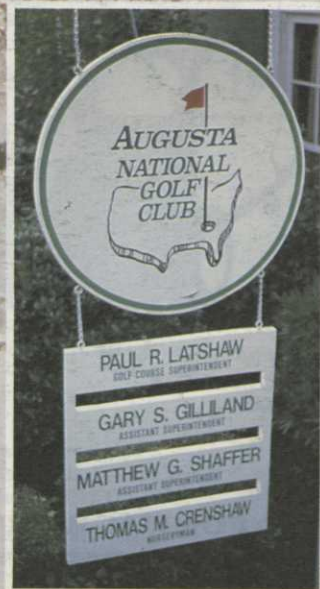


APRIL 1987

Greenkeeper

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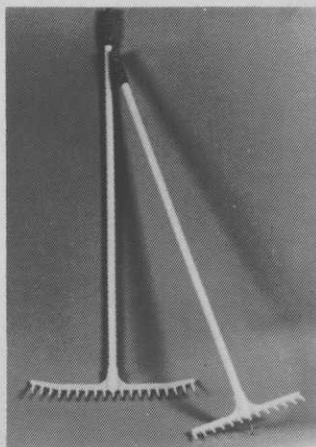
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APRIL 1987



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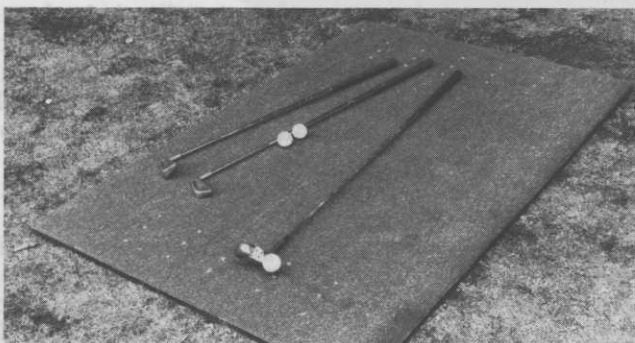
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BIGGA goes 'public'

The first major educational event for the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association took place at Mere Golf and Country Club in mid-March. This is the third time that the excellent facilities at Mere have been chosen as the venue for a greenkeeping seminar – the first two were organised by the north-west branch of the BGGGA. Chairman for the day was Brian Moss, chairman of the north-west branch of BIGGA, who, together with all delegates, was welcomed by Mere's managing director Max Brown.

Walter Woods, who spoke in his capacity as BIGGA chairman, opened by giving an update on the progress made by the new association. He said that BIGGA, through the R&A and EGU, had employed a firm of management consultants to assist in the appointment of a general administrator who, he hoped, would be in office by June.

The consultants were also assisting the board of management in the choice of a magazine for the association.

Walter went on to point out that it had required a dedicated effort by all of the three previous association committees over two years to achieve unity. The new board of management was equally dedicated and striving to ensure that the association started on a firm footing. BIGGA was not to be a golfing society, but based entirely on educating its members, he said.

Over the last ten years, there has been much progress in greenkeeper training and the BIGGA chairman highlighted his involvement in the supervisory courses at Elmwood College, Fife, which are now in their fourth year. Walter said the registration scheme for greenkeepers must be improved and that, by education, a register of qualified greenkeepers must be a priority of the general administrator.

He stressed the importance of regional organisation to coordinate educational activities and the need to maintain the high standards for seminars that had already been set.

There is to be an annual golf tournament and trade show, along the lines of those held in the United States. Walter's message was that BIGGA will go forward quickly and with a united membership.

The next speaker was R&A secretary Michael Bonallack. He started by saying that the R&A's

role in golf was misunderstood and he welcomed the opportunity of putting the record straight. The R&A has limited authority and that what it has is based on willing consent. To give some background to this statement, he gave a detailed account of how the R&A came to be the game's ruling body.

The R&A is not the oldest club, that distinction goes to what is now the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (at Muirfield), but in 1834 King William became the first royal patron and gave the club the title Royal and Ancient. Membership at this private club comes from just about every golfing nation.

However, as is well-known in greenkeeping circles, the R&A doesn't own the courses at St Andrews. They are public and run by the links management committee, on which the R&A has representatives.

In 1897, there were no uniform rules for the game, each club adopting a variation of its own. A number of clubs approached the R&A and, from this, came the first rules committee, which covers the world except the United States and Mexico.

There is now a complete review of the rules, with the USGA, every four years. The rules committee comprises twelve members of the club plus eleven others co-opted from other golfing nations around the world. A rules decision book is produced every four years with updates every year. Rules covering amateur status are also produced in the rules book but, as such, do not form part of the rules of golf.

Another very important committee is the implements and balls committee, which is responsible for testing new equipment, golf balls, etc. Balls must be limited in the distance they can be struck to keep today's courses in a sensible playing form. The

game must not be ruined by equipment or balls such as the Polara, the banning of which cost the USGA \$4 million. Iron Byron, the USGA's ball testing machine sited at Far Hills, New Jersey, can now be outhit by fitter and stronger golfers. However, as much as is humanly possible, the aim is to try and keep things as they are.

Michael Bonallack spoke about the championship committee. The Open Championship was organised by the host club, the founders were Prestwick and Royal Liverpool, until 1920 when the championship committee was formed and the R&A took sole responsibility. It now runs the Open, Amateur, Seniors, Boys and Youths Championships, together with the Walker Cup.

The Open Championship has grown considerably in every aspect. In 1939, total prizemoney was £1,000 with a first prize of £150 and attendances were about 5,000 a day with the total cost of the Open being £1,525 against receipts of £2,400. In 1987, the prize-fund will be £650,000 with the winner taking £75,000 and the cost of staging the event estimated at £2 million. The spectator record at St Andrews in 1984 of 193,000 is expected to be exceeded.

The championship is budgeted to balance, with gate and tented village receipts equalling staging costs. The revenue from TV rights and licensing fees from the Open Championship trophy logo go back into golf. The variety and scope of these arrangements is staggering. The R&A sells live television pictures, provided by the BBC, to countries throughout the world, including the US, Australia, Japan, South Africa, Argentina and many others.

The money generated, some £650,000 in 1986, goes back into golf in the broadest sense. It is allocated to training young golfers through the Golf Foundation, through the golf unions and it helps young PGA professionals through the PGA European Tour satellite events. This is seen as good for the game and will create a greater demand for courses and

Continued on page 8...

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the employment of greenkeepers.

Two years ago, it was felt that there was much uncertainty within greenkeeping associations and that they did not speak with one voice. As the R&A recognises that the golf course forms the most important part of the game, it was felt that greenkeepers should have one strong association. The R&A has provided money for the STRI research programme and for greenkeeper training, so that they can speak with one voice and with authority. This is why the new association will have its headquarters alongside the STRI at Bingley.

The R&A's panel on greenkeeping, although not all experts, is there to advise the club on how it should make money available in this most important area of the game. Although BIGGA will be run by its board of management, the R&A will assist the association with funding for as long as it takes to become financially viable, for it is recognised to be most worthy and of great importance to golf.

Should the association, greenkeepers or the STRI staff at Bingley feel there are specific problems that need research, the R&A will provide money for this. Michael Bonallack stressed that it was not the R&A's role to dictate. The golf unions run golf, not the R&A, and are responsible for handicapping, course rating, etc. The R&A has links with the golf unions, not the golf clubs - clubs are members of the unions. Therefore, the R&A has no authority to tell clubs how to operate. Help can be given where necessary and advice from its consultant agronomist

provided.

The championship committee advises clubs what is wanted - firm greens and firm, closely mown fairways - but the committee is happy to leave matters in the hands of experts, such as Walter Woods and Tom O'Brien. The R&A believes that these conditions, unlike some American courses seen on TV, are correct for its championships and that skilled players cope with them best, thus producing worthy champions.

