

JUNE 1987

Greenkeeper

FEATURING...
HENRY COTTON OPENS LETHAM GRANGE
PLUS
SEVE'S ACCUSATIONS ANSWERED!



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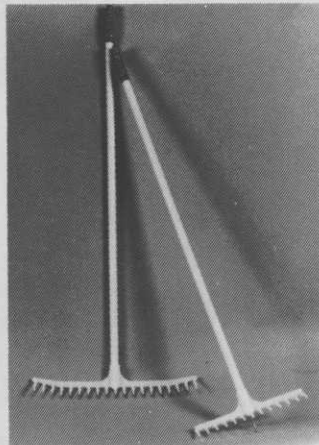
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This issue

JUNE 1987

Front cover: Henry Cotton, three times Open champion, is pictured officially opening the magnificent course at Letham Grange, near Arbroath. The course has already won much praise and it has been described as the 'Augusta of Scotland.' Certainly, Henry was impressed with the complex, which includes an hotel and restaurant, curling rink and horse-riding facilities. The maestro spoke with great wit when congratulating the developer Ken Smith on "turning a dream into a glorious reality."

BIGGA UPDATE

The association appoints a general administrator and there's news from the board of management

NEWS & VIEWS

From the north-west and the National Turfgrass Council

OUT ON THE COURSE



This month, we look at Letham Grange

SEVE, ARE YOU SURE?

Greenkeeper tackles the world's leading golfer...

A PROBLEM SHARED

Stephen Redman of the Yelverton club in Devon profiles his golf course

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NOTEBOOK

APPOINTMENTS

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BIGGA

Board of Management update

GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR

The General Administrator has been appointed and a full announcement will be made in the July issue of *Greenkeeper*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 1987 annual subscription invoice will be mailed out shortly to all members on the three previous Associations' mailing lists. The form will ask members to state their preferred mailing address, whether they are greenkeepers, trade or associated members and, in the case of Head Greenkeepers their club.

This information will be vital for the General Administrator to compile a new and up-to-date mailing list.

For any greenkeeper or anyone associated with the golf course maintenance industry who was not a member of one of the three previous Associations, a membership form will appear in the July issue of *Greenkeeper*.

THE ASSOCIATION'S COMPETITION FOR A LOGO DESIGN

The Board of Management has opened a competition for members to submit their design for the new Association's logo, title and colour scheme.

Entries are to be submitted to the General Administrator, British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorks - to arrive by July 31st 1987.

The winner will receive a complete wardrobe of tie, blazer, shirt, pullover immediately the range is produced with the winning entry emblazoned.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Association has a hospitality marquee (No. 39) in the tented village, complete with closed circuit T.V., bar facility, snacks, and commissionaire to welcome greenkeepers and their guests.

BUNKER RAKING

Continued on page 5...



Left to right.

Standing Kevin Munt, George Malcolm, Bill Lawson.

Seated Jimmy Nielsen, Walter Woods, Dennis Ayling, Paddy McCarron & Jimmy Kidd.

Some of the Board of Management members at their May meeting.

Around in one at St. Andrews



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BIGGA UPDATE CONTINUED...

Volunteers for bunker raking are still required so, if you are attending the Open Championship, please offer to help. A substantial packed lunch is provided, as well as free admittance to the course.

The bunker raking operation will be controlled from a Portakabin, provided by the R & A, beside the 1st tee. Any greenkeepers wishing to take part should contact Cecil George, 4 Alexandria Road, Lenzie, Glasgow, Scotland.

BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The first newsletter will be published and mailed out with the July issue of *Greenkeeper*.

All Branch Administrators should send their notes to reach the Editor by the 1st of the month preceding publication. After August 3rd branch news should be sent to the General Administrator.

IOG EXHIBITION - WINDSOR - SEPTEMBER 14th - 17th

BIGGA will have a stand together with *Greenkeeper* magazine. Board of Management members will be in attendance together with the General Administrator. The magazine will be announcing a change of title at this time.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

As an interim measure, regional administrators will supply a letter or a 1986 card overstamped to members requiring proof of BIGGA membership.

EDITORIAL PANEL

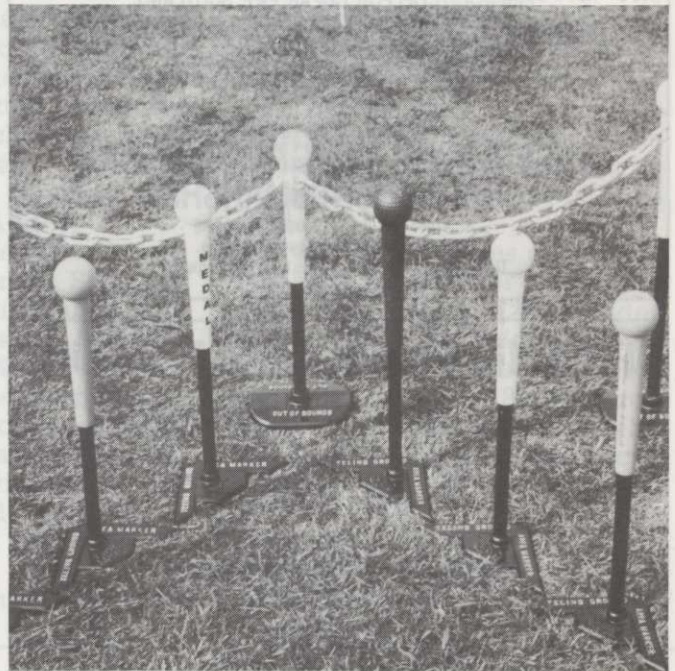
Jimmy Kidd has been appointed Chairman of BIGGA's editorial panel and is presently responsible for the Board of Management minutes until the General Administrator takes up his post on August 3rd.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This will take place at the Verulam Golf Club, St. Albans, Herts 17th - 19th August 1987.

If you have not already entered contact:- Ken Bunting, 1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1LU. Tel: 044 284 3359. Entry is open to full members of BIGGA. The tournament fee of £10. should be sent with your entry.

