

The
39th Annual

MANSHIP INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP
TIONAL INTERNATIONAL
I·T·O·N E·X·H·I·B·I·T·I·O·N

INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP
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Developing and maintaining sports grounds and leisure amenities

The finest opportunity to see a whole range of developments, discuss services and techniques with experts, and check-test the latest in machinery and equipment.

Venue:

The Royal Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire.

Dates:

18th, 19th and 20th September 1984

Times:

10 am till 5 pm daily.

Entrance:

By Catalogue £1. Complimentary admission to IoG Members.

How to get there: (Windsor is just 22 miles west of London.)

By Road: A few minutes off the M4 Motorway (Junction 6) on the Windsor-Maidenhead road (A308). Ample car parking facilities available at £1.00 per vehicle. Coaches free.

By Rail: Frequent services to Windsor from Waterloo, Reading and Paddington with connections to all parts of the country. A complimentary coach service direct to the Exhibition grounds will operate each morning and afternoon from Windsor & Eton Central and Riverside stations.

By Air: Close to London Heathrow and convenient also for London Gatwick airports.

Organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship,
The Pavilion · Woughton-on-the-Green ·
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The main event for the Professional
Groundsman, Greenskeeper, Landscape
Architect, Estate Owner and Manager,
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maintenance * irrigation * outdoor furniture * plant and machinery * protective clothing *
recreation and playground equipment * safety and security * seeds, turf and plants * sports goods *
technical books and trade journals * waste disposal *



This issue

AUGUST 1984

FRONT COVER

Just a few of the top quality turf care, harvesting and handling machines now being produced by Brouwer Turf Equipment Ltd, Canada and imported and distributed in the United Kingdom by Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd, Dutton, Warrington.

All Brouwer machinery has unique design features to give users the advantage of simplicity and efficiency.

For more information on the complete Brouwer product range, phone (09286) 340, 336 or 261 now!

IN MY OPINION 6

The 'gospel' truth from Malcolm Pettit

OUT ON THE COURSE 8

Haggs Castle GC, near Glasgow and course manager Chris Kennedy are this month's subjects



EIGGA NEWS & VIEWS 10

SIGGA NEWS & VIEWS 14

THERE'S NONE SO BLIND! 16

Writes Jim Arthur

NOTEBOOK 20

Topical stories from within the industry

APPOINTMENTS 30

BUYERS' GUIDE 31

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Greenkeeper goes fully European

Yet another landmark has been achieved by *Greenkeeper* which this month welcomes the International Greenkeepers' Association to the fold, with members from all over Europe joining our readership. The IGA magazine *International Greenkeeper*, produced in German and French, is included in this issue of *Greenkeeper*.

This venture, which we hope will bring all greenkeepers closer together, has been made possible by Mr & Mrs Donald Harradine, whose tireless work on behalf of greenkeepers is well-known. Devotees of *Greenkeeper* and all our friends in the trade join us in welcoming over 400 new readers.

Golf Course '85

It is good to see that associations representing the golf course industry, which banded together with such success at Trinity Hall, Cambridge in April for *Golf Course '84*, are to hold a similar event in Oxford next March, probably at Wadham College from March 28-31. Additionally, the Secretaries' Association, PGA European Tour and the International Greenkeepers' Association (European) have expressed interest in participating.

However, it is disappointing to note that the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association has declined an invitation and that the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association is to run its own conference and AGM at almost the same time.

Full details of the programme for *Golf Course '85*, together with the cost, which is expected to be less than in 1984, will be announced by the member associations at the Institute Of Groundsmanship Exhibition at Windsor next month.

It's competition time!

There are still a couple of weeks remaining for you to enter the fabulous Rigby Taylor Photographic Competition offering six top prizes of photographic equipment each worth £100 and a special runner-up prize of a presentation hamper donated by *Greenkeeper*.

All you have to do is take a picture—preferably a colour transparency or even a print—of what you consider indicates the best use of, or result from, a Rigby Taylor product.

Entry forms appeared earlier this year in copies of *Greenkeeper*. They must be completed and sent to the magazine at 121/123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP, with your photo entry enclosed, by **September 1**.

So, don't delay, get snapping today!

The Editor

**Rigby
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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**SIX FIRST PRIZES
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**PLUS! The six winning entries
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HERE'S WHAT TO DO!

It's really quite simple. All you have to do is take a photograph of what you consider indicates the best use of, or result from, a Rigby Taylor product.

The photograph can be humorous, serious, or even upside down! but it must depict the advantage of using a Rigby Taylor product.

In your everyday activity and concern with turf care and greens maintenance you should have no difficulty in locating a suitable subject.