Michael Bonallack ended by wishing BIGGA well with its first seminar and promised that anything the R&A could do to further the association's cause would be done.

The remaining speakers were Tony Gentil, deputy head of horticulture at Reaseheath College, who spoke about trees on golf courses. David Lucas, course manager at the new Tytherington Golf and Country Club, came next - his theme was construction of a golf course through to completion. Those who attended the EIGGA conference at Warwick last year will recall this talk, excellently presented and illustrated.

After lunch came Wing Commander Bill McCrea, secretary at Walton Heath, who delivered a paper on the financial and budgeting aspects of greenkeeping. Although many greenkeepers are now responsible for budgets, Bill McCrea gave some interesting views on how to present cases to committees who "hold the purse strings."

Malcolm Evans of ICI Professional Products followed with a detailed slide show on the im-

plications of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. As *Greenkeeper* has pointed out, it is imperative that clubs themselves are aware of the requirements under this act. If you have any doubts or queries, ICI has a help-line (tel: 0252 724525) manned by Malcolm Evans, Roy Taylor and division manager Keith Cleverly.

John Lowery, course manager at Ringway Golf Club, whose clubhouse was recently destroyed, then detailed, in a very amusing fashion, how he made his own compost and the cost of doing so, contrasting his methods with purchasing from an outside supplier.

Sand and its uses on the golf course, by Martyn Jones, was the final topic for the day. After a lengthy description of what sand actually is, illustrations showing a sand construction within a plastic lining were discussed. The presentation was detailed and technical and it is by no means certain everyone understood all of what was said. However, sand constructions clearly do need different and careful management compared to more conventional forms of green.

The day concluded with a lively question and answer session. One of the most interesting points raised being the question of a levy, suggested by Wing Commander McCrea, to be paid by all golfers through their golf unions to support greenkeeper training and research. Upon being questioned on the likelihood of this, Bill McCrea said he felt it was something on which the R&A should "give a lead."

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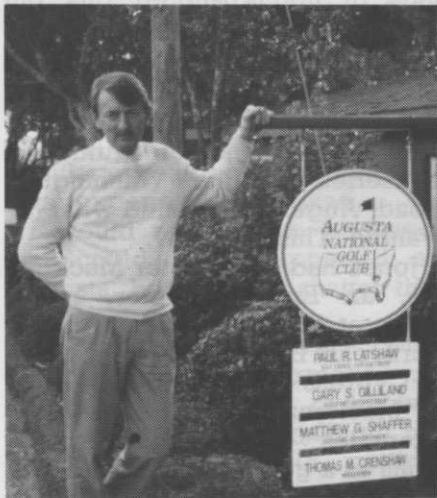
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AUGUSTA!

Augusta National and the US Masters mean something special to most golfers and I'm no exception. The thought, therefore, of having the opportunity to see the course firsthand recently was exciting and eagerly anticipated. I was not to be disappointed, writes *Howard Swan (below)...*



The morning dawned bright and sunny, if a little cold for Georgia, when I was privileged to accompany Jack McMillan and Tim Bowyer, a University of Georgia Ph.D. and now president of Southern Turf Nurseries, to Augusta. The car journey of over three hours along the straight and dull freeway at the statutory, yet modest, 55 mph seemed to take an eternity.



Jack McMillan with the 4th green (background, left) and the lovely, but lethal, 16th green to the right.

But, finally, we made it and drew up to those hallowed gates through which few seem able to pass. We felt duly honoured that, via the GCSAA, the club and Tim Bowyer, we had obtained an entry badge.

Lunch in the Green Jacket Restaurant opposite the club, surrounded totally by memorabilia of the tournament, gave us the opportunity to meet Paul Latshaw, Augusta National's superintendent - a relatively recent recruit from Oakland Hills, New Jersey, itself a US Open Championship venue. He seemed a thoroughly relaxed man for one whose course would become the centre of the world's golfing eyes in early April, only some two months away.

He spoke authoritatively about his experiences in the north and his work in managing a prestige championship course and how he came to step "from the frying pan into the fire" in 1986 when he moved to Augusta.

The change, he said, was immense, not only because the whole of his management programme was geared to the Masters, but because of the vastly different climatic conditions Augusta experiences, with summers of high temperature and humidity and the attendant agronomic problems. Gone were the winter snow cover, frosts and cold winds of the north-east.

Augusta National is most famously associated with one man, Robert Tyre Jones, 'Bobby' to all, who, in the 1920s, became the world's greatest golfer.

He was, of course, an amateur - a Boy Wonder, playing in his first national championship when fourteen and, seven years later, winning the US Open (not the first time an amateur has won the tournament, however).

His years at the top were scant, covering only the time it today takes most young pros to win a single tournament, but the record he set in those eight years is colossal.

From 1923 onwards, it was Bobby Jones against anybody, everybody, all of the field, amateur or professional. He won 13 major titles, five US Amateurs, one



The par-four 14th, known as Chinese Fir.



No. 13 – the last of three holes renowned as Amen Corner.



A place for everything – everything in its place...



The short 12th, menaced by the waters of Rae's Creek.

British Amateur and, in 1926, he became the first to win both US and (British) Open Championships in the same year. He remained an amateur.

In 1930, he retired at the height of his career, after completing The Grand Slam. He was highly successful, universally liked and accoladed for his commitment, attitude and modesty.

He was a natural who had never taken a lesson. He picked up a club and just swung it, as if it was the most natural thing to do. During play, he never asked a caddie for advice in any form. It was only after he gave up the game that his immense talent was recognised and he became a true American hero.

He returned to his native Atlanta to practise law and soon began to look at building his dream course. It had to be close to home and in the land of Fruitlands Nurseries on the Washington Road, Augusta, he found what he wanted. This was 1931.

Jones had met Alister Mackenzie, an English doctor, many times at golf tournaments in the north-east but, most significantly, at Cypress Point, California, one of Mackenzie's most renowned examples of his considerable skills as a golf course architect.

Jones commissioned the doctor to design his new course at Augusta. He had chosen, in his opinion, the best site and the best man to lay out a course on it.

Work began almost immediately to a budget of \$100,000 (remember this was 1931). The specification was as never before – 80 acres of fairway, 100,000 square feet of green, sophisticated drainage and an underground watering system, one of the first in the world.

In his design, Mackenzie was uninhibited. Encouraged by Jones, he created the best simulated seaside conditions he could and as the land would allow – rolling, bumping fairways, only 29 bunkers, minimal simplicity, absolute heaven.

The day we saw Augusta National, it was just that.

A hole by hole buggy tour, guided by the superintendent, who was constantly questioned by the British, was fascinating.

I had imagined that the golf course would be the showpiece I had seen on television, so ar-

Continued overleaf...

tificial and so contrived as to be unacceptable to the traditionalist.

It was exactly the opposite.

A large expanse of open meadow to the front of the clubhouse contained the home greens, outward tees and fairways, downhill and undulating, dotted with white sand in beautifully shaped bunkers. To the left and right were the tree-lined fairways to the 10th and 1st, with no discernible rough - green and flowing, open and pleasant.

The greens borrow heavily, true to Mackenzie tradition. Originally Bermudagrass, they were more recently converted to bent, with considerable reshaping and reconstruction to suit grass and architectural whim. The greens had been returfed in that process and, interestingly, were exhibiting problems of poor rooting, soil incompatibilities and capillary breaks similar to those I have experienced at home.

I would never have believed that could have happened at Augusta, but it didn't shatter the dream!

Fairways and tees were common Bermuda, dormant, of course, on our visit, oversown with ryegrass, providing, by Masters time, perfect golfing surfaces.

