

MAY 1987

Greenkeeper

& The International Greenkeeper
Bulletin No. 51

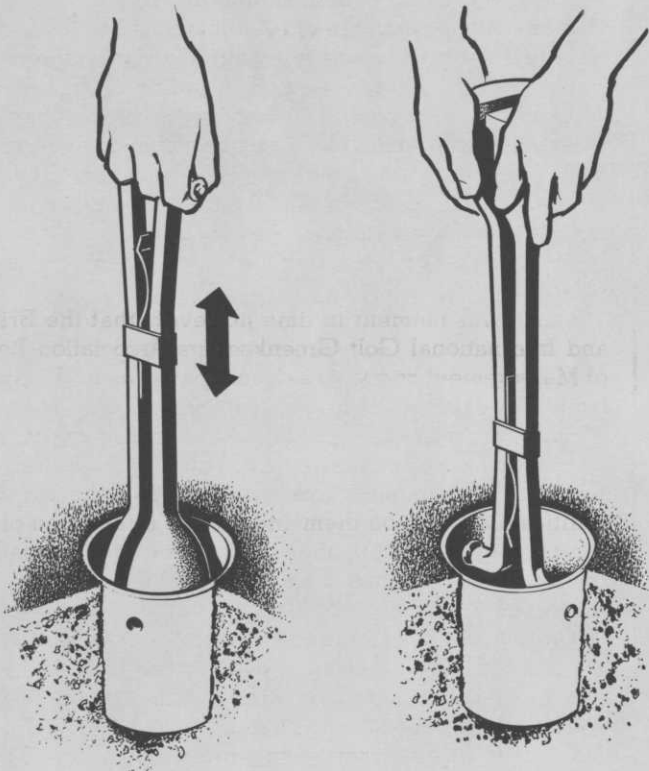
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The Official Publication Of The
BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

NEW

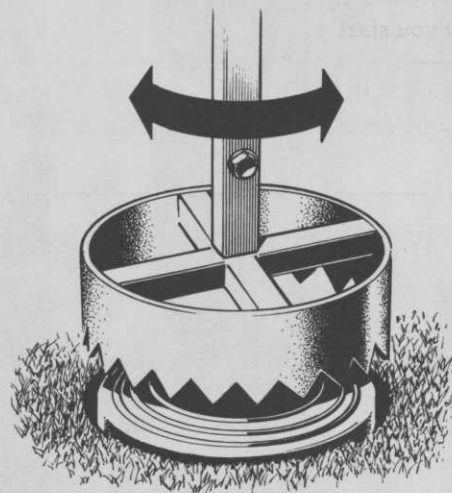
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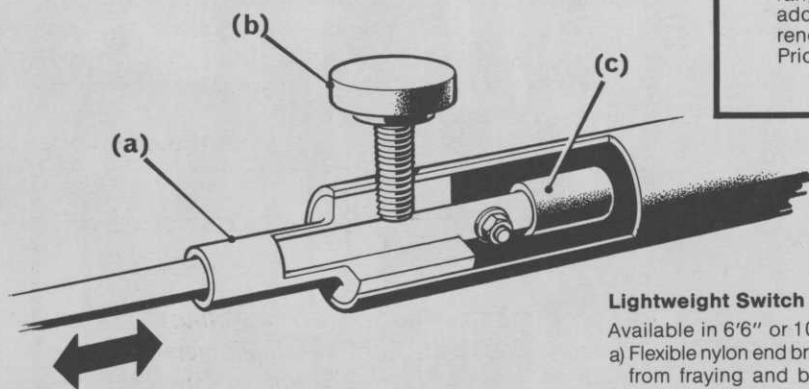
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This issue

MAY 1987

Front cover: The Jubilee Course at St Andrews is to be rebuilt, as part of the Links Managements redevelopment plans. Pictured are Brian Pierson the golf course contractor, Donald Steel the architect and partners Sandy Sinclair and Johnny Salvesen.

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BIGGA, PATIENCE IS ITS OWN REWARD

The greenkeeping profession is about to come of age. 1987 will go down as an historic year for all, from apprentices to golf course managers.

A few months ago, the old Associations, for the second time this century, voted to amalgamate into one proud body, bound by the objectives of promoting *all* aspects of greenkeeping and collaborating with any body or association with which there may be a common interest.

To this end the collaboration with the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews to achieve the formation of one united Greenkeepers Association for the whole of the United Kingdom has been most amicable.

It is at this moment in time however, that the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Board of Management requests extreme patience and support from all existing officials and members. To arrive in haste at decisions affecting the future of BIGGA would be foolish. Chairman, Walter Woods and his Board of Management are very aware of the responsibilities placed upon them and wish to inform you of the progress in all matters of obvious interest to the readers of *Greenkeeper* and members of the greenkeeping profession in the UK.

The search for a General Administrator to handle the affairs of BIGGA is almost over. More than 100 applicants were received for the position, these were vetted by appointed consultants Messrs Crew Butler Ltd., from a job description drawn up by the Board. Those short listed were finally interviewed by a sub committee and the announcement of an appointment is imminent.

The new Administrators main responsibilities will be, to run the Associations day to day affairs, develop education and training, arrange conferences, trade shows and tournaments, to liase with all other professional bodies, and above all to assist members.

The Board feel that this is an exciting appointment for the whole of the greenkeeping industry and trust that the Administrator will receive assistance and support from all concerned.

continued on page 5...



HOLIDAY COMPETITION RESULTS

In the March issue we ran a holiday competition in conjunction with C.M.W. Equipment Company, the golf course accessory & furniture manufacturers. Congratulations to our following readers who have won prizes:

£500 HOLIDAY VOUCHER

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"To maintain good greens under the constant hard wear our golf courses receive, we need fertilizers which work quickly and effectively. The Greenmaster

range gives us the flexibility and reliable response we need." - Mr Ray Mower, Area Superintendent, London Borough of Hillingdon Leisure Services Department.



"Our busy course is played virtually every day and the members rightly expect greens that play well all year. We've found that Greenmaster fertilizers keep the greens healthy, growing vigorously and resisting wear." - Mr Len Arbon, Head Greenkeeper, Woodbridge Golf Club.



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continued from page 3...

Every good Association requires a first class public relations and information vehicle sent regularly to all members.

A prospectus formulated by our consultants and the board was issued to a number of golf related publications, for the production of the Associations magazine.

BIGGA decided it wants a single magazine for the greenkeeping industry, to represent its views and to project its message and image.

A sub committee of the Board met with, and listened to, some very professional and well presented cases. In the final analysis, the decision to award a four year contract for the production of the magazine went to Fore Golf Publications Ltd., publishers of *Greenkeeper*. The magazine will be published ten times per year and will be sent to all greenkeeper members.

An editorial panel will discuss the content of the magazine, the panel will comprise the General Administrator, three greenkeepers nominated by the Board Cecil George, Jimmy Kidd and Bill Lawson together with the magazines editor Robin Stewart and Managing Director Michael Coffey.

The Association defined their requirements of a magazine as being practical and "user friendly", appealing to greenkeepers and club members alike. It should provide practical, technical and topical editorial together with enquiry and reply sections open to all those involved in golf. It is the intention that all regional news should appear in the form of a supplementary newsletter instead of being included in the main magazine, the newsletter will be received by members only.

Would all regional secretaries please note that from now on all news should be sent to: The Editor, *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. To arrive no later than the first of the month prior to publication.

A request for payment of an Annual Subscription for BIGGA will soon be mailed to those registered as members of one of the three previous Associations, when the General Administrator has taken up his appointment.

Some formalities have still to be finalised to enable the Association to function properly, including an analysis of the membership lists of the old associations members as at December 1986.

The Board of Management fully appreciate the concern the members feel over these matters but would again ask for patience, not panic measures, in the interim period.

Regional committees meantime must organise financial support for the future to permit them to be self sufficient. 15% of all subscriptions collected by the General Administrator will be returned to the area nominated. Already many regions have organised successful events that have raised funds at a local level. Every support for these events will be given by the Board and General Administrator.

To conclude, the regions have never been more important, officials by example, must provide stability at this time to set BIGGA on the right path. We owe it to the Association, its Board, their consultants appointed to assist and the faith the Royal & Ancient has in greenkeepers to handle our own affairs with pride, dignity and professionalism.

