

APRIL 1986

Greenkeeper



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





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Sign Of The Times

The last few weeks have seen a number of greenkeeper conferences staged throughout the UK all the Associations having held successful meetings covering a wide range of topics. It is not surprising that such conferences are popular, for they offer the delegate an opportunity of listening to informative papers and by bringing together large numbers of greenkeepers (there were over 200 at the Elmwood College conference) the exchange of information outside the hall is considerable.

A further sign of progress is the number of greenkeepers delivering well researched papers in a highly articulate manner. In the four years since the first EIGGA residential conference the number of greenkeeper speakers has risen from none to fifteen, who spoke over the three days at Warwick University, and by common consent these were amongst the best presented.

Whilst there will always be a need for expert advice it is gratifying to note the number of greenkeepers who not only have the courage to stand before a large audience but also have the confidence in their ability as professional turf managers to share their experiences with their fellows, mistakes included.

The Warwick conference was a sell-out with several disappointed applicants being turned away. This must bode well for the future of the entire greenkeeping profession when the conference hall is full and no one even thought of slipping away for a round of golf.

The Course Management Trophy

It is proposed to hold an inaugural meeting of an Open BOWMAKER Competition over 36 holes for the Course Management Trophy at Hankley Common Golf Club on 5th August 1986. The competition will be for club teams consisting of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, Club Secretary and Committee Member responsible for the golf course. The entry fee will be £36 per team covering a snack lunch, dinner and prizes. Entry forms will be made available on application from Mr D. Lee, Secretary, Hankley Common Golf Club, Ilford, Nr. Farnham, Surrey.

The competition is the brainchild of John Harris — a member of the Hankley Common Management Committee — and is aimed at bringing together those responsible for maintaining and improving the golf course for a competitive and social day away from the pressures of their own club environment. It is hoped that the competition will become an annual event in the greenkeeping calendar.

Our Cover

The famous 16th at Cypress Point Golf Club — a timely reminder for all Club Members that even in the United States not every course, has to look like AUGUSTA NATIONAL.



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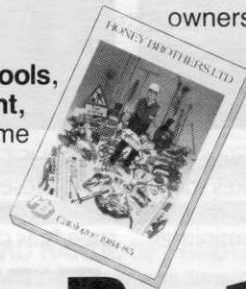


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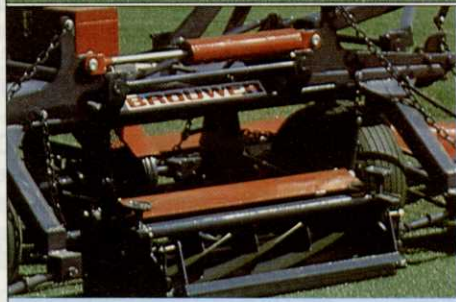
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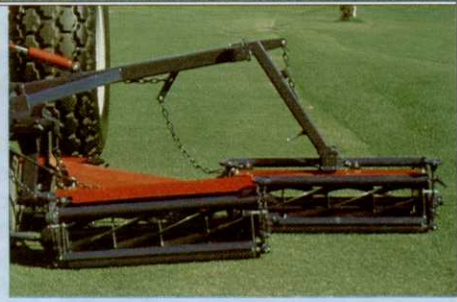
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Sussex

The AGM of Sussex was held recently with 24 members present.

The financial position of the branch was reported as very healthy. Lionel Harris proposed sending two members to Warwick paid for out of branch funds and this was accepted by the meeting. C. Dryden and R. Ball represented Sussex at the EIGGA conference.

The election of officers was: chairman - Lionel Harris, president - Peter Simpson, vice-chairman - Allen Butrymowicz, committee members - Derek Coomber and Roy Jones and administrator - R. Jobson.

The first tournament of the season will be at Seaford Golf Club, Blatchington on April 24. Entry forms and other information from R. Jobson on Horsham 60525.



Kevin Munt (above), a founder member and trustee of EIGGA, has been appointed links supervisor at Royal Dornoch.

Hankley Common, Kevin's former club, has named Ian McMillan its new course manager. Another McMillan on the move is Billy, who has switched from Badgemore Park to join father Jack at Sunningdale. Billy will be the foreman of the Old Course. His youngest brother Cameron is already part of the team.

Billy McMillan fills the vacancy left by the departure of David Lenham to Camberley Heath, where he has taken over the head greenkeeper's role.

South Wales

The branch held its AGM at Royal Porthcawl recently. A well-attended meeting proved extremely productive with the future of EIGGA and activities in the area prompting good debate.

It is hoped that a tournament will be staged in July, combining an evening lecture by a golf course superintendent from the States. Members will be notified as soon as details are finalised.

A new committee was elected, consisting of: chairman - Bruce Jamieson (Royal Porthcawl), vice-chairman - Neil Carter (Whitchurch), golf administrator - Mike Wilson (Ashburnham), administrator - Raymond Hunt (Royal Porthcawl).

The new committee would like to thank Dennis Archer for his efforts as branch administrator and also Royal Porthcawl GC for the use of its clubhouse.

Plans are being drawn up for next winter's season of educational lectures and seminars and if any members can suggest suitable speakers, please let me know.

Finally, the branch would like to thank Eric Staniforth, managing director of SISIS, for all that he has contributed to golf greenkeeping and wish him a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

Raymond Hunt.

Surrey

The fourth AGM of Surrey was held recently at New Zealand Golf Club. Our thanks go to the artisan section for use of the clubhouse and the bar staff for their hard work.

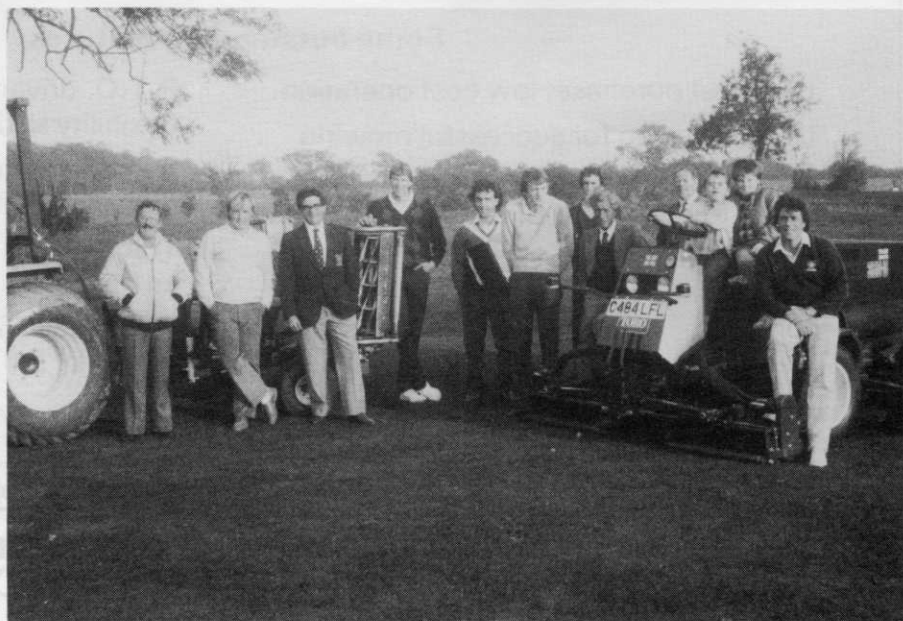
A lecture at Walton Heath on the history of SISIS was given by Dennis Lumley and our thanks go to him for an interesting and varied talk. We also thank the Walton Heath artisans for use of their clubhouse.

Entry forms for the spring tournament at Hankley Common GC should have reached you by now, so please return them as soon as possible.

Applications for entry forms and any other queries should be addressed to Paul Pearse, 1 Warren Farm Cottages, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey. Tel: Bookham 59629.

Paul Pearse.

Lely (UK) recently had a sales and working day in conjunction with its TORO dealer A.T. Olivers of Kings Langley, Herts. Members of EIGGA's north London branch viewed the TORO Reelmaster 350D assembly line at Manns of Saxham, which was followed by lunch and then a working demonstration of the all British-built TORO 350D.



Among those who inspected and approved the line-up of TORO machinery, Bill Geddes, Neil Bennett, Norman Exley, David Stenton, Barry Webster, Anthony Taylor, Chris Slater, T. Lowe, Chris Greenwood and David Lowe.

Ayrshire

The section AGM took place at Prestwick recently with 25 members present - section proposals for the national AGM were discussed and these have been forwarded to the general secretary.

The section committee for 1986-7 is: chairman - H. Diamond (Belleisle), vice chairman - B. Finlayson (Ardeer), secretary - J. Paton (West Kilbride), committee - T. Parker (West Kilbride), M. Power (Troon Darnley), R. Burke (Irvine Bogside), A. Forrest (Western Gailes) and R. Bruce (trade).

Transportation has been arranged for the section spring outing to Thornhill Golf Club, Dumfries on April 17 and there will be various pick-up points.

There is a joint one-day seminar on April 10 with the west section at the Inverclyde National Sports Centre, Largs - speakers arranged include a representative from D.G. Allan Oils, Bob McLaren of the Ayrshire Golf Union and golf professional Bobby Lockie.
Jim Grainger.

West

Since the last report, the section AGM has been held, courtesy of Cowglen GC, with nearly 30 members in attendance. The meeting was interesting and thanks go to chairman A. Connell for handling the meeting so competently.

Chairman Connell was elected for another year's office, as was his vice-chairman R. Fitzpatrick. A. McDougall was returned as secretary for another year. Proposals from the west section membership for the executive AGM have been put in writing and sent to the general secretary.

The section has again been playing football with different degrees of success! In the first encounter against a pub team, we were beaten 3-0 but, in the return, when back to a full first team, we won 3-2. I would like to take this opportunity to throw out a challenge to any other sides.

Important dates for the section are: Thursday May 8 - spring tournament at Cowglen Golf Club; Wednesday June 4 - team match versus Ayrshire at Milngavie Golf

Club and Thursday September 28 - autumn tournament at East Renfrewshire (provisional).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank past chairman Jim Paton for all his work on the section's behalf. He has resigned to take up the job of Ayrshire section secretary and we wish him every success.

The new west section committee is: A. Connell (Cawder) - chairman, R. Fitzpatrick (Whitecraigs) - vice chairman and A. McDougall (Stirling) - secretary.

The committee consists of D. Hindmarch (Milngavie), C. George (Lenzie), A. Ferguson (Cowglen), S. Hogg (DrumPELLIER), C. Kennedy (Haggs Castle), F. Scullion (Dumbarton), D. Gall (Cardross), R. Brewer (Douglas Park) and trade members R. Aitken of Richard Aitken & Sons Seedsmen and R. Deans of Autogarden (Glasgow).

The chairman and committee hope that everyone in the section will take an active part in events this year, helping to make it the most successful ever. We also wish everyone in the section a good growing year.

A. McDougall.

Dear Editor

Every time your magazine arrives, I read it with great interest and learn something new.

Obviously, the main theme in your magazine is greenkeeping, rather than construction and architecture. Nevertheless, I consider these three elements for the establishment of a golf course very closely interwoven and it is on this point that I would like to make some remarks.

Thanks to the good and sensible advice we get from grass, soil and construction experts, we, the architects, can supply the specifications for a properly built golf course.

The experienced constructor knows how to apply these specifications to his work and eventually supply a first-class finished product.

By that time, the client is often

in a happy state of mind, sitting on a cloud of euphoric contentment, satisfied that his project has been realised.

So far so good, especially for the architect and the constructor, but then what? Who is now going to be the nurse to this healthy baby? In other words, who will be the greenkeeper and staff?

Often, the greenkeeper is only taken on just before or after construction work has finished and may well come from an area or a country where conditions are entirely different.

The greenkeeper is not, and cannot, be aware of the difficulties that may have occurred during construction, the weak spots on the course, the problem areas, etc...

As a result of this, the healthy baby becomes ill after a year or so and the client unhappy and discontented.

Suddenly, everybody is blaming everybody else for what

has gone wrong.

I would strongly recommend that certainly the greenkeeper and, if possible, also part of his staff work on the course during construction, thereby establishing a lasting contact with the architect and constructor and getting the full benefit of knowing how to cope with any problem areas inherent to the soil structure.