Reaching the holes on Amen Corner (11, 12 and 13) was the climax of our tour. The architecture was stimulating and all without the vast array of flowering shrubs in bloom. It must really be a picture at tournament time in April.

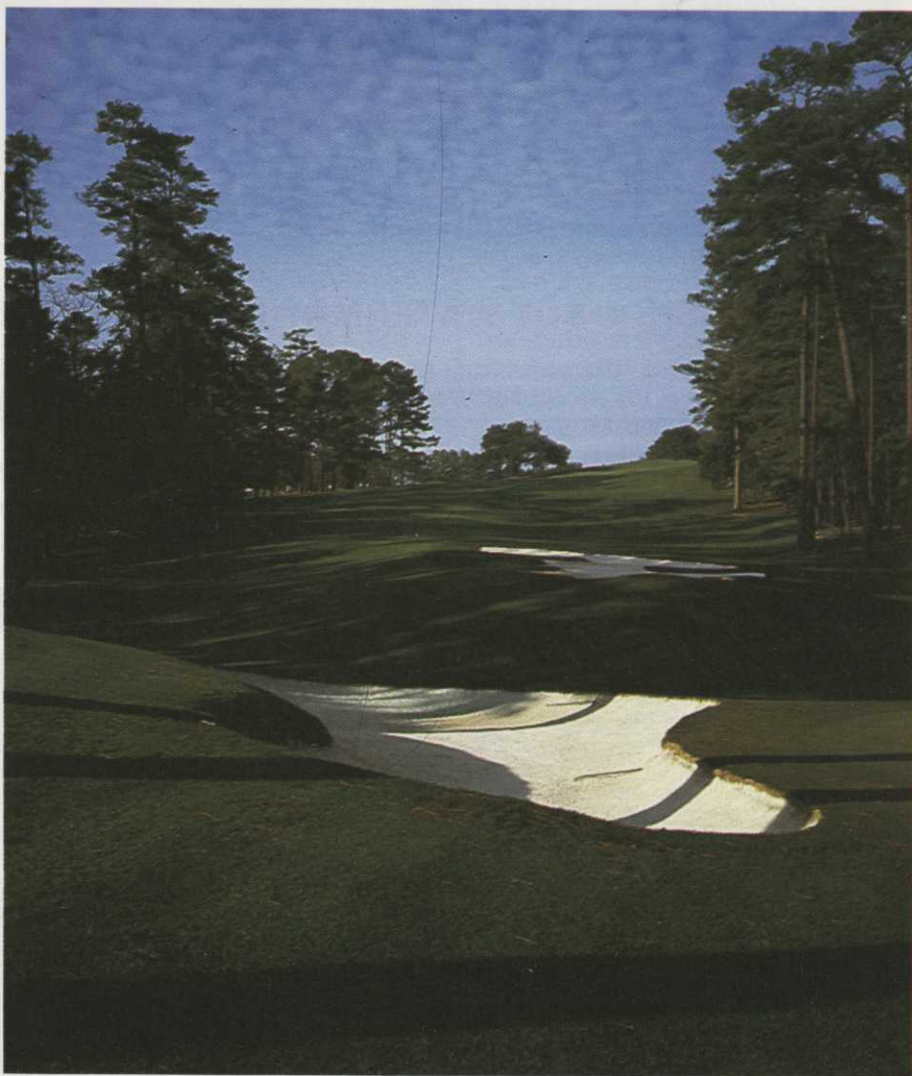
I have to say that it should be in good condition. After all, no one plays it. The membership is exclusive, to understate the point. In the five hours of our visit, we saw only five golfers - one four and a single! And the course is closed through the hot and humid summer prior to overseeding and preparation.

I was surprised to find a par-three course also on the club's land, to the back of the elegant colonial houses that flank the clubhouse. The short course plays a significant part in Masters week when the pros have a lighthearted day on it. From what we saw, it looked as attractive, challenging and superbly kept as the main course.

We returned to the clubhouse - which, sadly, we were not permitted to enter - in the late afternoon



The British contingent - Howard Swan, Rita and Jack McMillan - revelled in the delights of Augusta, guided by Paul Latshaw.



and to the maintenance complex. It may be modestly provided with buildings but, by many British standards, it was palatial.

There was an office with a secretary, a laboratory, staff facilities, mower stores, material stores, large machinery stores, all excellently laid out and maintained, and as many Cushman's as I have seen on one golf course.

Needless to say, Jack McMillan

melted at the sight!

I came away with the lasting impression that it was all being professionally managed and presented, much to the credit of the superintendent and his staff, some 50 years after the inspiration of Jones and Mackenzie began it all.

Augusta National is a marvellous golfing place and it was a magical day.

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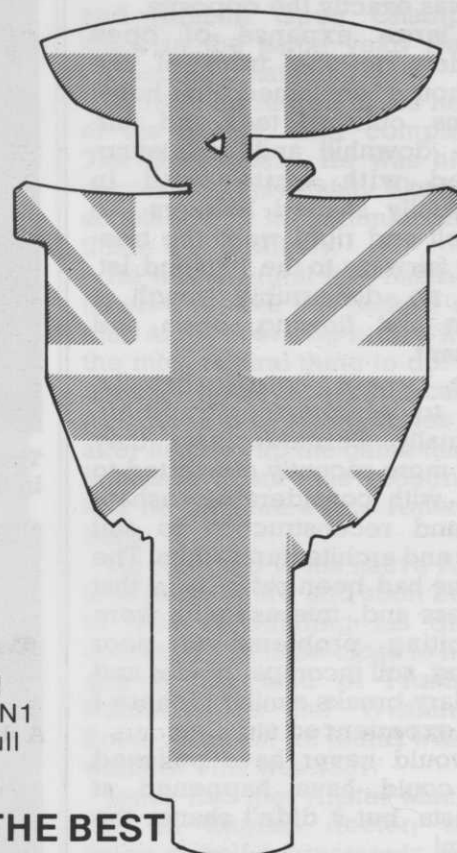
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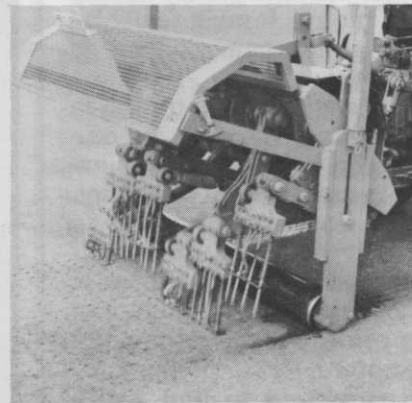
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GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE NOW - A PERSONAL VIEW BY EDDIE PARK

IN THE November '85 and April '86 issues of *Greenkeeper*, I wrote articles on the problems encountered in the reclamation of indigenous turf and the sorry state of our winter golf. Now, in early 1987, it is timely to take another look at British courses and try to establish the problems that are most exercising the minds of those at the 'sharp end.'

So, what are the problems?

Each year, they are becoming more severe and technically more diverse. They are mainly man-made, including the ever-increasing problem of compaction. Last year, just for a change, every season was late and this type of variation occurs frequently enough to rate as a normal hazard.

I know some think I am a doom and gloom merchant, who exaggerates today's problems and views the past through rose-coloured spectacles. Time will tell who is right. In fact, 'time' is a most important word. My impression is that it can take a long time to really wreck a golf course - maybe as long as eighty years on some intrinsically good sites.

The worrying feature is that the pace of deterioration has quickened. Many people have confused all this with a move to a more modern form of the game and lack the scientific knowledge to appreciate that the end result could be devastation. Let us be clear about one thing, attempts to produce 'modern' golf, with year-round receptive greens, involve maintaining those greens at a fixed point in the natural process of decay.

