

AUGUST 1987

# Greenkeeper

*& The International Greenkeeper*

Deutsche Fassung  
&  
Edition Française

BULLETIN NO. 52



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL  
GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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# This issue

AUGUST 1987

Front cover: There are no out-of-bounds for *Greenkeeper* - this month it's 'Destination Dubai' for a fascinating look at a magnificent golf course that is being created in the Middle Eastern desert and where project manager Stephen Trutch (pictured) has already managed the first birdie!

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**Publisher:** Fore Golf Publications Ltd

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# Welcome to

# the Golf Course

EVERY profession requires a public relations vehicle to project its image to those who are unaware of the complexities required in producing a satisfactory end result. The greenkeeping profession has been fortunate over the past few years to have been assisted in these efforts by the publication of this magazine and its team of contributors. The time has come however, for a magazine, aimed at a wider readership and one that will proclaim the virtues and artistry of golf course management today, not only read by those in our industry but by the 'end user' - the club member.

No longer are greenkeepers merely involved in the maintenance of tees, fairways and greens, the aesthetics of the entire course are of great interest to a wide variety of people. Presentation or packaging is a great importance in every sphere of life today and nowhere more so than on the golf course, not just for the few special televised courses, but at every club for ordinary members and guests alike.

The title of this publication from September 1987 will be changed to *the Golf Course*, enabling the publishers assisted by the editorial panel of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, to reach that larger audience and make them aware of the skills required to produce the kind of courses that are acclaimed the world over.


**Jimmy Kidd**, Chairman BIGGA editorial panel.

Next month sees the demise of a familiar name when *Greenkeeper* becomes *the Golf Course*.

When Fore Golf Publications successfully bid for the contract to publish a magazine for the new unified BIGGA, we did so with an open mind, for it was our belief that the members of the Association would wish to contribute in many ways. We have not been disappointed, variety will be the key to the continued success of *the Golf Course*, with regular features on education, technical topics, machinery reviews, face to face interviews, foreign golf, the history of the game and its famous courses. Our aim is for a larger, brighter and more diverse publication in order to attract readers who are involved in the running of golf clubs but who are so often unaware of what the golf course really is, their club's greatest asset. Much space has been given to "independence" in publishing, neither we nor the Association see this as a problem, Fore Golf is an independent

*Continued on page 6*

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# The new Ransomes GT.



**OPEN VERDICT**

*Continued from page 3*

company involved in the production of a number of golf related publications, what we now see is that through the BIGGA and its members a virtually unlimited number of contributors all with practical experience to pass on to their colleagues.

Thanks to a further increase in circulation due to the size of BIGGA membership we have already attracted increased support from our advertisers, keen to get their message across to all those who are involved in *the Golf Course*.

**Michael Coffey.**

Another milestone was reached in greenkeeping history, when at Muirfield the R & A's Championship Committee Chairman, Alastair Low, made reference at the start of his address at the prize giving ceremony. to the part played in the success of the championship, not only by the Honourable Company's Head Greenkeeper David Kirkcaldy, but by the bunker rakers of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. It is unfair to minimise the role of those bunker rakers, but it was truly a memorable moment when the new Associations name came over loud and clear to the millions watching on television.

*continued on page 11*

Should you have any queries regarding membership of The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association write to:- N. Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA, The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorks.

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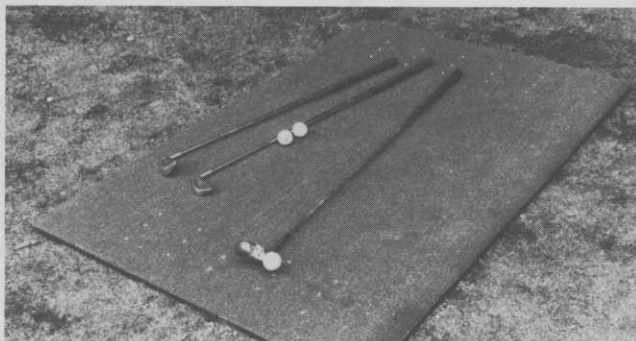
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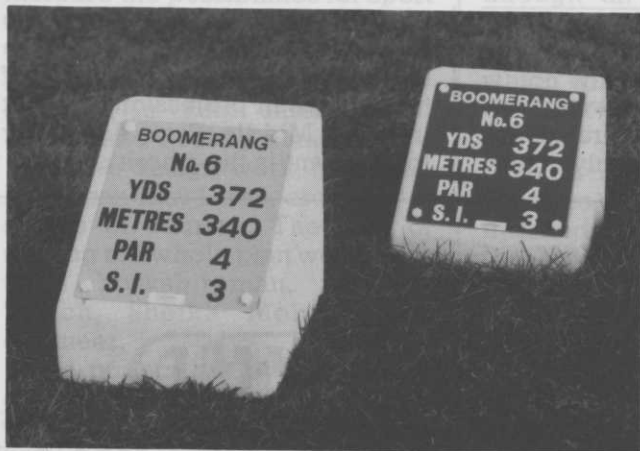
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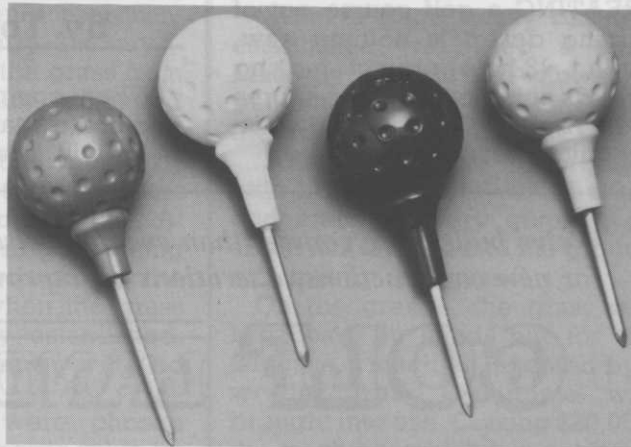


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# Destination Dubai – where simply growing grass for golf was, until recently, a major problem...



This aerial shot shows how the course is turning the desert green. The 18th (left) and 9th fairways pass the largest of four lakes on their way to a giant double green.

CREATING a golf course out of burning desert is nothing new, but an 18-hole project moving towards completion on the shores of the Arabian Gulf is already raising quite a few eyebrows.

## By Tony Lewis

When completed towards the end of the year, the Emirates Golf Club will boast the only cham-

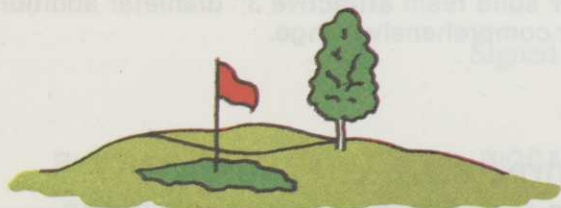
pionship course between Rome and Singapore. Soon, it could be responsible for an extension of the European professional circuit into the Middle East. A regular tournament is the priority.

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The man intent on providing golf with a major breakthrough in the region is H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the United Arab Emirates' minister of defence.

Sheikh Mohammed, known for his love of horseracing, decided to build a \$1.25m grass golf course on the fringe of Dubai to increase the possibilities for sport in the Emirates, already home to the richest motor rally and power boat race in the world and now building a £9m international cricket and hockey complex.