It would also do no harm to solicit the services of an agronomist, specialising in the field of golf courses, towards the end of construction in order for him to establish a maintenance programme with the agreement of all parties concerned, very much including the greenkeeper.

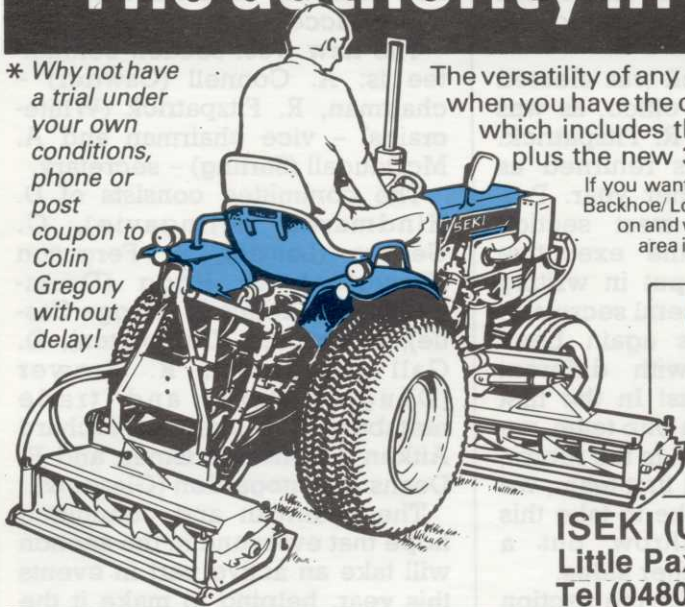
In that case, there will be much less arguing later and the respective responsibilities will have been clearly defined.

*J.F. Dudok Van Heel,
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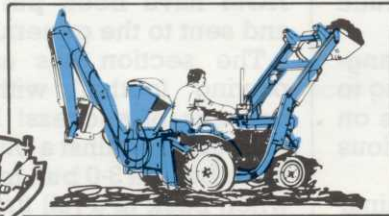
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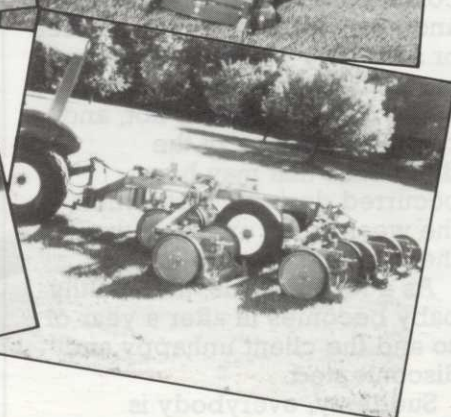
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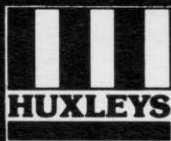
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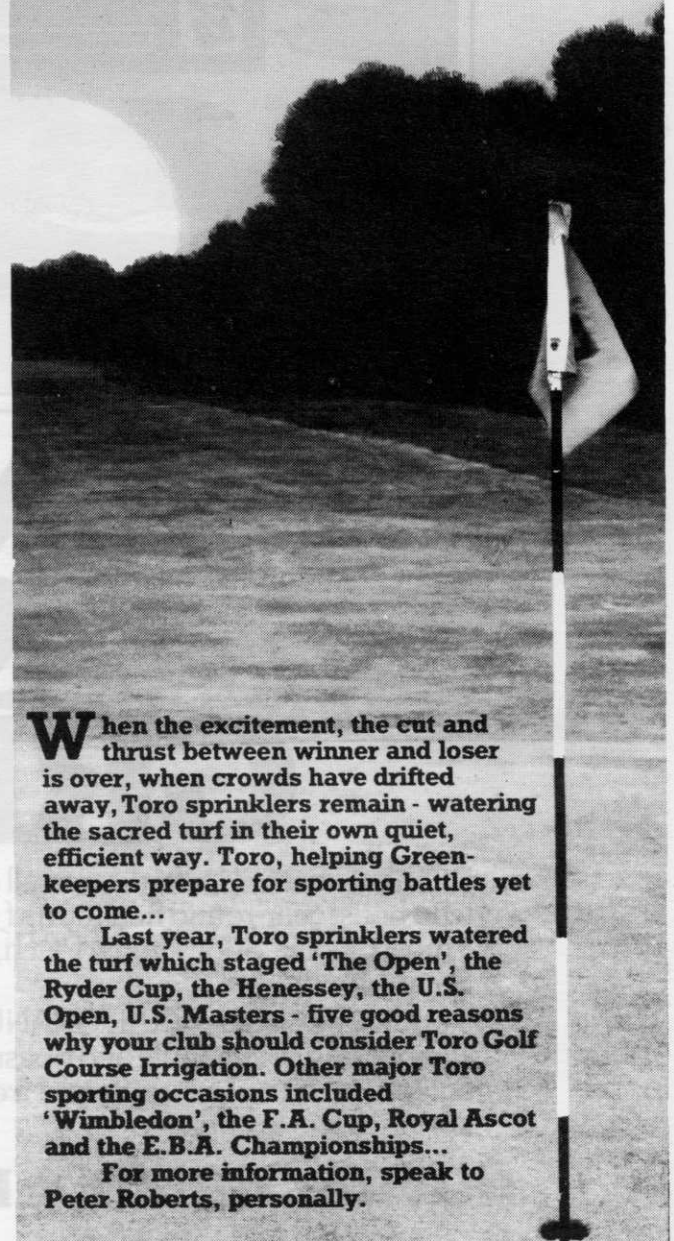
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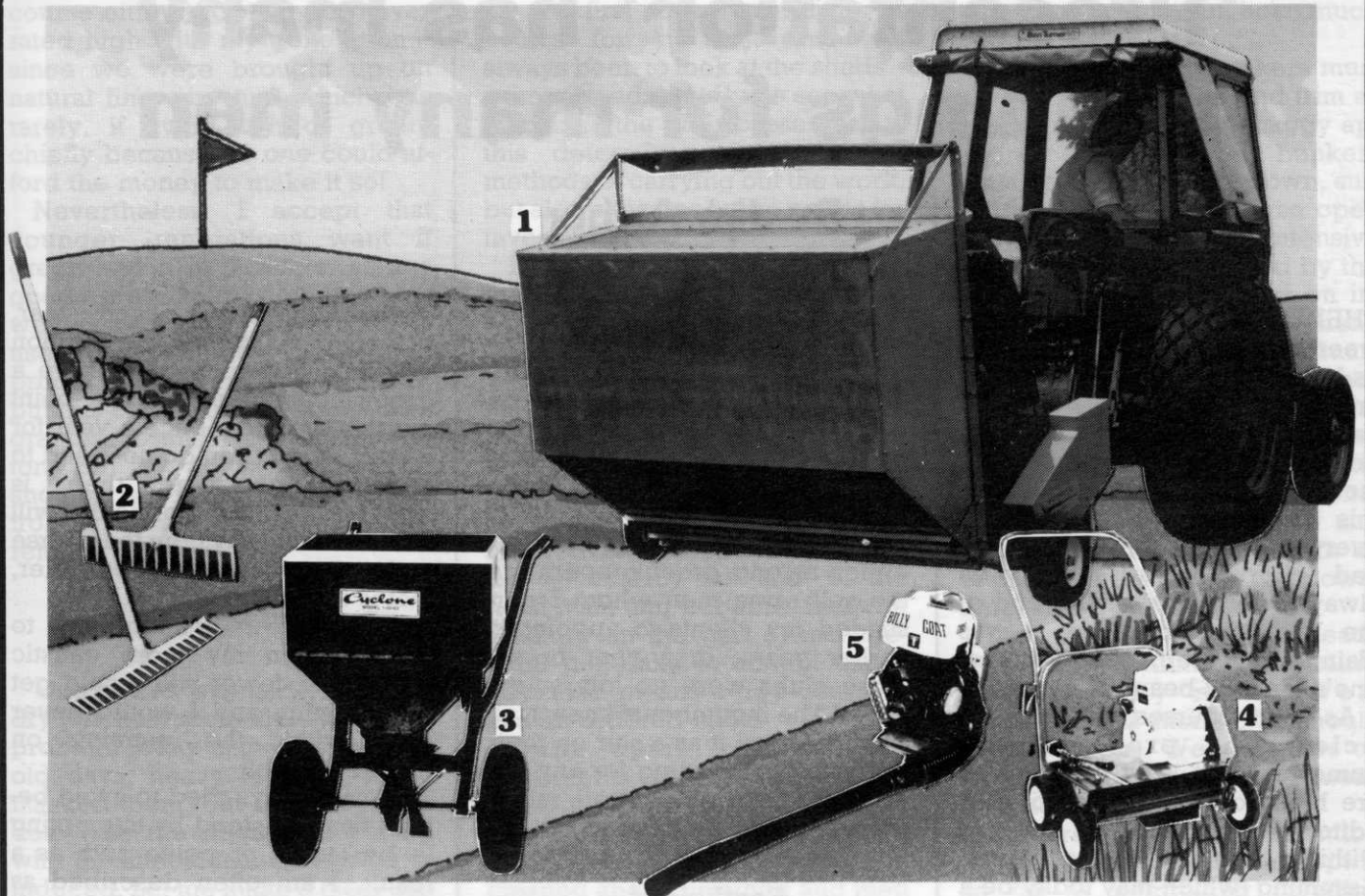
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'Presentation' has many meanings for many men

By Jim Arthur

THERE is a lot in common between presenting a golf course to its best advantage and writing an article! In both cases, we ought to carefully consider for whom the end product is designed. One fact is unarguable. Namely that, in this world, you cannot please everyone. In the days when we had chorus girls, there was always one fat girl at the end of the back row because, it was claimed, she represented someone's ideas of beauty!

As with courses, so with articles. The problems are numerous, not least (unless you are blessed with a very tolerant editor) the discipline of keeping within a stated number of words. Assuming (which may today be a rash assumption) that the author knows what he is talking about and able to present facts and ideas logically, as opposed to just filling the pages with pseudo-science or sales talk, the content is not difficult. What is, is having a clear idea of the type of readership one is aiming at.

I was more than a little taken aback at the SIGGA seminar at St Andrews last autumn when accused by our friends from the other side of the Atlantic of being so condescending to superintendents and so presumably to greenkeepers.

I had to explain that I had been attacking, as is my wont, not greenkeepers but management and not only the annually changing green committee - based on enthusiastic amateurs with too little time and less knowledge with which to implement their theories and subject to their ideas, in turn, being reversed the day they leave office - but commercial interests seeking to exploit new markets, careless of the fact that disaster inevitably follows the breaking of basic rules or that we have seen it all before. Yet not all commercial interests are harmful, so it is difficult to generalise without upsetting individual firms which are giving of their best.

My sympathies are always (well, nearly always) with the head greenkeeper and my articles are normally planned on that basis. Yet I have discovered one fact in life - as many have before me - and that is if you do anyone a favour, they resent it at heart and some of my bitterest critics among greenkeepers are the self same men whom I persuaded my clients to appoint in earlier years. In a year or so, those clubs were no longer my client! The incumbents knew it all and regarded it as a slur on their professional standing for any adviser to be consulted at all, rating them foolishly as competitors.

Forthright

Equally, I have been fairly forthright about the malign influence of the world of professional golf, concerned only with the tarting up of a course for a weeks tournament, with absolutely no concern for its condition the other fifty-one weeks of the year. Then - oops! - I realise that my many club professional friends of long standing may have been justifiably annoyed, but I certainly did not mean them! They have every interest in seeing that their courses are in perfect order every week of the year.

Similarly, I may have been scathing in the past about a minority of golf secretaries who want to be their own head greenkeeper - and presumably, club masters - and every other head office-holder in the club as well. Then I think of those knowledgeable, devoted dictators (not just secretaries) who have for years provided that all important element of continuity and realise that it is impossible to generalise without treading on sensitive toes.

I am reminded of just one such autocrat who for many years looked after 'his' course to perfection. He used to say to successive new

green committees each year, "Gentlemen, by the constitution of this club, we have to have a green committee. I would point out that we meet once a year for dinner, which you do not need to attend. Furthermore, there is nothing you can say or do that will influence the way I run the course and so long as it is in good order, that is the way it will be."