Editorial Sub Committee

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

To assist the Board of Management and in advance of the appointment of the General Administrator any person wishing to become a member of BIGGA, who was not a member of one of the three previous associations in 1986, should complete the enclosed application form and send it to:

**The General Administrator,
BIGGA,
Sports Turf Research Institute,
Bingley,
W. Yorks.**

An invoice for a subscription will be sent in due course.

Board of Management

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

Bunker Raking At The Open

The Scottish region of BIGGA are looking for volunteers to rake bunkers at the Open at Muirfield from 16-19 July. Any member can apply for as many days, mornings or afternoons as he wants. The requirement is for 50 greenkeepers per day the morning 'shift' is from 7.15a.m. till 12.30 and p.m. is from 12.30 onwards. One greenkeeper will accompany each match from the 1st to 18th. Substantial luncheon vouchers will be provided as well as an admission ticket — so get your application in early to: J. D. McKean, Scottish Region Bigga, 82 Drumbreck Road, Glasgow G41 9DW. You will be notified by post in good time, so that you can make the necessary travel arrangements.



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Surrey

The branch wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for all the hard and tireless work by Danielle Jones on behalf of EIGGA. We feel it a great loss that Danielle's expertise and enthusiasm could not be used in the new association and wish her the very best for the future.

Special thanks also to Alec Bradshaw, past chairman of the Surrey branch, for putting in a lot of time and effort organising branch affairs. We wish Alec well and hope he has a good golfing season.

Congratulations are in order for Paul Pearse, who will now take up the position of head greenkeeper at Staverton Park Golf Club. Paul has been the branch administrator for the past 18 months and has done a magnificent job dealing with correspondence, organising golf events, etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all he has done and hope he and his

wife enjoy the new appointment.

Congratulations also to Kevin Munt, who takes over from Gerry Coley as course manager at The Wentworth Club.

The Surrey branch wishes Gerry all the very best in his retirement.

Golf dates: August 7 - Sunningdale GC, McMillan Tankard, September 24 - Leatherhead GC, McGillvary Shield, October 28 - Laleham GC, Autumn Tournament and December 22 - Effingham GC, Turkey Trot.

Members should note that the date for the Cresta Cup is June 1 and not June 2 as instructed on entry forms.

Winners of the 1986/87 Huxley Bowl are S. McMillan and P. Pearse, who defeated M. Lower and A. Davy.

The new address of the branch administrator is The Bungalow, Hankley Common Golf Club, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey.

Jim Russell, Branch Administrator

David G. Allan Oils sponsor a Young Greenkeeper Of The Year Award in association with the Langside College, Glasgow. This year, the award went to Gordon Irvine of Turnberry Golf Courses based on his college results as a final-year student.

Sales manager Don Hamilton said: "We will continue to encourage young greenkeepers via our award scheme and film shows based on maintenance and lubrication of greenkeeping equipment."



George Brown, Turnberry courses manager and greenkeeper Gordon Irvine (middle) are pictured with Don Hamilton, sales manager of David G. Allan Oils.

London

First, it is my pleasure to welcome to the branch two new members, George Whitley, head greenkeeper at West Herts, and Derek Lithgow, head greenkeeper at Bushey Hall. We hope their appointments will be long and happy.

Following the April committee meeting, Derek Mason resigned for personal reasons and I would like to thank him for all his help over the past three years. I am pleased to welcome Brian Anderson of Pinner on to the committee and I am sure he will be a great asset to the branch.

At the same meeting, I was appointed temporary administrator until the next AGM. I can be contacted on Northwood 24737. David Low has stepped down as administrator due to pressure of work and family commitments.

I feel sure that all members would like to pay tribute to David for all his tremendous work since the branch was founded four years ago.

You will have been informed about the committee's decision to hold monthly branch meetings starting at The Capriole Room, Park Farm, Northwood on June 5 at 7.30pm. This offers members and their families an opportunity to meet socially and I hope we have a large turnout for this function in support of the event's organisers.

I also look forward to meeting members at the Bushey Squash and Golf Club at 4pm on June 18 for an evening match followed by a pie and a pint at the very reasonable cost of £4 per person. Please notify me by June 5 if you wish to play.

The autumn meeting will be held at North Middlesex Golf Club, Friern Barnet Lane, N20 on Tuesday October 6 at 8.30am, the cost of which will be decided later.

Finally, we would like to send our condolences to the family and friends of George Pearce, who died recently aged 79. George retired in 1981 after 45 years of loyal service on the greenkeeping staff of Muswell Hill Golf Club.

Norman Exley

BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

I wish to register as a member:-

Position Head/Assistant Greenkeeper

Name

Club

Address (Home)

.....

.....

Tel. No. Post Code

Trade Member

Company

Address

.....

Tel. No. Post Code

Position in Company

Region you wish to join

(TO BE COMPLETED BY PROSPECTIVE MEMBER OR ADMINISTRATOR)

I understand I will be invoiced for my subscription in due course.

Signed

Return to: The General Administrator, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorks.

JUBILATION FOR PIERSON

The Links Management Trust of St Andrews have awarded a substantial contract to Brian Pierson to carry out major work on their Jubilee Course.

The Jubilee Course at St Andrews was opened in 1987 on the day when Queen Victoria's jubilee was celebrated, but it was regarded then as the ladies' course, an alternative to the gentler challenge on the ladies' putting green. In 1912, the course was extended from 12 to 18 holes and, in 1939, Willie Auchterlonie, then club professional to the R & A, with a few men began its construction.

By 1946, they had made a pleasing course on the bayside of the dunes, not over-demanding, but ideal for beginners and high-handicap players, so wrote Pat Ward-Thomas in his book 'The Royal & Ancient'

Now the Jubilee is to undergo a major facelift, which will transform the course into a testing layout of about 6,700 yards, an increase over the present course of some 700 yards. Donald Steel, of architects Cotton

Pennink and Steel, was commissioned by the Links Management Committee, as part of its re-development plans for St Andrews, to advise on how the Jubilee Course could be upgraded.

Donald Steel feels that the course offers greater potential than any other he has been involved in altering. The Jubilee has no par fives which, it is felt, are essential if the course is to become a balanced test for the modern game. Additional length had to be added and the land has been found within the boundaries of the Links Trust ground.

The new design is a figure of eight with the course's main feature being the skilled use of the previously disregarded central sand dune. There is also a much greater variation in the direction of play than at present. The redesigned course will introduce some outstanding holes with both greens and tees varying in height.

The 3rd is the first exciting new hole, a par five of 550 yards, it uses the present 16th and 15th