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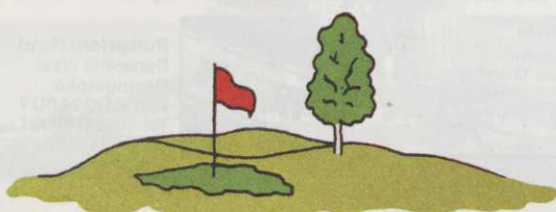
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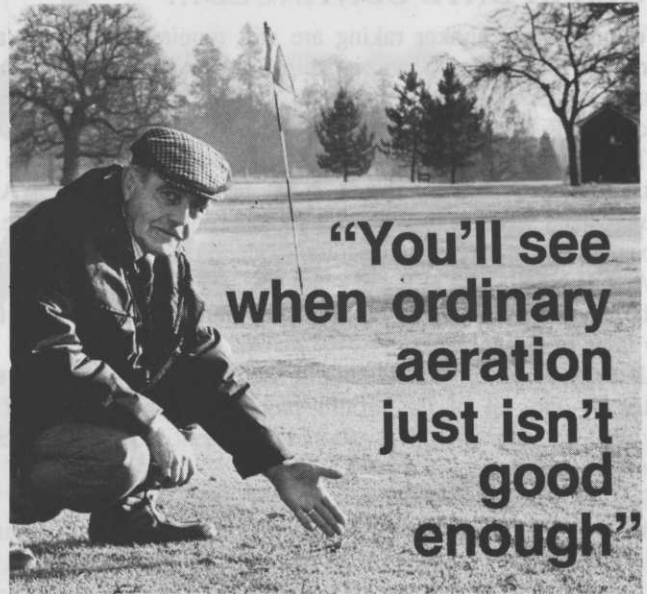
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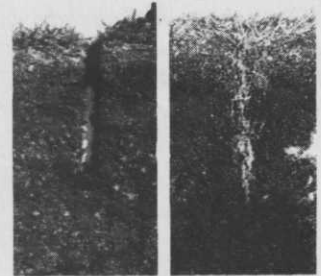
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North-West

The spring tournament was held on a chilly but dry day at Bury GC. There was a disappointing turnout of 25 members, who competed for the Hargreaves Cup. The winner was the former assistant greenkeeper from Wrexham GC, Terry Adamson, whose 69 included a hole in one!

Terry's score was matched by Andrew Peel, who had to be content with second net. Chairman Brian Moss was third.

David Berry, who worked so hard to prepare the course, finished fourth. David was the holder and, no doubt, he will bounce back at Heswall in the autumn.

Once again, 'Gypsy' Frank Tyson won the over-55s cup (Frank is the chap who brings his caravan to tournaments from Seascale, Cumbria.)

Finally, thanks to all who spon-

sored the day - SISIS, Burrows Grass Machinery, Martin Bros Sand, Hayters, Rigby Taylor, Trident, Rufford Top Dress, Maxwell Hart and Cheshire Light Tractors.

The final AGM of the old association was held on spring tournament day and the following elected to form the new BIGGA north-west committee: president - E. Staniforth; chairman - B. Moss; vice-chairman - D. Lucas; secretary - D. Golding and treasurer - H. McAddey.

The committee is formed by J. Lowery, W. Lawson, M. Sheehan, W. Merritt, G. Cannings, C. Lunt, L. Sprosten, A. Cross, M. Lewis, T. Adamson and K. Wrae. D. Markam takes an advisory role.

The SISIS invitation takes place on July 1 at the Cavendish club, Buxton. Anyone wishing to play who has not already received an invitation, should contact me immediately.

The section's most important

'battle' takes place at Saddleworth GC on July 22. Any member wishing to play in the Battle Of The Roses should contact Bert Cross, the competition chairman, on 051-724 5412. The match against the northern section is a very enjoyable social occasion, sponsored by Patisson.

Terry Adamson is hoping to organise a trip to Sweden in the autumn and further details can be obtained from Terry on 0978 83 2908.

A visit to Ransomes at Ipswich has been booked for November 19-20. The cost of £25 includes coach travel, overnight accommodation and meals. Members should inform their Burrows rep or me by June 30 if they wish to be included as numbers are strictly limited.

*David Golding,
Secretary.
Tel: 061-748 8592*

Dear Sir

I was interested to read the article by Peter Wisbey in the March issue of *Greenkeeper* and pleased that you are giving space to the important matter of pesticides legislation and the golf club.

Peter did a very good job of explaining the special problems of golf clubs during an NTC workshop at Stoneleigh in October and made people in the MAFF and other official bodies aware of the problems of golf, perhaps for the first time.

It is good that Peter is helping the two-way process of

information by his article for greenkeepers.

He refers to codes of practice and I thought it would interest him and your readers to know that the NTC is working to develop a special code of practice for amenity horticulture, which would deal with points specially related to turfgrass and amenity grass in a way not covered by the 'draft code of practice on the agricultural and horticultural use of pesticides,' which was available at the Stoneleigh workshop.

If we can get a code specially for turfgrass areas, we can cover points such as the proper procedures for spraying golf

greens and other areas where play is taking place all the time, as Peter mentioned in his article.

The NTC is still at the stage of persuading the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to set in train the arrangements that would produce such a code, developed by all interests within the industry, but we would certainly hope that *Greenkeeper*, perhaps through Peter Wisbey, could have a voice in drawing up such a code.

Your magazine's support for this would be a great help.

*John Shildrick,
National Turfgrass Council,
Bingley, West Yorkshire.*

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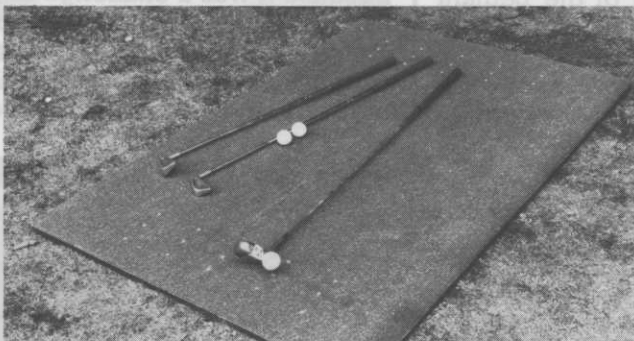
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Out On The Course



LETHAM GRANGE

Jim Grainger, course manager at Letham Grange, talks to *Greenkeeper* correspondent John Campbell.

THE opening of a new golf course is always a cause for jubilation among golfers in any part of the country, but it is even more important to the greenkeeping profession. Scotland has always had more than its share of good courses and now another has been added to the list in the shape of the Letham Grange Golf and Country Club, near Arbroath.

The inauguration ceremony was performed adroitly by the old master, Henry Cotton, whose golfing skill in an earlier age is still remembered on the famous Carnoustie links nearby.

Tribute was paid by members and guests to the way the course is being groomed and gradually brought to maturity by course manager Jim Grainger and his staff.