For the design work, he chose American Karl Litten, architect of scores of courses. The task of making the whole plan work went to a Yorkshireman, Stephen Trutch, Sheikh Mohammed's engineer.

The project has been a labour of love for golf fanatic Trutch, who has already claimed the first birdie at the Emirates Golf Club during practice over some of the most advanced holes.

For green is now the dominant colour at the 700,000 square metre site, where water drawn from the Gulf and pumped from Dubai's desalination plant is giving life to hybrid Bermuda grass transplanted from Georgia, home

state of the US Masters.

The water sits in two man-made lakes that hold ten million gallons and also provide picturesque, but awkward, hazards on a course links design conjured up by Litten out of the sandhills.

From the lakes, the 'life-blood' of the Emirates Golf Club flows through an irrigation system - designed by Litten's representative in Dubai, Larry Trenary - which will protect the grass from the heat and ensure continued growth.

Water is fed to the course by 740 Toro pop-up rotary sprinklers installed below ground level. At the moment, watering is taking place around the clock. By the end of the year, when the grass has become firmly established, only night watering will be necessary.

The sprinklers were chosen because of their electric valve-in-head feature, which allows them to be controlled collectively or individually.

Tift 419 Hybrid B, developed in Tifton, Georgia, one of the premier grass-growing regions of the USA, was chosen for the fairways because it replaces itself quickly and is salt tolerant.

For the greens, Tift 328 has been used. It is a thinner-leaved type of Bermuda, which allows a better run of the ball. Cross-cutting can produce a speed of 9½ on the Stimpmeter.

All the grass was flown in from Georgia in packets sealed to prevent contamination and planted at nurseries immediately on arrival in the UAE.

"After a good heavy turf was established, we used a Ryan Mataway verticut turf mower to pull pieces of root and stem out of the ground," Trenary said.

"The machine has hundreds of little blades that are curled at the end and spin very quickly, go about half an inch into the ground and pull up the grass."

On the greens, the grass was broadcast by hand, but for the fairways, a machine invented by a welder from Oklahoma was brought into use. Costing \$20,000, the machine, which has not been sold commercially, was built to specifications laid down in Dubai. It is towed behind a tractor and drops grass sprigs in any desired frequency.

"Behind is a large roller with knives that dig into the ground down to about six or eight inches.



The rising structure of the Emirates Golf Club clubhouse, where members will dine in a five-star restaurant and enjoy other superb facilities.

Then there is a large roller that closes it all up and tucks it in," Trenary added.

"It can take four or five days to plant an average-size fairway by hand. This machine can do the same work in a couple of hours, covering an area of about three acres (1.5 hectares)."

Even before the first grass was planted at the Emirates Golf Club, enquiries about membership began flooding Stephen Trutch's office. There are currently 250 names on a membership list, which will be extended to 300 when the course opens and will probably rise to 500 in a couple of years.

The Karl Litten organisation is currently formulating a membership structure, along with staffing levels, for a club that will have quite a lot more than golf to offer.

A multi-million dollar clubhouse is growing day by day - it looks like a huge, 21st-century version of a Bedouin tent. Inside, members will dine at a five-star restaurant, relax in saunas and jacuzzis, while nearby others will play tennis, squash and crown green bowling inside an arena that can be floodlit - like the practice range.

Thousands of trees, many of them imported from South America, along with giant cacti from the desert plains of Arizona and California, have been planted around the course. The 3,000 metre perimeter, for instance, is ringed by 2,000 Casuarinas, while date and coconut palms stand alongside fairways and greens.

Toss a few crumbs into one of two freshwater lakes and watch Japanese Koi Carp swarm around. There are now an estimated 20,000 of the fish swimming the lakes from an original stock of 4,000. Lately, two salt

water lakes have been dug into the course to provide more colour and two additional hazards.

The biggest of the four lakes, holding six million gallons, guards a giant double green shared by the 9th and 18th holes. The final fairway, on an awesome 555-yard par-five hole, turns into a dog-leg that will be lined by trees.

With so much water around, saving shots won't be easy. Saving water - liquid gold in the desert - won't be easy either. But, as a result of a novel idea dreamed up by engineers, around a third may be recoverable.

As the water drains through the ground, it will gradually float to the top of the natural water table below the surface. Engineers believe it will be possible to pump as much as 40 per cent back up through filters into the lakes within a couple of years.

The idea came from Eric Tulloch, chief engineer at the Dubai Water Department for 25 years, who began pumping water out of the ground to top up the swimming pool in his garden.

● Tony Lewis is the BBC TV cricket correspondent.



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## Chairman's Message

When greenkeepers amalgamated into one association earlier this year, they adopted a theme for change.

Over the last 20 years, our associations had remained dormant. What had been accomplished? One or two golf outings, a national tournament, a non-existent educational system and, as a result, lowly paid jobs with little or no recognition from anyone.

Fortunately throughout Britain, we do have people with foresight and imagination who realise that opportunities exist to make the greenkeeping profession powerful and respected.

In the last year, with many hours spent round the meeting table, the new association's guidelines and objectives have been hammered out, pointing us in a more progressive direction.

To assist further in this task, an executive director, Neil Thomas, has been appointed and I am confident that the board of management's selection will have an immediate impact on the association. We wish Neil a warm welcome.

To communicate and, most importantly, to carry the message that the course manager/greenkeeper is vital to the game of golf, this magazine has been selected as the association's official journal. And, from next month, it takes a new title - the *Golf Course*.

The *Golf Course* will contain news and features to inform, educate and entertain the membership,

while keeping the golf-related community in touch with what is happening in the industry. It is thought that the new title will have a wider appeal than that of its predecessor, *Greenkeeper*.

My tenure as chairman has reached its latter stages and I feel proud to be in the company of honest, hard-working board members, who have assisted me in the decisions that needed to be taken in the formation of what I believe will be a great association.

*Walter Woods, Chairman, British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association.*

## OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Gerry Coley. Gerry was for many years Course Manager at the Wentworth Club and as such was one of the characters within the industry. He handled, every year, more big tournaments and televised events than any other course manager in the United Kingdom. As a result he was well used to pressure and it is therefore doubly sad that his death comes less than two months after a well earned retirement. Gerry will be missed by family, friends and those in all areas of golf who knew him.

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## People, Places, Products

Richard Walne, former technical field representative at TORO UK, has been appointed international product development manager and is now based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Educated in Ipswich and Felixstowe, Richard is married to Annette with daughters Karen and Rebecca. Prior to his appointment with TORO in 1979, he worked for Ransomes.



Richard Walne.

The new general manager of Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath on Dearne is Roy Stinton. He moves from Ransomes, who recently acquired the South Yorkshire-based company.

Roy started his career with Ransomes in the laboratory where he subsequently became chief metallurgist. For the past ten years, he was general works manager and had previously

been manager of the forge and press shop.

Roy, 54, and wife Josephine will be living in Mexborough.

An Atco gangmower used to prepare the Muirfield fairways for the Open brought this praise from head greenkeeper David Kirkcaldy.

"The Gangmaster provided a



Roy Stinton.

