such as greenkeepers) writing about their experiences, for we can all benefit from listening to those who have done the job, learned things by trial and error and are willing to pass on their knowledge. Although greenkeeping has become much more scientific, it is still an art that can only be cultivated in the hard school of experience."

I'm sure there is a name to be made by someone willing to put pen to paper. All working greenkeepers are hard-pressed, but this magazine welcomes contributions from any of them and is willing to provide practical advice. Ed.



The 5th at Hoylake.

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 tree surgery than a chain saw
 and a head for heights



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From National Headquarters

After an initial approach by the PGA at the Open Championship, discussions are taking place regarding a proposal made by the PGA to form a new greenkeeping association, to be known as the Golf Greenkeepers' Association, based at the Belfry. Similar proposals have been made by the PGA to SIGGA and the BGGGA and a joint meeting at the Belfry is planned for early November.

T. Parker & Sons generously donated a fertiliser spreader to support the EIGGA's attendance at the Open Championship. The spreader has since been sold to a bowling club and the proceeds placed into the association's funds. Our thanks go to Peter Simpson of Parkers for the company's much appreciated and continued support.

North West

Members are reminded that the branch's one-day autumn seminar will be held at the Reaseheath College of Agriculture, Nantwich. By now, members will have received a newsletter giving the timetable and programme of events. Please support the organising committee and, more importantly, improve your own knowledge.

Members are asked to contact the chairman Bill Lawson on 051-648 4047 if they have any constructive comments to make on the discussions presently taking place with the PGA.

Kevin Wroe, head greenkeeper at Rhuddlan Golf Club and his assistant Keith Berk, would like to hear from members in North Wales interested in setting up a branch of EIGGA. Kevin can be contacted on 0745 591140.

The North West welcomes Dave Lucas and his assistant,

Continued on page 14...

A Letter To The Greenkeepers Training Committee...

Dear Mr Coffey

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the training scheme and I would answer, referring only to England and Wales, as follows.

a) The Greenkeepers Training Committee prefers block-release rather than day-release and this forms the basis for approved colleges.

b) There are four approved colleges at the moment - Askham Bryan College, Askham Bryan, York; Cheshire College, Reaseheath, Nantwich, Cheshire; Plumpton Agricultural College, Lewes, East Sussex and the Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset.

c) Modification to the syllabus takes place on a regular basis, but major alterations are likely to result after consultations with the City and Guilds.

d) The Greenkeepers Training Committee has formed an education sub-committee to handle consultation with the City and Guilds.

The committee appreciates that there is no direct action it can take if other colleges wish to offer courses, but it wishes to

see prospective trainees channelled to the approved colleges in England and Wales. W.N.S. Bissett, Administrator and Secretary, The Greenkeepers Training Committee, York.

Dear Mr Bissett

In order, once again, not to contribute to misleading information, can you please clarify the GTC's position on education at colleges now that we are starting a new academic year? Can you please confirm:

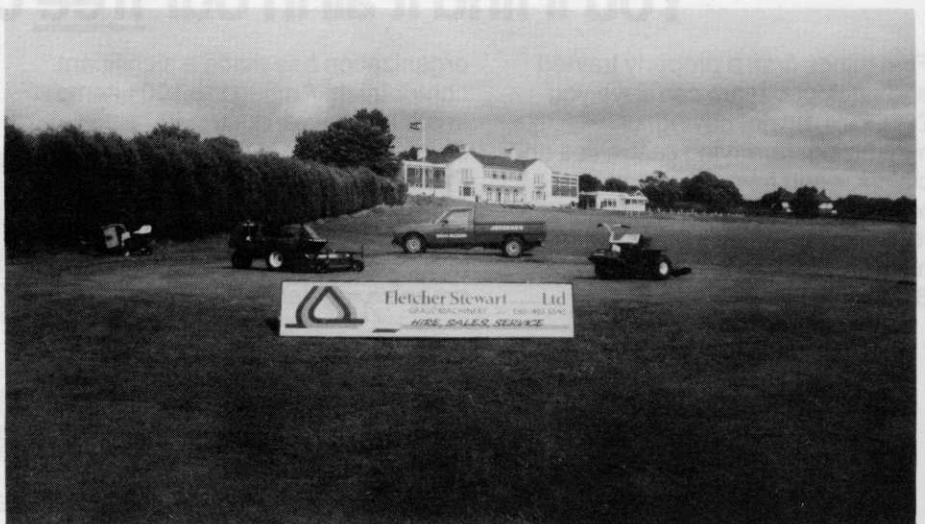
- a) That the GTC is backing block-release courses?
- b) That there are to be five approved colleges and name them?
- c) Whether there is to be any modification in the syllabus?
- d) If so, under what authority?

As you will appreciate, there is considerable interest from our readers in what the GTC recommends, although I equally understand several other colleges are going ahead with block-release courses for Phase III.

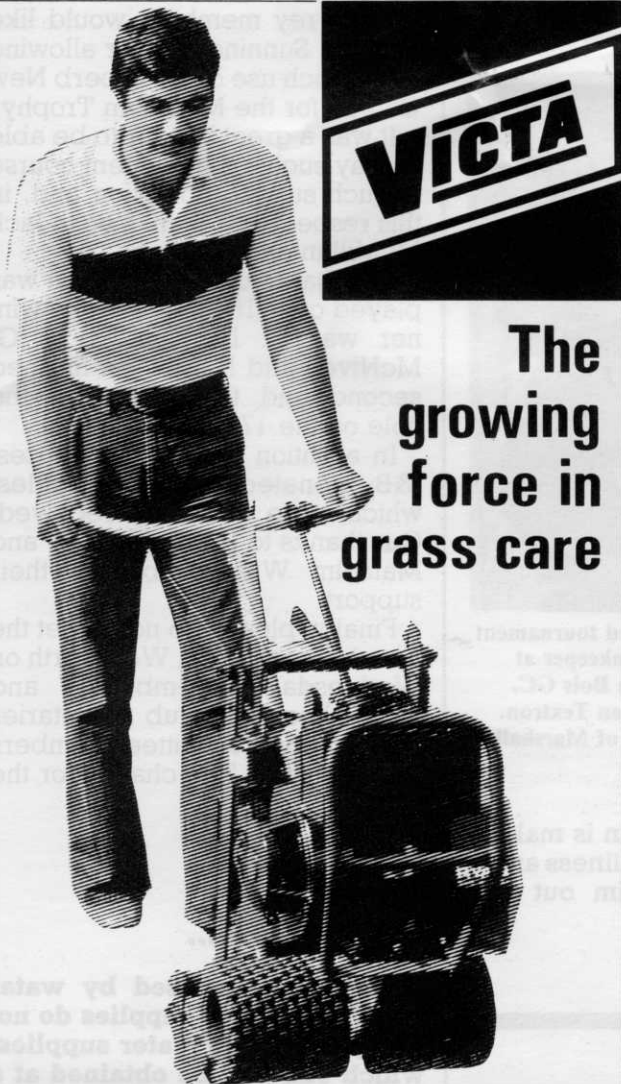
M.W.A. Coffey.