There can't be many greenkeepers with a greater wealth of golf course construction experience than Jim has under his belt at such an early stage. Jim, 37, is essentially an outdoor man, a great lover of country pursuits such as fishing and shooting. With his tall, muscular frame he is a natural athlete and was a useful boxer.

Idyllic

Jim and Jean Grainger live with their two children in idyllic surroundings. "I longed to have my own house with a little piece of land. I have been able to buy this right on the edge of the Letham Grange course and I am monarch of all I survey," Jim said.

"After leaving school and trying one or two jobs, I went to

work with Jack McMillan at Cardross Golf Club in the west of Scotland. I got a first-class training in all aspects of course management and upkeep and I was also involved with the building and construction of three new holes there.

"Afterwards, I moved to Durham City GC where I helped to build a completely new course. Then at Middlesbrough I brought on another new course until it was opened for play. Later, I went to Largs in Ayrshire where we did a lot of alterations to greens and tees.

"I came to Letham Grange because it was a challenge and it looked a new and exciting project in over 300 acres of beautiful country. It seemed to be an ideal piece of land for such a develop-



The 3rd green with some impressive housing in the background.

ment with a very promising future and I was keen to be part of it."

What did he think the main problems were on new courses? "Very often it's drainage - drainage should be done properly before construction work is started," Jim said. "Compaction is also another problem common to new courses - very often it occurs around greens. Experience has taught me to try and keep the movement of soil, materials and heavy machinery well away from playing areas to eliminate the danger of compaction in the early construction stages.

"If it has not been possible to use stone separating machinery in the construction work, due to weather and other factors, stones coming to the surface may cause a few headaches for the first 18



Letham Grange developer Ken Smith.

months after the course is opened. Golfers are annoyed when they damage an expensive club on a partially concealed stone near the surface.

"I found a good way to tackle the problem was to enlist a squad of enthusiastic ladies to systematically deal with the worst spots on fairways by prising out surface stones with a screwdriver. This was highly successful, but time consuming.

"We have a situation here where private houses are being built around the perimeter of the course as part of the development and it may necessitate access for mains services, such as water and electricity, over parts of the course. Naturally, we are



Scottish pro Harry Bannerman with Jim Grainger.

expected to reinstate the ground after the work has been done, but these are minor matters we take in our stride."

What advice did he have for greenkeepers working on new courses? "Try to be patient and remember it takes time and a lot of hard work to bring a course to maturity. Mowing height is very important and don't cut too close for the first couple of seasons until there is a good amount of fibre in the turf to act as a cushion.

"I would also recommend starting off with old machinery for the first season until the course has settled down, after which it is generally possible to use new equipment without fear of damaging blades on stones or other debris.

"As for running the course, I

deal with Ken Smith, the developer, on a weekly basis and this is a good arrangement. We have a golf club committee representing the membership and I occasionally attend their meetings as an advisor. I think it is important to keep in touch with the golfers to let them know what's happening on the course - it also gives them the opportunity to air their views.

"When I came to the club the only equipment was a set of Ransomes Magna gangmowers, which did all the initial mowing while the course was in a semi-rough state. We used a couple of old pedestrian motor mowers for the greens until we were satisfied that new machines would bring

Continued on page 28...



Jim points to the house he built for himself beside the golf course.

Mowing down Ballesteros

Golf: DONALD STEEL

SEVERIANO BALLESTEROS was largely preaching to the converted last Sunday when he delivered his sermon on firm, fast greens, even if he thought his was a lone voice crying in the wilderness.

The difference between fast and slow greens is roughly the equivalent of playing tennis on grass and clay, or trying to bowl leg-spinners on a wicket with bounce.

Margins for error are less. Touch, judgment and nerve have to be finely-tuned, but the false premise on which Ballesteros' based his argument was

that he was applying a principle regardless of circumstance. The more apt question is should the presence of professionals for one week in the year override what happens on the other 51? Greenkeepers don't offer tips to professionals on how to play, and so they should return the compliment. Preparing courses for tournaments in Britain in May is not the same as preparing courses in the southern states of America or even northern Spain.

Conditions rarely co-operate at this time of year in allowing greenkeepers to provide the fast greens that they would like and which most know is right. How often have we seen greenkeepers act against their better judgment, cut too low in a cold April and then face the wrath of tournament players because there is no grass?

Ballesteros will find that greens will get faster as the summer progresses, although I doubt anything in Europe will be as quick as the greens for the US Open or Ryder Cup at Muirfield Village.

Regular close cutting conforms very much with Peter Thomson's long-held belief that the art of greenkeeping consists not so much in knowing how to get the grass to grow as knowing how to keep it down. But whatever the complaints of Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer at St. Pierre, which last Sunday celebrated its 25th anniversary, Jeff Hawkes found no problem.

In his defeat of Ballesteros, he had a total of only 19 putts on 15 greens, so no wonder Ballesteros was quick to add that he wasn't blaming the greens for his defeat. Nevertheless, he would have been better advised to have kept his mouth shut.

At best, he stood to be misunderstood; at worst, he ran the risk of upsetting those who work their hardest for the welfare of the players for a tiny fraction of the reward.



Ballesteros... better to keep quiet

● REPRODUCED FROM THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, MAY 17, 1987.

During the Epson Grand Prix, Severiano Ballesteros criticised your greens. Why? And what did he say?

Why he criticised them only Seve can say. But from what I later heard, he felt the greens should have been faster if the European team is to stand any chance against the USA in the next Ryder Cup match. He said they had too much grass on them and he thought they should have been scalped. The fact that he was having a problem surprised me somewhat, as it was only three days before that I was told Seve liked the greens, but he thought that, if the dry weather continued, they might need watering to stop them from becoming too hard, or was it "firm?"

What was your answer?

His comments were made to me via a third party, Tony Gray of the PGA European Tour, and I replied that they were being cut at 1/8th of an inch, which is the lowest I would mow my greens and this conforms to the PGA European Tour guidelines for tournament play.

Did any member of the Press ask for your side of the story?

Only one, Michael Williams of the *Daily Telegraph*. Donald Steel, the architect and golf writer, was visiting the course on business and, from his comments in *The Sunday Telegraph*, he knows enough about greenkeeping to give an opinion.

Can a tournament professional compare United States conditions with United Kingdom conditions?

They can't be compared. However, professionals do make their own comparisons. Why, I will never know. I wouldn't compare conditions in North Yorkshire to those on the South Coast and expect them to be the same in early May, let alone compare courses in Augusta to those in South Wales.