Transparencies would be ideal! But don't delay in sending your entry if it's a colour print.

You can submit as many entries as you wish but make sure you complete the entry form at the bottom of this ad. Just one point! Please don't write on the back of your entry.

It could be your lucky day!

THE RULES

The competition is open to all Groundsmen / Greenkeepers in either private or public employ*.

The staff, their families; agents and distributors of Rigby Taylor Limited are exempt from this competition.

All entries must be submitted to the appropriate publication as indicated on the entry form who will judge the best entry submitted and the runner up.

The copyright of all entries will automatically pass to Rigby Taylor Limited who will produce and distribute a full colour calendar for 1985 using the six winning entries (one from each of six publications) together with suitable captions.

The final closing date for entries is 1st September 1984.

**In some cases it may be that public service employees are ineligible to receive awarded prizes. In such an instance Rigby Taylor Limited will verify the position with the appropriate Local Authority. Should any awarded prize be unacceptable it will be donated to a charity of the winners choice.*

TYPICAL RIGBY TAYLOR PRODUCTS

... Here's a few of our best shots!

THE MASCOT RANGE OF CHEMICALS:

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THE MASCOT RANGE OF FERTILIZERS:

Granular Grass Fertilizer · Granular Fertilizer · Pre-seeding Fertilizer (Granular) · 26% Nitrogen + Iron · Granular Grass Fertilizer (Autumn/Winter Grade).

MASCOT SPREADER:

Available in three models, Mascot Super, Mascot Supreme, and Mascot Professional.

FARMURA: The liquid organic fertilizer.

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SOILIFE: Liquid enzyme soil conditioner. Breaks up soil crusting and compaction. Available in 5lt. and 25lt. drums.

J.A. MIXTURE: Rigby Taylor celebrated Powdered Organic Fertilizer. Available in 25 kilo bags.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY ENTRY FOR THE RIGBY TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Send your entry to: The EDITOR, GREENKEEPER

A. Quick & Company Limited, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____

Rigby Taylor Product(s) used. _____



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In·My·Opinion

Malcolm Pettit

Malcolm Pettit is the marketing manager of Alginure Products. He is pictured in a less familiar role—as reader and assistant minister of All Saints, Clifton, Beds.

CLEARLY, the responsibility of communicating an idea or opinion to such a motley assortment of the human race as the the readers of this illustrious journal is not one to be taken lightly and it was with a blend of fear, excitement and vigour that I took up the pen in pursuit of the task.

Unhappily, that blend lacked the one essential ingredient—a topic of sufficient interest to titivate the imagination, stimulate controversy, inspire enthusiasm and generally achieve recognition for the writer as the new prophet for which the sports turf industry has waited so long.

In these circumstances, there was only one thing to be done. A course of action taken at times of crises throughout history by great men and women (lest I be accused of chauvinism by feminists) recommended itself to me. I responded promptly, poured out a generous noggin and went and sat in my easy chair to mull over the current problems that confront us and was soon deep in thought.

I suppose it was inevitable that I should close my eyes as an aid to concentration and if that state modulated into a fitful sleep, who should wonder? The pressure of the aggressive life lived by the paladins of industry is no light thing and surely it was the Bard himself who recommended “sleep that knits up the unravelled skeins of care”.

It was in that state, if you are still with me (and I can understand and forgive if you have turned the page), that I found myself in a state of trance wherein I perceived strange characters and voices vying for attention.

It seemed that I was in some vast amphitheatre with a stage surrounded by fiery beacons whose flames were of several bright shades of red, yellow and blue merging, flickering and dancing. I saw a crowd of folk kneeling and standing around the front of the stage. They seemed to be



crying out a mixture of chants and pleas: “Show us the way.” “What is the truth?” “Help us.”

Suddenly, a hush descended as piercing spotlights picked out figures on the stage. At first, they were vague and ephemeral, but gradually they took more definite form and I became aware that one of them was a man of chunky build. His grizzled but kindly face was topped by greying hair that flapped across his brow and he was dressed in a garment like a Roman toga with, on his head, a coronet of laurel leaves.

He threw up his arm and began to speak with the stentorian tones and authority of the orators of old. “Death to meadow grass!” he proclaimed. “Save yourselves from this wicked generation of sellers of pop-up irrigation and makers of fertiliser. Return to the ways of your forefathers

and follow the way of starvation and striving. I, Arturus Jamesis Maximus, have declared it.”

Just as suddenly as it had come, so his shape dissolved and disappeared and there arose a murmuring from a part of the crowd. “It is true, O Arturus. We have seen it with our own eyes and have followed your words. There is only one way.”