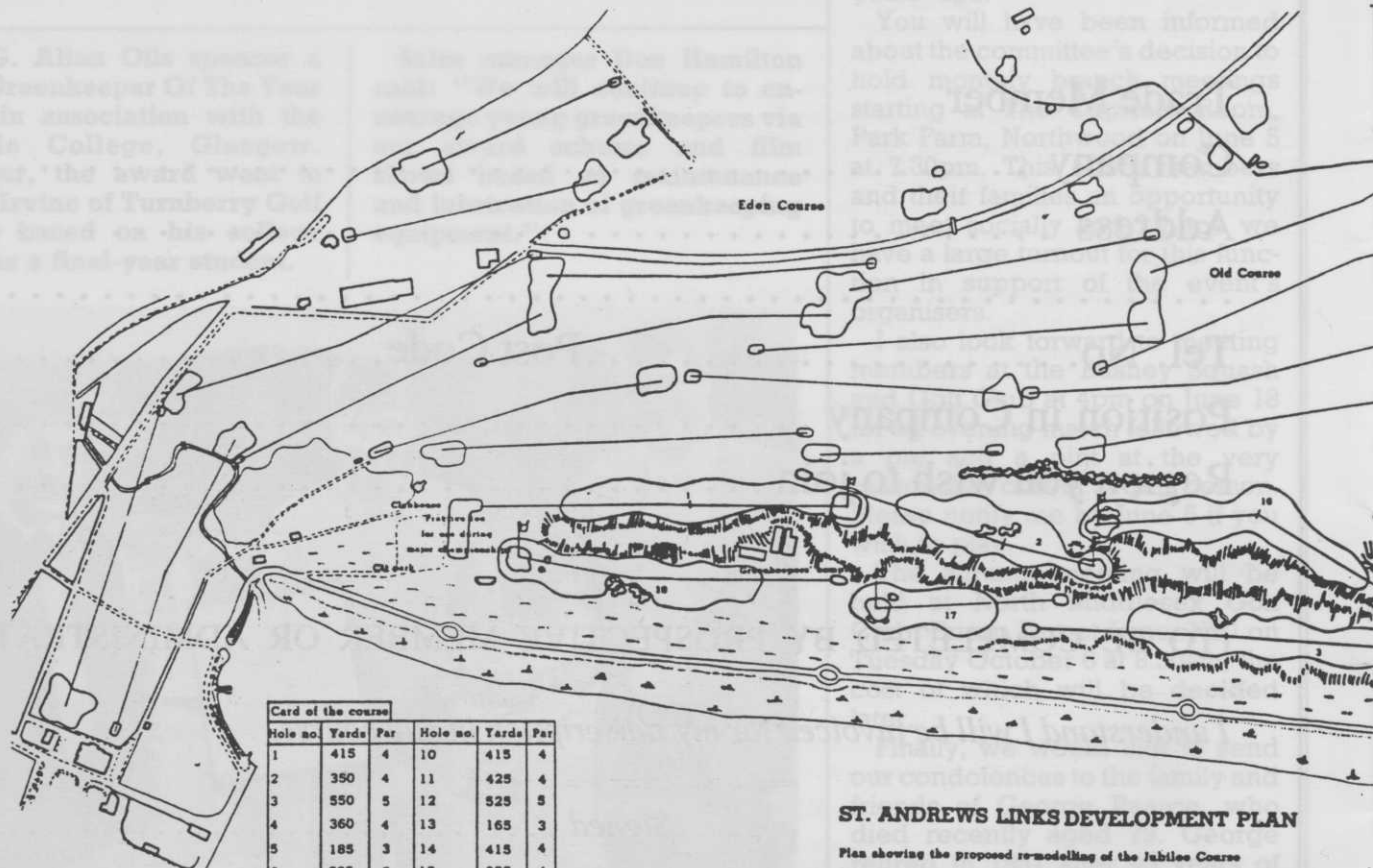
holes. The 6th, also, is two existing holes strung together, the 5th and 6th, to make another genuine par five of over 500 yards.

Both the 9th and 10th will break new ground, the latter being a stiff par four with a green guarded by a lone dune, although a final resting place for the green has yet to be found. A considerable amount of clearance work and contouring will have to be done by the Pierson team to get this part of the course to blend in with its surroundings.

For this work, the Links Management Trust have been fortunate in acquiring a substantial amount of topsoil from the excavation of a local swimming pool, reputed to be the site of a leper colony!

The 13th is an excellent short hole of 165 yards played from an elevated tee into the prevailing wind to a green backed by a gorse-covered dune. The 15th is regarded by Donald Steel as the star attraction with a tight line, between a huge dune on the right and severe gorse on the left, into a green set in a hollow.

The finish is also exacting with the 17th being a par three of 220 yards off the back tee and the 18th a par four heavily bunkered on the



Card of the course			
Hole no.	Yards	Par	
1	415	4	10
2	350	4	11
3	550	5	12
4	360	4	13
5	185	3	14
6	525	5	15
7	380	4	16
8	360	4	17
9	175	3	18
3300		36	3320
			3300
Total		620	71

ST. ANDREWS LINKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Plan showing the proposed re-modelling of the Jubilee Course

Prepared for

THE ST. ANDREWS LINKS TRUST

by

COTTON, PENNINE, STEEL & PARTNERS Ltd.

left of the driving area.

The specification for the contract was produced by Jim Arthur, who will visit the course during the alterations.

Brian Pierson faces a daunting task in radically altering part of the home of golf, but with assistance from Links Supervisor Walter Woods, his task will be made easier. Work has already commenced on green site clearance under one of Pierson's golf course construction Managers Nigel Booker. Walter, who knows every inch of St Andrews, has already pinpointed areas from where the construction team will be able to obtain suitable material for the creation of the "new dunes" and rolling contours, which will ensure the course retains its unique status as part of the home of golf.

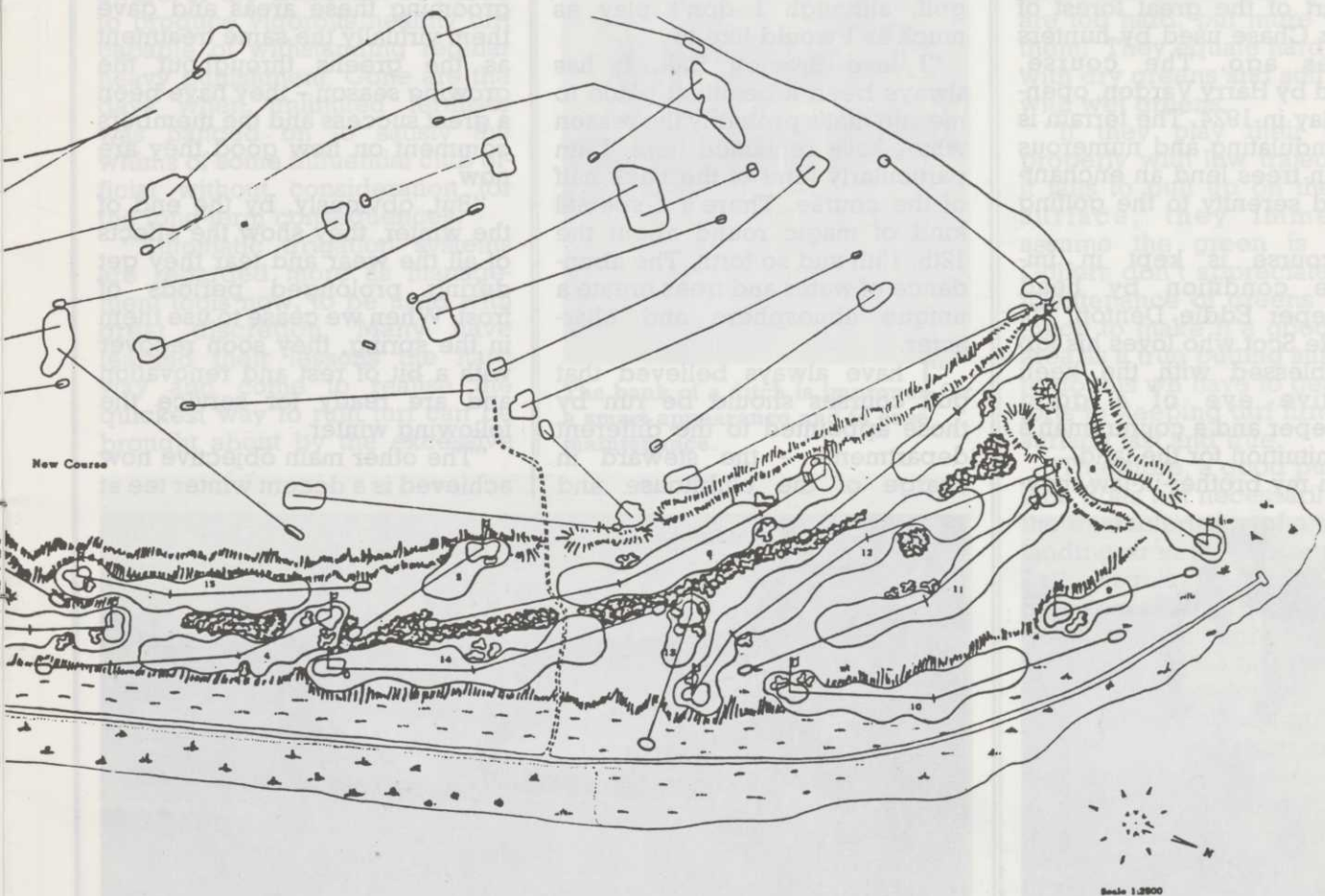
Construction will take well into the autumn and by the time Brian Pierson hands back the Jubilee Course to Links Management Trust secretary Alec Beveridge, it will prove a stern test. Stiffer than in the early 'fifties when John Salvesen, a partner in the design company, completed the course, never taking more than five at any hole with only a putter!