Heswall Selected For Stockport Company's Show

Fletcher-Stewart (Stockport) chose Heswall Golf Club, near Chester for a two-day display and demonstration of Jacobsen and Ryan machinery. Many EIGGA members boosted a good attendance from clubs and local authorities in the Wirral area. The company can be contacted on 061-483 5542.



Heswall's clubhouse provided a magnificent backcloth.



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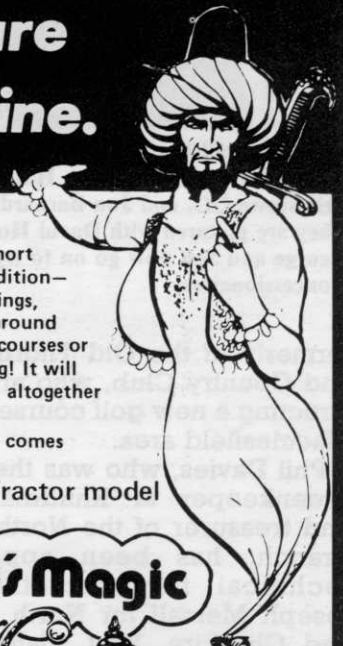


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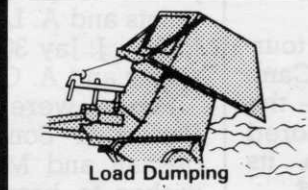
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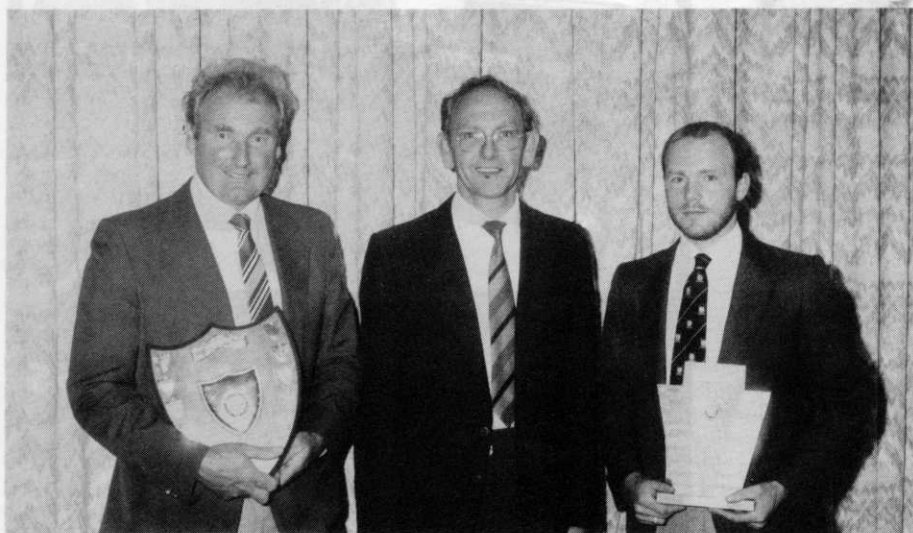
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EIGGA News & Views – Continued...



The two qualifiers from the East Anglian heat of the Jacobsen sponsored tournament held at the Cambridgeshire Hotel were George Newson (left), head greenkeeper at Felixstowe GC, and Jon Barnard, first assistant greenkeeper at Theydon Bois GC. They are pictured with David Holmes (middle), area manager of Jacobsen Textron. George and Jon now go on to try and win a trip to the States, courtesy of Marshall Concessionaires.

formerly of the Old Thorns Golf and Country Club, who are constructing a new golf course in the Macclesfield area.

Phil Davies, who was the head greenkeeper at Rhuddlan GC and treasurer of the North West branch, has been appointed technical representative by Joseph Metcalf for North Wales and Cheshire. Best wishes and good luck, Phil, in your new position.

Raymond Hunt.

East Anglia

The branch's first sponsored tournament took place at the Cambridgeshire Hotel recently – the Jacobsen Shield was sponsored by Jacobsen Textron via its dealers and over 50 attended.

George Newson had a gross 81 to take the main prize and J. Barnard had a net 69 to win the Marshall Trophy. Mick Lathorpe returned a net 71. First and second guests were H. Southwood (69) and A. Elvin (70), both of 11.

Our thanks go to young Eddie and the lads for a well-kept course, the hotel management for the hospitality and the trade boys, especially Ken Stern, for their effort.

Lastly, I must mention Mrs John Young, who donated a cake for

one of the prizes. John is making progress after a long illness and it was good to see him out and about again.

Mick Lathorpe.

London

As usual, the sun shone for the evening's golf at Northwood, a rare event last summer! Congratulations to Michael and his staff for the course's excellent condition.

The results were: scratch to 12 – J. Hill 38 points, D. Stenton 37 points and A. Lewish 32 points; 13 to 28 – J. Jay 30 points, T. Low 29 points and A. Coghill 29 points.

Prizes were donated by T. Parker & Sons, Kings of Coggeshall and Maxwell Hart. Best wishes to branch member John Teixeira who has qualified as an EIGGA representative for the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry this month.

Two dates for your diary – there's a visit to Lely Import at St Neots on October 22 and the dinner-dance takes place on November 15. The dinner-dance is not restricted to members, so bring some friends as it is an ideal occasion for meeting people, away from golf and the golf course.

David Low.

Surrey

The Surrey members would like to thank Sunningdale for allowing the branch use of the superb New Course for the McMillan Trophy.

It was a great honour to be able to play such a magnificent course in such superb condition and, in this respect, our thanks go to Jack McMillan and his team.

The Stableford competition was played over 18 holes and the winner was D. Lenham, while G. McNiven and P. Dawson finished second and third. Nearest the hole on the 17th was D. Jones.

In addition to the usual prizes, J&B donated several bottles, which were gratefully received. Our thanks to Henry Lorimer and Malcolm Withycombe for their support.

Finally, please do not forget the one-day seminar at Wentworth on Wednesday November 27 and remember your club secretaries and greens committee members are welcome. The charge for the day is £9.

