



News & Views

Come To The Open And Visit SIGGA's Own Tent

The SIGGA executive has decided to set up a hospitality tent throughout the Open at St Andrews next month (July 19-22) for the benefit of greenkeepers, trade sponsors and all their friends. We have felt for some time now that fewer and fewer greenkeepers are attending Open Championships, mainly because there has not been a central location where they can be sure of meeting other greenkeepers.

SIGGA is now providing a meeting place.

It will be located in, or as near as possible to, the tented village and staffed by the company that provides all the catering, etc, at the Open. Hopefully, drinks and snacks, at keen prices, will be available. Admission to the tent will be by a greenkeeper's membership card and we are extending a warm welcome to our EIGGA and BGGGA friends. SIGGA trade sponsors will receive a quota of admission tickets for distribution among customers and their freinds.

This project has been made possible only through the cooperation and help given by the R&A and we express our great thanks to them for all they have done. SIGGA and some of our sponsors are jointly meeting the cost of the complete exercise and we intend to have a tent available at every Open from this year on.

Perhaps next year the other greenkeeping associations might feel like chipping in.

We are hoping that many greenkeepers will come to St Andrews and that they will visit the SIGGA tent. Unfortunately, we cannot offer free admission into the Open to every greenkeeper. (We receive 12 guest tickets from the R&A.) I am sure you will be prepared to pay knowing that, once inside, you will have a focal point where you will meet lots of friends and colleagues. We expect to have close circuit television available in the tent, so none of the action need be missed!

Do your best to get to St Andrews and come in and see us.

Joe McKean, General Secretary.

Golf Course '84 Was A Master Stroke!

The finest array of masters of their profession, as well as association and trade representatives, ever assembled in Britain were gathered at *Golf Course '84*.

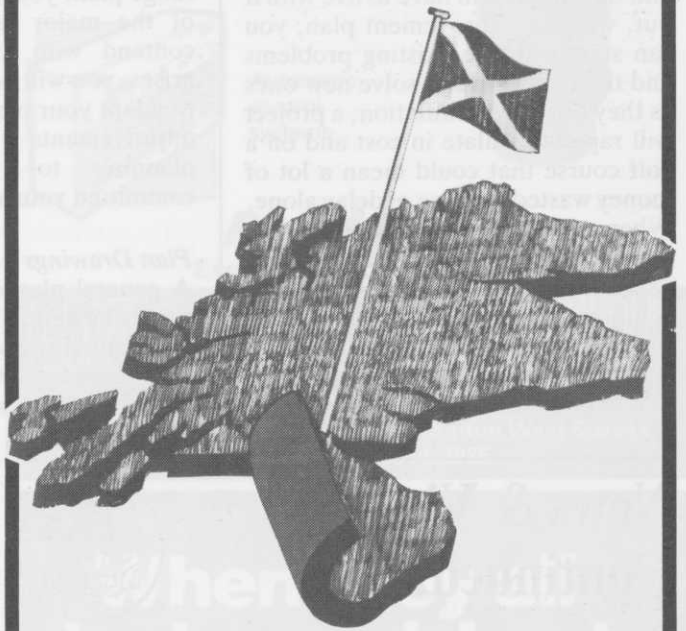
The ancient and hallowed confines of Trinity Hall College, Cambridge proved a fitting venue. Immediately following registration, the spirit of the occasion entered everyone as the somewhat spartan study/bedroom accommodation usually enjoyed by students and tutors alike greeted delegates. This was to be home for the four days of *Golf Course '84*.

The setting was a stroke of genius by *Greenkeeper*—the grandeur and history of the college ensured that the speakers were rightly held in reverence by the audience.

However, the colour slides used by many speakers appeared less respectful with carousel after carousel

Continued overleaf...