Messrs Pierson, Woods, Salvesen, Booker in discussions.



The central dune looking down the proposed 15th.



Out On The Course

**John Campbell meets
fellow Scot Eddie
Denton, head
greenkeeper at
Brocton Hall GC...**

"If there is a lovelier clubhouse or a prettier course in the Midlands, then I have yet to find it," wrote the late Tom Scott, editor of *Golf Illustrated*, about Brocton Hall Golf Club, Stafford. The mansion house, for generations the home of the Chetwynd family, dates back to George I and his successor, who frequently stayed there. It is said a ghost haunts the clubhouse, though few confess to having seen it!

The magnificent estate was once part of the great forest of Cannock Chase used by hunters centuries ago. The course, designed by Harry Vardon, opened for play in 1924. The terrain is gently undulating and numerous specimen trees lend an enchantment and serenity to the golfing scene.

The course is kept in immaculate condition by head greenkeeper Eddie Denton, 50, an erudite Scot who loves his job and is blessed with the keen perceptive eye of a good greenkeeper and a countryman's natural intuition for the land.

"When my brother-in-law mov-



Head greenkeeper Eddie Denton.



The stately clubhouse at Brocton Hall Golf Club.

ed from Scotland to become pro/greenkeeper at Brocton Hall, I decided to pack up my apprenticeship in engineering to join him as assistant greenkeeper in 1954. I have remained here ever since," Eddie said. "I was never wildly ambitious and little realised that I would eventually become head greenkeeper. My wife Joyce is a local girl and we have two grown-up daughters, Susan and Helen. My main hobbies are fishing, gardening and golf, although I don't play as much as I would like to.

"I love Brocton Hall. It has always been a beautiful place to me and that's probably the reason why I have remained here. I am particularly fond of the back half of the course. There's a special kind of magic round about the 12th, 13th and so forth. The abundance of water and trees create a unique atmosphere and character.

"I have always believed that golf courses should be run by those appointed to the different departments - the steward in charge of the clubhouse and

catering, the pro selling golf equipment and giving lessons and the head greenkeeper being fully responsible for the course. Sometimes, there are too many self-appointed experts - if a club has 600 members, they may all consider themselves well informed about the jobs of stewards, professionals and greenkeepers.

"A few years ago, we decided to make proper temporary greens for use during frost in the winter. We spent more time grooming these areas and gave them virtually the same treatment as the greens throughout the growing season - they have been a great success and the members comment on how good they are now.

"But, obviously, by the end of the winter, they show the effects of all the wear and tear they get during prolonged periods of frost. When we cease to use them in the spring, they soon recover with a bit of rest and renovation and are ready for service the following winter.

"The other main objective now achieved is a decent winter tee at



The 18th fairway at Brocton Hall.

every hole. In the past, we resorted to rubber mats, which were never popular. When we used the main tees during the dormant period, they generally took a lot of stick and were never really in a good shape for the start of the busy playing season. Good tees for winter play are a real bonus - they keep the golfers happy and allow us to present better conditions all year round.

"Not long ago, we had a serious thatch problem on the greens, due mainly to lack of aeration and infrequency of topdressing. It took about three years to get rid of the thatch accumulation by a concentrated programme of slitting and hollow-tining, combined with four to five annual topdressing applications.

"We cut back severely on irrigation and drastically reduced the amount of fertiliser, all of which made a marvellous transformation to the eventual quality of the putting surface. Last year, the greens only had one very light fertiliser application in the spring and they remained in pretty good shape for the rest of the year.

"Greenkeepers now are more aware of the treatment required to produce vigorous healthy turf capable of withstanding regular heavy punishment. Gone are the days when unlimited fertiliser was banged on to satisfy the whims of some influential club official without consideration for the long-term consequences.

"Automatic irrigation systems are regarded more as management tools now, to be used with great discretion. Many have learned their lessons the hard way and come to realise the quickest way to ruin turf can be brought about by the excessive



Tidy turf revetment in the face of a big bunker...

use of water and fertiliser high in phosphates and potash.

"As I said, everybody seems to think they can do the job better than those officially appointed by the club. When you are in the business of catering for the spor-



The bank of a ditch is improved for a smart appearance and to ease maintenance.

ting ambitions of all kinds of golfer, you can expect to be criticised occasionally. Golfers are very fickle at times. If they have a good game, they will sing the course's praises, but those who play badly may seek to justify their poor performance by finding something to complain about.

"I suppose it is the nature of the way golf is played that the greens attract the most comment, favourable or otherwise. We often hear golfers say: 'the greens are too hard, put more water on them!' They equate hard surfaces with dry greens and soft surfaces with wet greens.

"If they play their shot improperly with low trajectory and it fails to pull up on the putting surface, they immediately assume the green is too dry! Golfers don't appreciate that the maintenance of greens is not so much to make it a good landing area as a true putting surface and to do this we have to gear our efforts to keeping turf firm and the surface fast and true.

"Therefore, a good putting surface does not necessarily display the characteristics of a receptive landing area for a dropping golf ball. Regular aeration and topdressing does help to produce a good surface with the kind of resilience in the turf that will absorb the bounce and take the spin of a properly played golf ball.

"I have a deputy and three assistant greenkeepers, who are all good reliable workers with an enthusiastic interest in the operation and running of the course. We are fairly well-equipped, with a Cushman turf management system that includes a spiker,

Continued overleaf...



A lake comes into play on the 9th.

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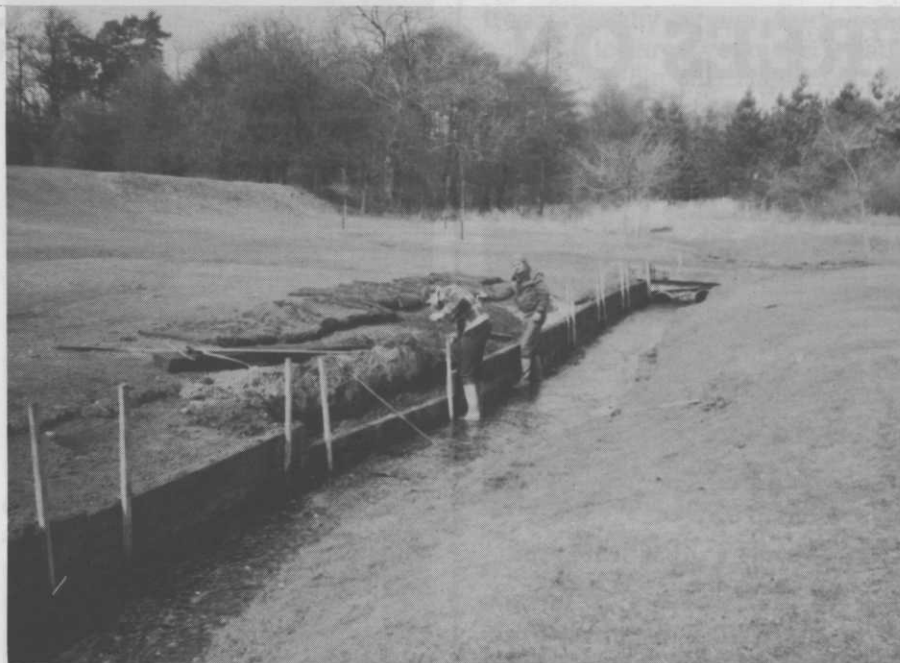


Eddie heads a jovial greenstaff at the Brocton Hall club.

hollow-tiner and topdresser; two Ransomes Triplex greens mowers; a Ransomes 180 with two sets of cutting units; three tractors, all fairly old; a set of Ransomes hydraulic five-gang mowers for the fairways and a set of trailed gangs for the semi-rough.

"We have a Sisis outfield spiker for the fairways, a Litamisa for leaf sweeping and collection, as well as an assortment of small machines, such as Flymos and trimmers. We recently purchased a Lawn Genie.

"We have spent some time this winter tidying up the banks of ditches intersecting the fairways. Traffic on these slopes has led to



Railway timbers were used on the bank of a ditch cutting across the 12th hole.

some deterioration in the turf's condition - there are ruts and other unplayable lies to frustrate golfers. We are in the process of building permanent retaining walls with railway timbers to present a neater appearance and reduce the amount of hand work required to maintain these drainage channels. We are also clearly defining the edge of the water hazard in compliance with the rules of golf, which will please all our golfers.