M. Hale.

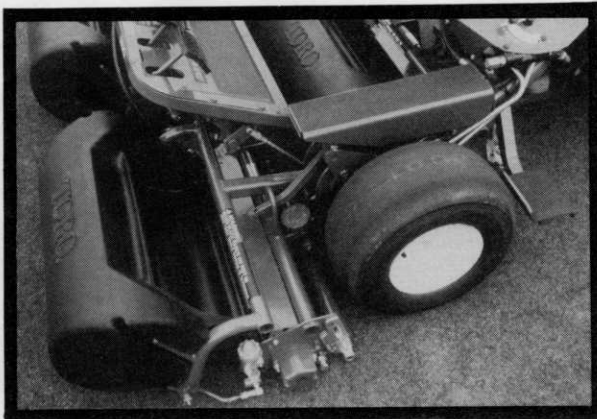
Book corner...

Restrictions imposed by water boards on mains supplies do not apply to private water supplies, which can also be obtained at a fraction of the cost of mains water. Therefore, *Finding Water* by Rick Brassington could lead to significant financial savings for many golf clubs, especially those that rely on their own springs, wells and boreholes.

The book examines who needs a private water supply, how much water is available and how to obtain the right amount from a source. There are also chapters on building new sources, water quality and treatment, water rights and the law, together with advice on which jobs can be tackled by non-specialists, when experts should be called in and how to maintain a water system once it is installed.

The book concludes with advice on further reading, useful addresses and a glossary of technical terms. Priced at £7.95 (including postage and packing), *Finding Water* is available from Rookery Books, 12 Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 4PS. Tel: 092576 6754.

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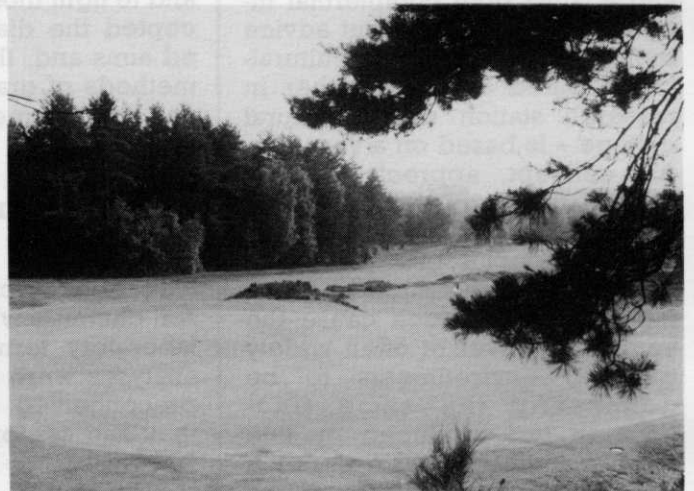
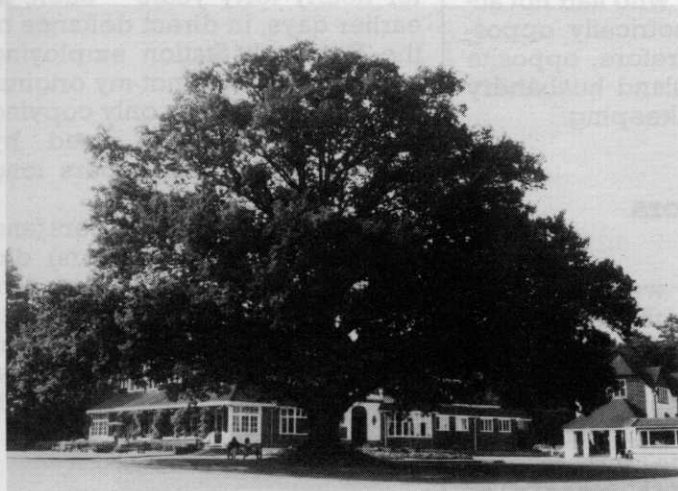
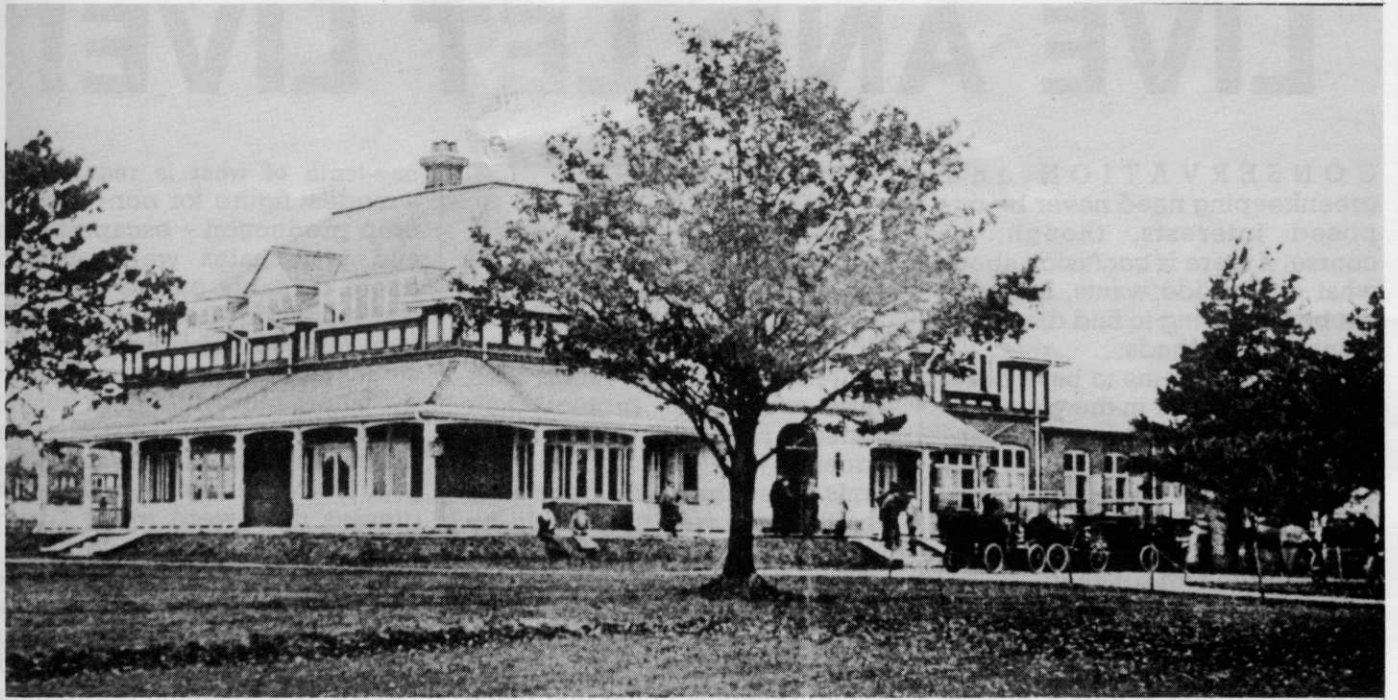
Sunningdale – now and then

As a fascinating lead-in to Jim Arthur's article (see page 18) on conservation, Greenkeeper has compiled this series of photographs, which illustrates admirably the development of a prime example of inland golfing territory. The earlier pictures were taken in the late 1920s – our matching views are this summer's vintage.