However, if I attempted to qualify even my more caustic comments, fewer still would get my meaning and I would never keep within the restraints on feature length!

I have always tried to avoid being misunderstood by attempting to be tactful or polite and, as a result, I am often described as irascible or abrasive! Words do seem to have entirely different meanings to some people than they do to me. As an example, 'fertilisation' is part of procreation and nothing to do with applying fertilisers!

It would be untrue to say that I welcome criticism (who does?), but I certainly welcome discussion and current proposals for me to discuss with agriculturally-based fertiliser companies, seeking to replace lost agricultural markets by going for illusory bonanzas in greenkeeping, are very welcome even if I am not too optimistic about converting them. What I do find annoying are attacks under pseudonyms. Moles live short and pugnacious lives and are notoriously unable to see daylight (but may be sensitive to vibrations) and, what is more, are likely to get their heads chopped off if they are rash enough to emerge on the surface.

Today, the in-word is presentation. I, in no way, sneer at that and, indeed, if we are concerned with how courses look as well as play, then this implies that there is less need now for concern about basic problems, such as thatchy greens or lush, wormy fairways.

To the uninitiated, presentation too often means pretty! I am

aghast at what some people admire (and not only on a golf course either!). Colour has never rated high with my generation – since we were brought up on natural fine wiry turf, which was rarely, if ever, lush or green, chiefly because no one could afford the money to make it so!

Nevertheless, I accept that younger generations want it green and it is possible, as any good greenkeeper knows, as well as perfectly permissible, to use a little window-dressing to produce a uniform green colour, but this can be achieved not with granular fertiliser applied by the ton, but by a few pounds (or should I say kilos!) of sulphate of iron or, in season, a *little* slow-release nitrogen.

Problem

One reason why fairy rings (and dry patches) seem to be more of a problem today is that, in the bad old days, heavy fertiliser usage masked them, but I would rather deal with the rings than put up with the annual meadow grass so induced. Let me make it clear that I have never advised “no fertilisers” on any course.

What appals me are illustrations of some American courses with greens surrounded by bedding plants giving a kaleidoscopic display to which I feel (I hope) that most people’s response would be ‘yuck’ or words to that effect! Yet, we see the start of such artificial presentation on this side of the Atlantic, with potted plants around greens and dyed water in ponds! Quite apart from the aesthetic angle, we simply cannot afford the bills.

Equally, I am not happy with many planting proposals on new, as well as existing, courses which involve planting flowering cherries or ornamental shrubs or even rhododendrons. Unless done on a grand scale, shrub planting looks pettifogging and pathetic. Perhaps I am biased, but I prefer natural conditions – heather and gorse especially. Admittedly, with some courses on flat clay land in urban areas, it would take a genius to make them look attractive but, even so, if such courses are well presented, then few will grumble and certainly no-one who matters – i.e. those who go to a golf club to play golf! Most good golfers’ minds are on the ball, not the pretty flowers!

To misquote – tidiness is next to godliness on a golf course. One of my first tasks in visiting a course for the first time has always been to look at the sheds – primarily, admittedly, to see what machines the club possesses, as this determines not only the methods of carrying out the work, but also indicates future needs for investment.

In addition, once I have seen the sheds, I have a good idea what to expect on the course. Scruffy, broken-down sheds; yards ankle deep in mud; machines clattered up with grass cuttings and dirt; broken bags of fertiliser (or even lime!) piled up in corners and drums of fungicides and herbicides stored in the ‘living’ accommodation are not necessarily the fault of the head-man, but certainly indicate a failure on the part of management generally to accept that a tidy shed means a tidy course – and an ordered mind.

Quite apart from the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act, which clubs may ignore at their peril, machines last longer if properly cleaned and maintained and men work more efficiently in bad weather if they know that they have a good dry (!) warm mess room and drying facilities to come back to.

One reason why I am so keen on weatherproof cabs for tractors is not solely an oversensitive concern for the comfort of staff, but because much greater productivity is achieved – especially with direct-mounted equipment – so that a wet day does not mean that all the staff are painting tee markers or huddling round the stove.

In passing, some head-men I know use such periods of really bad weather for greenkeeping training, as well as machinery overhaul, and are greatly to be encouraged for so doing.

Presentation is the secret of making a good impression. You may have produced superb fescue greens, but if the bunker faces are broken down, the walks between greens and tees eroded and bare and if tees are muddy devastated areas so uneven that a mountain goat would be hard pressed to find a level stance, then members will grumble and visitors will not return.

Presentation has many facets and is not all about tidiness. ‘Sculpting’ fairways by sym-

pathetic gang mowing to produce natural curves may be more time-consuming, but how much better they look!

I do not say that bunkers must always be manicured and trim as I like to see a natural shaggy appearance. But certainly bunkers must never be broken down, surrounded by muddy coarse open turf (often a result of intensive worm casting encouraged by the use of lime-rich sea sand on inland courses, perhaps many years earlier) and, above all, must not have overhanging lips nor raised leading edges, where the sand has been raked forward and the grass grows up to form a rim. This prevents the ball from being gathered into the sand floor and results in it finishing short in an unplayable lie in lush, unmown, long, shaggy grass.

Tees must be treated as neatly as possible within the restraints imposed by manpower, machines and money, as should be the greens. We want tees on which we can putt and I mean that literally.

The rough needs attention rather than treatment – except in so far as controlling invading grass in heather is concerned. Invasive seedlings of birch and pine must be culled and the open character of our heathland and moorland courses rigorously protected.

Expensive

Parkland courses demand quite expensive arboricultural treatment to conserve those relatively few magnificent specimens that replace bunkers – and the trees themselves need protection from those misguided enthusiasts who go round planting hundreds of trees, quite failing to visualise what they will look like in 50 years time, but which will inexorably destroy the character of the course, leaving it as ‘golf in a wood’, which is just as bad by my standards as ‘golf in a field’.

Presentation also implies intensified management – e.g. daily rather than three times a week mowing of tees as well as greens, mowing out broad surrounds and veritable foregreens, the preparation of graded rough – indeed, a lot more work.

Presentation also means attention to areas of the course not

Continued overleaf...

Jim Arthur – Continued...

strictly in play – e.g. paths, walk-off areas, even clubhouse surroundings, woodland management and thinning out, collection of dumps of grass mowings (such fruitful sources of disease and coarse grasses) and making sure machines, such as gang mowers or fairway aerators, are not left where they were last unhitched.

You will not believe this anecdote, but I assure you it is true! On a famous links course in Ireland, when the whistle blew for the morning break, on the dot the greenkeeper unhitched his gangs and left them mid-fairway to the fury of the members, not even bothering to tow them to one side before motoring off for his elevenses!

I know it is far fetched, but you can still learn from reducing arguments to absurdity! Neither head-man not indisciplined staff survived, I might add.

On so many courses, time has hallowed practices which to me are simply appalling, yet those

closest to the problem wonder why they never saw it until the problem and its implications were pointed out. One advantage of a system I have practised for decades – encouraging headmen to visit each others courses (from Open Championship venues downwards) – is that a fresh eye can often see what those most closely involved miss and the exchange is almost always helpful to both parties, especially when compliments are returned.

I cannot stress too much that what separates the superb courses from the also-rans is not only design, character or even management, but presentation and I will leave you with three quotations. Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of intelligent effort; genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration and presentation (or the equivalent army term) baffles brains!

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The sorry state of British courses in winter

By Eddie Park

ANYONE who ponders on the present state of British golf courses eventually asks themselves two questions. Why was it allowed to happen? Why has there been no proper response to the deterioration?

A number of answers will almost certainly include the lack of continuity built into the system by which we run our golf clubs. But the most important reason is simply that there is no forum or centre where these matters can be reported and collated.

When you realise the very complicated - and costly - apparatus involved in running county and national unions (mainly to lay on competitions), it seems quite scandalous that none of these committees oversees the good health of our golf courses and those who maintain them.

Of course, nobody wants to discuss the problem courses in public and people appear to join golf clubs to improve their social status, so they may not want to admit, even to themselves, that their course is less than perfect.

Greenkeepers often tell me that they know their course has problems, but it is more than their job is worth to say so in public - even less to admit that it is the daft demands made on them by unthinking golfers that cause the problems.

The price of this conspiracy of silence is that the required financial resources are not made available. By contrast, serious medical diseases are 'notifiable' - i.e. the doctor has to notify the authorities which, thereby, always have a national picture before them. What if we had to notify the national golf unions when we have thatch on golf courses in excess of two inches? I bet the research training and cash for skilled men and machines would appear like magic.

In my limited way, I have made a personal survey. The first point to strike me is that most courses

pass muster for the four summer months - the problems arise in 'winter' which, increasingly, seems to include spring and autumn as well.

The second point is that upon returning to clubs I knew well thirty years ago, how few old faces are still there. Indeed, I suspect that the majority of those who now play golf all the year round have been members for less than ten years. Older club members certainly dislike the winter more, probably because winter golf on too many courses demands more strength than they possess. There's the root cause for the lack of continuity straight away!

I set myself to compare a large number of courses with their condition thirty years earlier. I opted for that landmark because in the 1950s I was a golfing fanatic and I still have diaries and scorecards to show where I played - green fees were cheap then and I covered a large area. I selected fifty clubs from widely differing regions and of widely different types - from the great international venue to the most humble suburban municipal. I returned to take a close look at them and then I went to consult the professional at my own club, David Snell.

David is a few years younger than me, but has been very active in club golf from 1948 and is still going strong. From 1956-73, he played the tournament circuit and won the *News of the World* British Matchplay title in 1959. In other words, he's a man who has played well on many courses for almost forty years.

When we compared notes, we agreed on some pretty dismal conclusions, chief of which is that there has been a profound deterioration in British golf courses during this period. This has been manifested primarily in the ever-reducing season for enjoyable golf.

We reckoned that very soft greens (usually thatched) are to

be found on at least thirty per cent of courses with virtual monocultures of *Poa annua* even more widespread. None of this would have been true thirty years ago.

Players today would be astonished (I was myself) to realise that up to the mid-1960s there was no rule allowing for a ball to be cleaned on the green. There was no need for one.

Probably the first recorded incident of the ill effects of over watering was at a tournament in Yorkshire during the 'sixties when Dave Thomas had a ball plugged in the green and used a sand-iron to play it.

Unknown

In those earlier days, cancellation of an event was unknown unless the course was covered in snow and the condition of a course was not a normal topic of conversation. We expected to play golf all year and to enjoy it.

The essence of the game was the skill to place the ball so that we could play our shots to the green via the approach areas. If we had to carry a bunker on to the green, which would be firm for some part of the year, we would risk incurring further penalty - not like today's game with brute strength and the totally airborne shot to a holding green.

David Snell remembers, as a young man, driving down the left hand side of the 16th at St Andrews. Henry Cotton was coming up the 3rd and called out: "You can't play that hole from this side young man," and so it proved.

At the Dunhill last autumn, when St Andrews was untypically heavily 'watered' by weeks of rain, the commentators were stressing that David's route was the way to play the 16th - not with St Andrews at its great and running best, I think.

Continued overleaf...

To pick out another example, during the 1983 Open at Royal Birkdale, which was criticised as being overwatered, it never stopped raining until five weeks before the championship and the pop-ups were not over-used. The weather had the last word!

One world-class professional told me that it was like playing to greens made of mushy peas. David Snell watched Tom Watson's crucial second shot in the last round from semi-rough on the left side to the plateau 16th green and recalled: "that shot would just not have been on in the old days."

Continuing our comparisons with the 'fifties, we agreed that many courses then had wet areas that might cause the course to be closed in heavy rain, but they were due to poor drainage, which has now been corrected in most cases.

Nowadays, we see closures or temporary greens because the greens - and only the greens - are too soft for foot traffic. We may also see winter greens that have not been 'blessed' by modern treatment with excellent swards.

The twin imported obsessions of target golf and presentation (appearance) seem to have caused the worst problems. I know there is more play and heavier machinery but, with skill, this can be remedied. Excessive fertiliser and water, causing complete changes in grass population, plus the effects of other chemicals on the microbiology, are much more damaging.