"North of Watford, at least, that situation may just be changing, particularly as we are now beginning to see the wholesale digging up of greens that have been wrecked by mistaken policies."



A thatched green is dug up.

This is far too difficult a trick for mere mortals and the inevitable result has been a big drop in standards. In turn, these have been disguised by the fact that sufficient customers seem prepared to continue to pay for what are demonstrably poor conditions. North of Watford, at least, that situation may just be changing, particularly as we are now beginning to see the wholesale digging up of greens that have been wrecked by mistaken policies.

On the positive side, I find numerous examples of greenkeepers with ambition who have taken on great sites in a poor state and are backing their expertise and courage to produce real improvements - David Jones when at Purdis Heath, John Philp at Carnoustie, Kevin Munt, until recently up at Dornoch, and David Spurden at Ganton are just the first examples that come to mind.

I think, however, it is worthwhile looking in more detail at the difficulties greenkeepers tell me they encounter when trying to reclaim indigenous turf. Undoubtedly, some just go too fast - more than one course manager has remarked to me that it is easy to get rid of *Poa annua*. The really difficult trick is to bring along bents and fescues at the same speed.

In a dry year, it's child's play to make life impossible for *Poa*, but much more of a task to produce the right balance of conditions for what I call 'our' grasses. Equally, of course, some people go too slowly and find that what they fondly hope is the 'middle way' is no way at all. Sufficient aeration without the degree of trauma that antagonises members is not impossible, but it is difficult to please all the members all of the time.

Many greenkeepers are coming under increasing pressure to succeed in their agreed aeration programmes without any disruption to play and have had to compromise on the number of passes each green receives. Better to do it deep enough and often enough and hold out the promise that the worst will soon be over.

To do that, it is essential to be equipped with machinery that really gets deep enough without making too much mess and in as short a time as possible. Such machinery does exist, but too often I find a club trying to manage with something inadequate.

I have a lot of doubts about the efficacy of many of the hollow-tining operations I have seen. Poor penetration means that only the surface drainage is improved and the water lies on

the still-compacted layer three inches down. The green feels softer simply because the surface layer remains wet and the golfer doesn't really appreciate the 'pegboard' effect.

We could do with a more objective method of measuring degrees of compaction – it is very difficult to make comparisons having regard for seasonal variations.

Irrigation can be greatly reduced and should be carefully recorded but, here again, I find courses without even a meter to measure how much water was put on (and when) and no records of rainfall. An old shallow spiker can be modified to keep the surfaces of greens just 'pricked' in drier seasons. Together with monthly spraying of wetting agents, the requirements for irrigation can be dramatically reduced.

When I have spoken at greenkeepers' meetings, I have found considerable agreement from experienced men that many problems stem from non-uniform construction giving, especially, varying permeability. An efficient hand-watering system, with adequate pressure, quick couplers and good green-to-green transport can make it possible for a skilled staff to do a good job.

Having got all this basic husbandry right, then, surely, everything must be plain sailing? Well, as some people have discovered, this is not always so. Those who have disposed of their thatch find it a daunting prospect that there is still the little matter of reducing the dominance of *Poa annua*. It doesn't even seem to be a constant picture from week to week.

This is the point at which it is so necessary to regard each green as a space where the grass population can be varied by management of ecological factors. And if a week is a long time in politics, it is an even longer time in the grass population of a green. Patience, subtlety and sheer cunning are required.

Worse still, there are some really nasty snakes to slide down. Looking back through pre-war Lindrick reports by R.B. Dawson and R.P. Libbey, I can read of dry patch problems and appreciate what heartache it caused. It's still around today at some courses and I certainly admire anyone with the fortitude to cope over the long time it takes to get these problems under control.

I hinted last year that at Lindrick we had a summer problem – at the first hint of stress from drought or heat, we saw some of our *agrostis* curl up its toes. This only happened to *agrostis*, not *Poa annua* (which we might have expected) and certainly not *fescue*, which looked healthier than ever. These grasses could be growing unaffected only inches away, so we called it 'Bents Disease.' Nobody seemed to have a definite diagnosis.

After a few weeks, the grass seemed to recover, although we would have been happier to see it displaced by a grass without these disadvantages. Keen observation by course manager Kevin Hazlehurst and his staff showed that there was deficient root growth in these areas for some time before they saw any



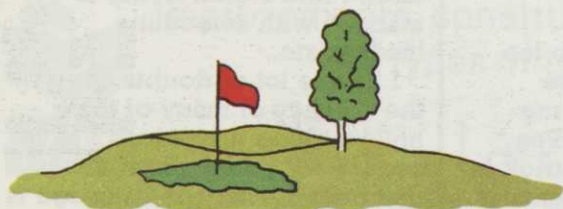
'Bents Disease' close-up – *Agrostis* on the left, *Festuca* on the right.

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"Dr Neil Baldwin, the new plant pathologist at the STRI, has now taken this research under his wing and he already thinks he has seen the same conditions at Ganton. I think he may well find it in a lot more places, too."

symptoms. Dr Neil Baldwin, the new plant pathologist at the STRI, has now taken this research under his wing and he already thinks he has seen the same conditions at Ganton. I think he may well find it in a lot more places, too.

After three summers of suffering, we have worked out a palliative remedy - well before trouble strikes, our staff are treating these affected areas (and only these areas - lest we encourage *Poa annua* elsewhere) with selective irrigation.

So, what of the future? Well, I reckon that 'now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party,' as the old saying goes. Let's forget the past and just accept that, with few exceptions, most clubs got it wrong at some time or another.

I hope that the campaign in *Golf Monthly* to encourage authorities to grasp a whole range of responsibilities will bear fruit. National problems demand national remedies - they cannot be shuffled off on to individual clubs. Golfers must be educated to realise that

better golf costs more and requires expertise, not least among men who represent them on committees.

I have been impressed, when asked into clubs to explain things with the help of slides, at the amount of interest shown nowadays by so many golfers. That must be a good sign. Incidentally, this does seem to be a possible way to get members off greenkeepers' backs, albeit time-consuming.

And what about greenkeepers? A united association and a better training scheme will not, in themselves, solve all the problems. I can speak with forty years experience of belonging to a profession. To be seen to embrace ethical responsibilities, the desire to use advisers in a productive fashion, the wish to learn as much as possible (not just about the interesting aspects, but the whole subject) are the ways to improve status, not by some kind of decree. There are many daunting tasks ahead for the new association and I hope they will not forget the essential PR component.

Sensible changes

The advisers? It must be evident to all that future success depends on a willingness to make some sensible changes in their ways of operating. A visit to a course followed by a report, however helpful at the time, needs extensive follow-ups. Committees have to be

convinced that potentially traumatic policies are right and necessary, even if it requires a presentation to the members. Very often the interpretation of a prescribed policy is no easy task.

It is no criticism of Dr Peter Hayes to say that many of us would like to see a more commercial attitude at the STRI, offering a fuller service by well-paid advisers. It is, as usual, a chicken and egg situation with demand from customers a prerequisite.

I just wonder if the board of management at the STRI, composed as it is of men who proclaim ignorance of the technicalities, is able to make it all happen.

One can only applaud their administrative expertise and their generosity in giving up a great deal of time, but is this going to be enough?

"I have been impressed, when asked into clubs to explain things with the help of slides, at the amount of interest shown nowadays by so many golfers. That must be a good sign. Incidentally, this does seem to be a possible way to get members off greenkeepers' backs, albeit time-consuming."

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Closer Liaison For Jim And The STRI On R&A Work



Jim Arthur.

To ensure a greater uniformity in course conditions and presentation of links hosting the Open Championship and courses taking the qualifying rounds, in 1971 the R&A championship committee, under the chairmanship of the late Charles Lawrie, appointed Jim Arthur to advise on course preparation and long-term links management.