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Budgeting And Management Approvals

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New Approaches To Old Problems

Some situations or problems remain the same, while others will multiply or compound themselves with time, such as a severe drainage problem. Of course, the longer you put off correcting a problem, the longer you and the golfers will have to live with it but, with an improvement plan, you can start with the existing problems and then only have to solve new ones as they arise. With inflation, a project will rapidly escalate in cost and on a golf course that could mean a lot of money wasted because of delay alone. When you are totally aware of the needs of the course, you can begin to explore new options for their solution. You can get to the root of the problem and solve the underlying cause, not just deal with the symptoms as is so often the case. After a problem

area has been hopefully remedied, the situation will require regular monitoring to ensure the solution has, in fact, solved the problem. If this is not the case, a revaluation is necessary.

Future Plans

From the onset, you should recognise that new problems will develop on the course and that there will be causes for altering priorities. But with your plan and other records, you can examine these new problems and determine the best solution without any great difficulty. No-one can predict precisely what the future will hold, but with a comprehensive long-range plan, you will at least be aware of the major factors you have to contend with. If something more arises, you will be in a better position to adapt your plan and continue with improvements because of the planning to which you have committed yourself.

Plan Drawings

A general plan of the course layout should be kept. The dimensions of the maintained areas—such as the greens, tees, fairways and rough, as well as the total area, should be recorded.

This information will be useful when ordering materials. Other items that should be kept on or with site plans are details of the drainage system, irrigation system and pump-house, a tree and shrub landscape plan, maintenance facility and service roads information and aerial photographs and surveys. It is advisable to have larger scale drawings of individual putting greens showing drainage and irrigation systems. Any new installations or uncovered existing ones should be recorded as necessary. The formulation of planned work programmes in obtaining objectives can be an important part of the head greenkeeper's managerial equipment. With an approved long-range plan, you are in the driver's seat. Its existence will enable you to proceed on a course of action without constant changes in policy brought about by new committee members. You can refer to an operational plan, which you were instrumental in compiling and that is being implemented to improve the course.

Therefore, your professional approach will gain you respect with your employer, not to mention benefits for yourself in the management of your course.

News & Views Continued...



failing to operate. I wondered if Trinity Hall resented the intrusion, but, by the second day, the gremlins had accepted *Golf Course '84* and the portraits gracing the dining hall gazed down upon all assembled at meal times with a seeming nod of approval.

Language represented a minor barrier at Cambridge as Americans, Canadians, Swedes, Dutch, English, Irish, Scots and Welsh all found much in common.

It was felt that the genial Scots were the hardest to understand—a problem encountered by our American friends when we visited them in force at Anaheim in 1981!

As the irrigation classes progressed through Thursday afternoon, the audience increasingly grew thirstier and looked forward to the 'get acquainted' cocktail party in the evening. Traditionally, this is when new friends are greeted, relationships are cemented and the harmony of the conference set.

Having sat well into the early hours with Jas Prusa and Bruce Williams of the GCSAA and Rolf—agronomist to the Swedish Golf Union—I know that I am in need of some education in the art of The Scotch Swallow—a condition that has been known to down even the hardiest the morning after...

Full details of *Golf Course '84* have already appeared in *Greenkeeper*. Suffice it to say that four glorious days at Cambridge ended, as the punts rolled along waterways past the college windows, with EIGGA president Jack McMillan expressing the need for an improved

educational link between the countries represented at conferences, such as the very successful, enterprising and immensely enjoyable *Golf Course '84*.

*Jimmy Kidd, Golf Course Manager,
Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses.*

• Associations and organisations represented at *Golf Course '84* were the British Association Of Golf Course Architects, British Turf Irrigation Association, British Association Of Golf Course Constructors, Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, PGA European Tour, Golf Course Superintendents' Association Of America and the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.



Jimmy Kidd gets to grips with his slide-show presentation.