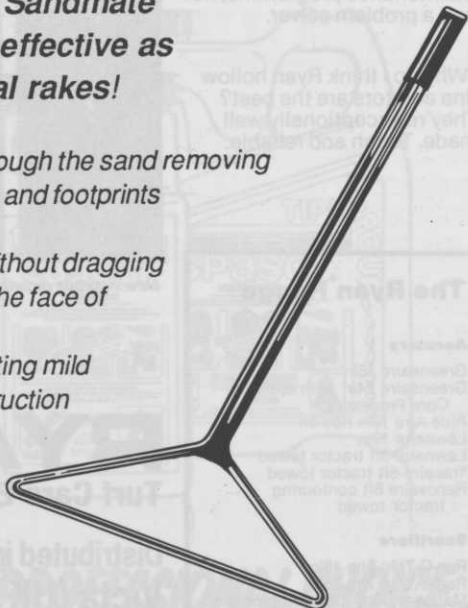
first-class finish, even on high undulating ground and under wet conditions. I particularly like the front and rear rollers and the calibrated height of cut adjustment. The unit is also simple to maintain and adjust and easy to store and transport."

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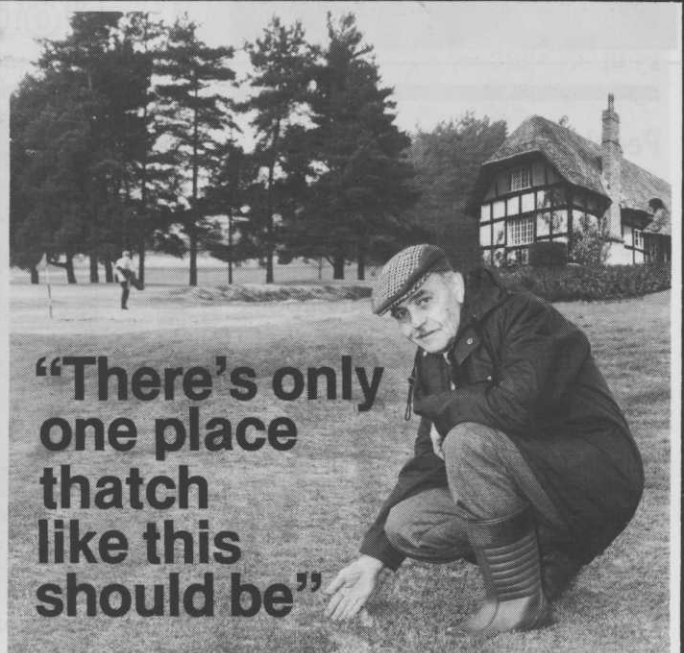
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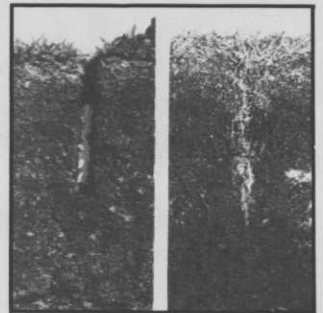
"When you think how weather-tight a thatched roof is, you can see how a build up of thatch will block out air, light and water from reaching the roots. Of course, a little bit of thatch is normal and helps turf to wear better. But, if it builds up too much, you will soon have problems.

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**People, Places, Products -  
Continued...**

Jacobsen Turf Equipment's Racine, Wisconsin headquarters recently launched a new triplex. The Tri-King 1471 riding reel

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The 1471 from Jacobsen.



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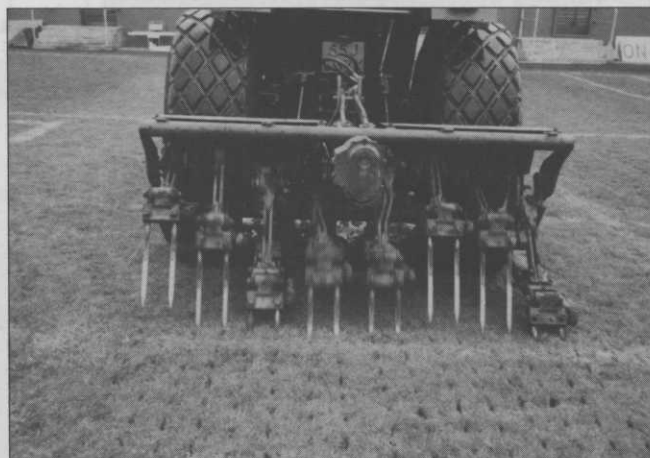
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# MACHINERY REVIEW

John Campbell Assesses The Ransomes Verticut 214

Bob Moreton was impressed by the Verticut 214.



MODERN golfers are more critical of turf conditions than their predecessors ever were. At one time, they were content just to have the greens in good condition, but now they insist on the same high level of upkeep on the fairways, giving a good lie for every shot.

The trend for higher standards on fairways encouraged Ransomes to develop the Verticut 214, which is capable of improving large grassed areas, especially golf course fairways. This machine is designed to control lateral surface growth by verticutting to prevent the build-up of excessive fibre or thatch. Vigorous new growth is encouraged and playing surfaces presented in peak condition.

Ransomes Verticut 214 is a compact, three-unit machine that can be hitched or unhitched easily from most popular makes of tractor. Hydraulic drive verticut reels with spiral cutting action provide efficient operation. Depth adjustment is controlled by front and rear full length rollers and the floating head action of the units allows them to follow ground contours without damaging the turf.

Hydraulically powered verticut reels comprise 18 discs, each fit-

ted with three reversible steel blades spaced  $1\frac{1}{4}$ in apart and revolving at 1,200rpm. Hydraulic control is by means of a single lever, located behind the tractor seat, putting the verticut reels in drive, neutral or reverse.

Linking the verticutting unit to the tractor's three point linkage and connecting the pto shaft can be completed in a few minutes and is just as easily detached by the operator alone. The machine is lifted by tractor hydraulics for easy transport.

Evaluation tests of the Verticut 214 were undertaken at Sunningdale by Jack McMillan and at The Berkshire by Bob Moreton. After using the machine extensively, both agreed the Verticut 214 performed verticutting work on the fairways smoothly and efficiently. The normal working speed of 4mph was ideally suited for doing the job over reasonably undulating ground.

An experienced operator is necessary to obtain the best results - setting the height of the verticut reels is simple, but choosing the right penetration depth to do the work properly requires the expertise of a good greenkeeper. Floating head action of the verticut units allows

them to cope with the severest undulations and the front and rear rollers prevent damage to turf.

One problem they foresaw in initial verticutting work on densely matted fairways was coping with the vast amount of fibre and thatch displaced by the machine. Sweeping up afterwards was necessary to remove residue and leave fairways trim and tidy for play. If verticutting work is done at regular intervals, there is usually little fibre removed to present problems afterwards, for it soon decomposes.

Time of the year is an important consideration for verticutting operations - spring and late summer are probably best. Verticutting can be done at any time during the growing period, provided that weather conditions are favourable - not during drought - and it only needs the verticutting reels properly set for moderate depth penetration.

Jack and Bob agreed that using the Ransomes Verticut 214 would lead to a vast improvement in the condition of fairways, for it is a fast, effective way to control the build-up of thatch. They were impressed by the robustness of the machine and simplicity of operation and control.