What were the PGA European Tour instructions? Did you carry them out and did they support you when you came under such criticism?

Tony Gray inspected the course on the Monday evening. He was happy with its condition - putting surfaces were firmer and

SEVE, ARE YOU SURE?

Here we go again! This time, probably the world's greatest golfer, respected throughout our profession for his playing prowess, has decided to speak out on another aspect of the game. Fine. Seve is entitled - and better qualified than many - to his opinion, but, on this occasion, some of his comments appear to be misplaced. *Greenkeeper* interviews the course manager Seve 'challenged', David Jones of St Pierre.

smoother than last year. Any instructions were limited to where pins had to be sited and he knew that the Tour's guidelines on heights of cut were being followed. Yes, I think they were supportive, inasmuch as they accepted that to cut any lower would not have been good for the turf.

Would you ever consider mowing your greens lower than 1/8th of an inch?

As you know, St Pierre is the flagship of the Country Club Hotels group of courses. My main concern is to ensure that, for the many thousands of guests and societies that use our courses and stay at the hotel throughout the year, the courses are presented in the finest condition possible. I would not be able to be sure of this if we mowed the greens at less than 1/8th in early May. Under normal circumstances, we don't mow less than 5/32 and this height would not be set until the end of May/early June.

All my greenkeepers take a pride in their work. They all know that the course was presented in better condition this year than last and that it will be even better next year and the year after. Greens will become

firmer and faster not by scalping, but by good long-term management and by obtaining the right grass species to give less resistance to the ball as it rolls. This must be the aim of every golf course manager.

What do you think of professionals when they make this type of comment?

To give Seve the benefit of the doubt, perhaps he meant that, compared to Augusta, St Pierre's greens were slower. True! If Europe hopes to win the Ryder Cup, it needs to practise on greens of the same pace as the ones it is to play on. True! But don't look for fast greens in this country in early May, except perhaps on links courses.

What was Jim Arthur's view when he walked the course the following day?

Jim said the course was in the best possible condition for the time of year, with the grass species we have on the greens at the moment, which is the plague of most golf greens in our country, Poa Annua.

What are your long-term aims for St Pierre's greens?

These will be achieved through sound greenkeeping principles to bring about the change required in the grass content of the greens, which will give faster putting surfaces. Surely, it must be commonsense to realise that, if firm, fast greens were possible by merely scalping all the grass off, then every golf course in the country would have tournament standard putting surfaces all the year round?

What reason do you give for the Poa Annua problem on most greens in the UK?

I hope that, at long last, greenkeepers now know the reasons - too much water, the application of NPK fertilisers and compaction due to frequent play. Water can be cut down to a minimum, fertiliser applied sensibly in the form of nitrogen only and play can be counteracted by an increase in aeration through a regular slitting of greens programme.

It is all too easy to 'peak' up greens by feeding, watering and then scalping down for a four-



David Jones - few sought his side of the story...

day tournament. Any amateur lawn expert can do that.

You sound as if you are a firm believer in what Jim Arthur advocates.

Yes, I am. I have known Jim for some time now. I have listened and followed his advice and seen the results. There is no doubt that, if the principles he has advocated for many years had previously been followed at St Pierre and on other courses he advises, they would not have Poa Annua dominated greens. Too many greenkeepers don't follow 'traditional greenkeeping policy' and yet say they do. Unfortunately, the proof is in the pudding their members have to play on in winter.

Would it have been possible, bearing in mind the good weather you have had, to have brought the course on more by such an early date?

If are you asking could I have produced more grass, the answer is 'yes' by the heavy use of fertilisers. But the problem for Seve was *too much* grass, not too little. We topdressed the greens twice before the tournament, the last dressing going on at the end of April.

This incorporated a small amount of sulphate of ammonia, hoof and horn and iron sulphate. We suspended our aeration programme at the start of April.

Seven days prior to the Epsom event, all the greens were sprayed with a seaweed extract, which incorporated iron to produce a pleasant picture for

television. We used iron to avoid producing any sort of fast-growing sward, which would have caused the pace of the greens to slow down. Seven days before the tournament, we were cutting at 5/32 coming down to 1/8 two days prior to the event. This height was then maintained for the tournament's duration. The last verti-cutting of the greens took place on the Tuesday before the tournament. Fairways and tees were also sprayed with iron sulphate to give good definition.

What would the course have played like if we had had a normal spring?

I don't think that, apart from not having as many leaves out on the trees, it would have looked, or played, any differently. We wintered well this year. I didn't have the scars on the greens from fusarium attack that I inherited when I was appointed in February 1986, so I was not desperate for fill-in growth. If anything, the early spring this year caused the meadowgrass to flower which, from a pace point of view, would have made the greens slower than the week before.

Perhaps it's time the golf professional prepared for the course and stopped expecting the course to be prepared for him. Then perhaps we might see some true professionalism in golf, based on sound judgement on the putting greens and not geared to some sort of robot-like putting stroke.

A problem shared...

Stephen Redman (pictured right) is head greenkeeper at Yelverton Golf Club, Devon. Stephen was prompted to relate his experiences after reading John Campbell's interview with Laurence Pithie of Minchinhampton GC (*Out On The Course*, January/February 1987).

YELVERTON is an 18-hole course, situated within the Dartmoor National Park on common land known as Roborough Down. It is approximately 700 feet above sea level on the south-western slopes of Dartmoor.

The common is grazed all-year-round by ponies and a few cattle and, during the summer, sheep and more cattle are also put out to graze, plus the ponies foal down, effectively doubling their numbers.

The course, in general, is quite free-draining and the acid topsoil ranges from 8in deep in some places to non-existent in others.

The course was constructed around old mine and quarry workings in one part and more open heathland in another and the disused Devonport Leat crosses the course in several places.

Heather and gorse-covered mounds and deep hollows make up the features around the old

mine workings and wide fairways bordered by heather and gorse in the more open areas, with clumps of thorn trees, scrub oak and various other indigenous trees, complete the picture.

The grass is predominantly fescue and remarkably resilient – it never ceases to amaze me how well it stands up to the pressure of all-year-round golf and grazing.

Animal damage

One of the main problems is, of course, animal damage. Apart from the hoof marks of ponies (they also nibble at the greens producing a very unsatisfactory putting surface), the mess on a green first thing in the morning, after 50 or so sheep have chosen to bed down, must be seen to be believed.

We do not erect any fencing around the greens. It was tried, but proved unsatisfactory,



because of the diversity of grazing animals. To make it strong enough to keep out cattle and ponies and secure enough to keep out sheep meant that golfers had difficulty in getting into the greens.