Above and left: the 4th green and 5th hole at Sunningdale, showing unrelieved, dark avenues of conifers encroaching.

Facing page: the two photos of Sunningdale's magnificent clubhouse and the famous oak tree could well be captioned 'from little acorns, mighty oaks do grow...' One Joshua Crane putts out on the 12th in the 1927 Seniors' Championship. This view shows golf in the open heath. Today, it's more like golf in a wood and where is the heather now?



LIVE AND LET LIVE!

CONSERVATION and greenkeeping need never be opposed interests, though, of course, if there is confusion about what either side wants, it would not be surprising to find disagreement over methods.

Much heat seems to have been generated earlier in the year over the term 'traditional greenkeeping.' Perhaps there would be less debate on fine points of interpretation if we divided greenkeeping into natural and artificial schools of practice.

The kind of greenkeeping I have consistently practised and taught for nearly forty years – often ploughing a lonely furrow and against both commercial interests and ill-thought-out advice by inexperienced or agriculturally motivated advisers, either in research station or agricultural college – is based on a very simple concept, appreciated long before the term ecology was invented!

This concept is, essentially, that if we copy those naturally occurring conditions which cause the vegetative cover of often widely differing environments to be dominantly the same fine-textured turf produced by fine fescues and bents (*Agrostis*), then those grasses will dominate the golf course. Whereas, if we alter those factors, then other, less desirable, coarser-leaved (more agriculturally productive) species will be able to invade and displace the fine turf grasses.

These factors have been known for a century, though not always by published research. They are chiefly low soil fertility and especially low phosphate and well-aerated, well-drained soil. Old Scots greenkeepers may not have even known what nitrogen or phosphates were, but they were using soot and sand as standard links management of greens a hundred years ago! Soot is a slow-acting nitrogen fertiliser!

The link between low levels of available plant foods and fine turf grasses is another long understood fact but, again, 'research' was merely providing a scientific justification for accepted practice, if not by all, then at least by thinking greenkeepers

By Jim Arthur

or enthusiastic amateurs who, even before the First World War, were striving to protect their courses from the heresies of farmers, who thought only in terms of feeding grass because it was the only way they could increase yields of hay and grazing.

Thus, the first conservationists were really 'greenkeepers', striving to avoid the destruction of those very factors that created golfing potential in the first place and to fight those who had not accepted the diametrically opposed aims and, therefore, opposite methods of grassland husbandry and sound greenkeeping.

Errors

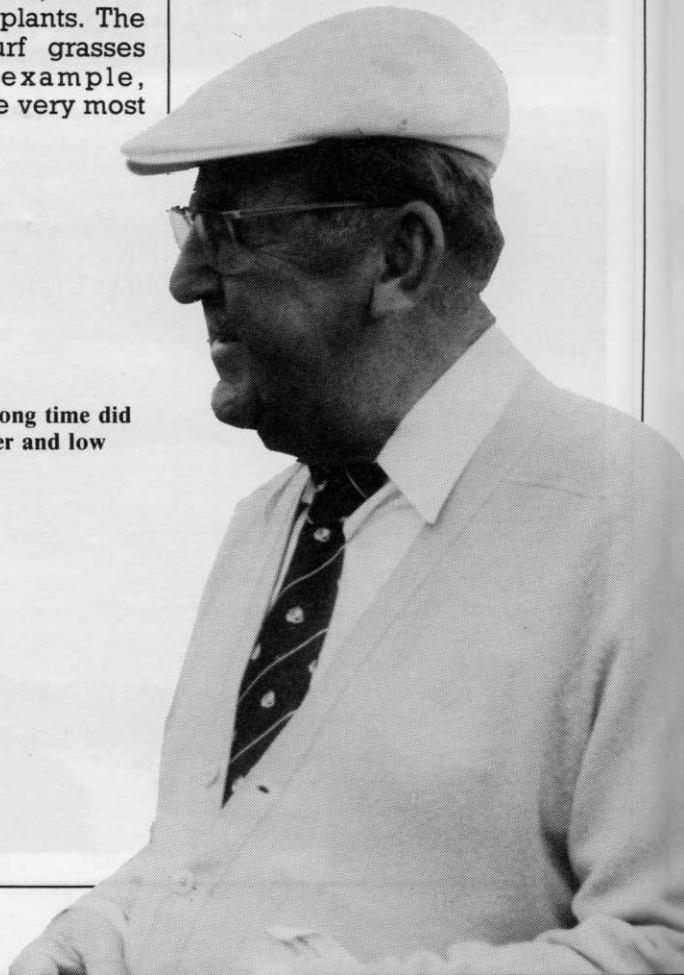
Terrible errors were made by soil chemists who thought only in laboratory terms. To them, low analyses were low in relation to preconceived standards, which they had set for crop plants. The fact that the fine turf grasses thrive on – for example, phosphate levels at the very most

one-tenth of what is regarded as a modest figure for *non-intensive* crop production – escaped them and phosphates were applied, (more culpably on the advice of the Sports Turf Research Institute than fertiliser firms since the Institute should have been guiding the latter), more and more heavily on a vicious spiral as the initial doses gave poorer results and predictably decreased the very grasses they were trying to encourage by other treatments.

It was not for lack of published work, let alone 'tradition,' that these errors were made. I can prove that I have consistently advised a no-phosphate programme for nearly forty years – often, in earlier days, in direct defiance of the Research Station employing me – and this was not my original thought, since I was only copying practices commonly used by good (links) greenkeepers long before the last war.

This heavy use of fertilisers (and even more so by farmers) did create enormous pollution problems and this is perhaps why it is so difficult to get planning permission against conservationist interests for new courses. Yet golf

Bobby Locke, who for a long time did not agree with low fertiliser and low irrigation regimes...



courses have probably the most stabilising effect of all in maintaining or conserving natural environments.

The link between poor soils and good golfing turf has been known since the start of published greenkeeping literature, but it would be foolish to claim it was never disputed. Even architects as good as Tim Simpson or golfers as expert as Bobby Locke did not agree with low fertiliser and low irrigation regimes, but time has proved them wrong.