The resulting free advisory service to these clubs, as well as those hosting the Amateur Championship and Walker Cup, developed quickly and in the ensuing 16 years Jim Arthur carried out regular visits. This was in addition to his private consultancy work in Britain and on mainland Europe, covering over 400 courses.

Jim now wishes to reduce his workload, which has grown greatly since his advisory career started at the Sports Turf Research Institute (then the Board of Greenkeeping Research) in 1946.

This is especially the case with his extra work in recent years with the Greenkeeper Training Committee, liaison with the selected training colleges and involvement in the work of the R&A's greenkeeping panel of the external funds supervisory committee.

As part of the closer liaison between the STRI and Jim, as well as the backing and support of the R&A for the body's advisory ser-

vices and research programme, a start is being made in the form of joint advisory visits by STRI specialist golf agronomists and Jim to those courses hosting qualifying competitions for the Open.

In this way, the R&A feels that continuity of advice will be maintained with the aim of producing the true links conditions desirable for all its championships.

Jeffrey Perris has been appointed the STRI's senior advisory agronomist. Jeff hails from South Wales and he joined the institute's advisory staff in 1966 after graduating in agriculture from the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

Much of his work is undertaken in the West Country, but he also travels extensively in western Europe. Jeff will continue with his existing duties, which include lecturing, and will help lead the development and extension of the institute's advisory service.



Jeff Perris.

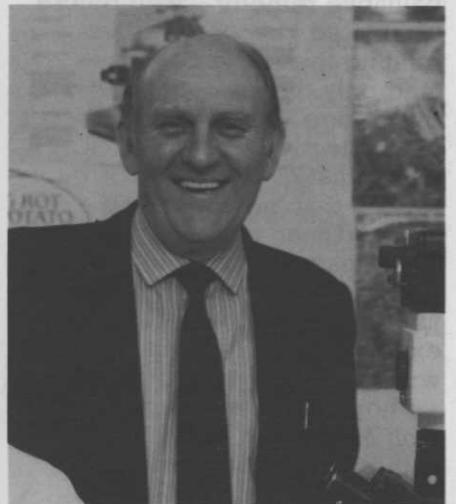
Hodges and Moss has appointed Tony Howard, 53, technical rep for its industrial and amenity division in north Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

With its headquarters at Shrewsbury, the division, formed

in 1982, specialises in the identification of problems arising in forestry, amenity and vacant land areas, as well as providing solutions.

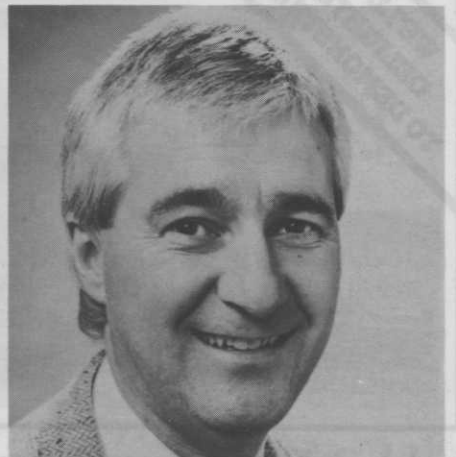
The division is also engaged in the control of pests, diseases and weeds in sportsturf and landscaped areas, as well as the supply of herbicides, fertilisers and composts to local authorities, industry and leisure clubs.

"Combined with the resources of our plant pathology laboratory and an experienced workforce equipped with the latest mobile machinery, the division continues to attract new customers, so we are delighted Tony has joined us," manager Bob Bolland said.



Tony Howard.

Peter Bridgewater has joined Supaturf as a rep for the northern home counties. Customers can contact Peter at home on Witney (0993) 74419 or through Supaturf's southern branch on Iver Heath (0895) 832626/834198.



Peter Bridgewater.

Notes From Scotland

The **Central** area AGM was held at Tulliallan GC. Jim Cameron (Callander) was installed as chairman and Ian Ritchie (Ladybank) vice-chairman. Jimmy Kidd (Glen-eagles) gave a resume on the progress of BIGGA.

Nearly a hundred met at Ayr College for the **Ayrshire/West** seminar. While this was a joint venture, most of the organisation was handled by Ayrshire secretary Jim Paton.

The college staff pulled out all the stops to ensure a successful day, with the superb catering, splendid facilities and enthusiastic cooperation we have come to expect from Mr McKinney and his team.

Harry Diamond and Alastair Connell, chairmen of the Ayrshire and West sections, introduced the morning speakers, David Boocock and Stewart Ormroyd, who were followed by a question and answer session.

Dr Peter Hayes of the STRI started the afternoon by talking

about grasses. Jeff Perris discussed maintenance problems and his answers to them, presented in a positive way, struck a responsive chord in the audience.

A panel, consisting of the four speakers and two chairmen, faced some 'nippy' questions at the final question time, especially from Chris Kennedy and Jimmy Kidd, and with George Brown bowling a 'googly,' the afternoon finished on a high note. Cecil George proposed a vote of thanks to all concerned.

Special mention should be made of the younger members who attended, some of whom travelled from as far afield as Glasgow, Dumfries and the Isle of Arran to attend their first seminar.

The first **East Midlands** annual spring golf tournament as a part of BIGGA will take place at Hinkley GC on Wednesday May 13, starting at noon.

A medal competition, the draw for teeing-off times will be made on the Saturday before - further information is available from R.

Willars on Sutton Elms 283053.

Entry forms have been posted, so if you have not received one, contact the aforementioned before Wednesday May 6, the closing date for entries.

A singles knockout competition for the Supaturf Knockout Cup will run throughout summer. The draw for this event will be made at the spring tournament and, again, entry forms are available from R. Willars.

The pairs knockout competition format has still to be arranged and entry forms will be sent out with those for the spring tournament. Other future dates include the autumn tournament at Chevin GC on Wednesday September 23.

The Rigby Taylor Trophy is for greenkeepers only and is played as a ten-a-side golf match against the Midland area. The team is selected from the first ten in the aggregate combined scores for the spring and autumn tournaments - this year, the trophy will be contested in the East Midlands.