A shrill, piercing blast as from a silver trumpet rent the air and all was silence as there emerged a second figure on the stage. A tall, bespectacled man of grave mien, yet with a twinkling eye and dressed in academic robes and mortar-board.

As he spoke in calm and measured tones I detected a warm Celtic burr in his voice. “Turn to science for your salvation,” he declared. “Don’t be led astray by peddlers of untried solutions to your problems. Test their ideas, their systems, their products, their machines in the light of the truth of Bingley.”

Having said which he, too, receded from view and I was aware that another body of the crowd, who seemed to carry with them various pieces of testing equipment, were nodding in agreement.

There was a low rumbling, as of distant thunder, and two more figures appeared—one from the North West, the other from the East, each driving a machine. One pulled a vast mechanical contrivance, which seemed to cut through the grass and/or bore holes into it, while the second spread sand in its wake.

Each was an honest artisan type, of open countenance and yet with an alert air of learning about them. “We have brought our treasures from afar,” they cried. “Sand from Essex. Blades and spikes from Lancashire. Return to sand and aeration and all will be well with the land that your masters have left in your charge.” Then they, too, vanished and many of the watching crowd took up the

Continued on page 12...

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Out·On·The·Course

Chris Kennedy

Chris Kennedy is the course manager at Hags Castle Golf Club—the recent venue for the multi-sponsored Glasgow Open. Chris talks to John Campbell.

“Not every schoolboy achieves his ambition, as I did,” Chris Kennedy said. Chris, 36, is the course manager at Hags Castle GC, near Glasgow. “I came into greenkeeping through my interest in golf. As a wee lad, I used to walk around the course with my father, who was a keen club golfer. When I was old enough, I became a junior member and had a single figure handicap by the age of 13. My prime ambition was to be a professional golfer.”

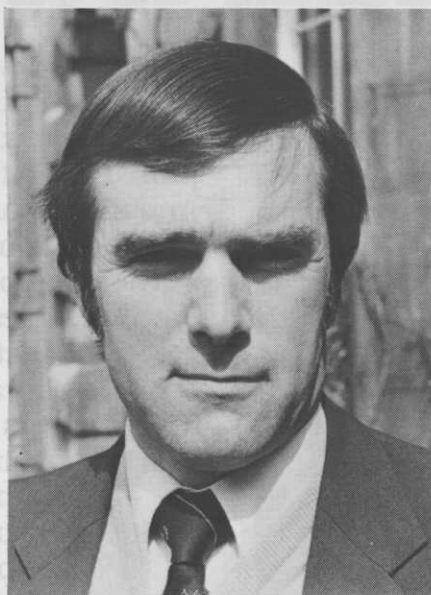
On leaving school, he went to work in the pro's shop at Cowglen, where he served under Jack Murray, an old greenkeeper/pro who gave him a good training and much wise counsel.

“He advised me to concentrate more on the art of greenkeeping, as well as being a good professional, for he felt that the greenkeeper would ultimately be the man in charge of the course,” Chris said. “Although things have not worked out that way so far, I think it must come eventually.”

Chris accepted the advice of his old mentor and found that he really enjoyed working on the course, which was more satisfying and offered him a healthy outdoor activity in congenial surroundings. He relished the constant challenge and the demand for a modest accumulation of experience and knowledge on a wide variety of trades, which every good greenkeeper must have.

Chris is serious and intelligent, well aware of all his responsibilities, number one of which is his family. “A happy and stable family life is important in our profession. I know of several broken marriages brought about by the pressures of being a course manager.”

With his wife Joan, he shares the affection of a bonny two-year-old daughter Suzanne. “After my early period at Cowglen, I was offered the course manager's job at Hags Castle, where I worked with head greenkeeper Tommy Wemyss, who had 40 years in the business. Tommy was a likeable and charming man who taught me a great deal about golf



course management and many of the tips he passed on I still use to this day.

“When I first came to Hags Castle, there were three assistant greenkeepers and one apprentice. Now the strength of my team has increased to four assistants and two apprentices, due to a much higher volume of play and other demands.

“Nowadays, we have over 1,000 members, guests and golf societies using the facilities and we stage major professional tournaments. All of which adds up to a substantial volume of traffic over the course.

“We also have a very high standard of maintenance with wall-to-wall mowing on our parkland course, which involves a lot of time and labour.

“The frequency of our mowing programme entails a lot of work during the growing season to keep the place trim and tidy and being a popular venue on the fringe of the city, we get quite a lot of play which adds to the wear and tear.”

Unfortunately, the course also suffers from some vandalism—a problem that affects most clubs in major suburban areas.