# EDUCATION - WHO NEEDS IT?

A personal view by Eddie Park

WE HAVE listened for years to people talking about the need for better greenkeeper training and patently it is a disgrace that golf has done so little to provide the training for those to whom clubs entrust their most valuable asset. The usual woolly belief that somehow individual clubs should manage training themselves has made it possible for national bodies to evade their responsibilities for far too long.

Of late, we have seen the Greenkeeper Training Committee grappling with this thorny problem and slowly producing a scheme that must, at least, have a fair trial. If I do not sound altogether convinced, it is because I have my doubts as to whether it all goes far enough.

Better training for today's greenkeepers has a strong appeal for those directly involved, as they feel that their status will thereby be enhanced, but we should recognise that it also has a strong appeal for those in authority. They reason that it would get them off the hook of being held partly responsible for the poor state of so many courses!

In recent years, greenkeeping has been seen by an ever-increasing number of perceptive young men as a desirable career and many of them are now coming through into positions of responsibility. They have found their own ways of improving promotion chances. I sat at table recently with three young course managers and was impressed with their knowledge and commitment, but even they had worries.

So, I come to the crux of this article. If I am right in my belief that the problems of maintaining golf courses are really very complex (in human terms, as well as technical), are there not other people who need education, not just the greenkeeper? And if we confine education to the greenkeeper, will the situation on our golf courses ever improve?

Now that I have time to travel, I see more golf courses and the message that comes back loud

and clear, certainly from those at the sharp end, is that the major problems arise from the ignorance of the customers! I deliberately use that word because I believe that all those who work in a service industry (with greater job security than in manufacturing) must recognise that, in today's consumer orientated society, the customer really must come first, which is not to say that he can have his own way, however daft his demands!

We have to educate him and channel his golfing desires so that he wants, and is willing to pay for, the best possible golf course that is viable on his particular site. And to stop him interfering with the implementation of sound long-term policy.

This process of educating the consumer is, I believe, the factor that is too often neglected in golf course maintenance. I will not pretend that it is easy - for too long the British golfer has been fed with the belief that he can have whatever he demands. If he likes the look of Augusta on TV, then he should ask for it on his own course - be it on London clay or on a Scottish moor or on a potato field in the Midlands.

Always, too, there is somebody with a chemical or a machine or a construction outfit who says he can make these dreams come true. No wonder the green committee and the head greenkeeper are under almost constant pressure.

Now, I know that the natural reaction to all this pressure is to play the game with the cards held closely against the chest - in a word, secrecy - but I am for the promotion of education, for the very good reason that it is much more likely to work.

The recent regrettable happenings at St Pierre, when one of the world's great golfers, Seve Ballesteros, let off steam about slow greens, lends point to my case. The subsequent behaviour of most (but not all) of the golfing Press was unthinking, ignorant and uncaring. It was just another story.

As on similar occasions in the past, the PGA European Tour does not seem to be geared up to dealing adequately with this kind of situation. It was left to David Jones to tell the story (*Greenkeeper*, June) and tell it very well, but I am afraid he was preaching to the converted, many of whom have suffered in the same way.

I think many people would benefit from some basic education in the maintenance of golf courses. The term 'golfer' actually covers them all and, generalising further, it is those who are, or have been, good golfers who most need to be disabused of the idea that playing skills equate to expertise on courses.

Club golfers and committees are the first target - it is a fallacy for greenkeepers to want to be rid of committees, although I can understand why. But just reason it out. If you buy an electrical appliance and it proves to be faulty, you expect the firm to have a customer relations department to deal with your complaints. The golf customer expects no less and that is, or should be, the function of golf committees. Both customers and committeemen need education in what they are talking about.

I can best illustrate my thinking from personal experience. The idea that you can explain golf courses to golfers in half an hour over a drink dies hard. It is just not that simple. It means demonstrations on the course and it is too time consuming to hit enough people to have any significant effect. I am quite frequently asked by individuals to "see what you think of our course, old boy," which is even less productive.

In the past, we have recommended the concept of a club meeting where all the silly ideas can be aired and answered. It will sound a risky scheme to many but, properly organised, it can be very effective and the course manager can find himself working in a much improved climate with golfers actually encouraging him to get on with, hitherto, unpopular measures such as a regular programme of aeration.

Some years ago, I realised the value of colour slides, especially of close-ups of turf and, for my own interest, I developed the necessary expertise and a large collection, some of which have appeared in *Greenkeeper*. An invaluable aid!

It probably is not enough for the green committee and greenkeeper to try to do this on their own, simply because of the universal adage that 'no man is a prophet in his own country.' (Or, as it is usually expressed, 'well he would say that wouldn't he').

In fact, if I am right and there is a need for this service, it is too big for individuals to run. However, it could be just one of the items we could expect to be organised by the national and county unions.

Perhaps the first stage would be to put the unions themselves on the list for this particular type of education. It must be at least ten years since Peter Thomson remarked that the essence of good golf is ball control and that you can't learn that on soft,



Augusta - often desired by UK golfers.

holding greens. Yet, these national and county bodies persist in selecting as venues so many courses providing such greens.

The modern greenkeeper has developed a streak of independence and that must be for the good. It should not, however, lead him into the mistaken belief that he should do everything for himself. The Public Relations work that is so clearly needed (another name for the education of others!) could well be organised, when it can draw breath, by BIGGA, but it may not be possible for greenkeepers themselves to do the speaking-out. There are times when hard things need to be said!

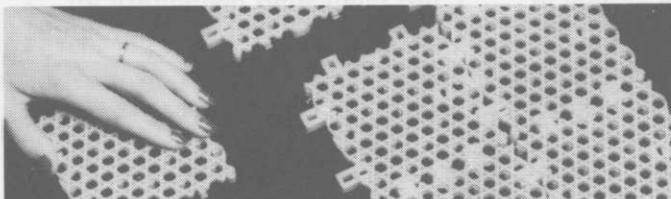
Maybe under its new name, the *Golf Course*, this publication can reach a wider golfing readership to pass on the message.

Most improvements in golf course maintenance have originated from the greenkeeper and now is the time to do something about these 'human' situations, which are at the root of many of today's problems.

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## COMPANY PROFILE - PARKERS



An historic farmhouse (right) and oak tree (left) stand at the entrance to Parkers.



John Campbell gets it straight from the horse's mouth while Jim Parker (left) and Peter Simpson look on.

PARKERS of Worcester Park, Surrey are well-known to most greenkeepers and golf club officials in the south, as well as further afield - hardly surprising since the company have been in the sports turf industry for many decades, *writes John Campbell.*

There are three divisions - turf management, Parkers' mower repairs and horses. The Parker family have long been associated with equestrian events and they maintain a large indoor riding school and a stable block within the grounds. The present headquarters includes a 500-year-old farmhouse and the remains of an oak tree of similar vintage at the entrance.

Company chairman George Parker has been involved with the business since 1927. Nephew Jim Parker is managing director and Peter Simpson sales director.

The company are well placed to cater for the needs of London and the south-east, where there is a high concentration of outdoor sports facilities, and about 70 are employed with

seven full-time reps covering the territory.

They have a large number of special haulage vehicles for the transport of fertilisers, compost bulk deliveries, grass seed, machinery, etc, and a fleet of service and repair vans manned by skilled mechanics are always on call to deal with machinery breakdowns during the busy growing season.