So some animal damage is considered inevitable. I find conservative use of fertiliser and frequent topdressing seem to be the best way of maintaining a reasonable putting surface.

Another problem is overgrazing. It is impossible for us to define fairways with a cut as the animals tend to crop everything at the same height, so it is necessary to mark the edges of fairways with a line.



The carry from the 10th tee to the fairway, which is dissected by a ridge known as the Devonport Leat.



The 16th green at Yelverton is approached by way of a dog-leg fairway to the right.

However, the biggest problem of all is the rough – because of overgrazing, we are reaching the stage where the rough is gradually being eaten away. During winter months, ponies think nothing of grazing on the gorse and heather and any young trees are instantly doomed. Then, with increased grazing in summer, any new growth is immediately eaten down.

We are, at present, in consultation with the Dartmoor National Park's ecologist in an attempt to find ways of regenerating the growth of heather and gorse. Only time will tell how successful we shall be.

Our maintenance consists of lots of aeration work, frequent topdressing, a little fertiliser and regular scarifying and mowing of greens and tees. During summer, the chain harrows are rarely still on fairways. There is no watering system, but then

Dartmoor is one of the wettest places in England. You don't always get the water quite when you want it, but you never have to wait too long.

Spraying of chemicals is something we have to be very careful about but, fortunately, we seldom need to use them.

There is a greenstaff of four

(including myself), which is kept pretty busy all year round. The majority of comment from visitors and members is praiseworthy, but I dream of the day when the fairy godmother of greenkeepers will come and spirit away all the animals. Then we'll give 'em a course to be proud of!



The par-three 12th from the teeing area. "On a clear day, you can see the moors in the background," Stephen promised!

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Modus T Systems has recently introduced its turf maintenance equipment into the UK through the establishment of a distributor network.

The trade's acceptance of the system is, in itself, quite a success story due, in no short measure, to the ability of the Modus T System to interchange an extensive range of attachments automatically through the hydraulically controlled inner frame.

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People, Places, Products



Tony Cundall.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) now has Tony Cundall as sales rep for Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Staffordshire. Tony previously worked on the greens staff at Crewe Golf Club for seven years and became a landscaping contractor. He has lived in Holmes Chapel for 15 years.

Mark Mills is single and lives in Ashstead, Surrey. He will be working in the south-east as a demonstrator/salesman. Mark was formerly with SISIS distributor T. Parker and Sons, Surrey.



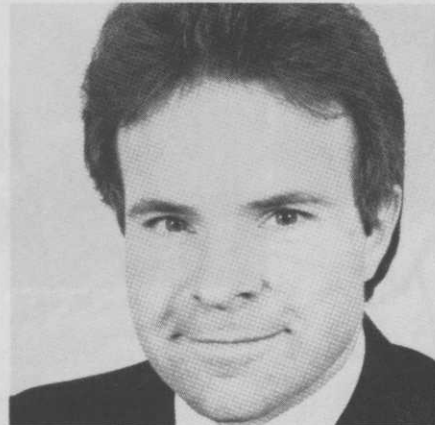
Mark Mills.

TORO has taken on two additional product managers. Barry Beckett lives in Ipswich and Bob Buckingham at Felixstowe.

A series of seminars has been held at **TORO's** head office, York, Evesham and Edinburgh. These covered **TORO** user product courses for the Greensmaster 300 and the Groundsmaster.

With a total dealer attendance of 65 and 170 users, **TORO** will continue these courses on its increasing range of professional

turf and lawn management equipment. For further details, contact Graham Dale, Lely (UK)



Barry Beckett.

The National Turfgrass Council has taken a major step to improve the database of independently published statistical information on the UK turfgrass industry.

It has brought out its Special Report No 2, giving the main contents and findings of a detailed research study of the amenity turfgrass market undertaken by Brian Symes in 1984 for BASF UK and now released in an edited version, with a new specially written section on domestic lawns.

A Research Study And Review Of Intensively Managed Amenity Turfgrass In The UK is the first published review of the subject since the NERC report of 1977.

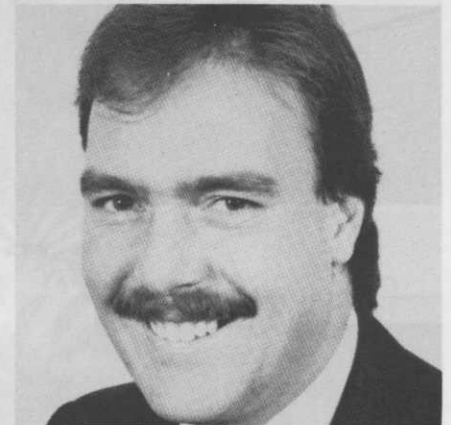
Symes' work does not cover semi-natural and open spaces, but gives data to compare with the NERC figures in the intensively managed and domestic lawn sectors and presents new comparisons of management intensity and likely market models.

The report is available at £8.50 (postage included) from The Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

Rolawn has announced further expansion plans with the opening of two distribution depots and new appointments.

Guy Longbottom, 29, **Rolawn's** unit manager at Fenton Barns, East Lothian has been made Scottish area manager to oversee and develop **Rolawn's** operations, which include a new depot beside the M8 in the centre of Glasgow, managed by Iain

TORO, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1QH. Tel: 0480 76971.



Bob Buckingham.

Campbell.

Kathryn Arter, 22, sales administrator from the company's head office at Elvington, York, has moved to Leeds to run a depot on the Cross Green Industrial Estate, serving South and West Yorkshire.

Rolawn has been chosen by the Glasgow Garden Festival '88 Company as exclusive supplier of turf for the 120 acre Clydeside site. Over 40,000 square metres of turf are being grown to specification, with a phased delivery. **Rolawn** is also contributing £18,500 in sponsorship to the festival.

"We are particularly pleased to be associated with the Glasgow Garden Festival, as our roots are very much in Scotland, managing director Ken Dawson said: "The company started there 12 years ago and most of the turf will come from our production unit in East Lothian."



Guy Longbottom.



Terry Cullen, Bob Cave and Eddie Stilwell.



Russ Jordan with Ryan and Woodsman equipment.

Following the retirement of Dougie Wood after 15 years with Victa, Bob Cave has been appointed technical and service manager. Bob has been project engineer with Victa UK for four years, having previously spent 12 years on research and development with Victa in Australia.

Two new appointments are Eddie Stilwell (south) and Terry Cullen (north) as technical service representatives. Also under-

taking a new role is Russ Jordan, who has been with the company for nine years. He is now company demonstrator.