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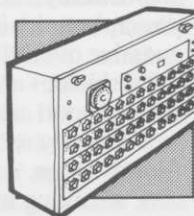
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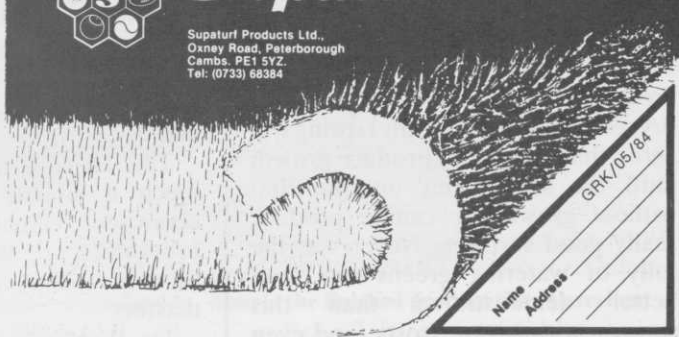
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There's little or no comparison...

IT was once said that the biggest barrier to our understanding American politics is that we both speak (almost) the same language and, consequently, we expect the same rules and conditions to apply, and they do not!

I am in no way anti-American any more than I am anti-water or anti-fertiliser, but I treat all three with care and restraint as useful friends. What I am opposed to are those people who, on the basis of very slight experience, having played a handful of the top US courses, criticise British greenkeeping and eulogise about superior American methods.

They all seem to forget that those very courses they so admire and want us to emulate are staffed and equipped on a level that is nothing short of impossible here. Maximum feasible staffing levels in the UK are only ten per cent of American equivalents, US budgets for *annual maintenance* are far higher than the cost of building a new course here and the level of management is as intensive as it is expensive, on a wall-to-wall basis, the cost of which is beginning to tax even some of the richer US clubs.

Furthermore, our economic, as well as ecological conditions are wildly different—though, here again, there are probably even wider differences between New England and California or between the Canadian border and the Gulf of Mexico than between any parts of Europe.

Nor, by any means, are all the American courses as well maintained as the top tournament courses on which young professionals base their mindless criticism of our greenkeeping. They cannot see that they are comparing the effects of money as well as climate and we suffer weather here, not a predictable climate.

Anyone who has had to try to produce conditions in this abnormally dry, cold and late (if sunny) spring will agree that we cannot produce growth until the soil warms up and that without growth we cannot produce really good surfaces. Never was the folly of watering greens too soon better demonstrated than this spring—with severe frosts (and even

snow in the north) well into May and cold greens got colder.

I want to make it transparently clear that professionals criticising course conditions in the UK in relation to US courses merely reveal the shallowness of their critical faculties. You must compare like with like and I am sure there are a lot of American courses that are in a parlous state.

Of course, American greenkeeping has to be complex with so many different grass ecologies at the extremes of climatic and soil types, though you cannot help feeling that some of their all too real problems with pests and diseases (echoed, incidentally, in their agriculture) are exacerbated, if not caused, by a massive overkill with regular cocktails of herbicides and fungicides that must kill off good and bad alike.

I recently received a letter from Dr Jim Watson, vice-president of Toro US, thanking me for some papers on early research I had given him. He pointed out some interesting things—for example, in his experience, all grasses grow best at pH values of 6.5 to 7.2. They may do so in the States, but they certainly do not do so here. And, indeed, such alkaline conditions

By Jim Arthur

if linked to other than infertile soil states immediately encourage coarse grasses to suppress those very species that make our best courses.

He also feels that nutrients are more available at these levels. They may well be, but all our greenkeeping is based on the fact that the grasses that give us our best courses need very little of these self-same nutrients and it is their low level that prevents less desirable grasses from dominating fine turf.

Dr Watson added that thatch is very difficult to decompose at pH levels lower than 6.0. There are a few hundred greenkeepers in Britain who could disprove that statement if applied to this country. There are many more who have suffered from ill-advised liming, designed to raise pH levels to get rid of thatch (which it did not succeed in doing, but converted bent to annual meadow grass and encouraged worms, weeds and disease).

This all goes to prove that, while much is similar between our two countries, climate and golf club economics are wildly different and these more than anything else are our masters.

Dr Watson says that the USGA

ceased to support the acid theory in 1928 following the severe drought that killed off a lot of courses in the east when only those with alkaline greens survived. We tended to do the same thing after a similar disaster on some links in the droughts of the mid-thirties. This was, however, due to a combination of over-enthusiastic applications of ammonia and iron (up to eight times a year), coupled with inadequate irrigation.