R. Willars.

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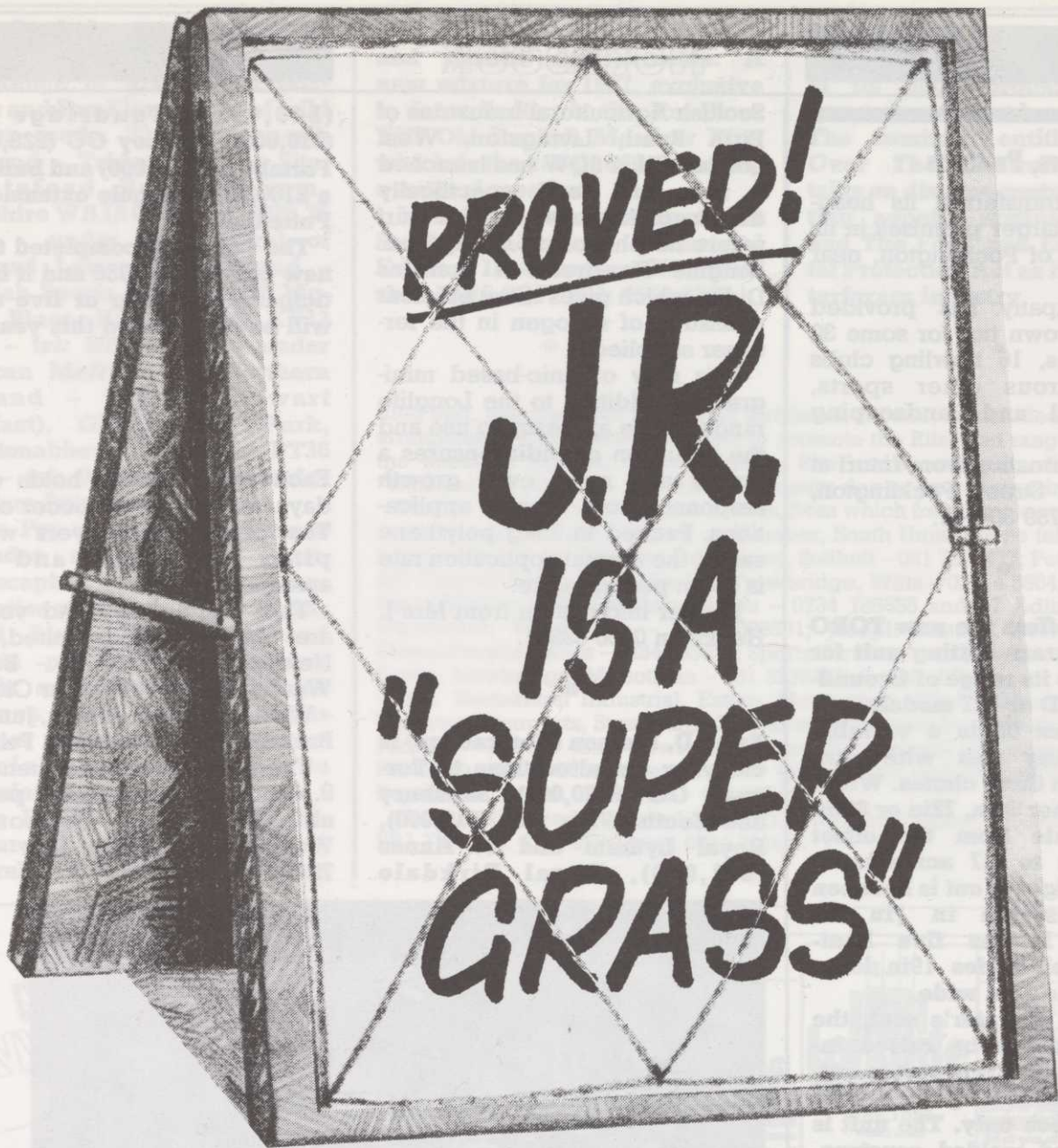
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Inturf has transferred its headquarters to larger premises in its home town of Pocklington, near York.

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More information from Inturf at 11b Regent Street, Pocklington, York. Tel: 0759 304101.

Lely (UK) offers the new TORO Triflex 88 grass cutting unit for attaching to its range of Groundsmaster 322D or 327 models.

The Triflex 88 is a variable width cutting unit with rear discharge in three chutes. Width of cut is either 54in, 72in or 88in. Mowing rate from the offset deck is up to 4.7 acres/hr at 5.5mph. Height of cut is between 1-4in adjustable in ½in increments. It has five heat-treated steel blades 19in long, ½in thick and 2½in wide.

From the operator's seat, the wing decks can be raised independently for transport or cutting with either wing and centre or centre deck only. The unit is of reinforced welded construction with a pto driven gearbox.

For further details, contact Graham Dale, Lely (UK) Ltd Toro, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1QH. Tel: 0480 76971.

Scottish Agricultural Industries of Firth Road, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 5QW has launched a new turf food specifically designed for use on fine turf where no phosphate is required. Longlife Finegreen N contains Didin, which gives more efficient utilisation of nitrogen in the fertiliser supplied.

This new organic-based mini-granular addition to the Longlife range is safe and easy to use and the inclusion of Didin ensures a longer and more even growth response from fewer applications. Packed in 25kg polythene sacks, the normal application rate is 35gm per sq metre.

Further information from Mrs J. Heeks on 0506 39281.

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) is carrying out alterations to Torquay GC (£130,000), Salisbury and South Wilts CG (£10,000), Royal Lytham and St Annes (£31,000), Royal Birkdale

(£40,000), Tandridge GC (£10,000), Romsey GC (£28,000), Formby GC (£6,000) and building a £100,000 five-hole extension at Putterham GC.

The company completed three new courses in 1986 and it is anticipated that four or five more will be constructed this year.

Each year, Gannon holds open days/workshops at soccer clubs. The programme covers winter pitch renovation and soil amelioration.

This year's dates and venues are: May 14 - Leeds United, 19 - Newcastle United, 20 - Bolton Wanderers, 21 - Chester City, 27 - West Bromwich Albion, June 2 - Brentford and 4 - Crystal Palace.

The programmes commence at 9.15am and interested parties should contact Gannon at Welbourn, Lincoln. Tel: 0400 72475.



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The Pro range of grass seeds includes mixtures for sport, landscaping and reclamation. Varieties used include the highly rated Lisabelle, Lisuna and Lilotta perennial ryegrasses, Lifalla and Lirouge chewing's fescues and NFG Theodor Roemer creeping red fescue. Special mixtures can be formulated.

The Pro-Flora range includes mixtures of wild flowers for acid neutral and calcareous soils, as

well as heavy soils, sandy soils and shaded environments. A new mixture for 1987, exclusive to Inter Seeds, is the Pro-Flora VIII Old English Meadow Mix, which is the result of harvesting a natural meadow.

Inter Seeds can be contacted at Southern Avenue Industrial Estate, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QF. Tel: 0568 6363.

ICI hosted a seminar with Supaturf and Farmura this month at its plant protection headquarters at Fernhurst, Surrey. The seminar, entitled *Taking Over The Controls*, featured talks on disease control, soil wetting agents, organic nutrition and The Food and Environmental Protection Act as it affects the turfgrass industry.

RiteFeed, manufacturer of organic fertilisers, recently concluded a marketing arrangement with Maxwell M. Hart to promote the RiteFeed range throughout the south of England. John Walker, RiteFeed's managing director, said: "National supplies had become a necessity due to ever-increasing demand."

The full list of RiteFeed's distributors, from which free samples are available, reads: Joseph Bentley, Barrow on Humber, South Humberside tel: 0469 30501; E.T. Breakwell, 814 Stratford Rd, Shirley, Solihull - 021 7444477; Peter Hampton, 221 Chantry Gardens, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wilts - 02214 5864; Maxwell M. Hart, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks - 0734 785655 and 17 Adlington Court, Birchwood, Warrington - 0925 825501; Joseph Metcalf, Brookside Lane, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs - 0254 393321; Sports Turf Services, Newbridge Industrial Estate, Newbridge, Midlothian - 031 3332345; Supaturf Products, Unit 2 Ripley Close, Normanton Industrial Estate, Normanton, West Yorks - 0733 68384; Tartleton Composts, Sunnyhurst Nurseries, Blackgate Lane, Hesketh Bank, Nr. Preston - 077473 4333; Town & Country Horticultural Supplies, 1 Allandale Drive, Copland, Colchester, Essex - 0206 210287 and Trident Turf Services, Poplar Site, Lymm, Cheshire - 092575 6071.

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A new version of the TR138 hydraulic reel mower has been developed by Huxleys specifically for greenkeepers with exceptionally undulating fairways to maintain.

Based on the current TR138 'golf course' mower, the latest introduction features a fully-floating top link to replace the standard

tractor link and has a contour-following castor wheel at the rear.

These two additional components work in harmony when grass cutting, allowing the mower's frame to move and 'float' independently of the tractor, despite the fact that the unit is still fully-mounted on the tractor's three-point linkage.

Being tractor-mounted enables the mower to be lifted for easy movement from site to site and for the complete unit to be raised instantly out of work when turning at the end of a mowing run. It also helps produce a compact, well-balanced grass-cutting combination, which minimises the risk of turf damage from rutting or scuffing. Operating weight is about 1,168 lb, while power requirement is from 24hp upwards. Maximum mowing width of the five-gang Huxley TR138 is 11ft 6in.