"A couple of alterations to our par-three 17th have also been carried out. The tee has been resited, bringing a lovely old stone tower dovecote building partly into play. An approach

bunker guarding the entrance to the green now has to be carefully negotiated. We have also altered the course of a winding stream and drained an old pond area to improve the aesthetic appearance of this area.

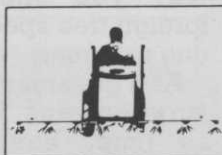
"Most greenkeepers would agree that the autumn and winter months are often the busiest period for the outdoor staff at every golf club. This is the only time we usually get to carry out important construction work and other necessary tasks to improve the course and facilitate more economical upkeep. Golfers who think we spend most of our time in the sheds through the winter months are mistaken!"

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TREES ON GOLF COURSES — PART 1



Trees can add a great deal to the attractiveness of a landscape.

IN this series, I'm going to explain how to select, buy, plant and maintain trees for golf courses. Some of my ideas you might find novel or controversial, but I make no apologies for this. If, by the end of the series, your awareness of the potential of trees on golf courses has been increased, then I'll have achieved my primary objective.

By Tony Gentil

Let me start by explaining what I see as the major benefits of planting trees on golf courses. On large areas of open space, trees can add a great deal to the attractiveness of the landscape. They provide scale, colour and interest. They are also useful for screening off eyesores and forming windbreaks to improve the micro-climate.

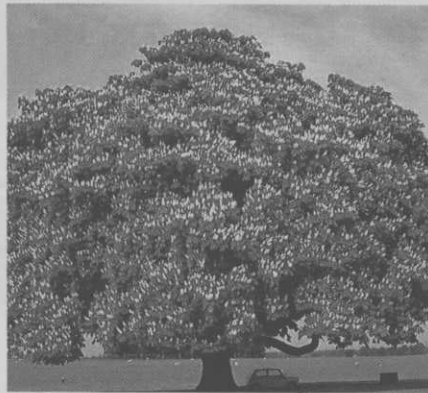
Trees will, to some degree, act as a barrier to noise and atmospheric pollution, important considerations where you have a course alongside a busy road.

Conservation of wildlife is uppermost in many people's minds and trees can offer a diversity of habitats that encourage and sustain many species of animal and plant under the threat of extinction.

Obviously, to the golfer, trees can feature as major elements to test skill. What isn't perhaps so obvious is that well-grown timber can find an eager market and trees could be considered as a potential source of income to the club.

So, having outlined the reasons for planting trees, let me tell you how to decide what to plant.

I must confess I envy the golf



Utilise open space by planting large growing trees.

course manager faced with the task of choosing trees. He hasn't got the problems of the town planter trying to grow trees in confined spaces. Complaints from town dwellers that trees are blocking light through windows, filling gutters with leaves, interfering with television reception and pushing buildings over all make you sometimes wonder if town planting is worth the effort.

When it comes to selecting trees for golf courses, I would say that you could choose any of the trees that are hardy in your area. Basically, if the land will grow grass, it will also grow trees. This means that you have a choice from several hundred different species and cultivars.

Conservationists argue that, if you wish to encourage wild life, then you should only plant native trees. I feel that this approach is a bit too restrictive. There are no more than a handful of tree species native to Britain and using them exclusively cuts down your choice drastically.

Furthermore, conservation is only one beneficial aspect of tree planting and there are other equally valid considerations. Even the most 'natural' looking golf course owes much to the hand of man and I see no reason why you shouldn't include foreign tree species in your planting scheme.

As a general rule, I would plant large growing forest trees, such as lime, beech, oak, horse chestnut and some conifers where there is ample room for them to spread unhindered. In formal areas, say near the clubhouse, I would use the



A standard tree.

smaller growing 'manmade' trees, such as cultivars of mountain ash and Japanese cherries.

On most courses, I would plant both conifers and deciduous trees. Conifers come into their own in winter, screening eyesores and acting as windbreaks. They also provide a superb backcloth to deciduous plantings, particularly when the latter are coming into leaf in the spring or having a final fling of colour in the autumn.

Tree planting costs a lot of money and, under certain circumstances, it is possible to obtain financial grants from bodies such as the Forestry Commission. If you are considering large-scale planting, it is certainly worthwhile finding out if your scheme is eligible for grant aid beforehand. Amenity societies and conservation groups might be prepared to help with financial or physical assistance.

The best method of obtaining trees for planting, without a shadow of doubt, is to visit several nurserymen and see the trees growing on their home ground. Nurserymen prefer this method of selling trees because it means that the reputable grower can show you the quality of his stock, which isn't easy for him to do if you are buying by mail order. A description in a nursery catalogue can never be a substitute for seeing the real thing. You wouldn't dream of buying a secondhand car without seeing it first and the same logic applies to buying trees.

Don't worry if you've never bought trees before, simply use your commonsense. Ring up a nurseryman, arrange an appoint-

TREES ON GOLF COURSES CONTINUED...

ment and then go along and keep your eyes open.

You'll find out most of what you need to know about the quality of his nursery stock even before you get out of the car. If the place looks a tip, with rusty machinery lying all over the place and debris thrown in corners, then you've a good idea of his attitude of mind. Have a look at his trees by all means, but I'll bet you find they are fighting for life among a tangle of weed.

By the same token, an immaculate nursery should be a guarantee of good-quality trees.

The nursery trade, like any other profession, has its own jargon and there are three main types of tree you could buy. First, there are 'forest transplants.' These are very small



Cultivars of mountain ash (above) and Japanese cherry (below).



trees, usually grown from seed and two to three years old - each will be 4in-6in tall. These are the cheapest and used in their millions for mass planting.

The second group are called 'whips.' These are small trees with a single whip-like stem hence their name. Whips vary in height from about 2ft 6in to 6ft. These cost about 50p each and are, for most situations, the best trees to buy. They are easy to plant, don't need staking, establish well and need the least maintenance of all the three groups.

Finally, there are 'standards.' These are the type of tree traditionally used for planting in streets. They have a trunk clear of branches up to a height of 6ft and, from there, the head develops, rather like a lollipop.

Standards are the dearest of all, costing between £10 and £20 each. They need staking for the first two to three years after planting. Although still popular, they never look as natural as whips and for large-scale planting can be horrendously expensive.

My next article will explain how to plant your trees.