I have previously quoted Dr C.M. Murray in South Africa in 1903 who claimed that to keep annual meadow grass out of pure bent greens we needed an acid soil with the only phosphates and potash in the form supplied with top dressing and not as fertilisers. This is still true now.

Today, the majority of courses, as I have evidence to show, use nitrogen only, balanced inorganic and organic in sensibly limited quantities with no phosphate as the standard greens fertiliser.

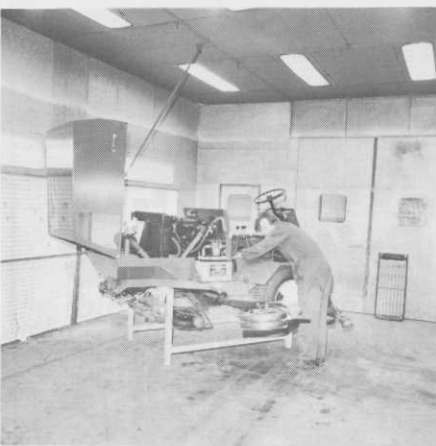
If no-one supports or practises the acid theory in America, then it should be realised that this applies only to America.

After the drought of 1976, which devastated so many annual meadow grass dominated courses fed heavily on complete fertilisers, many of these clubs—on my advice—have been fully restored by sensible, old fashioned greenkeeping. Neither are those greenkeepers who have been working for many, many years on the same lines likely to be let down by the weather, as has been suggested. The ban on phosphates has received more general acceptance and provided greater benefits than perhaps any other philosophy—in conjunction, of course, with regular aeration and sensibly restricted irrigation.

I have never claimed to have invented this technique. I was taught it nearly 40 years ago. It was old fashioned then, but it works.

Again, I have no wish to be seen as anti-American just for the sake of it, but it is easy for young tournament professionals to make judgements of courses specially prepared for 'their' week, which they never see at any other time.

The main problems of all greenkeepers are golfers and the traffic they cause and if we could keep them off our courses altogether, then they would always be in perfect condition. Nevertheless, we must keep our members on greens all the year round if humanly possible and softened up greens for a professional tournament lead to disasters and make for bad golf for the rest of the year.



How The 350-D Reelmaster Has Developed...

Due to market demand, TORO in 1980 considered the advantages of producing a five-reel self-propelled diesel-powered machine—a type of equipment already popular abroad. And it was decided that J.Mann & Son of Suffolk was to manufacture the new machine. Mann's industrial division has many years experience in the design and production of purpose-built diesel engine power packs for OEMs in the UK and overseas.

Prototypes were constructed over the next two years and subsequently tested within the home market, Europe and USA. The 350-D Reelmaster unit has an 11ft 6in width of cut to mow up to 10.5 acres an hour at a mowing speed of up to 7.5mph (assuming no reduction in total area mowed for overlaps, turns, stops, etc) and these machines have since been shipped all over the world.

A height of cut from 3/8in to 3in is possible. The speed of the hydraulically driven reels is independent of the ground speed and can be varied with respect to the engine speed, so an infinitely variable clip for the desired height of cut, regardless of mowing speed, can be obtained.

Each mower is independently and equally suspended and the even distribution of weight over six oversized types creates low pressure per square inch for minimal compaction of turf.

For operator comfort, the de luxe suspension seat is optimally positioned for stability on rough terrain. Along with power steering,

there's easy access to controls, a single hydrostatic traction pedal and a clear view of the mowing units. The 350-D Reelmaster allows fast unclogging of foreign objects, plus easy backlapping on the machine for less frequent reel grinding in the workshop.

Safety features include automatic reel shut-off when mowers are lifted; reels that lock in the lift position for transport; automatic engine shut-off when the operator leaves his seat if the reel or traction drive systems are engaged; controlled noise emission; no exposed drive components and a dual braking system for added safety.