We have sought to produce totally artificial architecture and swards in a British climate and we have lost *that* game. But still the fertiliser, chemical and irrigation

companies advertise and sell their products, which are potentially harmful if misused, to layman committees with no expertise.

Clubs for which autumn, winter and spring golf are no longer attractive have turned indoors to keep up revenue with a vastly expanded social side that appeals strongly to many newcomers and their families.

The club professional is left out in the cold with sales for Christmas presents being his great event between September and May. It is not surprising that many of them have sought to enter club or course management. Mind you, in general terms it is the professionals who have encouraged the concept of target golf.

Many a club has planted trees to stop amateurs getting away with fluke shots, acting on the advice of their professional. If you want to see the real effect of trees on a golf course, walk out on a frosty morning and realise how frequently a course remains closed because greens are shaded from the sun.

You will not find a really good green on a course with tall trees. Of course, I understand the argument that trees are really 'bunkers in the sky', which committees can easily plant to make up for poor architecture, but they are also wreckers of fine turf and closers of courses that could safely be open.

As usual, the bottom line is a financial one. Not just social events, but special offers to sell golf days to visiting parties. Adverts, free meals - what next?

I have consistently argued for the past twenty years that efforts to defeat Old Mother Nature are

bound to fail. We did have quite a few cushy years, but '84, '85 and now the last cold winter have demonstrated, yet again, that the British pattern of climate will always reassert itself and throw in a few extremes as well.

There may be no disease, but temporary greens seem almost universal, even in dry weather. You don't need me to tell you who carries the can for this unsatisfactory situation. However unjust it may be, the golfer feels in his bones that it must be the greenkeeper who is responsible for the demonstrably poor product on which he plays. No one tells him otherwise. No one suggests that he is playing with the wrong ball and the wrong clubs, that he and his committees demand the wrong things and then try to achieve their demands by methods that are bound to fail. The end result is that the greenkeeper is denied the training, salary and status that otherwise might be his.

There are things the greenkeeper can do. By taking part in the conspiracy of silence I have described, he is stopping any progress. Greenkeepers' associations should not just exist for golf days and lectures from salesmen, etc. They should be grasping the need to get into public relations with spokesmen to tell the unions, the clubs and especially the golfers what is wrong and what is required.

Sixty years ago there was a disaster similar to that of today. Then, as now, there were some moves from the top and the Board of Greenkeeping Research was established. The efforts faded away and the disaster was forgotten.

Not again, I hope.

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The Importance Of The Green

By Jimmy Kidd, estates manager at Gleneagles

GOLF may be said to be a game literally of immemorial antiquity. There is evidence that early in the 15th century it was so popular that legislators found it necessary to fulminate repeated statutes against it, principally because it was interfering with the more important accomplishments of archery, thus tending to impair the military efficiency of the people.

Centuries later, the game was denounced by the Scottish piety who decried the pastime 'gowf' as infringing on the sabbath and hindering, this time, the 'good fight against the devil.'

Against all odds, the game continued to thrive and expand its popularity into the middle of the 18th century, at which time the gentry of the land often laid down the gauntlet over dinner. Challenge matches of all forms – 'fourballs on the green' or 'the least number of strokes from the town hall to the steeple' – proved that, at the time, the green was the least important part of any game of golf. It was the bet and the pre and post game dinners, where challenges were laid down and scores settled, that were all important.

But, by the middle of the 19th century, the game was revelling in its popularity and new societies with a clubroom and a green close by were being formed at a furious pace on top-quality land.

While local authorities wanted to provide golf for all the people at the cheapest possible rate, commercial enterprise viewed the game's popularity with an eye to profit. They set out to provide accommodation in the very best hotels with first-class golf courses offering varying degrees of difficulty for all, to the delight of the top-class golfer to the veritable first timer wishing to record his first game of golf on a classic course.

Professional golfers and architects were in great demand. The very best of prospective golfing territory was

bought up and transformed into all manner of golf holes with the architects' marks of identification still in existence today.

A golfing annual of 1901-02 lists some 1,400 clubs out of 2,695 in the world to be in the UK and all with membership lists, secretaries, annual subscriptions and professionals of golf, often doubly employed as 'keeper of the greens.'

The green was, by now, becoming the most important part of the game. Societies had recognised that a permanently employed keeper of the greens was a necessary part of any club's expenditure.

To this end, some very good golfers were taken from their clubs to maintain others. Old Tom Morris went to St Andrews from Prestwick in the 1860s for the handsome sum of £50, cheap at the price when you look at the work done by the revered gentleman, not only on the famous links, but as an architect in his own right on many more.

Knowledge

The best keepers of the greens then and today had to have an attendant knowledge of what was required in the best interests of the game. Courses were stretching as the membership lists increased and the quality of the equipment improved. The bound ball was harder, firmer, flew further and iron clubs became much more the order of the day.

None of these improvements did the courses a lot of good. In fact, the iron club probably created the bunkers in the drop areas of many links courses. Constant erosion of the broken surface by increased traffic round holes and teeing up within six club lengths of the previous hole did nothing for the drainage qualities of the 'green.' Teeing areas had to be introduced, greens had to be

sanded to improve drainage and fairways patched with seed and soil to preserve the links.

The beginning of the 20th century was a time of great debate – on the values of fertilisers for grass growth promotion, from seaweed to soot, bone meal to dried blood or both. The 'greens' were debated in the clubroom then, as today, the length and breadth of the country.

This debate is alive and well in the dying years of the 20th century, just as are the ideas and ideals of today's greenkeepers who manage some of our very best golf courses, recognised the world over for the quality of the architecture and protection of the natural experience of a game of golf in the UK.

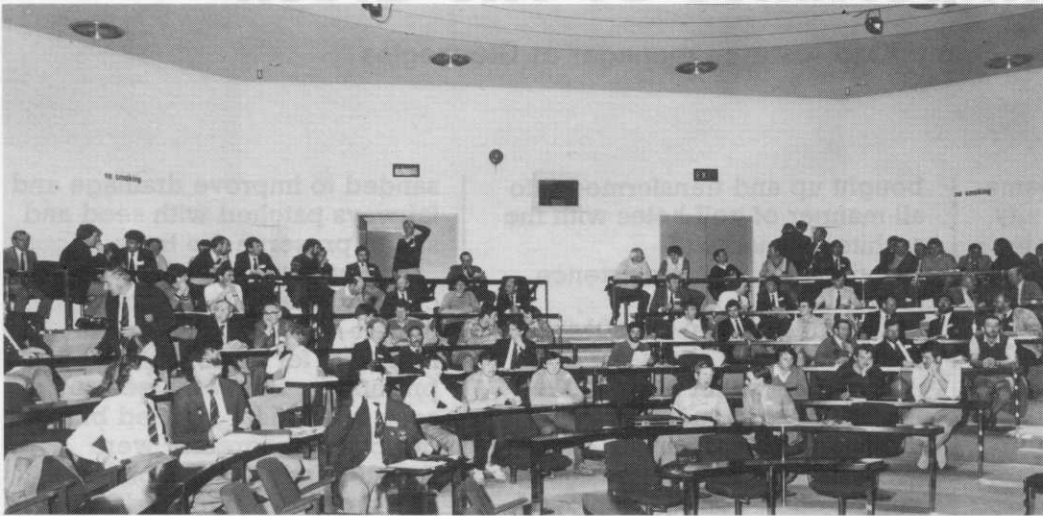
Our courses are not overly manicured, but managed in harmony with nature, allowed to dry out at times to preserve the natural species of grasses indigenous to the area, drained to take the water off the top few inches as quickly as possible, allowing the soil to dry out and heat up quickly, especially in the spring as this is the essence of early growth.

Courses are fertilised little and often today, with similar organic nitrogen sources as our mentors at the beginning of the century, providing consistent steady growth. Automatic irrigation systems act as an insurance against the house/green being burnt down, with watering used merely to keep the plant alive.

The aim today, as in the past, is the provision of lean hungry grasses able to withstand the uncertainties of our climate – grasses working for the keeper of the greens instead of him working for them.

The maintenance of our golf courses has reached the age of high sophistication, with all manner of high work rate machinery for a multitude of operations to cope with and provide for golf's continued popularity the world over.

E.I.G.G.A. AT WARWICK



Above

Outgoing EIGGA Chairman Bill Lawson congratulates incoming Chairman David Low on the award of his Diploma.

Right

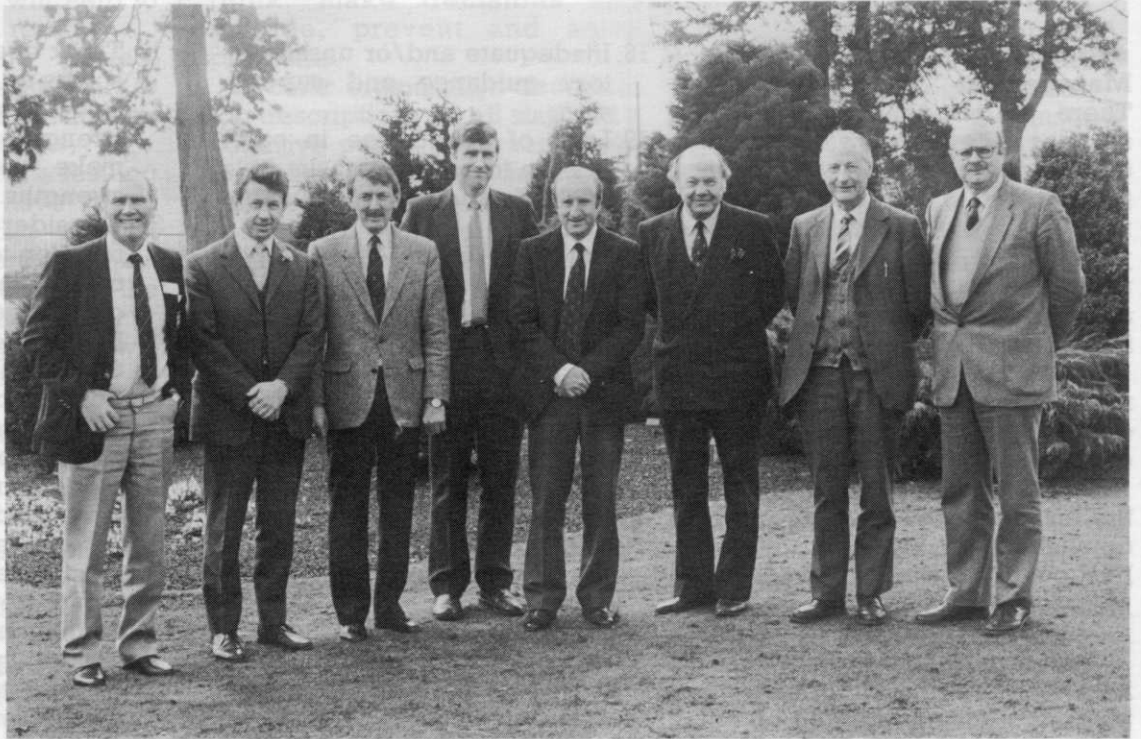
Guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt admires a gift from EIGGA.



Left

General Administrator Danielle Jones presents Bill Lawson with a decanter in recognition of his services to the Association.

ELMWOOD CONFERENCE



Above

From left to right; Walter Woods (St Andrews), Mike Taylor (Elmwood College), Howard Swan, George Shiels (Wittle College), Nick Park, Keith MacKenzie Tom Kavanagh (Kinsealy Research Station), Peter Hayes (S.T.R.I.).

Right

Keith McKenzie OBE M.C. Conference Chairman and President of the Golf Foundation.



Man management

By Geoffrey Athill

● Problems In Man Management

There is an almost unlimited number of causes of weakness in the management of staff from favouritism to rigid discipline, from lack of understanding of people and human relations to undue tolerance of the whims and idiosyncrasies of the individual.

Most causes of weakness revolve around the personality, competence and leadership qualities of the manager.

Here are some of the problems the manager may have to rectify or alleviate in order to get the best out of his staff.