In common with the standard model, the alternative fully-floating version has seven-bladed cutting reels within 'twinroll' floating mowing heads. Electric remote controls are provided for the independent raising and lowering of the mower's two outer wing units and selection of forward, neutral or reverse reel rotation from the driver's seat. These functions are all power-activated using the mower's self-contained hydraulic system, which is driven by the tractor's pto. Price of the Huxley TR138 hydraulic reel mower, complete with floating top link and castor wheel, is £6,825, excluding VAT.

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Elmwood Attracts Students From Far and Near...

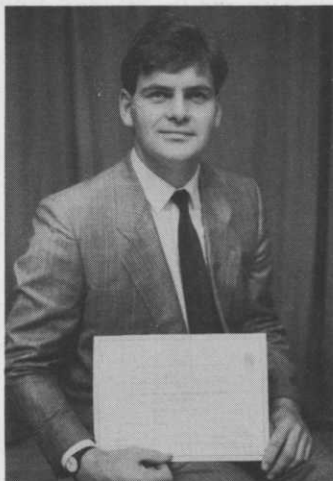


Students on Elmwood's head greenkeepers supervisory management course. And David Childs, from Hawthorn Hill GC, Maidenhead, Berkshire, shows his certificate as top student on the course.

For short, specialist courses, it was the norm for students to travel south of the border, but Elmwood College's horticultural department has reversed this trend over the last few years, particularly with its supervisory management courses for greenkeepers.

Elmwood, at Cupar in Fife, also pioneered a distance learning course for greenkeepers two years ago which, on both occasions when offered, attracted a third of its members from outside Scotland.

Demand for the more specialist one week head greenkeepers' supervisory management course is equally strong with trainees coming from Germany, Northern Ireland and Eire, England, as well as, of course, Scotland.



A wide range of other programmes of study in greenkeeping (block-release) and amenity horticulture (full time and block-release) are also available at Elmwood.

Vital Vitax Information

Vitax of Burscough, near Ormskirk, Lancashire is to build a new £250,000 multi-purpose headquarters at Southport on Merseyside.

The 20,000 sq ft complex will contain a new manufacturing and production facility, packing plant, warehouse, laboratories and trials unit, offices and showrooms. It will also be adjacent to its own transport and distribution network. Work is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 1988.

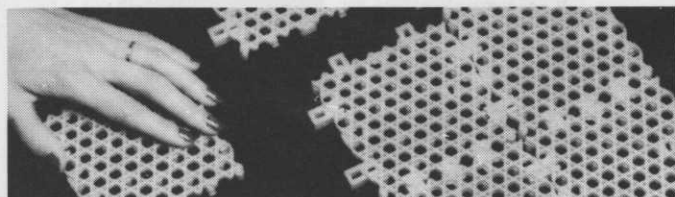
Vitax has introduced two new extended-release fertilisers. Key N is a nitrogenous fertiliser (20%N) for use where reserves of phosphate and potash are high, or where these two nutrients are made either annually or bi-annually. The nitrogen is included in three forms to provide quick, medium and slow-release and to ensure the continuous supply of plant food needed by the turf. Key N also contains magnesium (2.7%MgO) to promote lush green turf.

SR2 is a 10:7:20 compound for application in the autumn or earlier part of the year when soil temperatures are 10°C or below, holding the nitrogen content until growth commences in the spring. The formulation is such that when used in conjunction with Key N, the major plant nutrients are supplied in the same ratio as found in the grass cuttings removed.

For clay constructed areas, SR2 should be applied in the autumn or the earlier part of the year before topdressing. On sand and free-draining areas, it should be applied in the earlier part of the year before mid-March.

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Show Time!

The IOG's sports and leisure trade exhibition at Victoria Park next month will be only the second such event in the north-west and it is sure to be of interest to greenkeepers and club officials.

The institute is committed to education and training and a section of the exhibition - manned by the institute's education committee - will present information on weekend training courses throughout the UK.

This sector will be supported by a number of leading colleges, including the Cheshire College of Agriculture, Evesham College of Further Education, Hampshire College of Agriculture, Hertfordshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Welsh College of Horticulture and Merrist Wood Agricultural College, as well as the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley.

The exhibition will be open from 10am till 5pm on Tuesday May 12 and Wednesday May 13 and admission is by catalogue

(£1.50). Extensive car parking will be available at £1, although pre-booked coaches will be accommodated free.

A22 Takes BSH Down A New Road

In its 1987 catalogue, British Seed Houses announces the launch of a new low-maintenance grass seed mixture called A22, which contains Logro slender creeping red fescue and Lorina perennial ryegrass.

In the early 1970s, BSH started a research and development programme to try and obtain some short-growing, high-quality grasses and as a result of this work, the company is able to offer two

of the shortest growing grass varieties within its respective species.

A revised leaflet has also been issued by BSH giving details of its ten wild flora conservation mixtures. The leaflet details cultivation and management information, vital when sowing wild flora.

Full details from the company at Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington WA5 5LE, Cheshire. Tel: 0925 54411.

All Talk!


A recent national series of seminars on the maintenance of grass areas was sponsored by ICI Professional Products in conjunction with spray contractors.

Four contractors - Selectokil, Foster Associates, S.H. Goss and Weedfree - joined ICI to discuss the introduction of ICI's new grass growth retardant, Holdfast D. In addition, the agenda included a talk on the implications for amenity managers of recent legislation covering pesticides and DLO.

Keith Cleverly, ICI Professional Products manager, said: "With the ever-increasing need to conserve expenditure and to make the most effective use of available manpower, chemical grass growth retardants are now valuable management tools when used as part of an annual grass maintenance programme."

HA 1388

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Contact Janet Watmore for full information of the product range or to arrange a demonstration.

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Kubota (UK) Limited, Dormer Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3UN. Telephone: 084 421 4500.

How one Bournemouth business blossomed

WHEN John Charles Roffey settled in Throop, Bournemouth on an eight-acre holding in 1919, his market-garden enterprise steadily expanded and was the mainstay of the business until the outbreak of World War Two.

His two sons, Jack and Harry, joined him after leaving school and, when the founder of the company retired, they took over the business. It continued, initially, in much the same way until the mid-fifties.

It became evident, however, that the business had to find alternative outlets to remain viable. Eventually, among other things, there was a move into horticultural compost production and in the first year's trading the output was 90 tons.

Today, this total is often exceeded in a matter of hours at the modern manufacturing plant in Throop Road.

Over the years, the business gradually expanded and diversified, making topdressings for golf courses, bowling greens and cricket wickets. The company is well-known to greenkeepers in the south and is the distributor for several manufacturers of horticultural and sportsground fertilisers and chemical products. A contractor division offers specialised services to sportsgrounds.

In February 1984, Jack and Harry Roffey retired. The company was taken over by another two enterprising brothers, Michael and Graham Patrick, who have since applied their business skills to the project by enlarging the compost manufacturing plant - the covered production area covers 55,000 sq feet - and expanding the product range.

Although the business has changed hands, it still maintains a 'family tradition.' David Roffey, a third generation of the founder, is a company director and responsible for technical research.

He was instrumental for the introduction of Xylorganic topdressing in 1986. Popular with many greenkeepers, this material contains no peat and is, therefore, of great value where thatch accumulation has to be carefully controlled. It contains soil conditioners, is rich in trace elements and, because it has ion exchange properties, is invaluable on light sandy soils where leaching may be a problem. Xylorganic is a new concept in organic dressings, which will not seal or cap the surface to make it impermeable.

The latest enterprise concerns Notts Sports and Safety Systems, with which the company has developed Notts Compound,

which is used in conjunction with Notts Grass Reinforcement Carpet. This material is a loosely needled polypropylene fabric through which natural grass can grow.