“It's nice to go to places like St Andrews and Gleneagles where the

courses are respected and they don't have any such problems, but I have learned to live and cope with it.

“My advice to any greenkeeper on a course prone to this nuisance is to keep a good turf nursery with an ample stock of compost. Have all the staff well trained in the art of small turf repairs with edging irons, turf spades and patchers, so they can be dispatched to repair fine turf maliciously damaged at a moment's notice. Club members pay a lot for their golf and I like to keep the course trim and tidy at all times.

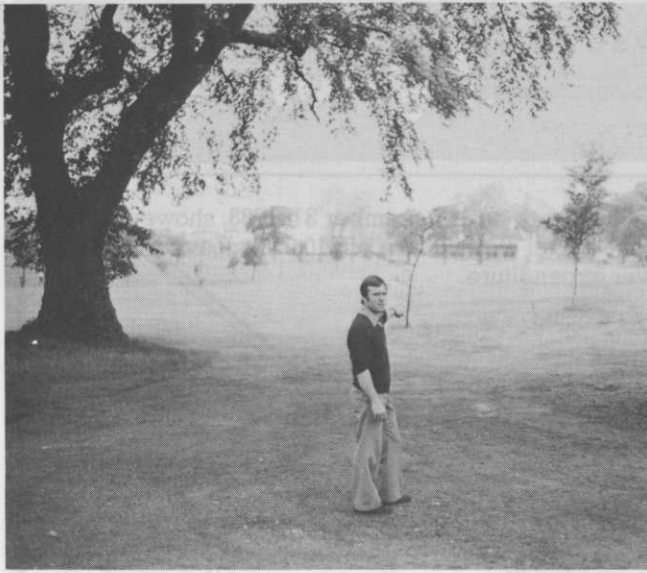
“I have always believed that any course manager is only as good as the staff he employs. I always respect my team and take an interest in their progress and am willing to listen to any constructive comments that might contribute to the smooth running of the work.

“Having good facilities, such as staff quarters, workshop and a storage area is important to their well-being. If they are treated like second-rate citizens, they lose interest and don't give of their best. If they can be encouraged to play golf, it's half the battle. They then begin to understand what course upkeep means from a player's point of view and this helps to break down a lot of barriers between club and staff.”

Chris believes that improvements in the types of aeration equipment over the years have made a vast difference to the standards of turf management. “We used to have the hollow tine forks in my early days. Then we upgraded to the Auto-turfman, then to the Ryan Greensaire and now we have a Cushman, which I consider to be a very useful piece of equipment.”

Chris is well aware of the pressures and the amount of work entailed in grooming the course for special occasions, having prepared his course for a number of international events.

Last month, Ken Brown enjoyed a runaway victory in the Glasgow Open at Hags Castle. The win, surprisingly Brown's first on British soil, was



Timber revetment does a first-class job of retaining ditch walls.



Chris indicates the site of some newly planted trees.

worth £13,330. The Glasgow public's support of the tournament was magnificent with over 27,000 watching the four days play at Hags Castle.

"The most valuable lesson I have learned in greenkeeping," Chris said, "is never put off until tomorrow what can be done today. The weather in this part of Scotland can change dramatically overnight and if there is work to be done and the equipment is available, then I prefer to get the job finished wherever possible. The weather might never be the same two days in succession.

"My advice to young greenkeepers is to try to achieve high standards in all phases of their work. When you play on a course where a poor job has been made of topdressing the greens, or the holes have been put in unfair positions, etc, and none of the work seems properly planned, it reflects the ability of the greenkeeping staff and

the reputation of the club.

"When composting greens, every effort should be made to do the work in methodical stages so there is minimum interference with play. Hole positions should be selected with due regard to the strategy of play and the levelness of the surface in the vicinity of the hole.

"Shoddy workmanship should never be tolerated in our business. Bad news travels fast and courses where the standard of upkeep is low soon get known among the golfing fraternity. Every effort should be made to cultivate the goodwill of all golfers, for they can be your greatest asset if they are on your side. If they build up resentment towards you, it may work to your disadvantage.

"Players tend to live for their round of golf and if they are not performing well they may find some reason to blame the course. In defence of greenkeepers, we are often used as an

excuse by players who don't have a great playing ability. But I don't think any greenkeeper should object to constructive criticism."