1. A fear of infringing the statutory rights of workers.
2. A fear of being unpopular.
3. Lack of clearly defined objectives and of a clearly defined policy to meet those objectives, resulting in muddled thinking and lack of specific direction.
4. Lack of adequate planning.
5. Lack of involvement of staff in matters that affect them personally.
6. Lack of interest in people as individuals, in their careers, work problems and achievements.
7. Inability to communicate effectively.
8. A feeling of insecurity resulting in an aggressive attitude.
9. Failure to liaise with other managers.
10. Lack of co-ordination between departments.
11. Lack of direction from superiors.
12. Lack of support from personnel staff.
13. Inadequate resources - finance, space, equipment, supplies, etc.
14. Consciousness of status.
15. Inflexibility of ideas: unwillingness to exchange ideas, to consider and accept other people's ideas.
16. Shirking of responsibility in solving problems that arise.
17. Inadequate and/or unsatisfactory delegation.

18. Inadequate and/or unsatisfactory guidance and supervision.
19. Lack of confidence in other people to carry out tasks.
20. Lack of adequate and suitable training.
21. Inflexible rules and regulations.
22. Lack of attention to safety.
23. Lack of control of individual workloads.
24. Failure to train a subordinate as a deputy who will subsequently be able to take over when the manager moves on.
25. Failure to cover for absence of staff so that certain tasks are not completed on time.

Each manager must assess his own performance against these criteria and decide which faults are within his power to rectify and which are outside his control. By eliminating those faults that are his concern, he may well find that other faults outside his control are somewhat mitigated.

● Handling People

The secret of handling people, i.e. getting the best out of them, is understanding them as individuals. It is time-consuming, exhausting, can be frustrating and irritating, but is eminently worthwhile for both personal and organisational satisfaction.

How do you 'handle people'?

First, you must examine yourself, your personal qualities, attitudes, strengths, weaknesses, methods of approach and achievements. The person who 'believes in calling a spade a spade' may get results because he has other attributes that mitigate the effects of this blunt approach.

On the other hand, it may cause resentment, which will quickly become apparent in the deteriorating efficiency of the department if not in the hostile attitudes of individual staff. A few basic rules for getting the best out of people generally - not only staff - may be useful to the young manager.

1. Think of and talk to each person as an individual.
2. Look for each person's strengths and weaknesses and make the best use of the strengths.
3. Consider each individual's reaction to your approach and try to adapt your approach to get the best reaction.
4. Discuss topics in such a way that ideas are produced or appear to be produced by the other person. They will take a far greater interest in making ideas work if they think they have produced them.
5. Set out to create a happy atmosphere in the office, section or department. A stranger coming in should be able to feel it immediately.
6. Encourage people to 'stand on their own feet', i.e. to have confidence in their abilities, but at the same time let them know that you are willing to discuss their problems.
7. Guide people in overcoming their difficulties - do not solve their problems for them.
8. Ensure that communications are complete, accurate, timed correctly, given in the right form and clearly understood.
9. Ensure that each member of staff has a development programme, however simple.
10. Show appreciation.
11. Treat unsatisfactory work as a mutual problem to be solved together i.e. by you and your subordinate.
12. Never criticise anyone in front of other people.
13. Give instruction in the form of a request, not an order.
14. Always give deadlines for the completion of a task or part of a task, or the fulfilment of an instruction.
15. Insist on deadlines being met or an explanation being given in good time if they cannot be met.
16. 'Stretch' people a little, but do not thrust them 'out of their depth.'
17. Fulfil all promises.
18. Set standards and never criticise anyone for doing something you do yourself,

- e.g. arriving late at work.
19. Never ask anyone to do anything you have not done yourself or would not be prepared to do yourself.
 20. In times of stress, be prepared to help with menial tasks if – and only if – this will help to achieve a desired result.
 21. When delegating duties, delegate adequate authority to fulfil them and ensure that appropriate people know.
 22. Do not handle queries relating to duties that have been delegated to other people; show your confidence in them by referring the queries to the subordinate concerned.
 23. Ensure that your own knowledge and skills are as good as you can make them, but do not be afraid to make the best possible use of other people's abilities to achieve your objectives – and give credit to the people concerned.
 24. Encourage liaison with other departments.
 25. Insist on adequate induction training (including safety regulations and procedures) for all new staff and updating training for existing staff.

The value, or otherwise, of holding staff meetings has to be considered carefully. When a large number of people meet together for discussion, little is achieved as a rule. On the other hand, such a meeting does give each member of the staff an opportunity to identify with the department.

On the whole, smaller meetings of section staff, with section heads attending meetings with the office manager, are both more practicable and more worthwhile, provided there is a real reason for the meeting and it is not treated as an opportunity to air grievances.

It might also be valuable for the manager to attend the section meetings in rotation, so that he gets to know staff with whom he is not normally in contact and they get to know him. This also gives the manager an opportunity to assess individuals – knowledge which might be useful later in discussion with immediate subordinates.

● Delegation

A good basic rule for delegation is 'anything that can be done by

anyone else should not be done by me'. Far too many managers spend time doing things subordinates are paid to do. The ultimate result of this can only be that the manager has insufficient time to do what he is paid to do – think, make decisions and foresee, prevent and solve problems.

A clear organisation structure, job descriptions for all staff and a cohesive policy for meeting objectives all make delegation easier. It must be made clear that responsibility can never be delegated. The top man is always responsible for the success – or otherwise – of his department. He can, and must, delegate authority. The root of successful delegation is, of course, a happy, well-trained, adequately skilled, interested and involved staff.

The process of delegation really starts at the stage of function analysis and involves the following steps.

1. Determine what activities are involved in fulfilling each of your responsibilities.
2. Assess the approximate amount of time spent on each type of activity.
3. Decide which activities only you have the knowledge and expertise to carry out.
4. Decide which of the remaining activities subordinate staff are qualified to carry out and allocate them as duties to the appropriate people, depending on the volume and level.
5. Decide who is best qualified to carry out remaining duties, given appropriate training, and make arrangements. This can be approached either on the basis of those activities for which training can most easily be given or on the basis of the most time-consuming activities that will mean greater relief for you. It is important to set target dates for the complete handover of activities and to review progress regularly.

The steps listed above may be regarded as the general principles of delegation. The day-to-day procedures are as follows.

1. Decide who is the right person to carry out the task.
2. Decide what preliminary investigation/organisation is necessary, if any.

3. Decide what authority is needed by the person who is to carry out the task.
4. Decide what controls for monitoring progress are needed.
5. Decide what possible problems might be involved.
6. Set a deadline for completion.
7. Decide what explanation/instruction is necessary.
8. Decide whether the instruction should be given face-to-face, on the phone or in written form.
9. Allocate time for explanation and arrange with the subordinate.
10. Give the necessary explanation/instruction clearly and concisely. Make sure all information is given. Ensure the person concerned knows exactly what is expected of him.
11. Thereafter, forget the task except to check the monitoring system.
12. Keep the person informed of any changes that may affect the work in progress.

● In Conclusion

'A good department runs itself.' This statement is not really true because situations are never static and crises occur which only the manager can handle. Nevertheless, one of the basic criteria for judging the efficiency of the department is whether the level of the department's competence is the same when the manager is away as when he is there. Properly conducted delegation at all times is the secret.

Finally, ask yourself the following.

1. Under what circumstances do you work hardest?
2. When are you most enthusiastic, efficient and determined?
3. What circumstances discourage you?
4. Do you have any problems with your staff? If so, try and analyse the problems and reasons why they exist.
5. Do you have any problems with your greens committee? What are you doing to overcome these problems?

Be honest with yourself and good luck!

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Turfmaster Turn Around

The first Turfmaster machines have left the new Gainsborough factory!

Following the problems of the Marshall Group, which caused Nickerson Turfmaster to be placed in receivership, the assets were bought last November by Turfmaster Machinery, a wholly owned subsidiary of Harlow Agricultural Merchants.

The entire stock and machinery were moved to a new factory and the machines have since been updated.

The workforce, which had dropped to ten prior to receivership, has now risen to 19 and is increasing. It is expected to be 25 by the year end.

Sales of the 84, 360, 375 and 390 have proceeded faster than expected and are currently above the total for last year.

Turfmaster has also been investigating the export market and orders for over 30 machines have been received.

Research and development has been stepped up, building on research undertaken by the old company, and new models will be unveiled at Windsor in the autumn.

For further information, contact Turfmaster Machinery, Corringham Road Industrial Estate, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 1QB. Tel: Gainsborough (0427) 4776.

Just Right For Compact Tractors



The TR84M mid-mounted hydraulic reel mower has been developed at Huxleys' factory in Alresford, Hampshire (tel: 096273 3222) to answer the growing demand for a mid/rear mounted combination that can be easily attached to, or removed from, a compact tractor.

Once the mounting brackets have been fitted to the tractor, catches enable the mower to be coupled up, or detached, by one man in less than ten minutes. That leaves the tractor free for fitting other attachments, such as a backhoe, trailer or rear-mounted rotary mower.

In addition, Huxleys' TR84M

A mid-mounted hydraulic reel mower from Huxleys - the TR84M.

provides the benefits of a manoeuvrable hydraulic ride-on triple mowing machine. The unit has a self-contained hydraulic drive system powered by a gear pump mounted on the tractor's pto shaft.

The TR84M comprises three, pivot-mounted cutting units with two reels mounted either side of the tractor between its front and rear wheels, with the third attached to a frame mounted on the tractor's rear three-point linkage. The rear frame also carries the five gallon oil reservoir, supplying the machine's independent hydraulic drive and control system.

Each of the three mowing reels measures 30in wide, giving a maximum cut width of 84in. Cutting units can be raised independently from the driving seat. The two forward units lift to give an overall transport width of 57in and reel drive is cut-off automatically when any one of the three units is raised for either transport or use in confined areas.

The remote control assembly also controls reel rotation, enabling forward, neutral or reverse directions to be selected at the touch of a lever.

At a forward speed of 6mph, the TR84M is capable of mowing up to 3.8 acres an hour. The price, complete with fittings for attachment to a Ford 1210 or Kubota B7100 HST tractor, is £3,900 (excluding VAT).



Happy days at Turfmaster Machinery (photo: courtesy Gainsborough News).

People, Places, Products

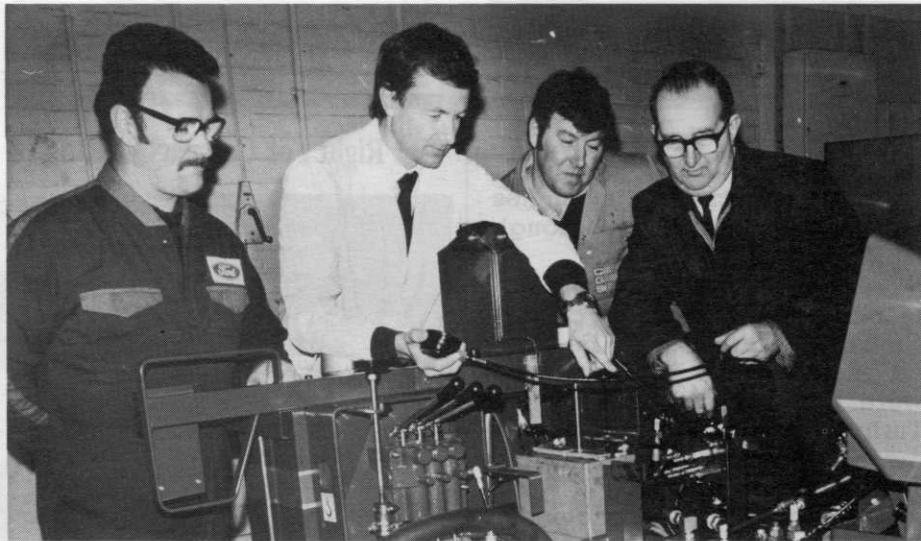
As part of a five-year development programme Maxwell Hart recently entered into, a northern sales and distribution centre has opened in Warrington, Cheshire.

Equipped with the latest office and warehousing technology, the centre has a direct link line to the main headquarters computer-based customer service system, allowing personnel to answer queries, process orders and organise deliveries quickly.

