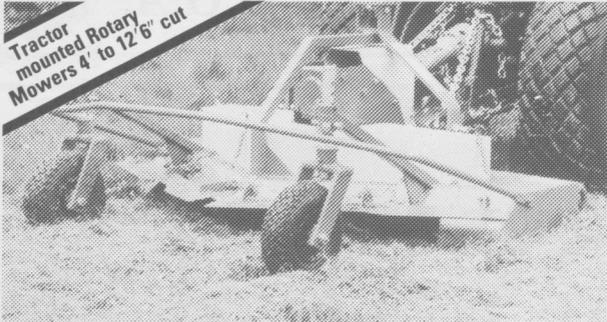
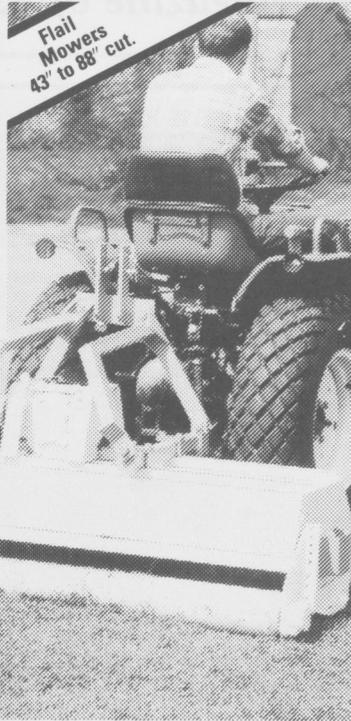


GRASS MANAGEMENT THE WESSEX WAY

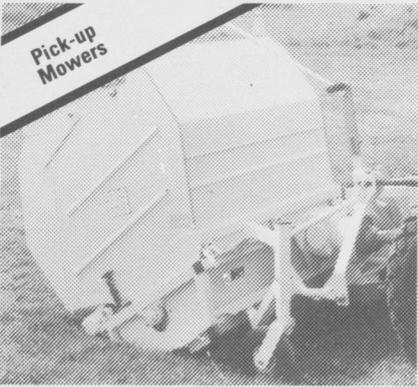
Tractor mounted Rotary Mowers 4' to 12'6" cut



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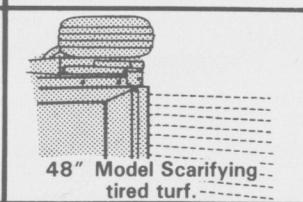
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FROM BOB ANDREWS

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This Issue

APRIL 1984



Front Cover: The Greens King Mark IV from Marshall Concessionaires offers articulated versatility, more cuts per yard and a versatile range of rollers, brushes, vertical mowers and spikes—all of which have helped it capture 65 per cent of the world market for greens mowers. Apart from Marshall Concessionaires' Jacobsen range, the company has exclusivity on Bunton, Ryan and JL turfcare machines.

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Hugh MacGillivray as seen by John Campbell

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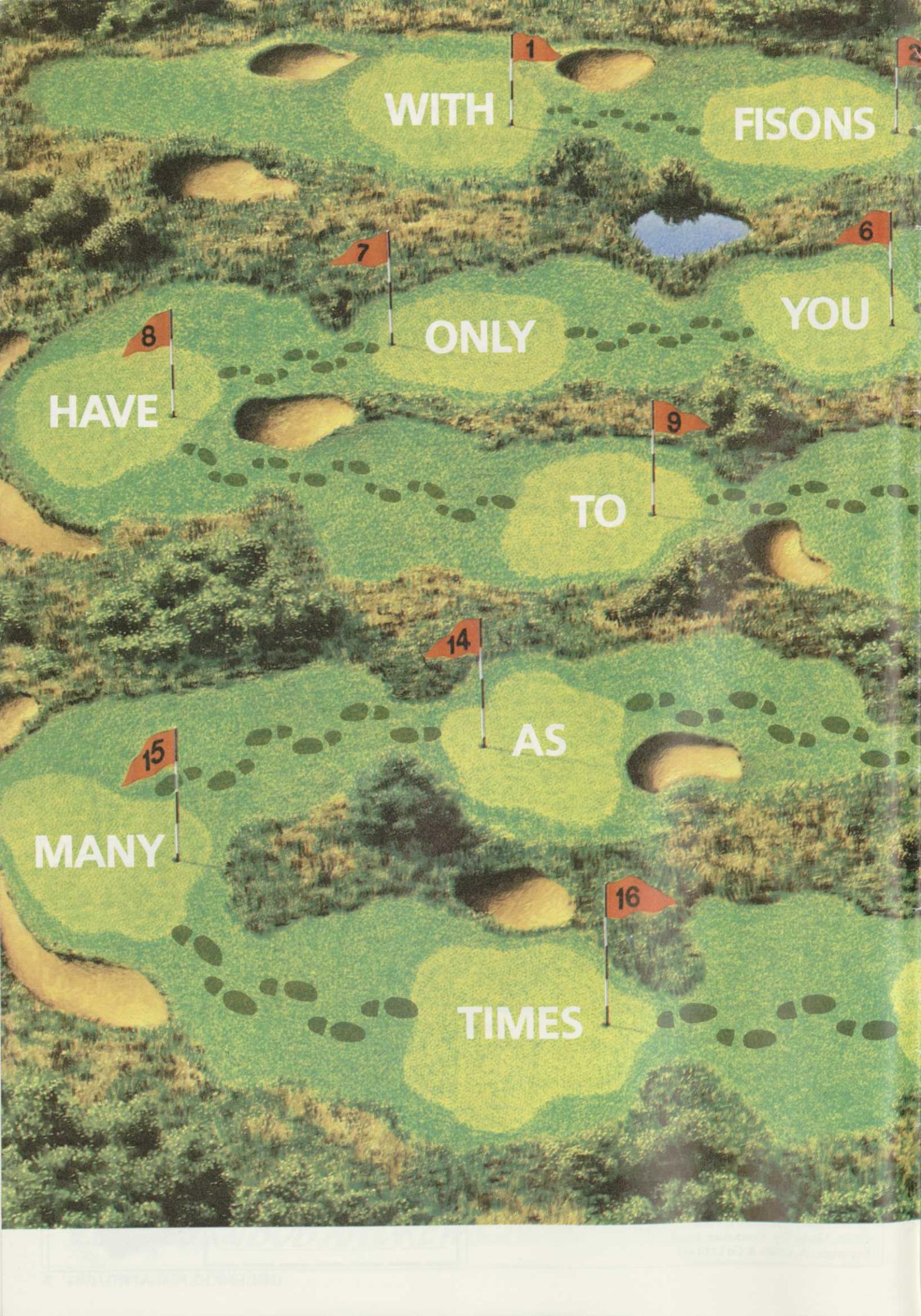
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In·My·Opinion