Parkers have always been a friendly family business and have maintained a close association with the industry, arranging regular educational seminars on the upkeep of sports turf and artificial surfaces, and they sponsor popular golf days for club secretaries and golf course managers at first-class venues.

The firm have a modern compost mixing plant with extensive undercover storage space to meet the needs of a wide variety of sports turf requirements. Parkers fertiliser mixtures for fine turf and outfield areas are used extensively.

They are the main agents in the south-east for Notts Sport

Grass Reinforcement, a synthetic fabric that's as flexible and easy to lay as carpet and allows grass to grow through it, providing anchorage and protection for the roots. It's a boon for paths, banks and worn-out walks and can be used on cliff faces, river sides and eroded roadsides.

Parkers have established an enviable reputation for reliable and efficient service and have an impressive list of regular customers, including Sunningdale and Walton Heath, the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, Hurlingham and Twickenham.

Many company products go to Europe and the United Arab Emirates and they also import a number of items from the USA, including the popular Parker spreader.

Since 1951, they have been the sole distributors of the SISIS range of equipment for London and the southern counties. They are also dealers for Iseki tractors and supply most of the main manufacturers grass mowing and turf cultivating machinery for golf courses and sportsgrounds.

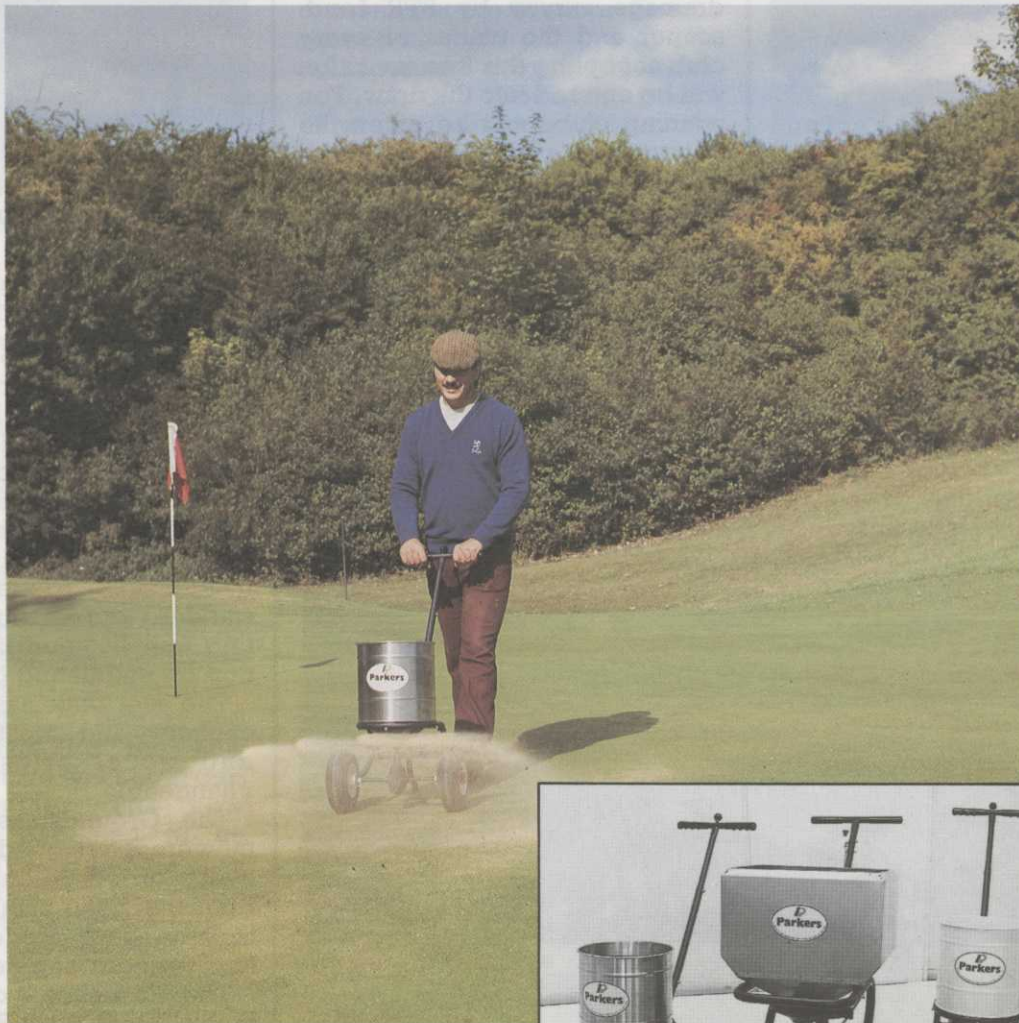


Inside the compost mixing shed.



Compost in the course of preparation.

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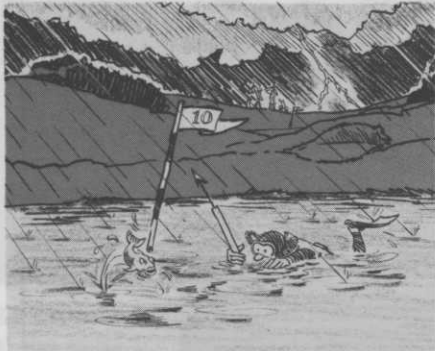
**Master:** a real heavy duty machine. Pneumatic wheels carry the 90lb. capacity stainless steel hopper with in built spinner and protective front bump bar.

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## Chance For Clubs To Win Competition Sponsorship



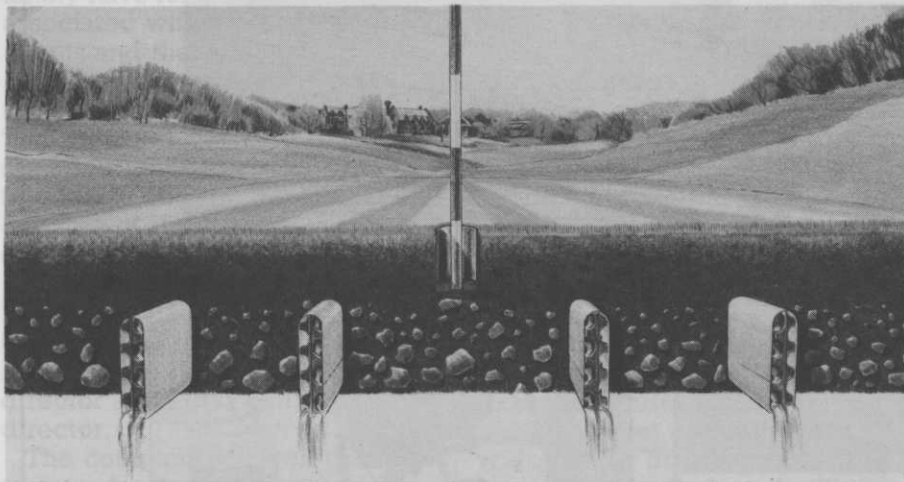
As part of their campaign to promote Hitek Fin Drains for golf courses, BTR Landscaper are offering clubs the opportunity to win a sponsorship deal for a monthly medal competition.

The campaign, commencing in August, will include a programme of mailings direct to clubs. The object is to introduce

the Fin Drain concept into this country, following its success in Australia where it was developed.