Fen Turf Dressings is now able to add Farmgran Seaweed Soil Conditioner and Improver to its composts. After talks with Farmura Environmental Products, Fen Turf Dressings is offering customers the service of having

the free flowing granulate added at manufacture, thus saving an extra task.

Farmgran - part of the expanding Farmura range - is rapidly available to the soil and complements ideally the Farmura liquid programme.

As an introductory offer, the complete dressing will be available at a special price. Contact Fen Turf Dressings on 0858 64346.

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A consortium involving some of the most influential names in the sports and amenity turfgrass and landscape market has been formed with the objective of holding a national series of regional turf-care workshop seminars throughout the UK later this year. The companies include ICI,

SISIS, TORO, Lely, SAI and Famura. Each workshop will include practical demonstrations of machinery, as well as formal lectures from experts, such as the STRI. Each workshop will be chaired by Howard Swan, chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.

Keith Cleverly, ICI's professional products business manager, said: "this concept has brought together a group of non-competing major suppliers under the common theme of education through communication. It is right that they should be the leaders in this instance, a lead that will surely be followed by others in future."

Further details of the turfcare

workshops, including dates and venues, will be announced in *Greenkeeper*.

The Health and Safety Executive has published a free leaflet explaining how the Health and Safety at Work Act is put into practice.

Working To Make Work Safer is an introduction to the Health and Safety Executive and Commission and fulfils the need for a basic guide to its organisation and functions. The leaflet describes those who are affected and outlines the legal requirements of the act.

HSE's national network of area offices is staffed by inspectors who visit and review work activities. They give advice and guidance and, when necessary, issue enforcement notices and prosecute. The inspectorates' duties and responsibilities are outlined briefly.

All area offices and information points are listed in the leaflet. *Working To Make Work Safer* is available from HSE enquiry points at London (01-221 0870); Bootle (051-951 4381) and Sheffield (0742 752539).

The Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture poses the question: *Spraying - Are You Legal?*

Legislation introduced last October states that pesticide users must have 'received adequate instruction and guidance in the safe, efficient and humane use of pesticides' and be 'competent for the duties which they are called

upon to perform.' Cannington College can provide this instruction and prepare operators for NPTC certificates of competence.

Further information from Miss E. Savigear, Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Tel: 0278 652226.

Watermation

FOR GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION

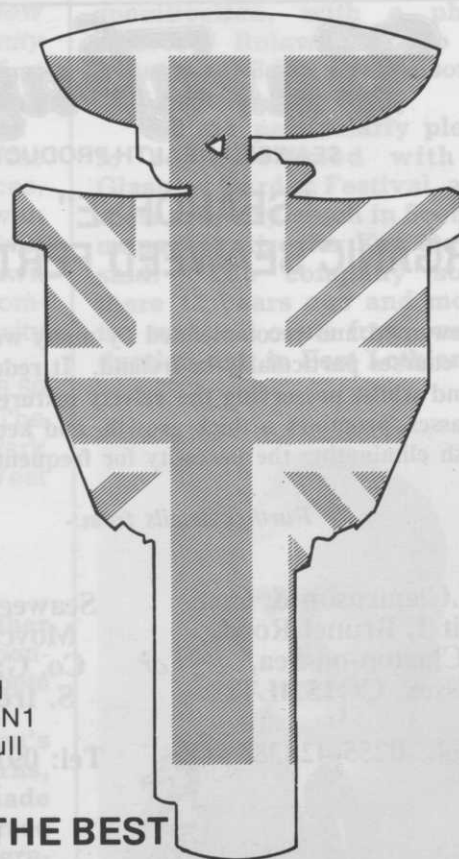
Rainbird sprinklers are made in California, so are Toro, so are Buckner. Weathermatic sprinklers are made in Texas, Perrot sprinklers are made in Germany and Roland are made in France... but

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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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In response to enquiries for pictures of turf diseases, the STRI has produced a set of 12 colour transparencies. Each set depicts the major UK turf diseases - Fusarium patch, pink snow mould, Damping off, Dollar spot, Take-all, leaf spot, Types 1, 2 and 3 fairy rings and thatch fungi. For Red thread, both general and close-up shots are included.

These slides are invaluable to

anyone concerned with diseases of turf, be they university or horticultural college lecturers, students of turf maintenance or employed in the turf management industry.

Each set cost £15, including VAT and postage, and is available from the Plant Pathologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274 565131.

Bernard Gallacher staged an ICI sponsored clinic for 50 talented young golfers from the Cleveland and Durham region recently.

The ICI Chemicals and Polymers Group in the north-east sponsored the clinic and a 30 team pro-am competition, which formed part of a week's celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of Billingham Golf Club.

In the pro-am, 90 Billingham members, selected by ballot, played alongside the north's 30 top professionals in a four-ball better-ball medal.

Billingham GC was formed at a meeting in the town's Station Hotel in May 1967, the course being opened some two years later.

Throughout its 20 years, many club members and officials have been employees of ICI, the current chairman being Bob Smith, a chartered accountant with the company.

There have been at least ten ICI captains, including the present holder, Mike Willis, who is a packaging specialist with ICI Fertilizers.

Bob Dodsworth.

By Appointment...

The Queen's Award for Export Achievement has been conferred this year upon the grass machinery division of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies.

Group chief executive Bob Dodsworth said: "We are, of course, delighted that the hard work and financial investment put into expanding our exports of grass machinery have been recognised in such a manner."

Over the years, exports have played a significant part of Ransomes' turnover, with sales to over 70 different countries.



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Name Change

Green's of Arbroath, manufacturer of professional cylinder mowers, has imported the Hinomoto range of Toyosha diesel compact tractors from Japan for five years and sold them throughout the UK.

With the addition of new models this year, a competitive pricing policy and further development of the sister company, Claymore Grass Machinery, as a UK based sales, distributing and marketing division, located at Witton, Birmingham, Hinomoto tractors will now be sold as Green's Compact Tractors.

Green's believes that the addition of its name will encourage a greater interest in the tractors as a British assembled unit distributed by a British company with a manufacturing base in Scotland.

The Green's range now includes a new 20hp three-cylinder diesel hydrostatic drive compact at £6,500, in addition to the 16hp and 20hp gear drive models at £3,900 and £4,995 (prices exclude VAT).

All models include turf tyres as standard. Cabs and safety frames, plus many other items, are available as optional extras.