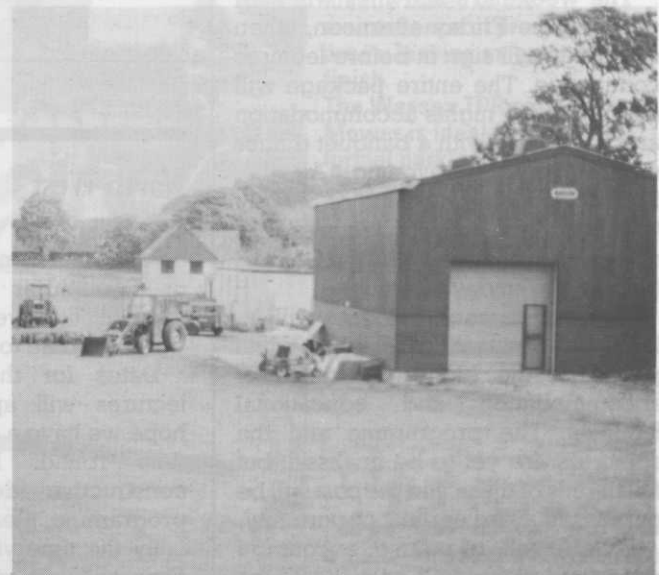
Chris Kennedy is a prominent member of SIGGA. He has served as chairman of the west section and the national association. His contribution to the administrative affairs has earned him the highest praise.

"We would all like to see an association of head greenkeepers and course managers embracing SIGGA, EIGGA and the BGGGA and this will only come about by the mutual agreement of all concerned," Chris added. "To achieve this objective, we must dispense with personalities and outdated ideas, which may be holding us back.

"We should look to the future and be prepared to progress in unity. I think the Scots would be willing to play their part in the establishment of such an international association."



Trees are an interesting feature of the course.



Hags Castle has a good range of maintenance sheds.



Lifeblood Of The Industry In The Heart of England

Following EIGGA's successful participation in *Golf Course '84* and with the association firmly established as a strong voice in greenkeeping, it has been decided that EIGGA will host its own conference in 1985. The venue will be the University of Warwick, near Coventry, and the dates will be March 22-24.

This prestigious seat of learning is an ideal venue, set in The Heart of England, close to Shakespeare country. As it is so central, it will be equally accessible to all who wish to take part in what promises to be the best seminar yet held in Britain, organised by greenkeepers for greenkeepers.

The university itself is very modern and within easy reach of several historic places of interest and beauty. It offers a high standard of accommodation and boasts facilities including banks, a sub post office, supermarket, bars and sports centre, all of which will be open to conference delegates. There's even a miniature putting course for those who like a busman's holiday!

Medical services are available on the campus and car parking is free and plentiful.

The weekend's activities will start early on the Friday afternoon, when delegates will sign in before lectures commence. The entire package will comprise two nights accommodation and full board, with a banquet dinner on the Saturday evening. All day Saturday and the morning of Sunday will be taken up with lectures and discussions and the EIGGA AGM will be held on Sunday afternoon.

The cost to each delegate will be kept as low as possible, while providing the highest standard of accommodation and educational facilities. The programme and the speakers are yet to be finalised, but full details of these and the cost will be publicised at the earliest opportunity.

EIGGA will, of course, encourage participation from all sections of the golf and greenkeeping industry,

News From Headquarters

EIGGA's statement of accounts, as at December 31, 1983, showed a total income of £13,719 over a total expenditure of £10,910—leaving a £2,809 surplus of income over expenditure.

Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 1983

General Reserve Account. Surplus for year	£2,809
Sundry Creditors	£58
	£2,867

Assets	
Sundry equipment, at cost	£377
Stock of clothing, etc	£1,006
Cash at bank—Current Account	£764
Deposit Account	£52
Sundry debtors	£668
	£2,867

We certify that we have prepared the above balance sheet dated December 31, 1983 from the books and from the information and explanations given to us. We believe it to be correct.

Holland-On-Sea, Essex.
June 1984.

R.H. Brown & Co
Chartered Accountants

though the conference will be geared primarily towards greenkeeping and its place in the golf world. However, anyone who has a genuine interest in the care and maintenance of fine turf will be made welcome.

Further information can be obtained, or reservations made, by contacting The Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters, 2 Golf Cottage, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8UG.

North West

The diary of events includes an autumn tournament at Wrexham GC on September 17 and a one-day seminar at Myerscough College in October (date to be announced).

Dates for the series of winter lectures will appear shortly. Let's hope we have a good attendance this time round. If you have any constructive ideas on the lecture programme, please let me know.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed an educational visit to Royal Birkdale and our mid-summer

dance. For those of you who didn't attend, we hope to see you at future events—you really can have a good time!

Will members who have not received a copy of the latest newsletter, please contact me and I will do my best to correct the situation.

A. Campbell.

*EIGGA News & Views
continues on page 12...*