Clubs are being offered a free drainage survey by BTR Landscaper and the names of every club accepting this free invitation will be entered into the draw. Ten winning clubs will be given the sponsorship package, which includes a BTR Landscaper Trophy, together with a replica, plus prizes of £25, £20 and £14 for the first, second and third prize-winners.

Full information on the Fin Drain system, together with how to enter your club into the sponsorship draw, are available from Richard Ellison-Smith at BTR Landscaper, PO Box 3, Centurion Way, Farington, Preston PR5 2RE. Tel: 0772 421711.



Top: a course flooded continually is no joke... Above: a cross-section of a Hitek Fin Drain.

## Birdies For Wildlife

A charity pro-am aims to raise more than £20,000 to help safeguard the Cheshire countryside. The event, staged by Altrincham-based Tryangle Management International on behalf of the Cheshire Nature Conservation Trust, has set a £675,000 target as its contribution to the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's British Wildlife Appeal.

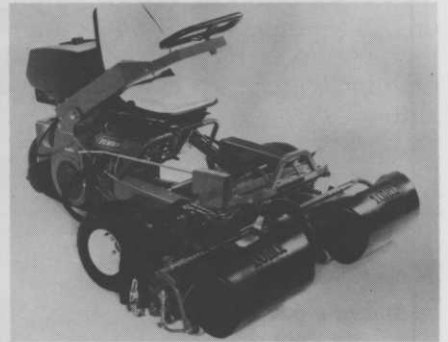
The pro-am takes place on September 28 at Dunham Forest and it is hoped that 90 amateurs will partner some 30 of Europe's

top professional women golfers, including Laura Davies, Dale Reid, Cathy Panton and Liselotte Neumann.

The British Wildlife Appeal, set up in 1985, is run by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and aims to raise £10 million to support the continued health of our countryside.

Details of the event and the British Wildlife Appeal are available from the British Wildlife Appeal, 164 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2RB.

## Take It From Toro!



The Greensmaster 3000.

The new TORO Greensmaster 3000 made its first showing recently.

TORO claims to be the first manufacturer to introduce new O-Ring face seal fittings on most hydraulic lines, which reduce the potential of oil leaks.

A Kohler 16hp Magnum engine is quieter and more durable and electronic ignition reduces maintenance. Hinged lift arms are standard and an unrestricted cutting unit flotation improves traction on undulating ground.

The fuel tank has a 7.5 gallon capacity and most parts, reels and accessories are interchangeable.

The Groundsmaster range of mowers is designed to fit virtually every turf maintenance need - from the small 21in walk behind to large deck models with 27hp four cylinder engines.

There's a choice of five models in the TORO Walk Rotary range - two hand-propelled, three self-propelled, all complete with rear baggers. Width of cut ranges from 18in to 2ft. Optional extras include a leaf shredder, thatcher and side chute.



TORO's Groundsmaster.

## All-Clear Given For A New Look At Wentworth

A new multi-million pound clubhouse is planned for Wentworth, following permission from the Department of Environment to remove a temporary historic building listing on the present clubhouse.

The clubhouse has now outlived its economic use and the club's board has opted for a major new complex to be completed in tandem with a third 18-hole course.

The clubhouse design by D.Y. Davies Associates will provide more than 50,000sq ft of changing rooms, bars, reception and administration areas, pro shop, function rooms, dining areas, a large indoor swimming pool, two squash courts and a gym.

"The new facilities will be located to the north of the existing clubhouse and will take advantage of the ground's natural slope," D.Y. Davies' chairman David Davies said. "It has been sensitively designed to be in keeping with the architecture of the Wentworth Estate and will include many features contained within the existing clubhouse."

Work will start in August and scrub clearance for the new Wentworth course will begin during the summer. The new clubhouse is expected to be opened in early 1989 and the third course should be ready for play in the early 1990s.

## Sold For £1.5m

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies has acquired the business and assets of Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath on Dearne, specialist manufacturers of cutting cylinders, blades and grinding machines for domestic and overseas grass machinery markets.

It is intended to continue operating at the Wath on Dearne premises.

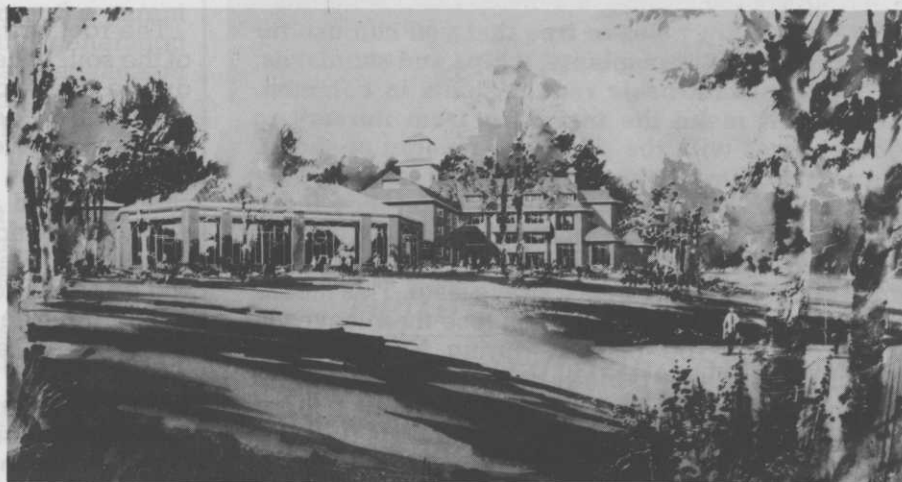
Ransomes group chief executive, Bob Dodsworth, said: "This acquisition provides the group with considerable potential to develop our important spares business, especially in export markets. It will also enable us to market a superior range of grinding machines through our worldwide dealer network."

## Legislation Lecture

The IOG's north-east zone is to hold a one-day seminar on the new pesticides legislation in turf management at Sheffield United FC on Thursday October 22, from 9.45am to 3.45pm. Speakers will include specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Test Proficiency Council, Sheffield University and May & Baker Professional Products Division.

Admission, including buffet lunch, will be £10. Institute members benefit from a 50 per cent reduction.

Booking forms and further information from Derek Harrison, 20 Muirfield Close, Tapton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 1SS. Tel: 0246 204338 between 5pm and 7pm only.



An artist's impression of the new Wentworth clubhouse as viewed from the course with the swimming pool foreground.

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# TREES ON GOLF COURSES

## THE PRINCIPLES OF PLANTING - BY TONY GENTIL



For the best results, conifers and deciduous trees should be planted in early winter.

**The three main types of tree that you can use for planting, forest transplants, whips and standards, all have certain basic requirements in common. They must make the transition from nursery to golf courses with the minimum amount of shock. If you give them a hard time during planting, they are likely to become so weakened that they'll fall easy prey to pests and diseases.**

The best period for planting trees is when they are dormant or in their least active state. This means that deciduous trees, those that lose their leaves in winter, should be planted during November to March. Within this period, don't plant them if the ground is frozen. I find the time between bonfire night and Christmas gives the best results because not only are the trees dormant, but the soil still retains some of its late summer warmth, which helps the rapid establishment of the root system.