Further details from Claymore Grass Machinery (UK), 37 Dulverton Road, Witton, Birmingham B6 7EQ. Tel: 021-326 7171. Or at Fergus Square, Arbroath DD11 3DR. Tel: 0241 73841.

The Massey-Ferguson proved an attention stealer.

Whatever You Want...

You name it, the chances are that Bridges Pennants can supply just about everything for the golf club, from flag sticks to bunting, safes to tee plates, practice nets to competition prizes.

New for the season are the Rotagroom electric rotary brush shoe cleaner with dirt collecting box at £358 (plus VAT and carriage) and the Litter Picker (illustrated) with 'extra reacher' - £10.50 for 32in, £12.50 for 50in.

Full details on the company's extensive stock from Bridges Pennants, 68 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2RR. Tel: 0702 612344/67393.

This Massey-Ferguson 20E tractor, pictured on a Bournemouth municipal course, is fitted with low pressure, high flotation tyres from Trelleborg. It is also



equipped with a front loader and a turf splitter by Dabro International.

Trelleborg is based at Rugby, Warwickshire - tel: 0788 62711.



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Lauchlan Likes The Bunton

Two Bunton 22in Greensmowers have been supplied to the Burnham and Berrow club by L.F. Jewell of Bridgwater, the local dealer.

Head greenkeeper Lauchlan Millar said he had chosen the Bunton Greensmower because: "The powered verticutter or brush attachment enables the

operator to verticut or brush at the same time as cutting the green and the machine is maintained easily."

The Bunton Greensmower retails at £2,950 (excluding VAT). Full details from E.P. Barrus, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0UR. Tel: 08692 3355.



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The new Wessex Cricket Spreader is a pedestrian-operated, spinning disc type distributor with an anti-corrosive paint finish and electro-plated distributor blades.

The spinning disc is gear driven from the axle through a heavy-duty oil filled bevel gearbox. Wide profile, turf pattern pneumatic tyres are ideal for use on fine turf.

The spreader can be accurately calibrated with nine gradations and spread width varies from 2m to 8m. It is suitable for granular fertilisers, powders, salt, sand, etc.

Application rates for granular fertiliser range from 17 to 140 grammes per square metre.

The Wessex Cricket Spreader is available through dealers at £225 (plus carriage and VAT).

Full details from Wessex Farm Machinery Sales, Trading Estate, Oakhanger Road, Bordon, Hants GU35 9HH. Tel: 04203 8111.

Lauchlan Millar with club secretary Mrs. E. Sloman and D. Short of L.F. Jewell.

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 Telephone: (0903) 783155
 Telex: 87683 POLY G.

SISIS At Saffron Walden

Head greenkeeper Martin Jones' course management policy at Saffron Walden Golf Club, Cambridgeshire is one of sensible use of water and fertiliser and intensive aeration.

As is often the case when following this sort of reclamation programme, the sward on the greens became generally rather thin. Regular aeration of the worst affected areas became progressively more difficult.

By last autumn, several greens could not be slit-tined without massive upheaval of the surface. "We had reached a situation where those areas most in need of aeration could not be aerated, and a demonstration of the SISIS Hydromain was arranged," Martin said.

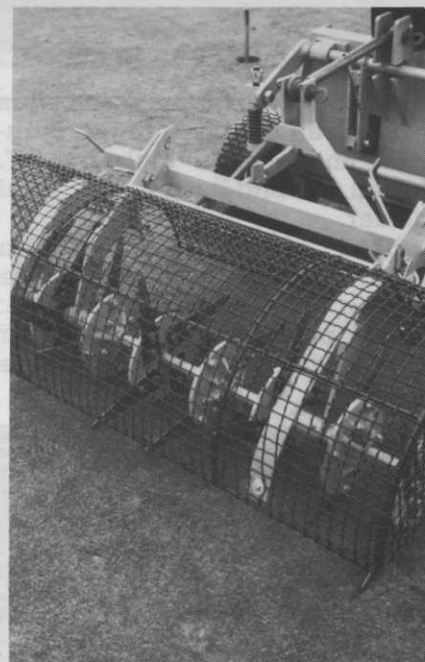
"The Hydromain Twenty Diesel, fitted with the deep spiker and six inch tines, was tested on three of our worst greens. With this machine, it was possible to slit-tine thin, bare areas in three directions with virtually no disturbance of the putting surfaces."

An order was soon placed. "The Hydromain has been used throughout the winter for all aeration of greens, tees and approaches. Once the new tines were 'worn in', all areas, no matter how thin the sward or shallow the roots, could be aerated.

"We now have the best of both worlds as we intend to run the Cushman System and the Hydromain System in tandem, using each machine for those operations where its performance is outstanding, which, in the case of the Hydromain, is aeration."



SISIS Hydromain Twenty.



Deep slitting aerator and guard.

Success Story

April marked the third anniversary of the privatisation of Richmond Park Golf Courses, Surrey and the owners, Golf Course Management, report that a thriving business has emerged in the heart of Royal Richmond Park, with some 140,000 rounds being played annually.

Co-directors Michael Moran and Gilbert Lloyd overcame stern competition in 1984 for control of the courses - their reward was a 25-year lease, granted by the Department Of the Environment, which ran the 36-hole complex before, to operate RPGC as a private concern on condition it remained a public amenity.

Some £200,000 has been spent on the golf courses.

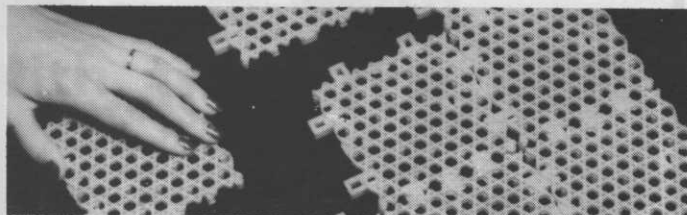
Holdfast Release

ICI's new soil acting grass growth retardant Holdfast D has received full provisional approval by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, authorising its sale, supply, storage and use in the amenity and landscape turfgrass market.

Holdfast D, as a formulation of paclobutrozol and dicamba, will retard the growth of grass for up to three months in medium to rough turf areas typified by the rough and fairways on golf courses, grass banks and slopes, roadside verges, motorway embankments, industrial sites, etc.

ICI has submitted further data to support full approval for Holdfast D, which is expected to follow later.

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of features including excellent manoeuvrability for ease of operation, low cost maintenance and versatility for greater cost efficiency.

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Must be experienced in all aspects of course management, with a thorough knowledge of course machinery and maintenance. (No accommodation).