There are many false prophets in current times and I fully accept that a major problem in course maintenance is that many golfers do not really appreciate good golfing conditions and worship The Great God Green. There are many references all this century to poor soils growing the best turf grasses. I quote a fairly recent one, from Dr H.W. Woolhouse, professor of Botany at Leeds University, in the journal of the Institute of Chemistry, *Chemistry In Britain*, dated February 1980. 'It may seem a trifle odd to suggest that some of the finest scenery in Western Europe owes its existence to a metal toxicity, but it is a fact that much of our heath and moorland exists on soils where the concentration of free aluminium would be toxic to crop plants. If this were not so, most of them would have been taken over for arable agriculture long ago.'

Later, he shows that only certain species - for example, *Agrostis*, heather, bilberry, etc - are tolerant of this aluminium toxicity and so dominate the vegetative cover as sole survivors.

In other words, the poorest

soils produce the best golfing grasses. The quote also explains the success of the 'acid theory,' especially on clay soils. The acidity releases aluminium and locks up phosphates and creates soil conditions that can be tolerated only by certain species. It is just chance that these happen to be ideal for golf, or is it a case of which came first - the golf or the grass on which it is best played?

Disaster can strike if naturally poor conditions are enriched or alien species introduced. Raising fertility permits 'alien' grasses to invade, or perhaps reduces the power of native fine grasses to keep them out, but such shallow-rooting species - for example, annual meadow grass - have poor drought resistance and so die with the first severe drought. This is quite apart from the fact that this ubiquitous species does not produce satisfactory golfing surfaces for many months of the year and has to be maintained artificially by water and fertiliser. Straight away, we are into a high-cost maintenance programme. Worse still, native flora are destroyed and an artificial cover replaces it.

Theory

For years, soil chemists have fallen for what I call the black-hole theory. They assume a constant loss of plant foods and imply that, without fertilisers, life on earth would cease, as plant foods become exhausted. They do not understand that such losses by leaching tail off and a level is reached that will always support some grass cover, outside tundra-like conditions, and there is not much golf played inside the Arc-

tic Circle! After years of no phosphate fertilisers, analyses still show modest levels, enough to more than support fine turf.

Naturally, there are many stresses to which golf courses are subjected today that are far more severe than they were even twenty-five years ago. The chief of these is traffic! It is unarguable that the prime cause of damage and destruction to coastal dune structures is pedestrian traffic and especially scrambling motor cycles.

The loss of dunes and threat to many of our famous links courses - such as Rye, St Andrews, Royal Portrush and Formby, which have been threatened with severe coastal erosion or windblown sand overwhelming fairways - are all caused primarily by pedestrian traffic or motor-bikes. The first step in such conservation work is to stop the traffic! It is no good just putting up notices though, on one occasion, a notice that read 'Nature Conservancy - Keep Out - Adders' worked wonders!

It is no good trying to ban traffic - it has to be diverted or nudged in the right direction, rather than prohibited. Traffic along or across dunes must be restricted to specific walkways and lateral trespass made almost impossible by means of transverse chestnut paling barriers and other obstacles. Then we can start planting stabilising grasses, protecting them, if necessary, with fencing or pig wire laid flat on the sand.

Such repair work has saved Rye and the St Andrews courses from erosion, but there are cases where the task is impossible -

Continued on page 29...

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1985 marks the Silver Jubilee of a company that just can't stop growing in more ways than one! Supaturf has proved itself a market leader in the supply and distribution of grass seed, fertilisers, chemicals and allied products and equipment for the turf, sports and amenity industries.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the union between Supaturf and the George A Palmer Group and its continual growth under the wing of Managing Director David Palmer. He is

delighted to be able to combine his own love of all sports with business—some of the finest tennis courts, golf courses, cricket pitches and bowling greens in the country owe their excellence to the work of groundstaff, greenkeepers and Supaturf all working together.

The past 25 years have seen Supaturf grow from a small family business selling other company's products to a large, nationwide concern based in Peterborough. Its five distribution depots now market many of their own brands, offer a first class advisory and laboratory service, and constantly introduce new top quality products from other world leaders.



David Palmer, Managing Director, SUPATURF Products Limited

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Fred Cox is second to none in his knowledge of all grass sports surfaces, so who better to consult with all your growing and turfcare problems? Based near Rugby, he has the full backing of Supaturf's well equipped laboratories to help him help you, so don't delay, phone Fred Cox on 0733 68384.

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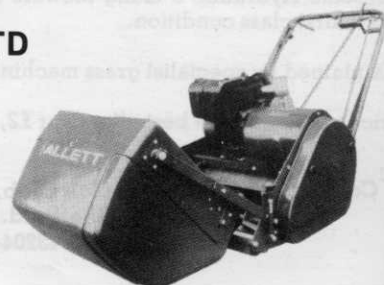
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The Start of A New Turfand Era

Turfand Professional Equipment will host a field day on Wednesday November 13 at Redhouse Farm, Barker's Hollow Road, Dutton, Warrington, Cheshire. A range of new Brouwer equipment will be introduced, giving the trade an opportunity to view and operate many Brouwer products.

- The combination of the 5 Gang Brouwer Vertical Mower and the Brouwer Vac will demonstrate the ease with which large expanses of turf can be dethatched and cleaned up. The versatile, large capacity Brouwer Vac will not just clean up grass and clippings, it has also proven to be efficient in picking up leaves, cans, paper and other litter.

- The Brouwer Seeder 67 was specifically designed for the establishment of new seed beds on small turf farms or for use by landscape and renovation contractors. It attaches on to small and medium-sized tractors and has several features to make the seeding of small or large areas less time-consuming.

- The Brouwer Greens Mower is the new golf course mower built to meet the challenge of modern courses.

- Also being demonstrated for the first time will be the Brouwer Hitch-Hiker, a truck-mounted forklift, providing an easy and efficient unloading service. It is rugged and highly-maneuvrable and its dual, rear-drive steering provides excellent traction, empty or loaded, in either wet or sandy conditions and although lightweight it is able to lift and carry over 1½ tons. It can also be fitted with an optional pallet retriever.

- The new Brouwer 1400 Turf Harvester will also be put through its paces. This is a lower-priced Harvester that still retains all the Brouwer features and quality. The Harvester will be fitted with many cost-effective extras, all of which go towards improving harvesting.

- Visitors will see the latest models in the well-established range of Brouwer gang mowers – the 3, 5 and 7 gang units with hydraulic or standard lifts; super 3s – either PTO or engine driven;

mini turf cutters – with stripper blade for easy turf replacement – and turf rollers.