There's a 50hp, four-cylinder, water-cooled diesel engine, governed to 38hp. The mid-mounted engine and wide stance create a low centre of gravity which, combined with even weight distribution, means excellent traction and stability on hillsides—plus easy transport at up to 15 mph.

The power steering responds quickly and the individual hydraulic lift of the two outside mowers narrows the path of cut within three to five seconds.

For further information, contact Graham Dale, Lely Import, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. ☎ 0480 76971.

• *Greenkeeper has been asked to point out that while Gibsons of Kirkham, Lancashire are the appointed Toro commercial dealers, they do not offer the Lely Iseki range of tractors.*



Top to bottom: four stages of production. Above: the finished product shows excellent hillside stability and traction...

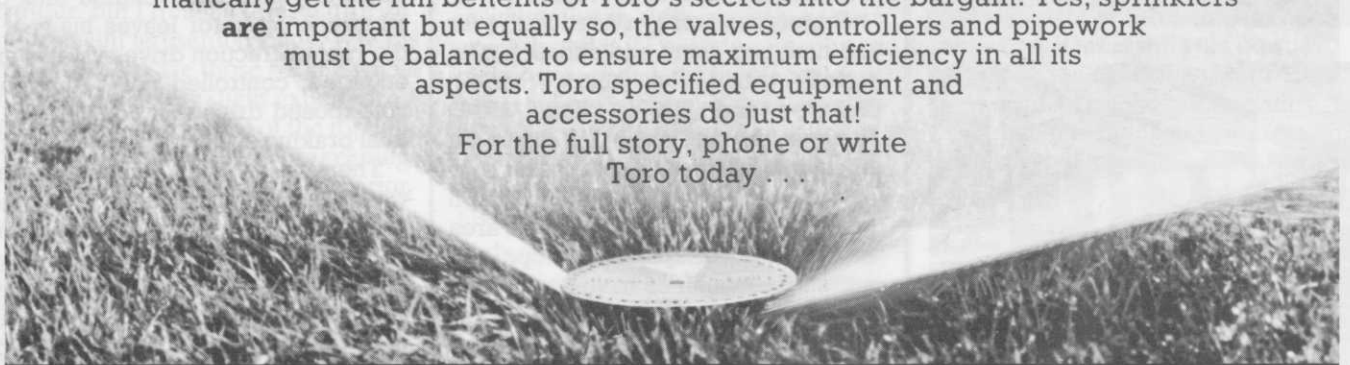
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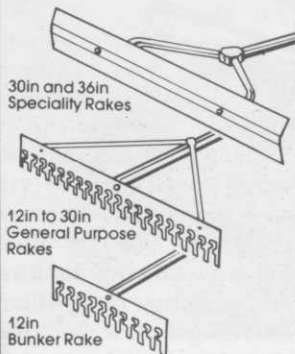
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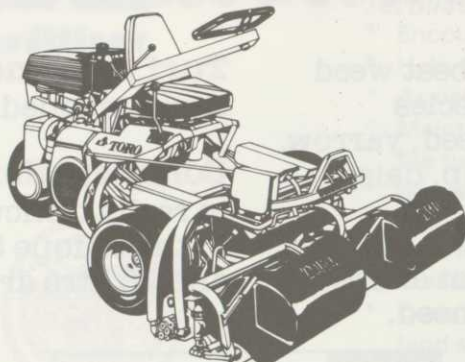
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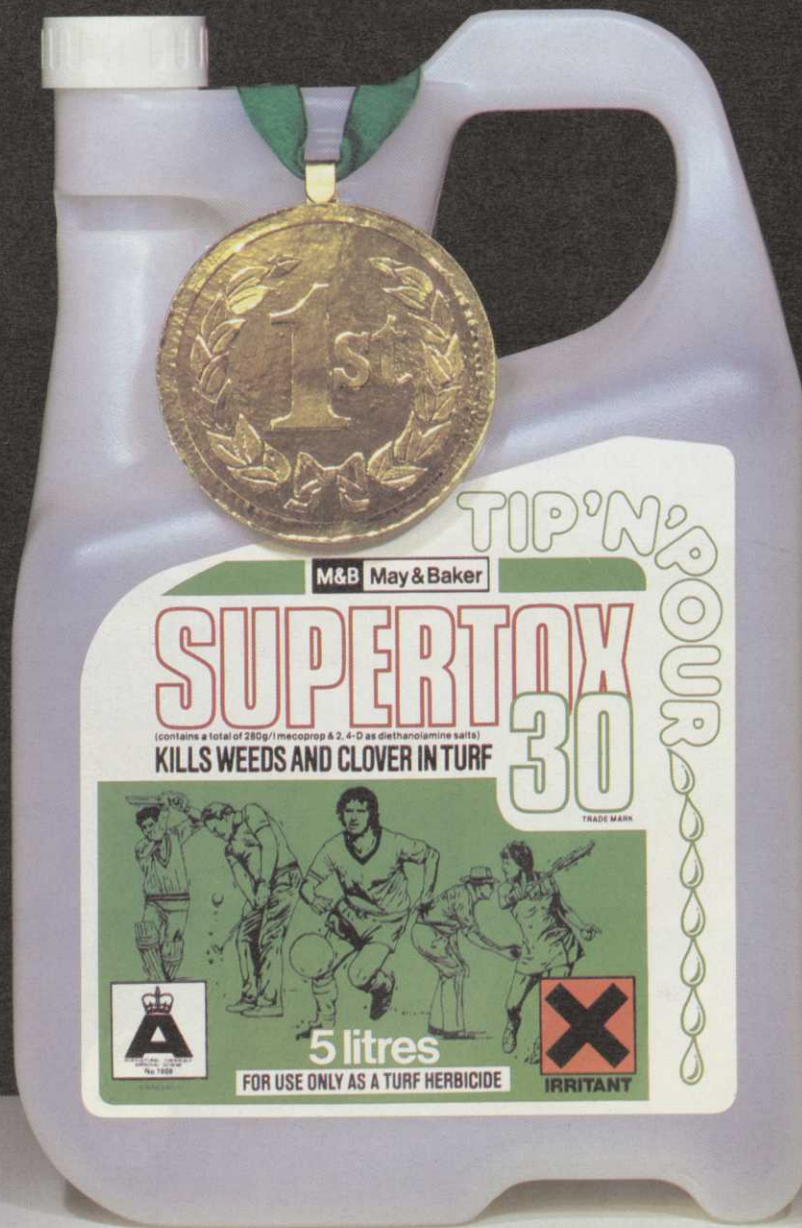