Apply in writing with C.V. to:-

**Paul Byford,
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Effingham Park

require

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have previous experience in modern Greenkeeping. Good salary and working conditions but regret no accommodation.

Applications in writing to:-

**A. J. Lecky,
General Manager,
Effingham Park,
Cophorne, Sussex.**

**To place an advertisement
in the Appointments pages of**

GREENKEEPER

**PHONE LINDA BAKER
ON 0255 507526**



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COULSDON COURT GOLF COURSE

require a

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Coulsdon Court is one of the busiest and finest Public Golf Courses in the South of England. Applicants for this high profile position will need to demonstrate knowledge, initiative and an ability for strong leadership. Although accommodation is not available the salary and bonus structure offered is well above average.

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**David Barnes,
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Coulsdon Court,
Coulsdon Road,
Coulsdon,
Surrey.
CR3 2LL**

DOUGLAS GOLF CLUB

*require
a*

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Douglas Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course in Cork City, Ireland, has a vacancy for a Head Greenkeeper. The person required will have achieved a high degree of expertise in maintaining a golf course. Professional training an advantage. An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated at the top end of the scale, with accomodation provided if required.

Send full C.V. to:-

**The Manager,
Douglas Golf Club,
Cork,
Ireland.**

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for

DONCASTER TOWN MOOR GOLF CLUB

Salary negotiable, no accomodation available. Please apply with full details of qualifications, experience, references and salary required to:-

**The Secretary,
Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club,
Neatherds House,
Bawtry Road,
Doncaster.
DN4 5HU**

WOLLATON PARK GOLF CLUB

has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The person appointed must be qualified and have experience of greenkeeping duties.

No accomodation provided.

Applications to:-

**The Secretary,
Wollaton Park Golf Club,
Wollaton Park,
Nottingham,
NG8 1BT.**



DUNSTABLE DOWNS GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, machinery maintenance, turf management, techniques and have the ability to control and motivate staff.

Salary, pension and accommodation negotiable. Applications should be in writing and include a comprehensive C.V. including present slary and sent to:-

**The Secretary,
Dunstable Downs Golf Club,
Whipsnade Road,
Dunstable,
Beds. LU6 2NB**



12th green looking back to the tee.

**LETHAM GRANGE –
CONTINUED...**

them up to the required standard for the opening date.

"We have purchased five Lloyds Paladin mowers – two will be used on the tees and the other three on the greens. A set of Green's five hydraulic mounted gangs is used on the fairways and we have various leaf-sweepers and a Twose sub-air for aeration. A Kubota mini-tractor is on order and we intend to base a range of suitable attachments round the mini-tractor for greens work, etc.

"I have a first assistant and three permanent staff working on the course. In addition, I have also had YTS boys helping out. Ken Smith has farms in the district and we can call upon those workers when we are busy on major projects and, from what I have seen, they do a very good job with their big John Deere tractors. They also have other heavy machinery, such as JCBs and a Hymac, which are extremely useful for certain kinds of con-

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The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases – whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.

SUPER VERDONE* The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

GAMMA-COL* turf. Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.



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Professional

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.

struction work.

"With regard to irrigation, we have not installed any permanent system yet. Last summer, the greens stood up fairly well to a five-week dry period; it is our intention not to use a lot of water to encourage the fine grasses, such as bents and fescues, predominant in the greens. If it is necessary to irrigate, as a last resort we have agricultural watering equipment with powerful pumps that will allow us to make use of the many streams and ponds scattered over the course."

Jim Grainger has a deep interest in greenkeeping association affairs. "I was involved in the administration of SIGGA's Ayrshire section for several years while I was at Largs. Since moving here, I have lost touch with things but I intend to resume my support as soon as possible. We all welcome the setting up of BIGGA and the training and education programmes that will do much to raise the status of our profession.

"We have much to look forward to in the future."



Brian Pierson whose company provided course construction management, on the 17th tee.

NG RANGE.

TORNADO* Based on carbaryl, Tornado gives economical, effective and long-lasting control of casting worms. Because it works by contact and ingestion it gives quick results and good residual activity. The special liquid formulation is easy to mix and simple to apply. After application it leaves no unpleasant odour – so as soon as the grass is dry, play can continue.

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NORTH FORELAND GOLF CLUB

Require

a

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Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course maintenance, have through knowledge of modern course machinery, supervision and control of course staff.

No accommodation supplied.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing to:-

**The Secretary,
North Foreland Golf Club,
Convent Road,
BROADSTAIRS;
Kent.
CT10 3PU**



HIGHGATE GOLF CLUB

require

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must be experienced in use of modern machinery.

Salary negotiable. Applications in writing stating age, experience and qualifications to:-

**The Secretary,
Highgate Golf Club,
Denewood Road,
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London.
N6 4AH**



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The main objective of this company is to create a 5 star complex and we must have the suitable candidate to supervise the maintenance of this recreation centre.

Salary and living conditions negotiable.

Please reply in writing with a recent photograph giving full details and experience to:-

**Charlotte Fenn,
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Tel: 0666 52711 or 53919
Telex: 43144

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Tel: 091 711561

Fred Hawtree. Martin Hawtree -
Hawtree & Son,
5 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxford
OX7 1TQ
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Donald Steel - **Cotton, Pennink**,
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Abbey Park, Bagnell End Rd,
Redditch, Worcs
Tel: 0527 63918

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N. Ireland BT20 4RW
Tel: 0247 465953
Peter Harradine,
P.O. Box 1165, Sharjah, United
Arab Emirates
Tel: 009716 356446

Provisional

Alistair Rae,
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Glasgow G78 4AD
Tel: 050 585 371

Cameron Sinclair - **Cotton, Pennink**,
Steel & Partners
Abbey Park, Bagnell End Rd,
Redditch, Worcs
Tel: 0527 63918

Simon Gidman - **Hawtree & Son**,
5 Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxford
OX7 1TQ
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Overseas (Full)
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28 Ailesbury Drive, Dublin 4, Eire
Tel: Dublin 691592

Joan Dudok Van Heel,
Beukenlaan 4, B-1640, St Genesius-
Rode, Nr Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 02/358 3387

Pier Mancinelli,
21 Via Achille Papa
00195 Rome, Italy
Tel: 06 36036 35

Jan Sederholm,
S 252 34 Helsingborg.
K. Kristoffersg 3A, Sweden
Tel: 042 371 84

Overseas (Provisional)
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Schachen, Germany
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France
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Tel: 0582 597262 Telex: 887916

Contact: Peter Dell
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