Evergreens, such as pine, holly and yew, are never completely dormant and recover best when planted in October or November. During planting, the most vulnerable part of a tree is its root system. You've got to treat this area with great care if you want good results. It's not so much the main roots that are at risk, it's the thousands of tiny root hairs that are liable to be damaged.

Root hairs are so small that they are hardly visible and, because of this, it's easy to forget about them. Plants can only take in water through their root hairs and for each one damaged there is a reduction in potential water absorbing capacity. If root hairs get killed in large numbers, the tree has a problem obtaining the water it needs in spring after planting.

It's a vicious circle. Without the root hairs, it can't take in water. Without the water, it can't replace the lost root hairs.

So, how does a tree's root system get damaged during planting? Well, most deciduous trees are sold bare-rooted - that is, without any soil clinging to the roots. Even when trees are carefully lifted by the nurseryman, some of the root hairs will be broken off as the soil is shaken loose.

The root hairs are at risk all the time they are out of the soil. If they become exposed to drying winds during transportation to your golf course, then many will be desiccated to death. There are further risk if you leave the trees lying on the ground after delivery or as you carry them out to the planting site. A period as short as half an hour exposed to drying conditions will kill off most of the root hairs on a bare-rooted tree. Superficially, the root system will appear undamaged, but to all intents and purposes, the tree will be as dead as a dodo.

If you are unable to plant the trees as soon as you take delivery, cover the roots temporarily with a protective layer of moist soil.

One of the safest methods of transporting bare-rooted trees round a planting site is to use either a dumper with a watertight skip or a tractor with a bucket. Half fill the skip or bucket with water and add a few shovelfuls of soil or peat to make a slurry. Place the roots of the bare-rooted trees in the slurry and this will give the root hairs the best protection possible. Make sure that the upper parts of the trees don't chafe against metal rims of containers.

If you find that the slurry is in danger of slopping out of its mobile tank during transport, float some short planks on the top to reduce the wave motion.

Evergreens larger than forest-transplant size are not sold bare-rooted and so their root hairs do have a better chance of survival. The soil round the roots of evergreens is dug up with them when they are lifted in the nursery and held in place with a square of hessian tied round the base of the trunk.

I prefer to remove this hessian carefully just before planting because, although it is usually biodegradable, the knotted part round the trunk can take a long time to rot down and may strangle the trunk.

As a tree grows taller, so its root system increases in size. The bigger a root system is, the more difficult it is to transplant without causing damage. It follows, therefore, that smaller trees generally survive planting more successfully than larger ones.

One final point worth remembering is that, in the





Birch whips planted on a golf course.

wild, trees don't get transplanted. They grow to maturity from where the seeds fall from the parent tree. If there are any areas of natural regeneration on your golf course, see if you can take advantage of them. Can you, for instance, encourage seedling oaks to grow where the parent tree is in decline? If you can, you'll find it much easier than trying to establish imported trees.

Self-sown seedlings could, in fact, provide you with a free source of planting material. Trees up to 12 inches tall should transplant quite successfully. Seedlings much taller than this are not so amenable to disturbance because their root systems are long and fangy and difficult to dig up without extensive damage.

● The next article in this series will explain the techniques of tree planting.



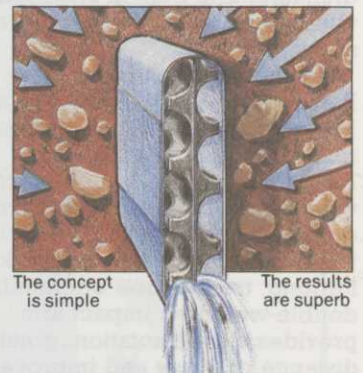
Natural regeneration of oak.



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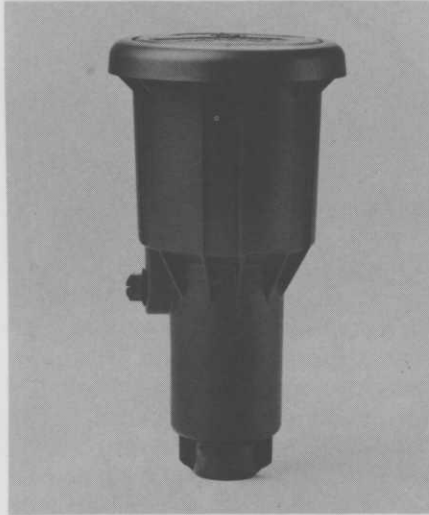
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### MAXI-PAW



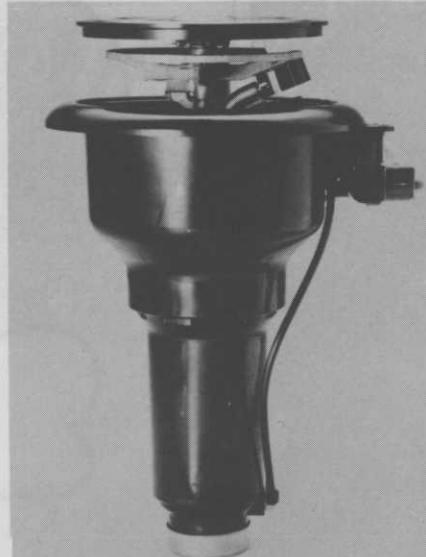
A pop-up rotor for use in medium-sized commercial turf areas, the Maxi-Paw is available with four interchangeable, colour-coded, matched precipitation rate nozzles that lock into place. The Maxi-Paw is also available with a Seal-A-Matic device that prevents puddling, run-off and erosion caused by low head drainage. The built-in SAM reduces water hammer, conserves water and saves money.

For increased durability, the Maxi-Paw rotor is constructed with a heavy duty case with reinforced ribs. The Maxi-Paw features Rainbird's patented multi-function wiper seal that assures positive pop-down. The Maxi-Paw features a water lubricated impact sprinkler for long, trouble-free operation. The double-weighted impact arm provides slower rotation, greater distance of throw and improved close-in watering. The sprinkler has full and part circle operation capability.

### 95DR ROTOR

The 95DR valve-in-head electric rotor is ideal for irrigating large turf areas, such as golf courses, football pitches, bowling greens and parks. The 95DR combines part and full circle operation capability in one unit, its circular or wheel impact drive resulting in a slower and more even rotation speed for longer life. This water lubricated impact

sprinkler has a precision moulded power nozzle to maximise radius of



throw, while its low 23° angle of trajectory provides superior wind resistance.

The 95DR contains a built-in, pressure regulating, diaphragm solenoid valve, which allows for individual sprinkler control for more flexible and precise watering while reducing system cost. The valve also serves as a SAM device to prevent run-off and erosion due to low head drainage. The 95DR's pressure regulator is field adjustable and assures even water distribution and saves energy and water. A full circle only model, the 91DR, is also available.

### R-50 ROTOR



A rugged pop-up sprinkler for irrigating medium turf grass areas, the R-50 features Rainbird's patented multi-function wiper seal that assures positive pop-down even in the worst soil conditions. The R-50 has part and full circle operation capability in one unit.

The sprinkler's small exposed surface diameter makes it almost invisible to vandals. Its patented memory arc feature always returns the rotor to its present arc setting

even if vandals tamper with it. The R-50's simple turbine drive design is water lubricated and has no expensive gears for vandals to strip. The rotor's dual bypass system compensates for pressure and flow, resulting in more uniform rotation and increased sprinkler life.