Philip York

Philip York is managing director of Toro Irrigation and area sales director for Toro's international group.



WHEN asked to write this editorial, my first reaction was to devote the entire article to recent in-fighting within the turfgrass industry.

However, having witnessed firsthand the degree of goodwill among the various British groups at the recent GCSAA conference and exhibition in Las Vegas and the emphasis in publications to re-introduce harmony in our trade, I have decided to add weight, not to the controversy, but to urging patience and restraint in publicising opposing views. I would also impress upon those involved in disagreements, of whatever type, that if we are to have a healthy industry, then we should unite, in the interests of the trade as a whole, to provide a common front to our customers.

We have a fantastic growth opportunity ahead. Increasing leisure time will necessitate the provision of more and more amenity areas and the updating of present facilities to provide for greater use. The funding of such projects, whether by private or public money, is of paramount importance. It is essential that, for the future well being of the industry, such money is wisely spent in ensuring customer and user satisfaction.

Whether an agronomist, contractor, specifier, manufacturer, greenkeeper or groundsman, we are all entitled to our own views of what is best. Nevertheless, to ensure long term customer confidence, we should be cautious not to specify or supply sub-standard. We should never

discourage healthy competition and innovation. Too often there is under specifying with an attitude of 'it will all come right on the day.' Let's think a little more before committing to such a course of action.

In the irrigation trade, dissatisfaction with one project (not Toro) in one, albeit small, sector of the market caused a total ban on any similar scheme, regardless of product and the degree of expertise applied in the design—and that in spite of three similar, highly successful Toro systems!

Press releases are only made when there is guaranteed success! Very little, if anything, is publicised of problems in increasingly 'newsy' trade publications but, and it is a big but,

word travels fast between golf clubs and public authorities.

In many cases, the final decision to purchase rests with either a committee or individual possessing little or no knowledge of the product, service or application. It is, therefore, paramount that the purchaser is given clear and concise justification of the needs. And that there should not be any nagging doubts in his mind regarding the product's suitability brought on by reading the public disagreements mentioned previously.

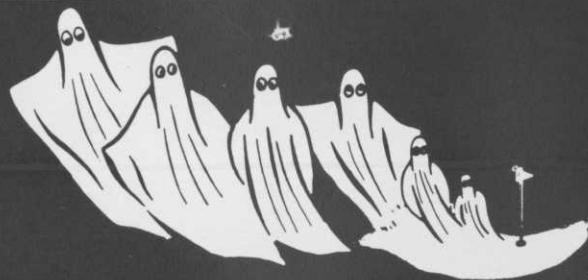
Toro, whether in the USA, UK or Europe, has always taken the view that, as a leading supplier of innovative and quality products, it should be at the forefront of educational programmes (such as six recent service courses), whether for the trade generally or for the company's direct benefit. Toro is always willing to assist in the industry's development, but the present divisions can only water down commercial involvement.

One final point—the National Turfgrass Council is an excellent vehicle to focus views on research, education, etc. There are some notable absentees who, by not joining, are going to benefit from its objectives without contributing—this surely is a selfish attitude and one to be deplored.

A united front will be a strong front, socially and economically. Ours is a trade that has an enviable reputation for co-operation and friendship—let's keep it that way!