Extensive warehousing carries comprehensive stocks of turf maintenance and sports equipment. The centre covers some 5,000 sq ft and is located within easy reach of the M62 and M6.

For full details, contact Adrian Bates or Eric Ravenscroft at Maxwell Hart, Northern Sales and Distribution Centre, 17 Adlington Court, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6PL. Tel: Padgate (0925) 825501.

Since entering the UK tractor market in 1976 with its range of compact and low-horsepower tractors, Kubota (UK) has sold over 10,000 units. Tractor number ten thousand, a Kubota B8200 HST (hydrostatic-transmission), was sold to the East Sussex County Council by Paice and Sons of East Grinstead - Kubota dealers for ten years and responsible for sales of near-



Peter Whurr (second left) goes over the 350D's hydraulic systems with three representatives from as far afield as Aberdeen, Amersham and Grimsby.

ly 1,000 units.

To celebrate this milestone, a handing over ceremony took place during the BGLA (British Growers Look Ahead) exhibition at Brighton recently.

In addition to on-site training given by Ransomes technical staff, since the end of October to early April nearly 200 service engineers from the company's dealers, local authorities and contractors have attended three-day courses at Ransomes. Most of the time is taken up with instruction by technical staff on hydraulic systems. Practical work includes creating faults for students to rectify.

Rocraft has changed the design of the Power 5 Gang Mower.

The cylinder bearing housings and adjusters have been redesigned and quick roller height adjusters are now fitted as standard. Alterations in height of cut can be made by removing a spring clip and replacing it in an alternative hole.

New wider alloy attachment links give greater support to the individual cutting units, without any increase in weight. Bolt-on attachment plates allow for ease of maintenance and a complete unit can be changed in minutes.

Also redesigned is the front layshaft mounting, which allows V belts to be replaced without removal of mechanical parts.

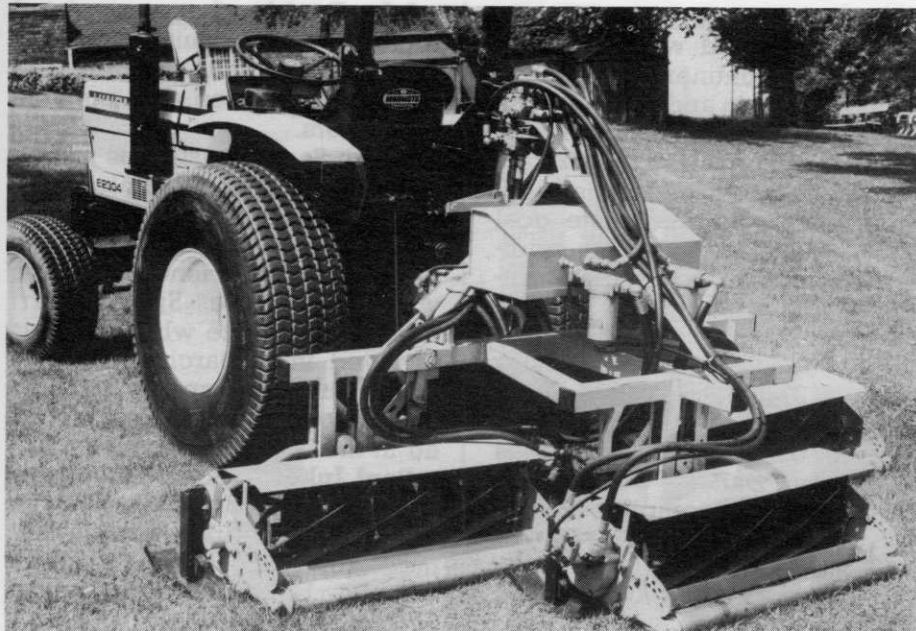
For agency and demonstration details, phone Mr Rumsey on 022 885778.



Celebrations on the Kubota stand with machine number 10,000!

The fourth Kubota Golf Challenge, to be held at the Belfry on October 7-8, will again be contested by teams of greenkeepers, stewards, golf writers and secretaries. In 1983 and 1984, the secretaries proved the strongest team, but last year the greenkeepers overpowered them in the final by six matches to two.

Further information from Peter McEvoy, Sporting Concepts, 9 Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1QB. Tel: 0242 584133.



Green's Hy-Ranger tractor-mounted cylinder mower.

Green's hydraulically driven gang mowers are basically the same as the company's ground driven gangs - many parts are interchangeable. The hydraulically driven gangs have ten inch diameter cylinders, with either five or eight blades - the latter is used for a lawn-type finish, while five blades are ideal for very long grass. Switching from a working to transport position is easily accomplished via a fingertip hydraulic control.

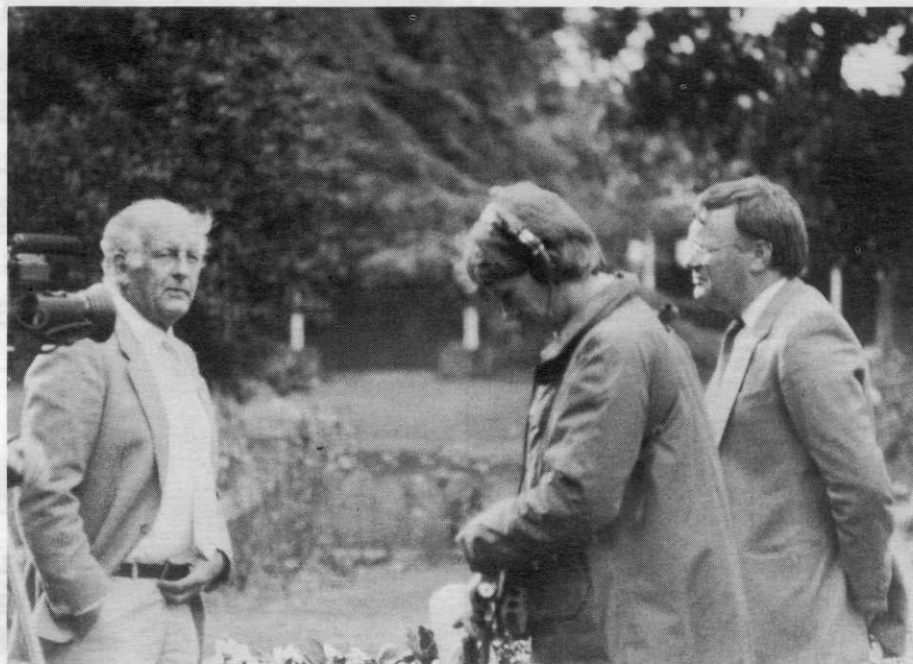
Advantages of using Green's single, triple and quintuple hydraulically driven tractor mounted gang mowers include wheel slip elimination, cylinder speed independent of tractor ground speed, the gangs are unaffected by wet conditions and they can be used with the correct use of tractor gears for cutting very rough grass. They are suitable for all makes of tractor, which can be released in minutes for winter and other work.

As rollers are not needed with the company's floating head contour linkage, which reduces scalping to a minimum, maintenance costs are reduced and wet grass build-up is eliminated. (Provision is made for rollers if required.) Full details from Green's-Hinomoto, Arbroath DD11 3DR. Tel: 0241 73841.

A new video - *Our Green And Pleasant Land* - has been produced by Falkman Films and is sponsored by Burts & Harvey and M&B's environmental products department. Through a series of interviews conducted by Frank Bough, the 23-minute film examines the use of chemicals in a wide range of situations.

Issues considered include pesticide research and development, safety, training and new government legislation. Product applications include total weed control, selective weed control, growth retardation and grass management.

Copies of *Our Green And Pleasant Land* are available from Focus Print, The Paddocks, Frith Lane, London NW7 1PS in VHS, Beta and U-matic format, priced £35, £35 and £47 respectively.



After breakfast, Frank Bough filmed on location at Hillingdon with parks manager Norman Leddy.

Tribute is a broad spectrum turf herbicide containing MCPA, Dicamba and Mecoprop. The application time is similar to other herbicides used in turf, between April and September, when the grass is growing freely.

The addition of Dicamba gives extra power to the other two well-known herbicides in the form of more effective control of weeds, such as white clover, yarrow, creeping buttercup, etc. In the case of clover and plantains, greater control is seen with the addition of Dicamba over the Standard 2,4D/mecoprop, which normally need a high rate of application and a second treatment.

Good control of some of the more unusual species can be obtained, such as field horsetail, Perennial nettle and Soft Rush. Fine turf can be mown 24 hours before or after application, but less closely mown turf should be left for three days either side of application. The addition of a fertiliser application one to two weeks beforehand will aid herbicide treatment.

For further details and a list of distributors, contact Chipman on Horsham (0403) 60341.

**More Notebook
on pages
32, 40, 42 and 43...**

People, Places, Products Continued...

George A. Palmer has appointed **Noel Pollard** sales manager of its horticultural and amenities division. He was formerly general sales manager of the horticultural division of Lindsey and Kesteven Fertilisers, Lincoln. He is a keen golfer and, as a member of the Carholme Golf Club, plays off a 16 handicap.

Supaturf has named **Frank Simpson** its new rep for Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire. Frank, 35, lives in Milton Keynes and he will be working from the company's southern area office at Iver Heath.

Tim Reeves, formerly general manager of Lely (UK), has been appointed managing director. His success has been built on a wealth of experience, commencing at Ransomes. "I'm confident that the future of Lely (UK), which includes TORO turf machinery for which we are the sole distributors, is very good," he said. The TORO division is under sales manager Graham Dale, who has spent the last six years directly involved with sales and marketing of the range.

Gregory Deegan is the new European sales manager of

Weather-matic. He has offices in Luxembourg and will serve Britain and the continent with the exception of Spain and Portugal. His responsibilities include distributor, specifier and contractor development and assistance. Weather-matic's immediate goal in Europe is to establish additional full-line distributorships. Interested parties may contact Gregory Deegan at 34 Avenue Victor Hugo, L-1750, Luxembourg (Phone: 27455) or Telex 60123 MACOM. The Weather-matic division of Telsco Industries is based in Dallas, Texas and manufactures a complete line of irrigation controllers, valves and sprinklers.

Michael Bird, 35, has joined Huxleys to market the range of mid and rear-mounted hydraulic reel-mowers for compact tractors. He will also look after equipment publicity and promotion. Formerly assistant editor with *Power Farming* and machinery correspondent for *Farmers Weekly*, Michael completed his apprenticeship as an agricultural and horticultural engineer with B.S. Bird & Co. He gained City and Guilds certificates as an engineer and engineering technician before moving into retail sales of farm and horticultural machinery in Wiltshire with a division of the R.A. Lister group of companies.

John Ford has been appointed regional sales manager in the north for the Kawasaki range of all-terrain vehicles and portable generators.

British Seed Houses has named **Paul Hankinson** technical adviser for the Midlands and South Wales. Paul graduated with a degree in plant sciences. He then worked at the Sports Turf Research Institute where he was involved in research relating to thatch build up, especially in fine turf. Following this, he was involved in the landscape industry.

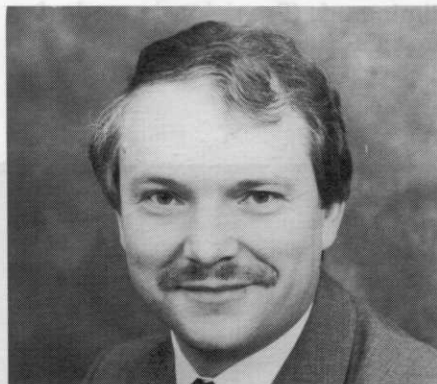
Paul Jukes, who is based near Edinburgh, was previously with the parks and landscape department of Gateshead Borough Council before joining British Seed Houses.

Geoff Lovegrove has moved to Honda as sales administration manager, a new appointment made to increase the level of administrative back-up and customer service within the power products division. Geoff, 32, joined Honda from Petters, where he spent 15 years.

Nick Edwards is promoted to service manager of Honda power products from technical co-ordinator. Nick has been with Honda for eight years, joining the company from Southern Motorcycles in 1978 where he was service manager.



Noel Pollard.



Frank Simpson.