### 15-VAN

Providing a more versatile selection of spray patterns, the 15-VAN nozzle works on Rainbird 1800 series pop-up sprayheads and is ideal for watering oddly shaped areas. The 15-VAN has an infinite arc setting of 0° to 330°, eliminating the need to stock a wide assortment of fixed spray patterns.

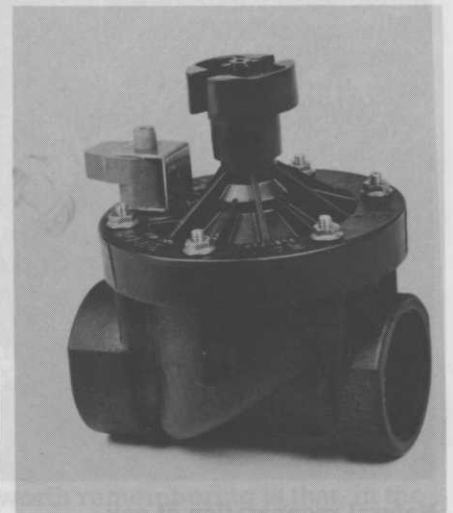
To keep the operator dry while adjusting the arc, the 15-VAN has a visible arc setting from the top of the nozzle. The 15-VAN has a radius adjustment screw, which allows the radius to be reduced for smaller areas.

### PES - ELECTRIC PLASTIC SCRUBBER VALVE

PES scrubber valves are effluent water valves that contain a self-cleaning, flow-activated scrubber consisting of a stainless steel cylinder screen and a plastic scraper. The scrubber keeps algae, micro-organisms or silt from clogging the valve control parts, thus giving trouble-free operation in very dirty waters.

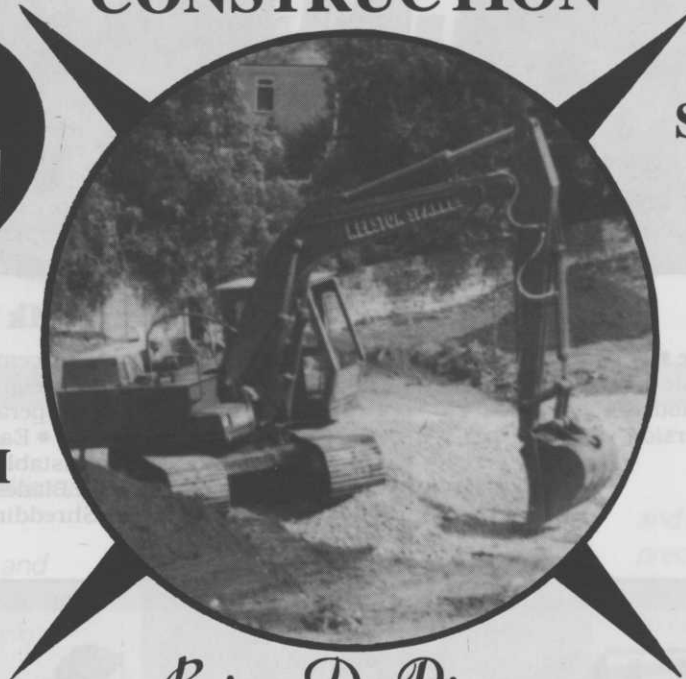
PES valves are available in two sizes and can be ordered with an optional pressure regulating device, the PRS-2, which senses inlet pressure and maintains constant outlet pressure despite fluctuations in mainline pressure. This ensures better sprinkler performance and saves water and energy. PES valves have a brass flow control stem and manual on/off capability. PES valves provide brass valve features, including high pressure operation of economical plastic valve prices.

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## **Watermation** FOR GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION

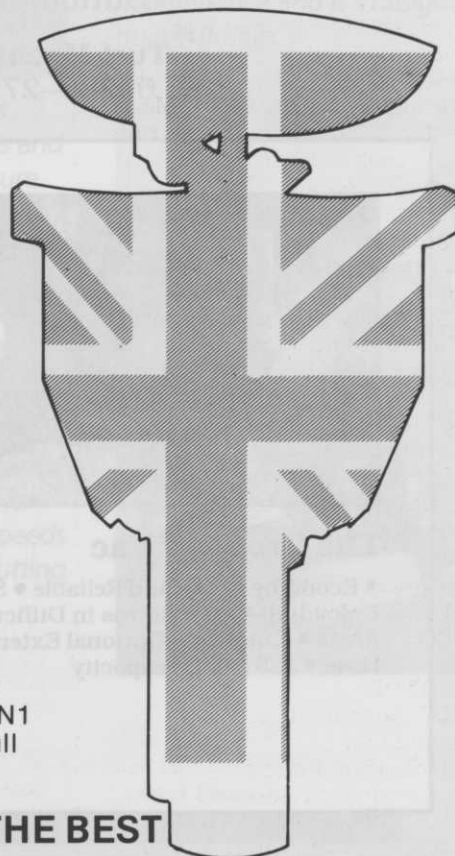
Rainbird sprinklers are made in California, so are Toro, so are Buckner. Weathermatic sprinklers are made in Texas, Perrot sprinklers are made in Germany and Roland are made in France... but

### **Watermation Sprinklers are made in Britain**

Along with their unique TW1 and TW2 computer controllers and other specialist equipment, Watermation have now designed and built their own GN range of sprinklers. Apart from keeping their own people in work, there are other advantages to buying British. The prices won't be subject to increase with the dollar, deutschmark or franc and there are always spare parts quickly available.

We don't expect you to buy Watermation sprinklers just to be patriotic. They are high quality sprinklers made from brass, bronze and stainless steel in a heavy cast corrosion resistant body. The internal mechanism has a multi fit guide plate so that it can be used to refurbish the Rainbird 21-47 range or the Weathermatic K range — thus saving money.

All the GN sprinklers have thick moulded green rubber tops and have been specially designed for golf course irrigation — the GN1 for tees, the part circle GN2 for the greens and the long range full circle GN3 for fairways.



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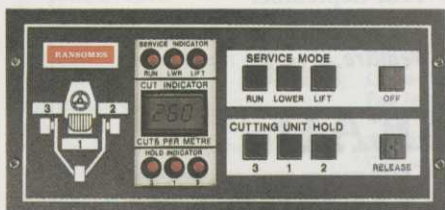
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Telex: 43144

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**Donald Harradine**,  
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Tel: 091 711561

**Fred Hawtree. Martin Hawtree - Hawtree & Son**,  
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Tel: 0993 811976

**Donald Steel - Cotton, Pennink, Steel & Partners**,  
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Redditch, Worcs  
Tel: 0527 63918

**Tom McAuley**,  
38 Moira Drive, Bangor, Co. Down,  
N. Ireland BT20 4RW  
Tel: 0247 465953

**Peter Harradine**,  
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Arab Emirates  
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**Cameron Sinclair - Cotton, Pennink, Steel & Partners**,  
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Redditch, Worcs  
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Tel: Dublin 691592

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Rode, Nr Brussels, Belgium  
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### Pier Mancinelli

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### Jan Sederholm

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K. Kristoffersg 3A, Sweden  
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### Overseas (Provisional)

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### R. Berthet

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