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Out·On·The·Course

Worthing

John Campbell renews his friendship with course manager Hugh MacGillivray, who was one of his charges at St Andrews



Hugh MacGillivray—a dedicated supporter of EIGGA.

“AS I was born and bred in a great forestry area of Perthshire, I toyed with the idea of going in for timber management after leaving school, but finally opted for a job as an apprentice greenkeeper at Rosemount, Blairgowrie,” Hugh MacGillivray, 38-year-old course manager of Worthing Golf Club said. Hugh and his wife Angela live with their bonny four-year-old daughter Kirsty in a charming cottage within the grounds of the club estate on the South Downs.

Like a great many Scots in greenkeeping, Hugh decided to get as much experience as possible in his chosen profession by moving around. On completion of his apprenticeship at Blairgowrie, he spent two years at St Andrews working with me when I was the links supervisor.

“St Andrews is the home of greenkeeping and it is an advantage to be able to say you were trained there when applying for a job anywhere in course management,” Hugh said. “I gained invaluable experience, which I would never have received anywhere else in the world.”

Hugh then moved to Skegness where he got his first job as head greenkeeper at the age of twenty.

From there, he went to Lanark GC during which time he contracted a serious illness that compelled him to give up work for two years. But you can't keep a good man down and when he regained good health he went to Rowlands Castle GC as course manager, after which he spent six months as a rep for Toro (London) before being appointed in charge of the golf courses at Sunningdale, where he remained for seven years before finally moving to Worthing.

“To look after our two 18-hole courses, we have to be highly mechanised and have all the best equipment. I have an assistant, Peter Bacon, who is also our engineer and saves us a considerable amount of money in repairs,” Hugh added.

One man is in charge of each course and is responsible for all the important routine jobs, such as changing the holes and setting up tee markers, etc. The other six members of the staff are deployed as a team and carry out specific tasks allotted to them.

The present maintenance sheds are not in the best position close to the clubhouse, but a new, more central site has been chosen with better access to both courses. Building work is due

to begin on the new headquarters when the necessary planning approval has been granted by the local authority.

In this same spot, a borehole is being drilled to 300 feet, which will allow a much cheaper source of irrigation than the present water supply from the domestic mains. (It will only be a sixth of the cost.)

Hugh believes in the policy of minimum water and fertiliser to reduce the amount of poa annua in his greens and he has achieved good results. The quality of the turf is improving—it is firm and resilient to cope exceedingly well with any amount of winter play.

“I am a great believer in sulphate of iron to maintain good colour,” Hugh said. “It also helps keep fungal disease at bay and acts as a deterrent for moss. This material was always a great favourite with the old school of Scottish greenkeepers. We also have an annual programme of shallow hollow tining and overseeding with a 50/50 mixture of fescue/agrostis.

“I have also used Farmura with Nitroform on the greens, which seems to promote steady vigour and a nice depth of colour to the turf. I also

Continued overleaf...

purchase from our suppliers a compost mixture with hoof and horn meal added to it—so every time the greens are topdressed, there is a little bit of nitrogen in the material to stimulate a gentle growth. I do not use seaweed extracts, but sometimes we mix a bit of Alginure with the compost and find that this is also a satisfactory treatment to keep the grass in healthy condition,” he added.

Hugh, like many greenkeepers nowadays, is compelled to use ride-on triplex greensmowers to get the work done quickly and efficiently—particularly at the weekends or when there is staff sickness and holidays. However, for tournaments and club events, he prefers to use pedestrian mowers for that bit of extra grooming and polish. “There’s something about the appearance of a green that looks good when it has been cut with a single unit machine and the experts prefer this type of finish for accurate putting,” Hugh said.

I asked him who had inspired him most in his career. “I think the gospel preached by Jim Arthur is worth listening to. I have always been influenced by his intelligent and sensible approach to all aspects of course upkeep, which are the result of his long experience as a highly qualified agronomist.

“I am also grateful to you, John, for the opportunity and training you gave me while I was at St Andrews. To have worked at such a world-famous course during an Open Championship was a unique experience for me and one I will never forget.”

Hugh recently had an opportunity to demonstrate his skill at bunker construction and some excellent examples of the art are already evident at Worthing. I admired the formidable trap he has built on the left side of the 10th green, which has improved the strategy of play.

His style of bunker building has obviously been influenced by an intimate acquaintance with the famous bunkers that adorn the Old Course. With the number of bunkers he has at Worthing, he values his Ransomes sand-trap rake, which grooms the sand on the floor of the bunkers, while the edges are tidied up by staff with hand rakes.

“Although the ride-on triplex greensmowers ushered in a new phase of golf-course maintenance, I believe the advent of the Cushman was even more significant to greenkeeping and an important advance in the introduction of mechanised techniques for turf culture,” Hugh said.

“This type of equipment and that produced by SIS has been a



Drilling operations on a borehole are expected to yield a good supply of water for irrigation.



This unfinished bunker on the fringe of the Lower Course’s 12th green illustrates the MacGillivray style of trap building influenced by his training at St Andrews.



A new bunker by the 10th green on the Lower Course has added to the strategy of play.