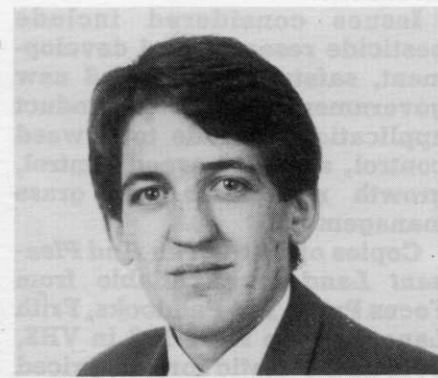
Tim Reeves.



Greg Deegan.



Michael Bird.



Paul Hankinson.

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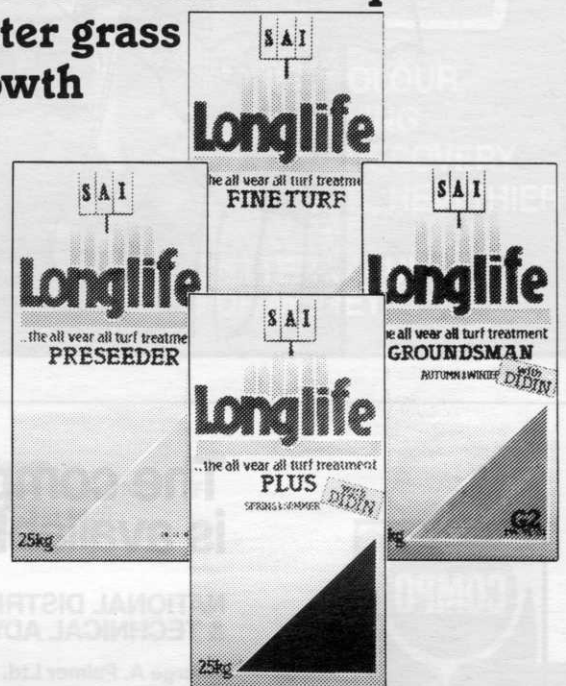
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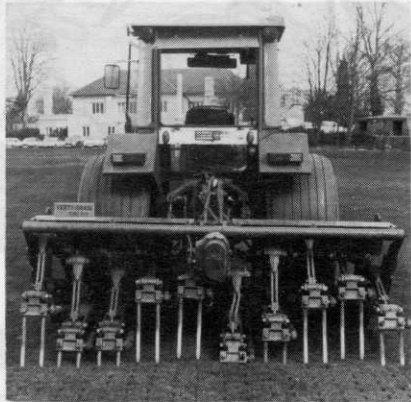
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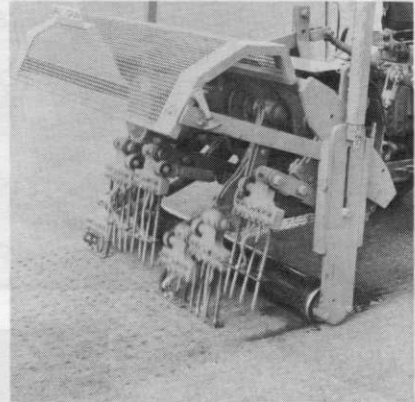
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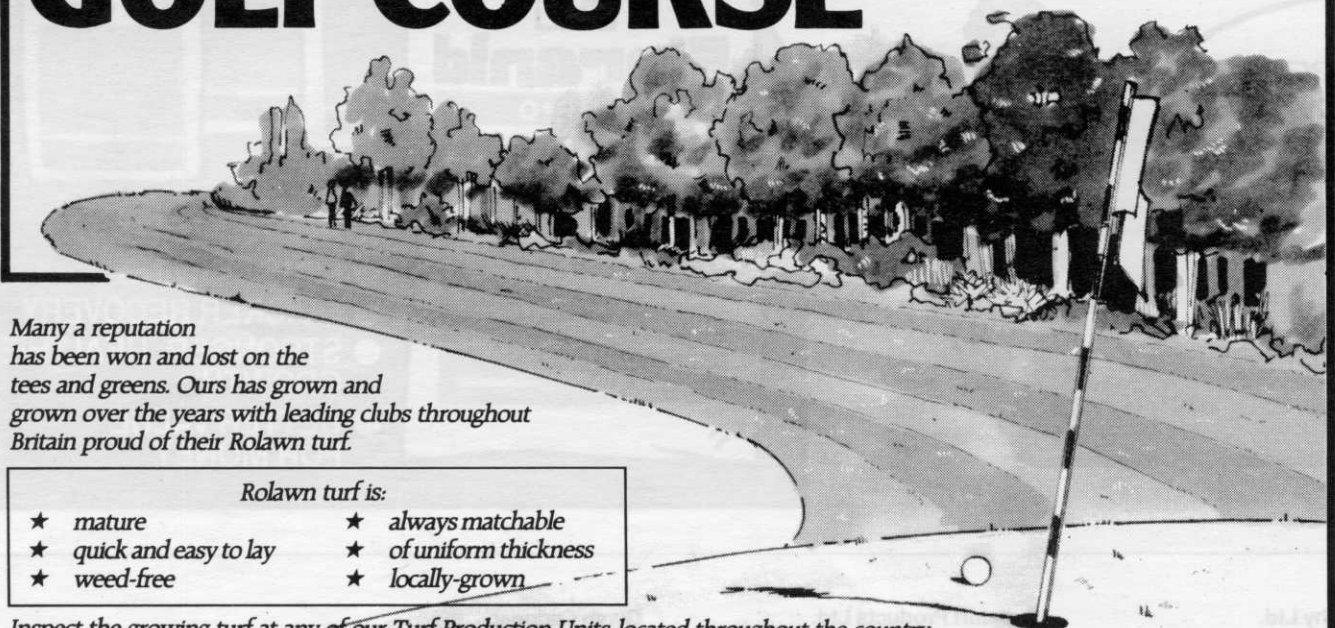


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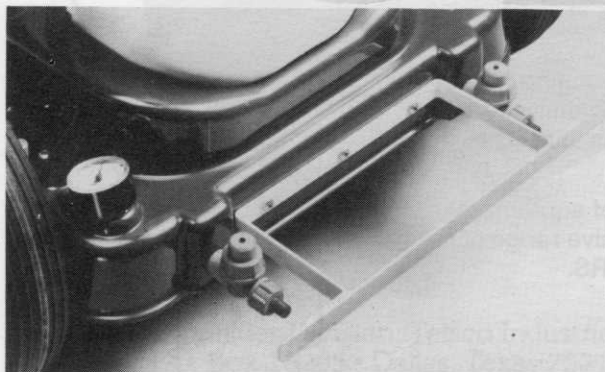
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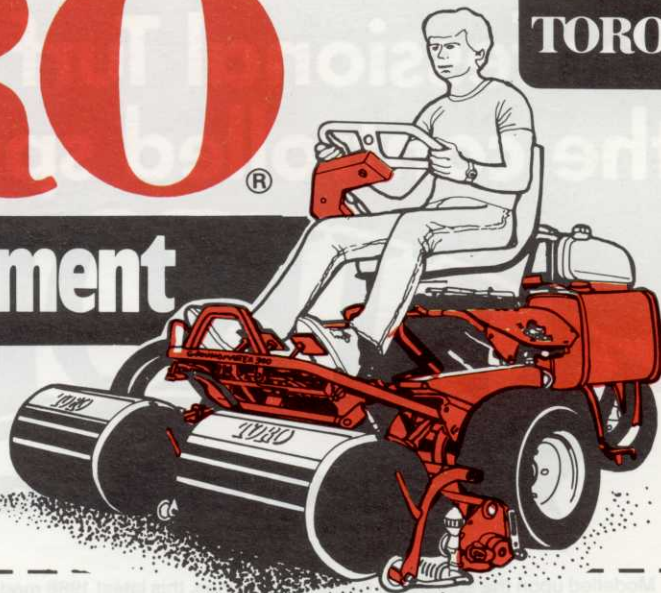
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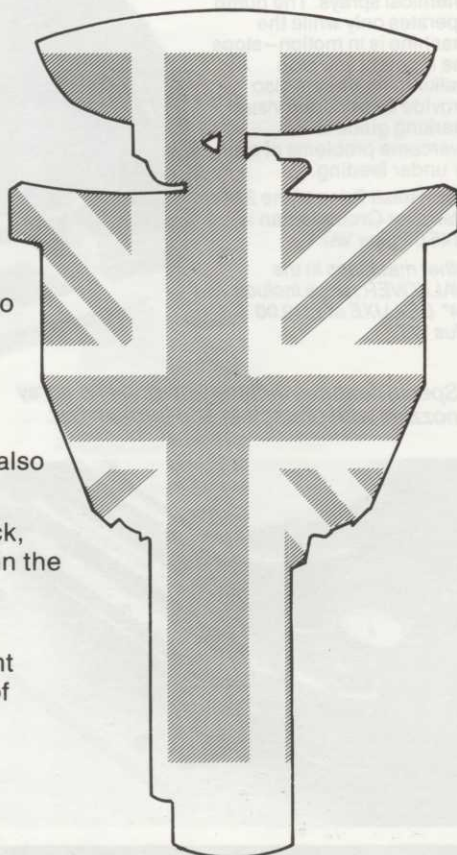
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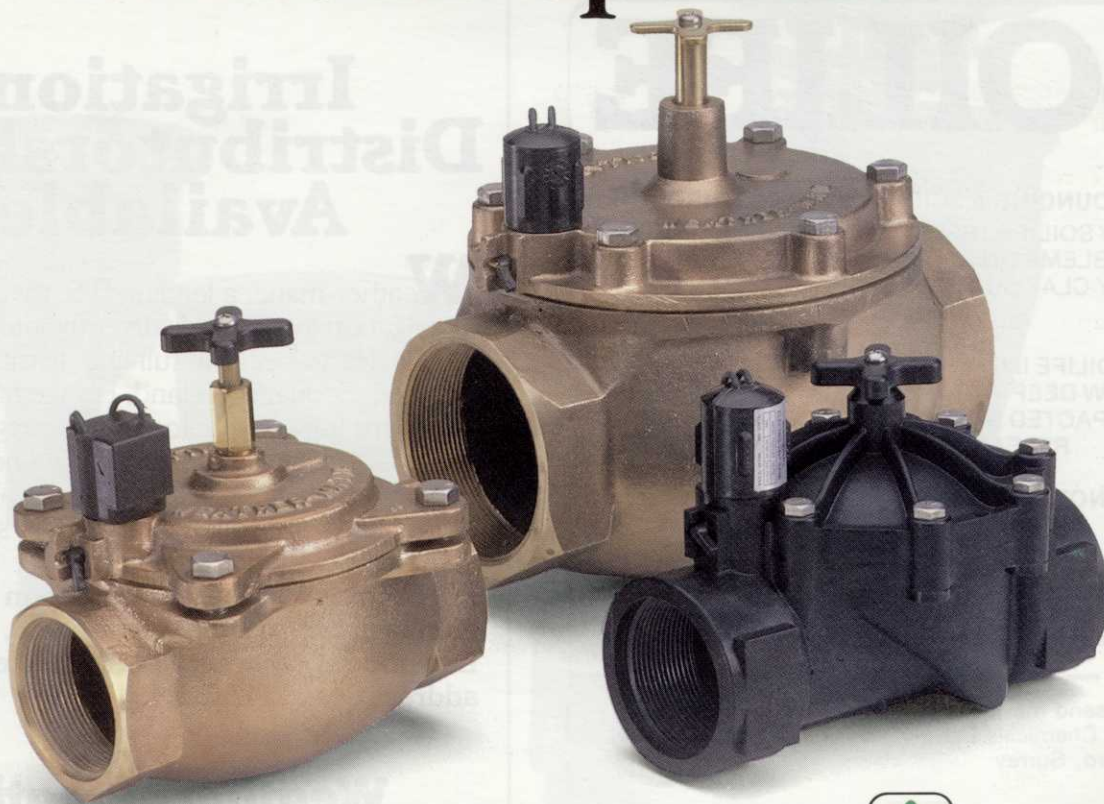
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People, Places, Products
Continued...

A party from France, accompanied by M. Francois Lavie, whose company distributes Ransomes grass machinery in the south of the country, visited the Ipswich factory and nearby Woodbridge Golf Club recently. After a demonstration, Lynn Arbon, head greenkeeper at Woodbridge, held a question and answer session.