- A feature will be the Brouwer 1500 Turf Harvester equipped with automatic steering.

- To facilitate the new and increasing range of Brouwer products, Turfand has expanded its service to include extra sales staff, a nationwide 24-hour spares service, new workshops and a mobile repair van.

The field day will include a buffet lunch and refreshments, a free draw and many other attractions! Representing Brouwer Turf Equipment, Canada will be company president Gerry Brouwer and service engineer Frank Horlings.

On the following two days, November 14-15, Turfand will hold the annual Brouwer service schools at The Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, Altrincham.

For full details of both events, including travel arrangements, contact Denise Cowell at the Warrington address or ring her on 09286 261.

New Name, Same Place

The IOG is to change the name of its Windsor exhibition to the IOG Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition from next year.

IOG exhibition committee chairman Gerald Snook said it was essential that the IOG exhibition continued to mirror the changes taking place in the industry, for it already embraces most aspects of the sports and leisure industries and this move would underline its total involvement in them.

Mr Snook also announced that, next year, the institute will be mounting its first national spring exhibition, at Victoria Park on May 13 and 14.

The third major IOG exhibition in 1986 will be the annual Scotsturf event, which will again take place in November at Ingliston.

Further information from the exhibition organiser, IOG, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK12 5LG. Tel: 0908 311856.

A Name To Watch

Eurotec Precision claims to be the fastest growing name in turf maintenance equipment, offering 'a complete system for one-man operation – from the tractor seat!'

All Eurotec products are the result of intensive research aimed at increasing performance while reducing labour and operating costs. There is a full range of models to suit tractors of 16 to 70hp with category 1 or 2 three point hydraulic linkage.

The Eurotec Vari-Slitter eases compaction problems on all types of outfield turf – its weight transfer system ensures a consistent 8in penetration in the harshest of conditions. The working widths are 3ft 6in, 4ft 6in and 6ft.

The company's Deep Fine Turf Slitter is designed for well-cultured, fine turf areas. It will slit consistently to a depth of 7in with minimal surface disturbance.

The Eurotec Fine Turf Slitter is used to prevent surface sealing in summer and aids superficial watering and the entry of fertiliser. The machine is provided with a pressure roller to assist penetration up to a 4in depth. Working widths are 4ft and 6ft and there is minimal surface disturbance on the finest of turfs.

Eurotec's range is completed by the Eurobrush, a Turf Scarifier, Twin Turf Drainer, Turf Core Extractor, Ballast Rollers and a Tractor Barrow.

Full details from Eurotec Precision, Llay Industrial Estate, Llay, Wrexham, Clwyd. Tel: 0978 833773.

Get Ready For Winter

Nuway Longlife mats measure 40in by 50in and are manufactured from solid fibred rubber strips, separated by PVC spacers, woven on to stainless steel wire – a method of construction that gives a firm, anti-slip surface. Close-set spacing at either end of the mat provides numerous positions for tee pegs.

Nuway Longlife mats are guaranteed for ten years and a colour leaflet is available from Nuway Manufacturing, Coalport, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7HX. Tel: 0952 581800.

People, Places, Products

More than 60 Scottish companies have booked stand space at the fifth annual Scotsturf exhibition, which takes place at Ingliston, Edinburgh on Wednesday November 6.

The organisers - the Scottish zone of the IOG - are anticipating that over 4,000 will attend. Admission is free. In addition, over 200 delegates have registered for the *Cost Effectiveness* seminar, run in conjunction with the exhibition and which will be addressed by five of the industry's leading authorities. A charge of £10, to include lunch and refreshments, is being made for the seminar.

Further information from the IOG, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK12 5LG.

SISIS has appointed Rodney Harrison, who lives at Romiley, Cheshire (tel: 061-494 8361), rep for Greater Manchester,

Cheshire and Staffordshire. Rodney, who was formerly with Cheshire Light Tractors, has spent over 14 years on the machinery side of turf management in the north west. He takes over from Ken Heath, who retired after 34 years with SISIS, to emigrate to Australia.



Rodney Harrison.

Country Club Hotels, which owns St Pierre, Tewkesbury Park and Meon Valley, has appointed Derek Keen as the course manager at its new hotel, golf and country club being built at Bearsted, near Maidstone, Kent. Derek was, until recently, course manager at the Telford Hotel, Golf and Country Club, where he had been since it was built in 1974.

Donald Steel is the architect of the new course and the construction work is being undertaken by Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) of Wimborne, Dorset. It is hoped that all the construction work will be completed in time for autumn seeding.

Laughlan (Jock) Millar, the course manager at St Pierre, has decided to return to his home county of Somerset to work at Burnham and Berrow GC. A replacement for Jock in this prestigious post is being sought and an advert appears on page 30.

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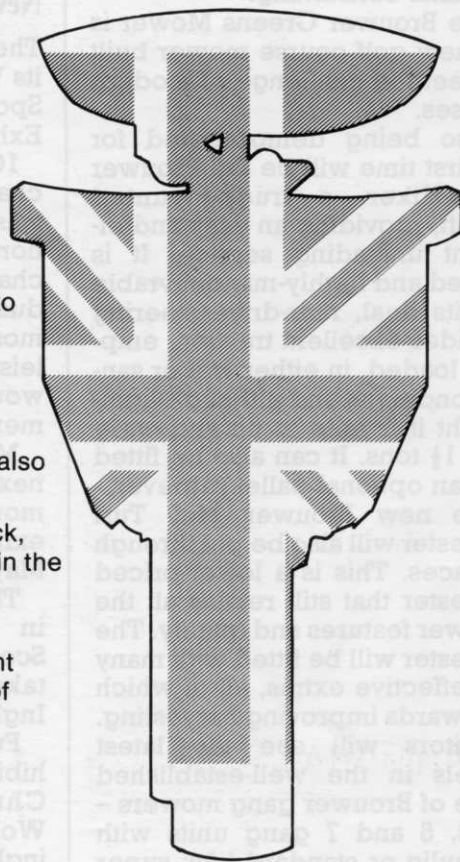
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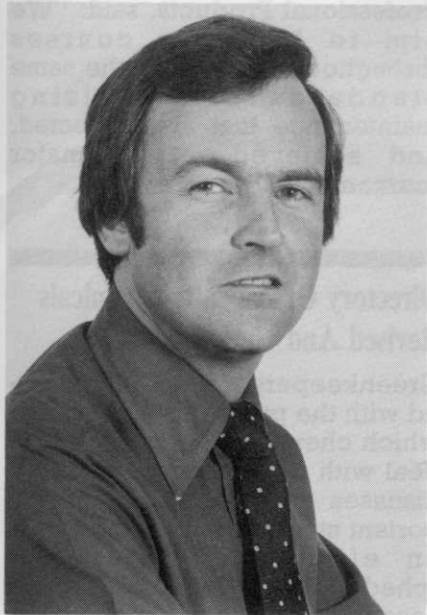
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Richard Parsons.

visory service to consultants, landscape architects, civil and mechanical engineers responsible for the development of landscaping and the environment.