It is best laid on to a prepared seed bed and, after further seeding and topdressing, a vigorous sward can be established. The root system is protected by the fabric, which allows the grass to recover after damage, thus reducing the need for maintenance by groundstaff.

NGR eliminates the effect of erosion on areas of intensive wear, which generally get muddy and uneven. This protective fabric maintains a firm level surface that needs no special treatment and it can be cut and spiked in the same way as unprotected grass. It has tremendous potential in literally hundreds of different applications among which are golf tees that often take a lot of punishment.

Roffey Bros has been appointed sole agents for Notts Synthetic Surfaces in Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. Further information on Roffey Bros can be obtained from the company at Throop Road, Bournemouth BH8 0DF. Tel: 0202 573752.

The expansive Roffey Bros plant.



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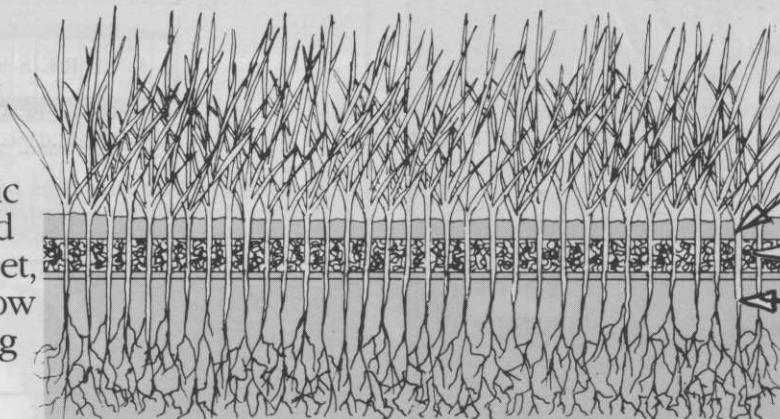
THE

Tough Turf

Playground, park or penalty spot, wherever grass is worn away, that's where you need a little extra help.

Whether you are a groundsman, park officer, landscaper or architect, there are times when turf just isn't tough enough.

Think what a good idea 'Grass Reinforcement' is. It's a synthetic fabric that's as flexible and easy to lay as a carpet, which lets grass grow through it, providing anchorage and protection for the roots. If the blade gets damaged the roots are still there, and with a little reseeded and topdressing, they can produce a sward once more.



You can use it on paths, banks and worn-out walks. You can use it on cliff faces, on riversides and on eroded roadsides. Nearer to home, it will keep your favourite football ground flat, playable (and therefore profitable) through the frosts of winter, for much less than the cost of a fully synthetic pitch.

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GRASS ROOTS

'Grass Reinforcement' is taking root all over the country, wherever grass roots are being destroyed to the extent that ground use is affected. Now you know what a good idea it is to reinforce grass.

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South England

Roffey Bros Ltd, Throop Road, Bournemouth BH8 0DF. Tel: 0202 523752

Scotland

Stewart and Co. Seedsmen Ltd, Stronghold Works, Mayfield Industrial Estate, Dalkeith EH22 4BZ. Tel: 031 663 6617/8/9 (24 hr)

North England

Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rigby Taylor House, Garside Street, Bolton BL1 4AE. Tel: 0204 389888

Northern Ireland

Greenline Distributors Ltd, Castlewellan Road, Banbridge, Co. Down. Tel: 08206 23861

Midlands

Rigby Taylor Midland Ltd, Unit 9A, Warwick Industrial Estate, Budbrook Road, Warwick CV34 5XH. Tel: 0926 401444

'Grass Reinforcement' Suppliers also supply Notts approved seed and topdress.

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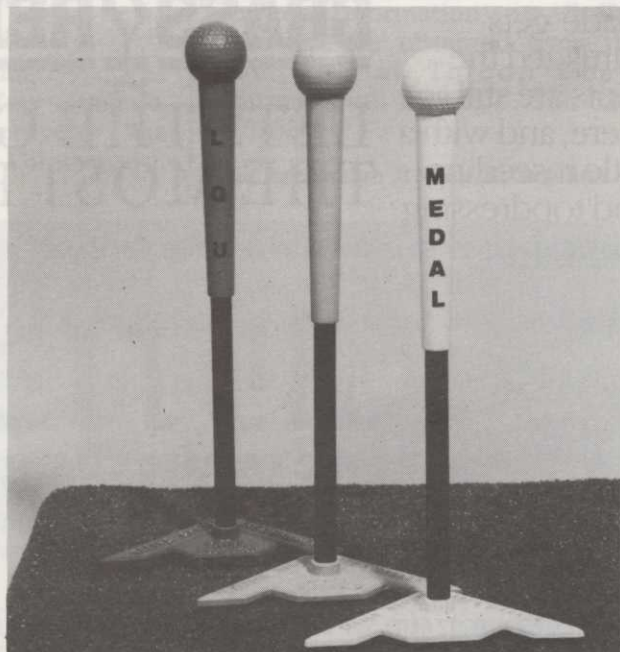
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GK/4/87

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Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management, who have a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance and the ability to direct and motivate staff.

Salary negotiable — a small two bedroom bungalow is available.

Written applications, stating age, qualifications and curriculum vitae to:

**The Secretary
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Applications are invited from persons with qualifications and experience who have proven ability in all aspects of course management. A thorough knowledge of course machinery and maintenance is essential as is the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing, stating age, experience, and enclosing C.V. to:

**The Club Manager
Radyr Golf Club
Drysgol Road, Radyr
Cardiff. CF4 8BS**

Applications to be received by 30th April 1987.

Moors Valley Golf Course

HEAD GREENKEEPER

A qualified Greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance is required for the challenging task of maintaining this newly constructed 9 hole course.

The golf course, which is part of the Council's Country Park Development, will open in the spring of 1988 and there is a possible extension to 18 holes.

The council offer a generous package of terms and conditions. Salary circa. £9,000 plus some overtime, and a package for relocation expenses.

Full details and application form from the Personnel Office, Wimborne District Council, Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne, Dorset. Telephone (0202) 886201 Ext 257 and returnable by 1st May 1987.

Wimborne 
District Council

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Golf Club requires experienced Greenkeeper for good maintenance work on 18 hole downland course. Must be experienced in use of tractors, mowers and general course machinery. Preferred age 30 plus. Clean driving licence. Good salary and overtime and annual bonus. 2 bedroom accommodation available.

Write in first instance with C.V. to:

**The Secretary, Guildford Golf Club,
High Path Road, Guildford. GU1 2HL**

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required for new golf course in South Essex, to be opened Spring 1988

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G/4/87

EAST BRIGHTON GOLF CLUB (18 Hole Course)

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Salary negotiable — no accommodation.

Written applications stating age, qualifications and experience to:

**The Secretary
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Roedean Road
Brighton
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The successful applicant will be aged between 35-50 years and hold formal qualifications together with a proven track record of golf course greenkeeping including the maintenance of traditional and sand-based greens.

Responsibilities will include both supervising and working alongside our existing team of greenkeepers, also the controlling of specialist sub-contractors who are regularly employed.

Salary is negotiable according to experience. After two years service fringe benefits would include a non-contributory pension scheme, sickness benefit, BUPA and life assurance. Married accommodation can be provided in a lodge within the grounds.

Applications should be available to take up this challenging appointment in May 1987.

Please apply in writing together with C.V. and recent photograph to:

**Mr. J. D. Aust, FHCIMA, Managing Director,
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Sanderstead,
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Cameron Sinclair – **Cotton, Pennink, Steel & Partners**
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Simon Gidman – **Hawtree & Son**,
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Pier Mancinelli,
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00195 Rome, Italy
Tel: 06 36036 35

Jan Sederholm,
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