Renowned for its brandy, Cognac could become noted for a golf course currently under consideration. Already a user of Ransomes equipment, the local authority purchased the first Motor 213D triple mower to be sold in France.



Cognac's chief engineer M. Bernard is seated. Also pictured are Guy Catchpole, Ransomes sales and marketing director, and M. Francois Lavie.

Iseki tractors and the power products division, together with Beaver and Majar, is now operating under a completely new company - Iseki (UK). Head-

ed by John Hawkins, the former managing director of Lely (UK), and Colin Gregory, this new venture will continue with the majority of personnel who have worked

on Iseki and ancillary equipment. The new premises are situated at Bydand Lane, Little Paxton, Huntingdon, Cambs. Tel: 0480 218100.

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Maintaining one of the heaviest played executive golf courses in Southern California is a challenging job. An average of 290 rounds of golf a day puts tough demands on the turf, and on the irrigation system. That's why golf course superintendent Robert Stuczynski recently installed Weather-matic rotary pop-up sprinklers to upgrade the system at the Palm Desert Greens Country Club.

Stuczynski was won away from a brand he's used for more than a decade by Weather-matic's high quality design and features. The exclusive adjustable armspring allows fine-tuning while the sprinkler is on or off, and stays adjusted once set — a must for handling Palm Desert's exacting schedule of watering or fertilizing.

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When you team up our rotary pop-up sprinklers, controllers and valves, you have a combination that can't be beat. Just ask Stuczynski. He's now finalizing a plan to changeover the entire Palm Desert system to Weather-matic. Because Weather-matic works.

Write or call for all the details.

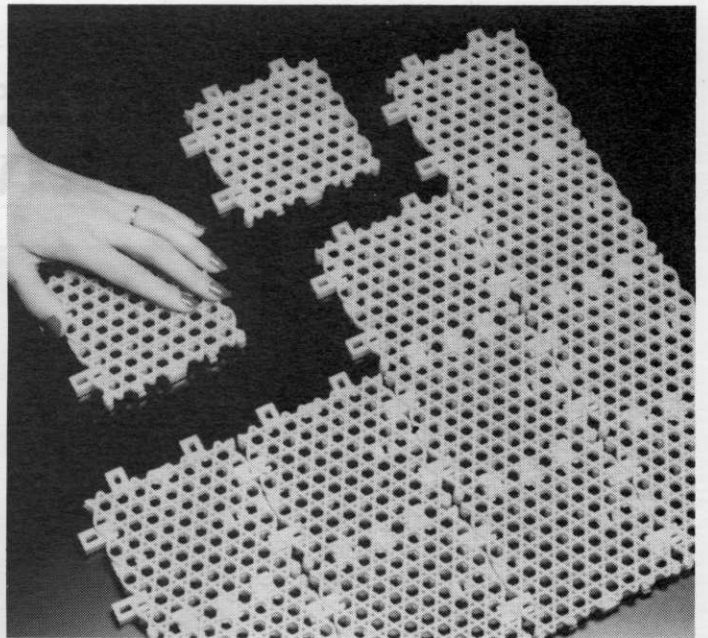
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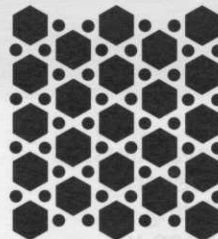
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Get Your Guide

Johnsons Seeds has issued the 1986 *British Wild Flower and Grass Seed Price List*. Two new mixtures have been introduced, one for shaded areas and a second complementary woodland mixture.

The number of individual species offered has also been increased to 150 flowers and over 40 grasses – the introduction of a native form of Birdsfoot Trefoil is likely to be a welcome item which, although still in limited quantities, can be used in standard mixtures replacing the foreign forms generally used.

Johnsons is currently the only national seed house producing and supplying its own native British wild flower and grass seeds, which involves working with over 300 species. The quantity of seed being produced has steadily increased enabling prices for mixtures to be maintained or reduced.

The new list offers a wider range of 14 mixtures formulated for different situations with detailed descriptions of their application and suitability. The recommended minimum sowing rates are clearly shown together with the percentage ingredients.

The proportion of flower to grass seeds is 1:4 in Johnsons standard mixtures and where a Johnsons supplemental mixture is used, the proportion of flowers to grass increases again to around 1:3.

A further innovation is the introduction of an eight-point management plan, using a chart

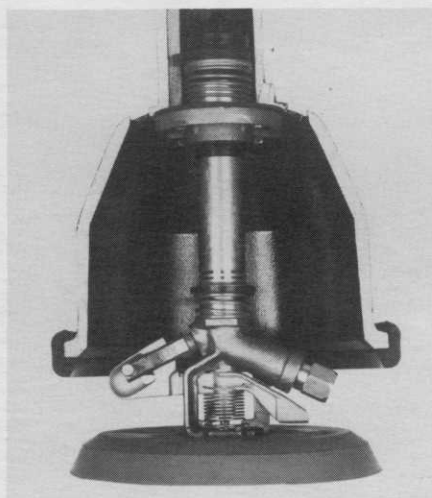
and table to highlight the timing and frequency of key operations. Johnsons full-colour, 16-page *Wild Flower Guide* is available free on request, with a practical guidance section covering choice and design of site, preparation, sowing and various management options.

For further information and copies of the booklets, contact Geoff Taylor, Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston PE21 8AD. Tel: 0205 65051.

First British Golf Sprinklers

Ever since automatic irrigation was introduced on to British golf courses in the 1960s, it has been necessary to buy all the specialist hardware, such as sprinklers, controllers and valves, from overseas.

Some five years ago, Watermation, with offices in Woking, Stirling and Dublin, started manufacturing its TW1 computer controller in Britain. Since then, the



number of other contractors using this controller has grown.

The TW1 controller is one of the most simple to use and works on the two wire principle, as opposed to the multiplicity of wiring more conventional methods require. Complicated keyboards and VDU screens, requiring operator knowledge of computer systems, have been avoided.

Now the company is putting on the market its GN range of heavy-duty pop-ups specially designed for golf courses. There are, at present, three models in part circle or full circle to suit approaches, greens, tees and fairways.

Full details from Watermation, Monument Way E, Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Tel: Woking (04862) 70303.

Roll Up!

A wheelbarrow made from polyethylene rather than conventional mild steel is being manufactured by Europolite.

Apart from a new design, which represents a considerable departure from the conventional barrow shape, this plastic barrow is light, strong, easy-to-clean, has a low centre of gravity and is rot proof.

There are two models – one with a 4½ cubic feet capacity with integral plastic handles, the other with 1½in tube steel wrap-round handles and 3½ cubic feet capacity.

Full details from Europolite, Europa House, Sheepbridge Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 5DX. Tel: 0623 27142.

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- LAND RECLAMATION** – Work in progress on NCB sites
- ALSO** on cricket pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts – in fact, wherever grass is sown, grown and mown



Apprentice Corner

Fusarium Patch Disease (*Microdochium nivale*)

This is the commonest and most damaging disease of fine turf. It attacks at all seasons of the year, from the extremes of muggy weather in summer to under snow in winter.

The disease first shows as small patches of dead grass, from 2.5cm upwards which, if not controlled, spread rapidly and coalesce. Later stages show characteristic, clearly defined margins, with sometimes fluffy white mycelial growth on the dead and decomposing leaves.

***Microdochium nivale** characteristically attacks annual meadow grass dominated turf, but can also be severe on *Agrostis*. This is especially true of some strains of *Agrostis*.*

High humidity, coupled with weakened or stimulated growth caused by smothering and the use of autumn/winter fertilisers, predisposes turf to attacks.

Prevention is better than cure. Ensure good ventilation by clearing away shading trees and



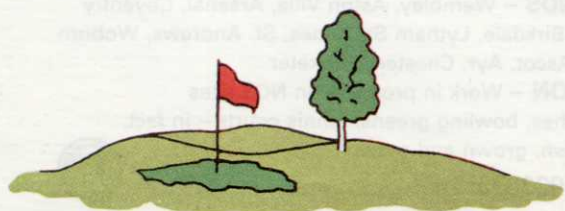
Above: Fusarium 'damping off' fescue.
Below: Fusarium Patch Disease.

scrub; switch dew regularly, especially in the warm 'growthy' periods of summer; do not top-dress turf unless there is active growth to absorb it; never use autumn/winter fertilisers and discourage annual meadow grass dominance by correct management.



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GREENKEEPER TRAINING

One of the speakers at EIGGA's annual conference at Warwick University was Peter Wilson of the English Golf Union and former Chairman of the Greenkeeper Training Committee. Amongst the many points he raised in a very comprehensive address was the matter of training centres. The GTC has now decided to back four colleges who will offer block release training in greenkeeping in England these are: Askham Bryan College
Sparsholt College
Cannington College
Reaseheath College
with Elmwood College covering Scotland. These colleges are now official approved by the County Unions with a number of counties being affiliated to each college.

A joint meeting of all the lecturers under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Hayes with Jim Arthur and a representative of City & Guilds is to take place to standardise courses and the scheme will commence with the new academic year in September.

Mr Wilson pointed out that although the nomination of these "official" colleges would not prevent other agricultural/horticultural colleges running courses any candidate wishing to become a qualified registered greenkeeper on completion of this course would still have to attend a weeks course at one of the four colleges and pass an examination to attain registration.

USGA GREEN SECTION

The United States Golf Association — Green Section held their customary morning session at the 57th GCSAA Annual Conference in San Francisco. Apart from being very well attended — with nine of their top agronomists passing on the "Best Turf Tips of 1985" (something that the STRI's advisors might like to copy when putting on their "roadshows" this year) — the main debate was "A critical look at contemporary golf course architecture".

The essence of the argument that developed was that there is a vast difference between Americas golf course architecture of the 1920s and the new designs being built today and equally as large a difference between the courses being designed today by the likes of Nicklaus and Dye and the other more "moderate" architects.



DISTANCE LEARNING AT ELMWOOD

The Scotec Part 3 Supervisory Course adapted by Mr. A. Smith, the Course Tutor, so it could largely be taught on a Distance Learning basis (one week in college instead of the normal five), appears to have gone down well with the Greenkeeping Industry.

The National interest in the course can readily be seen by studying the list of those attending:- Gary Armstrong — Co Durham, Robert Brewer — Glasgow, Thomas Byrne — Glasgow, Ronnie Christie — Criol, Graham Clarke — Leeds, Stewart Cruickshank — Larbert (Stirlingshire), Alan Ferguson — Bathgate, Charles Fotheringham — Falkirk, Christopher Gray — Isle of Wight, Iain Gunn — Kingussie, Robert Hardie — Aberdeen, Alastair Holmes — Berwick-upon-Tweed, Neil Metcalf — Aberdeen, Paul Morrison — Irvine, Chris. Nicolle — Guernsey, Alastair Taylor — East Kilbride, Andrew Terry — Stratford-upon-Avon, Graeme MacNiven — Effingham (Surrey), Stuart Townsend — Linlithgow.

The USGA and Gene Baston President of the GCSAA gave a clear warning that the courses that utilise the more extreme design features will shortly even in the USA price themselves out of the market — Baston making the plea that mowing one in one banks is at best **very** time consuming! Although it would seem that the funds of the US golfer are limitless with a round at Pebble Beach now costing £100, including compulsory buggy hire, and with the golfers going off every ten minutes there is a two month waiting list for a tee off time!

DISTRIBUTOR CLARIFICATION

Recent advertisements appearing in Greenkeeper regarding Weather-Matic and their distributorships may be misleading to customers of Watermation, who have been the

Weather-Matic distributor in the United Kingdom and Ireland for 16 years. Watermation wish to announce that they are still the Weather-Matic distributor and that a full range of Weather-Matic parts will continue to be available from Watermation at Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey (telephone: 04862 70303).

MOLES...

Again at the EIGGA conference the delegates learned a great deal about moles and their eradication. It would appear that amongst other attributes moles live in the dark are virtually blind, equipped with vicious claws and teeth, eat grubs as well as other moles and are likely to mate only once a year and then by taking a run at their partner of anything up to 800 yards. Perhaps its all they deserve.

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