Roffey Bros of Bournemouth has added Robert Parsons to its sales team, covering golf courses in the south. Robert has worked for the company for 19 years and has gained a wide experience in golf course construction and maintenance.

A new company, Inturf, is headed by Derek Edwards, ex-director of Rolawn Turf Growers. Inturf is based at Pocklington, near York, with a regional office in Cardiff.

Inturf has three divisions handling cultivated turf production; supplies of specialist turf and associated products and a comprehensive consultancy service.

Until its own cultivated turf, Supersward, is mature and

ready for harvesting, Inturf will be offering a soil-less, lightweight, bed-grown turf; Cumbrian sea-washed turf and cultivated field turf. In addition to turf supplies and its consultancy service, Inturf can provide exclusive seed mixtures and a full range of turf fertilisers including Foliar Feeds.

For more information, contact Derek Edwards, Inturf, 75 Market Street, Pocklington, York. Tel: 07592 2813.

Stop Press...

At the time of this issue going to the printers, the news was released that Nickerson Turfmaster of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire had ceased trading.

A sad end to a particularly traumatic year for the company and Graham Templeton, *Greenkeeper* hopes for better news of 'Nickersons' in the near future.

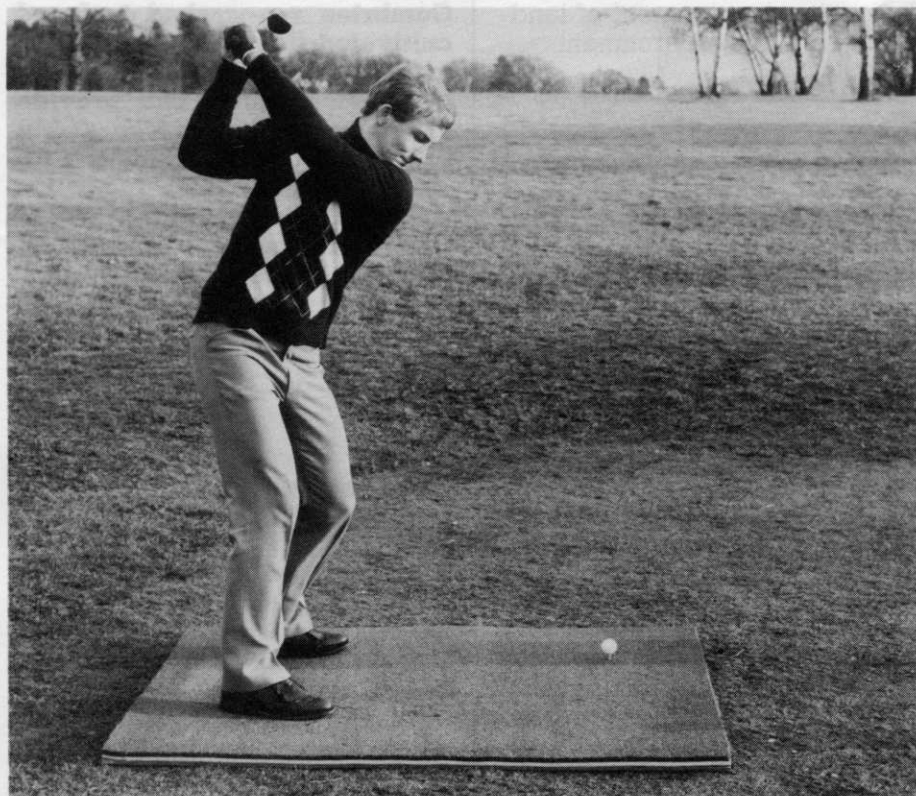
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SuperTee golf mats, launched in 1984 by Altrosport Surfaces, mainly for use as winter tees, have already been purchased by more than 60 golf clubs in Britain. The synthetic grass mats have a densely tufted polypropylene pile, backed with a resilient polyethylene pad designed to absorb the shock of any shot with a wood or iron. Tee inserts in the material allow the player to select a peg height. Of course, the peg can be dispensed with altogether and the ball hit directly off the mat. Light and portable, SuperTee golf mats do not retain water and dry out quickly. When installed, they should either be bonded to level paving stones with a waterproof adhesive or fitted into purpose-made wooden frames with strong wood slats in the bottom. The frame is then countersunk so the top is level with the surrounding turf. SuperTee golf mats are available through distributors T. Parker & Sons of Worcester Park, Surrey, Supaturf Products of Peterborough and Stewart & Co of Dalkeith. For further information, contact Richard Smith, Altrosport Surfaces, Caxton Hill, Hertford, Herts. SG13 7NB. Tel: 0992 54212.

Tournament Blessing For ICI

ICI Professional Products has obtained the PGA European Tour's approval for its fine turf fertilisers and turf care chemicals. The link has been formed to complement the launch of a superior range of fine turf fertilisers from ICI Professional Products, with particular relevance to the care and maintenance of golf courses throughout the year.

George O'Grady, managing director of PGA European Tour Enterprises, said: "We are delighted ICI Professional Products is using the tour to achieve greater visibility in the marketplace. The care and maintenance of all courses in the country, and particularly those that are used for tour events, has always been one of our prime



George O'Grady.

concerns. In the past, the tour has held seminars for greenkeepers and club green chairmen and this new association with ICI will enable the PGA European Tour to expand that facility and provide us with the resources to help greenkeeper training and course preparation research."

Keith Cleverly, manager of ICI Professional Products, said: "We aim to bring to courses throughout the country the same standards of fertilising maintenance that are expected, and achieved, at all major tournaments."

Directory Of Amenity Chemicals Revised And Updated

Greenkeepers are regularly faced with the problems of deciding which chemical is appropriate to deal with a wide range of pests, diseases and weeds. An all important step in the preparation of an efficient maintenance schedule, this decision is often based on cost, but effectiveness and safety are vital factors in the choice of chemicals, says the British Agrochemicals Association.

Now the BAA has revised and reprinted its comprehensive *Directory Of Amenity Chemicals*, introduced for the professional user in 1983, to include details of the latest products together with a new chapter on CDA Spraying.

Produced in conjunction with the Sports Turf Research Institute, the directory provides complete details of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, all of which have been cleared by the government's pesticides safety precautions scheme.