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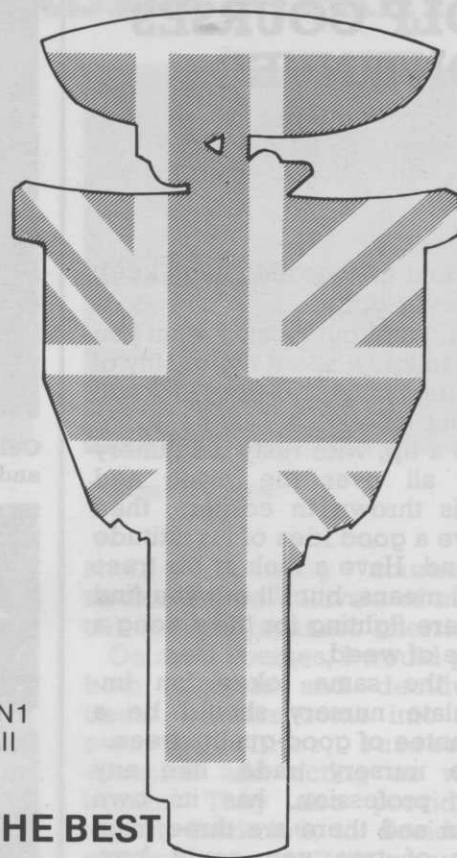
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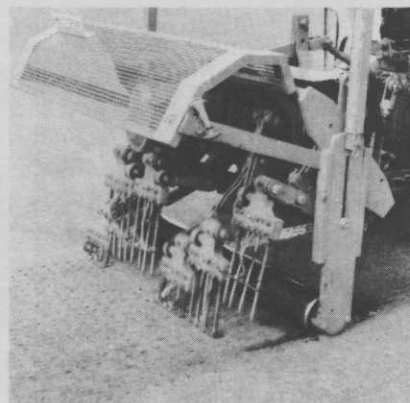
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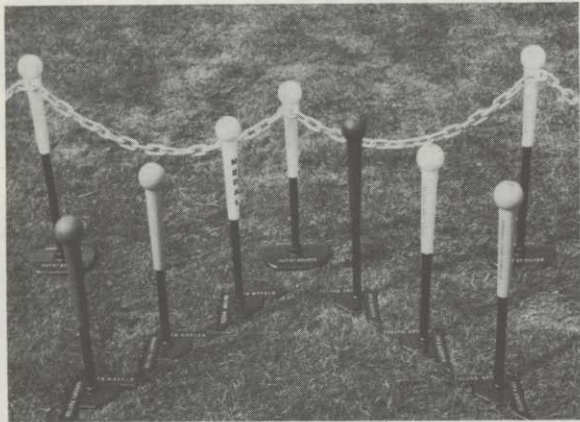
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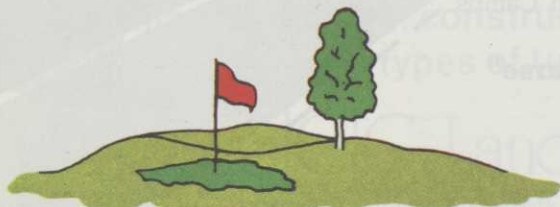
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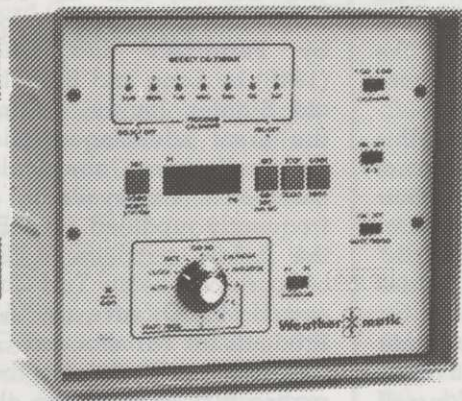
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MORE BOOKS ON SCIENCE

BY EDDIE PARK

"Praised be, my Lord, for our sister, Mother Earth, which doth sustain and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits, and flowers of many colours, and grass". So said St. Francis of Assisi. In the more recent times men seem to have forgotten this simple fact — that the chief figure in all this is still Mother Earth, admittedly with increasing help from the human race. Unhappily, we seem to have rushed up the blind alley of thinking that Man is now the Master and that he has the ability with all his discoveries to dictate what he wants.

So, in our attempts to maintain (and in many cases recover) our golf courses, now is the time to re-learn the laws that Nature imposes on US.

It is necessary with Soil Science to curb the very natural enthusiasm that is engendered by a fascinating subject. A useful start is to look in the Public Library for a copy of the "Soil Survey Bulletin" for your own particular area. The Soil Survey has, until recently, been financed by MAFF and has produced detailed surveys for most non-urban areas. A brief outline of local Geology, Relief, Climate and Soil Formation is followed by detailed descriptions of soil profiles which are linked with maps identifying specific areas. Even more useful is the section on the suitability of each parcel of land for different purposes (including golf).

In my last article on old books I mentioned the splendid 'New Naturalist' series which I said could now be found in bookshops at very reasonable prices. Imagine my horror when the following week I visited a bookshop in York and found plenty of choice but all at about £25! Dark thoughts came to me that the BIGGA meetings were being held in York and someone had ruined the market — probably that new chap at Wentworth (another book collecting nut!) Fortunately, the following week I was in Holyhead and found one at £1 which all goes to show you just have to go far enough. This one was "The World of the Soil" by Sir E. John Russell (1957) still one of the best introductions to the subject. Russell followed Sir Dan Hall as Director of Rothamsted Research Institute and also wrote the classic "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth" (1961) and, less useful, "Soils and Manures" (1945).

Hall originally produced "The Soil" as long ago as 1902.

It is a matter of golfing history that in 1926 the R & A set up an expert panel to consider the dire state of British golf courses; this eventually became the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Board of Greenkeeping Research. Both Sir Dan Hall and Sir John Russell were members of it. Perhaps the authorities took things more seriously in those days?

Another prolific writer in this field was G. W. Robinson of Bangor. He wrote "Soils their Origin, Constitution and Classification" (1932) and "Mother Earth" (1937), this latter being a series of letters on soil addressed to Sir George Stapledon (yet another member of the Scientific Advisory Panel). In the Teach Yourself series there was some useful information in "Good Soil" (1944) by S. G. Brade-Birks of Wye College in Kent. Coming up to date a word of warning would be in order. Some of these subjects in the hands of the academics have become very detailed and full of theories and counter-theories — confusing for the student who simply wants to learn the basic principals. Two books available in paperback form which are established favourites are "An Introduction to Soil Science" (1974 reprinted 1980) by E. A. Fitzpatrick and "An Introduction to the Scientific Study of the Soil" (1927 reprinted 1980). Both these books enable the everyday processes in the soil to be studied in as much detail as the individual wishes. A really simple book is to be found in the Science for Everyman series. "Your Guide to the Soil" (1965) is probably aimed at the gardener or student farmer, but it is easy to read and fairly instructive.

It may seem a bit superfluous to talk about books on the use of chemicals on golf courses. Everyone who goes to the I.O.G. Trade Show at Windsor staggers home with carrier-bags stuffed with enough reading matter for a year. Perhaps the main thing is to get chemicals into perspective. Modern research confirms that we cannot afford to disturb the balance in Nature with the unnecessary over-use of chemicals.

Equally we cannot afford to return to the state of affairs on golf courses prewar. I don't suggest you buy it, but an out-of-date book called "Suppression of Weeds by Fertilizers and Chemicals" (1946) by Long and Brenchley plus old Bingley Journals, bring home the great advantages today of a few, well chosen chemicals. Good handbooks are available and are frequently updated. S.T.R.I. and the B.A.A. produce a "Directory of Sports & Amenity Turf Chemicals" and H.M.S.O. give us "Approved Products for Farmers and Growers" (the latter is useful for those who realise that some of the chemicals we need for large areas can be bought much more cheaply from farm suppliers). Herbicides are especially necessary to the greenkeeper and it is important to use the right chemicals for the target. Sutton's "Turf Weeds", the Weed Research Organisation's "Garden Weeds" by R. J. Chancellor and "Chemical Weed Control in Your Garden" by J. E. Y. Hardcastle are all most useful.

Now for a bit more history. R. B. Dawson, the first Director of the Board of Greenkeeping Research, had been trained at Rothamsted under Hall and Russell and one of his earliest tasks at Bingley was to write the leading article in the new Journal. As his subject he choose Plant Ecology and he went on to write a simple outline of the principals of that subject which, in spite of all subsequent discoveries, still makes good reading today. A very close look at that subject is essential next time.

Ford Tractors Help Solve Drainage Problems On Golf Courses



A 1910 Ford Compact tractor with turf splitter and a 1210 tractor with mole plough at Thorndon Park.

With the combination of lightweight, but powerful, tractors from Ford and turf/grassland tyres, it is now possible to drain and maintain golf courses on heavy clay land throughout the year.

At Thorndon Park golf course, near Brentwood in Essex, the underlying clay soil had produced a bad drainage problem, particularly on the greens, resulting in waterlogging, with related

diseases.

To overcome this and to improve turf quality, a Verti-drain was purchased to remove cores of clay soil. The holes are then filled by a sandy loam mixture encouraging good drainage.

"We purchased the Verti-drain to improve the condition of greens and we required a powerful, but lightweight, tractor to operate the unit," said head greenkeeper Keith Chinery.



Ford's 3910 four-wheel drive tractor with turf tyres at work mole ploughing Dyrham Park fairways.

"The only lightweight tractor we found capable of handling the job was the Ford 1910."

With a lift capacity of 1½ tons, the 32hp 1910 Compact Tractor is powerful enough to lift and operate the Verti-drain and, when fitted with standard turf tyres, the overall ground pressure is reduced to a minimum. The optional creep speed gearbox was selected by Thorndon Park to provide additional control when operating the Verti-drain.

"The Verti-drain removes soil cores of ¾in in diameter and up to eight inches deep and, once removed, these are swept by using a brush fitted to a 16hp 1210 Ford Compact. This system takes less time, is less labour intensive and more effective than the previous system employed.

"With the versatility of the tractors, we are able to use the 1910 for gang mowers or a turf splitter at other times of the year, while the smaller 1210 is used for mole drainage on the fairways," Keith added.

Similar problems were encountered at the Dyrham Park Country Club, near Barnet, Hertfordshire, where surface water could be found on the fairways during the winter.

The course is situated entirely on clay soil, so a sub-soiler was purchased to improve drainage to a depth of 18in. With the very wet conditions, it was impossible to use the machine with an ordinary tractor without causing considerable damage to the turf.

"We looked at various tractors in the 40-50hp range and eventually selected a four-wheel drive, 47hp 3910 Ford, fitted with grassland tyres," course manager Bob Hornegold said.

"My initial reaction was that the tractor would be too big for the course, but I was amazed at what little effect it had on the turf. Previous tractors caused deep ruts.

"Since purchasing the 3910, we have been able to work with the sub-soiler even in very wet conditions. Drainage has been improved on the course, without the expense of employing outside contractors. The tractor can also be used for other tasks such as deep splitter and turf maintenance," Bob said.



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Recommended Reading



A full-colour, pocket-size product manual is available free from ICI Professional Products. The booklet contains technical information on all ICI products for the protection and control of weeds, diseases and pests in sports and amenity turfgrass, landscape and total weed control situations.

A colour-coded index enables you to find, at a glance, the information you require and full-colour weed illustrations assist in identifying problems.

And a free Casoron G granular herbicide dosage indicator is being made available by ICI. It enables operators to check and compare their soil-applied Casoron G application spread pattern with the ideal pattern as shown on the indicator.

The indicator visually shows ideal spread patterns for dose rates ranging from 40-160 kgs per hectare of Casoron G and G4.

These items can be obtained from the Customer Services Department, ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: 0252 724525.



New Features For Atco Royale

Seven improvements have been made to the top of the range Atco Royale for the 1987 season, which celebrates its 25th anniversary.

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The Royale also includes an improved large capacity grassbox - it is now made from polypropylene, which will not dent or rust. Cradle mounted for easy removal and replacement, cut-

The Atco Royale retails at about £1,000 - with the Autosteer seat at £145.



tings are thrown back into the box when it is removed, reducing spillage.

Other new features include an improved throttle control and cushion-grip handlebars. Large diameter side wheels are provided to the continuous front roller. These are particularly useful for cutting long and wet grass.

The Royale is available in three cutting widths - 20in, 24in and 30in. For further information, contact David Wooldridge, Marketing Manager, Atco, Suffolk Works, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1EY. Tel: 0449 612183.

The Continental range of agricultural tyres is now stocked by Axleline Eastern of Hubbards Bridge, Boston, Lincs. Axleline Eastern's stocks of these West German tyres includes the company's MPT 80 radial tyres in 10.5R20, 12.5R20 and 14.5R20 sizes to fit the Mercedes Unimog, as well as other agricultural and industrial equipment.

Tyres for all sizes of farm and garden machinery and tractive tyres for construction equipment complete the Continental range, available through Axleline Eastern distributors. Further information from Hugh Hartley on 020579 531.

Ah! Things Were So Much Better Then...

A notice detailing 'war rules' was recently sent into *Greenkeeper*. It was originally presented to the Ascension Island Golf Club by Whitchurch GC, Cardiff.

During the Battle of Britain, play on golf courses was interfered with by German bombers. To meet the conditions, the following 'rules' were written by Major G. L. Edsell, secretary of the St Mellons Golf and Country Club, Cardiff and generally adopted:

1. Players are asked to collect bomb and shell splinters from the fairways to save these causing damage to mowers.
2. In competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing to play.
3. The positions of known delayed-action bombs are marked by red and white flags placed at reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distances from the bombs.
4. Shell and/or bomb splinters on the greens may be removed without penalty. On the fairways or in the bunkers within a club's length of a ball, they may be moved without penalty and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced as near as possible to where it lay or, if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in any crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb or shell, or by machine-gun fire may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

People, Places, Products

The Wentworth Club now has the Sports Turf Research Institute as its course agronomists and advisors.

Dr Peter Hayes, the director, undertook a spring visit and was joined by Keven Munt, recently appointed course manager, who takes up his duties in June. They were accompanied by Mark Couchman, foreman of West Course, and Malcolm Sewell, foreman of East Course.

Mr Doyle-Davidson, managing director of Wentworth Club, said: "We are naturally delighted that Dr Peter Hayes has taken a personal interest in the Wentworth courses and we look forward to a long and happy association with Bingley".

The STRI has also been retained by the club to advise on the technical specification for the new South Course, which has been designed by John Jacobs Golf Associates in conjunction with Gary Player and Bernard Gallacher.



The R&A has purchased some 59 acres of farming land adjacent to the 9th at Muirfield, north of the road from Gullane to North Berwick. It has been acquired to ensure the long-term availability of this area for car parking and tented village activities during the Open.

Mark Couchman, West Course foreman, Dr Peter Hayes, newly appointed Wentworth Club course manager Kevin Munt and East Course foreman Malcolm Sewell.



Bernard Rooke (right) received his award from Bob Dodsworth.

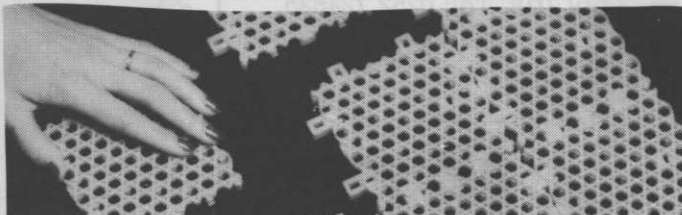
Following in the footsteps of his grandfather Albert Cole, who retired from Ransomes in 1937 after 51 years, Bernard Rooke has received his 50 years service award from group chief executive Bob Dodsworth.

After ten years as Ransomes' grass machinery technical sales and service manager based in Ipswich, in 1971 Bernard joined Ransomes Deutschland in Munster to take charge of the technical side, making a major contribution to the company's success in the West German market.

During the past six months, he has been Ransomes' technical sales and service specialist for Europe, with special responsibilities for new products.

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Ian Knipe, owner of the 18-hole Lakey Hill club at Hyde, Wareham, Dorset, took delivery of two new items of Cushman equipment recently from Huxleys area manager Martin Cooke.

The Cushman Front Line ride-on rotary mower, pictured left, was the first unit to be supplied in Britain by Huxleys equipped with the latest 21.5hp three-cylinder diesel engine. This top-of-the-range machine also features full power steering and can be supplied with a choice of 60in or 72in side- or rear-discharge cutting decks.

The new Cushman Three-Wheel Turf Truckster will be used with the club's existing Huxley and Cushman turf maintenance and transport attachments.

Lakey Hill has over 700 playing members. Following their purchase of the club just over a year ago, Mr and Mrs Knipe initiated a £400,000 development and refurbishment programme for the clubhouse and course.

A new pro's shop (left background) has opened recently, while a 24-bay driving range is under construction.

Ian Knipe (right) with the new Cushman equipment at Lakey Hill.



BASF has appointed Hodges and Moss distributor of Compo Floranid fertilisers in the West Midlands.

Based at Shrewsbury, the recently formed industrial and amenities division of Hodges and Moss has established itself as a major supplier of products and services to the amenity market in Shropshire, Cheshire,

Staffordshire and North Wales.

Floranid is suited to modern intensively managed areas that demand high slow-release content fertilisers. It is also able to resist the leaching caused by the region's relatively high rainfall.

Hodges and Moss can be visited at its premises on Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury or contacted on 0743 241277.

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People, Places, Products
Continued...



David Wall.

David Wall has been appointed technical rep for Rigby Taylor (South), covering selected accounts in Surrey, south-west London and the west and north-west territories of London.

David will continue to live at Leatherhead, Surrey. He is assistant manager of Sutton United FC and holds an FA coaching badge. David was coach of Leatherhead FC during the FA Cup run in 1974 and accompanied them to Wembley for the 1978 FA Trophy.

Mike Shephard has joined the amenity and industrial products technical sales team at Synchemicals. He will cover the north of England from the Scottish Border to the Midlands. Mike was previously employed in a similar role at Erin Marketing.