Separate chapters cover the registration of pesticides, their handling and storage, application equipment and techniques for using liquids and solids, calibration and the use of equipment. The second section of the booklet lists chemicals by brand name and active ingredient, grouped in categories of usage.

The *Directory Of Amenity Chemicals* is obtainable direct from the British Agrochemicals Association, Alembic House, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TU or the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU, priced £1.50 (including postage and packing).

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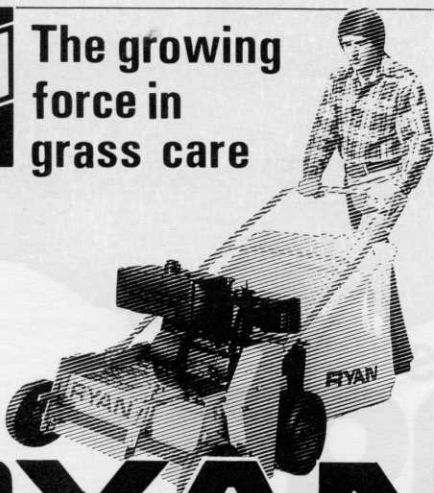
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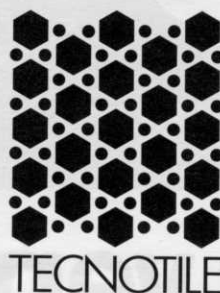
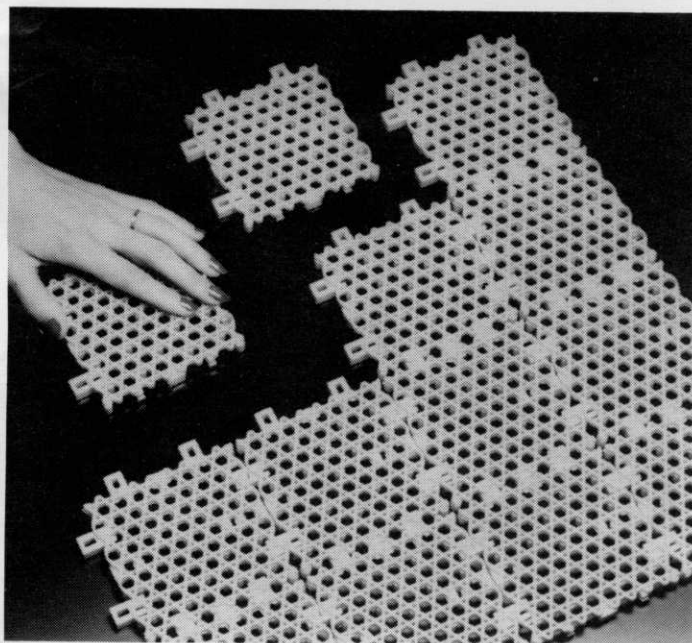
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Jim Arthur – Continued...

sometimes because the cause of the problem lies outside the control of those dealing with the erosion and sometimes because the scale of the work is too huge and too expensive.

Coastal protection in isolation is doomed to failure. Sometimes the problem starts many, many miles away, with new coastal works, jetties, or deeper-dredged channels altering the set of the tides and inexorably sweeping away sand built up over centuries.

However, as with all living ecologies, ebbs and flows have to be accepted. A dune structure is a mobile one, eroding and building up constantly. The sea takes, under equinoctial gales, but the wind gives, provided the blown sand can be trapped by dune grasses, which survive only if they are constantly growing upwards through a blown sand.

Incidentally, it is useless to try and erect impermeable barriers to tidal erosion – they merely seem to act as a challenge and the sea gets behind them – whereas permeable barriers, gabions filled with stone, not only reduce the full strength of the tide, but permit dune grasses to further stabilise the base of the dune.

Such man-induced wind erosion not only threatens golf courses, but the whole of our coastal structure and, with it, many rare maritime plants.

Another aspect of conservation and greenkeeping working hand-

in-hand is in the management of heather rough. Left to its own devices, with or without invasion by birch and pine, heather becomes long and woody and eventually dies. Burning on a cyclic pattern or spraying with grasskiller, Dalapon, in late winter, ensures both young growth and bare ground into which heather seeds can fall and germinate. Invasion of grass is fatal to such recolonisation. Seedling trees, birch and pine, start to establish in alarming numbers.

If we are to conserve heather, we must pull out rather than cut off seedling trees, since they are much harder to control when they have bushed out from cut stumps, kill off grass and top the heather, since burning is hardly feasible on a golf course!

Avoid

Needless to say, we must avoid all alkaline materials, not only obvious ones, such as lime and basic slag (used on so many courses in the past), but alkaline materials such as fenpeat. While the worst abuses now seem to be a thing of the past, I still hear of proposals to lime heather courses on the basis of soil analyses. Of course, the soil is acid on a heather course, but it will still grow grass and heather if not limed.

The message, therefore, is to make friends with your conservation officer, who will generally be on your side in positive management as against *laissez-faire*. Some little-used parts of the course could be made into managed nature reserves with the help of county naturalist trusts

– their chief value being the elimination from within its boundaries of the world's most dangerous predator, man!

At the same time, enlist his support to try to explain to excited members the difference between conservation and preservation – one requires the positive management of a constantly changing environment, while the other is doomed to failure before it starts, since you cannot stop the world and get off.

Provided golf courses are managed on a natural basis, and the soil and, so, the vegetation is not artificially altered, every part of the course will contribute to conservation, providing areas are generally undisturbed by man and there are no serious changes to the environment.

I have seen well over 120 of the approximate 199 species and subspecies of grass growing on or around (tidal marshes and dunes), golf courses as well as many rare plants. It is surprising how many birds – often rare, always interesting – you see on an advisory visit, ranging from harriers, short-eared owls, peregrines and merlins on coastal courses to hoopoes, orioles, rare warblers, blue-throats and similar rare migrants, while there is no better place to watch Brent geese and other wild fowl and waders than our coastal links.

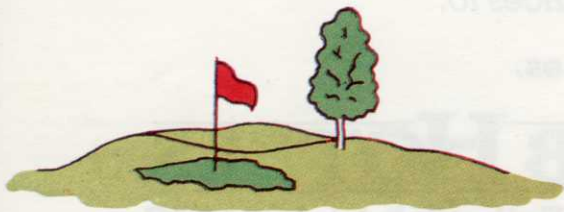
In many cases, a course will always be associated, in my mind, with some bird, animal or rare flower. It would be invidious to single them out, but I often think a life-long interest in our native fauna and flora makes me a shade less intolerant of some of the more aberrant and aggressive forms of *Homo sapiens*!

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