Norman Jones, director of Birds Grass Care at Bancyfelin, Carmarthen retired recently.

Following service in the RAF, Norman joined Birds in 1959 covering the old county of Monmouthshire as a sales engineer. He was then made manager of the newly opened branch at Bancyfelin. Norman became a director of Birds in 1977.

The depot will now be supervised by Steve Mathews, who joined the company in 1981 and has been responsible for the parts and service department.

Richard Williams has been appointed sales engineer. Richard, 31, will be based at Willsbridge, near Keynsham. Richard worked as a greenkeeper and service engineer before joining Birds a year ago.

Birds Grass Care has joined forces with Kubota to market its range of compact tractors in South Wales and the west of England. Pictured is general manager Jeff Bird selling the first Kubota to a local contractor.



Top: Steve Mathews. Above: Richard Williams.



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Victa (UK) of Basingstoke and Victa of Sydney, Australia have become part of the Reil Corporation of Australia. The companies have been acquired from Allegheny International USA and the agreement includes the purchase of the Sunbeam Pacific Division of Allegheny International.

John Edmunds, managing director of Victa (UK), said: "This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop our already expanding and profitable grass machinery business in the UK and Europe. Our plans for further expansion can now be implemented and we can go forward with confidence."

The National Turfgrass Council is holding its fourth residential seminar at the Post House Hotel, Rye Hill, Allesley, Coventry on October 21-22. The theme is *Water Management for Turf-grasses*.

Drainage techniques, the latest irrigation technology and how to manage water features on golf

courses or country parks will be among the many aspects covered in the seminar by a team of 13 speakers.

The cost is £96, for those booking in advance, which covers all expenses (accommodation, meals and seminar proceedings). Further details and booking form from the Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

A video, available on free loan, shows the full range of hydraulic reel-mowers designed and built by Huxleys Grass Machinery specifically for use with compact and smaller-sized tractors. Six mowers, with working widths from 5ft 6in to 11ft 6in, are featured in the seven minute video, which is available in either VHS or Beta formats from Huxleys Grass Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hants SO24 9BL. Tel: 0962 733222.

A new company has been established to offer systems for

selective weed control in municipal, industrial and horticultural situations.

Called Spot-on Systems, it is based at Kidderminster, Worcestershire and operates across the UK through a network of distributors. It is headed by Alan Bradbury as managing director and James Bradbury as sales director.

Further information on the systems and chemicals is available from James Bradbury at Spot-on Systems, 116 Chester Road South, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. Tel: 0562 748316.

Ian Marshall, greenkeeper at Wellingborough, is this year's Northamptonshire captain. Ian, in fact, has a wealth of county golf experience. He first played for Dorset and won the county championship in 1967 when aged seventeen. He has also appeared for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Now playing off three, Ian has won the Wellingborough club title three times and is the current holder.

HA 1384

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International Deal For Nomix

Bristol-based Nomix Manufacturing, makers of low-volume spraying systems, have finalised a deal with USA chemical multinational Monsanto.

Monsanto has been licensed by Nomix to distribute its equipment and use the Nomix trademark throughout the world. Monsanto has acquired a minority stake in Nomix and, over the next ten years, Nomix estimates that exports and royalty payments will exceed £20 million.

Nomix founder and managing director David Gill said: "The agreement provides our system with immediate export outlets, particularly in North America, and we believe it recognises the pre-eminence of Nomix's technology not only in the UK, but worldwide."

The Nomix spraying system, with its high level of safety and operator protection, is, Monsanto believes, indicative of the way the market will develop.

Nomix Manufacturing was founded by David Gill, who



Monsanto president Nick Redding with David Gill.

previously sold low-volume spraying equipment. In just over three years, the company has established itself as one of the UK's leading manufacturers of low-volume herbicide spraying equipment.

It was dissatisfaction with conventional spraying systems, which meant the mixing of herbicides and water, that led David Gill to develop his new spraying system. Conventional spraying systems are wasteful, cannot be controlled and can create problems of herbicide drift and creep.

The company claims that the Nomix spraying system is safer and more efficient than conventional knapsack spraying systems. It incorporates a spinning disc that creates droplets of herbicide which can be seen by the operator when spraying, assisting control and confining spraying to a precise area, therefore eliminating drift problems.

The Nomix system is a major improvement for operators, especially as the pre-mixed herbicide requires no direct operator contact.

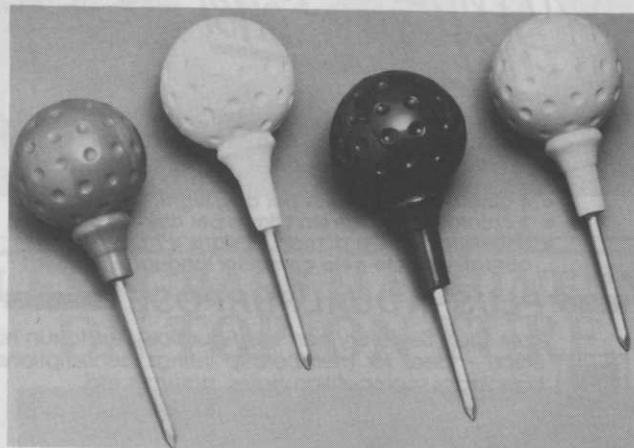
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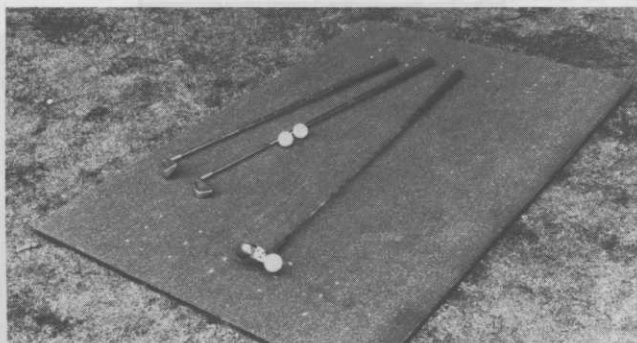
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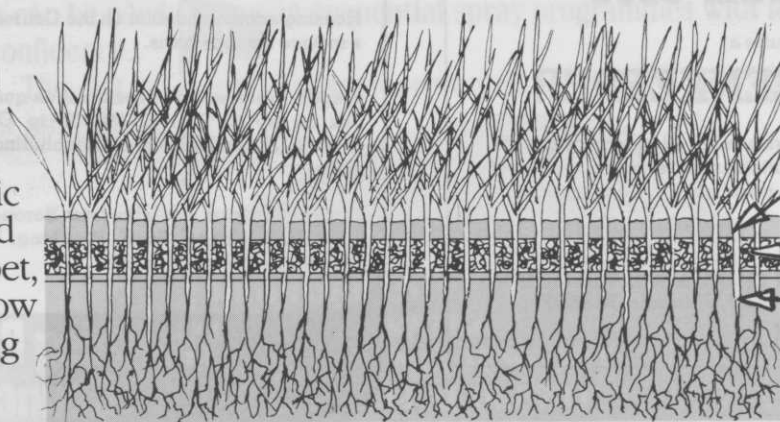
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require a

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Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, use and maintenance of machinery, and staff supervision. Salary negotiable. Accommodation available.

Please apply in writing, giving age and experience to:

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Applications are invited from greenkeepers with a high degree of competence and experience in the Theory and Practice of Golf Course Management, the use and maintenance of all modern golf course machinery and the ability and lead the greenkeeping staff.

There is no accommodation but the salary will be commensurate with a club of this standing.

It is proposed to complete interviews and to make a decision on the appointment by September of 1987.

Applications, supported by full details of past experience, including courses attended in greenkeeping etc, should be sent, not later than 1st July 1987 to:

**The Secretary
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Application form available from Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing. Tel: (0903) 39999 ext 289. Closing date: 29th May 1987

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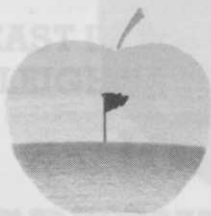
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The successful applicant will be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping.

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Written applications with full details of age, experience and qualifications to:

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Tel: Ringwood (04254) 6261

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Tel: 09327 88301 Telex: 928767
Contact: Sales Department

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Dorset BH21 6QY
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