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The solution does not have to be watered in and will not cause discolouration. For further details, contact Supaturf Products, Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 5YZ. ☎ 0733 68384.

A change in contractual policy now enables interested dealers to apply to Marshall Concessionaires for one or more franchises from the company's four UK distributorships—Jacobsen, Bunton, Ryan and JL. Previously, the contract covered all four product ranges and could not be split.

Director Lindsay Marshall said: "We can now sign a new dealer for any of our franchises that is not in conflict with his current obligations and our existing dealer arrangements. The new individual franchise contract has already brought extra business and we are actively looking for other opportunities."

Marshall Concessionaires is now fully operational from its new premises at Romsey Road, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire SO5 0GR. ☎ 0794 41144.

R.S. Bird has appointed an inventory controller at its Cowbridge, South Glamorgan centre and an additional area sales manager for its Veals Lawnmower Services division at

Willsbridge, Bristol. Joining Birds at Cowbridge is Ken Kenney, who takes on responsibility for stock control, purchasing and inventory levels at all R.S. Bird group branches.

Ron Reeves has become area sales manager for Veals of Bristol, covering Wiltshire, South Avon and Somerset. He has spent four years as service manager with the company.



Ron Reeves.

Marshall Concessionaires has appointed John Larsen as UK sales manager for the Danish JL range. Larsen, 35, was previously export sales manager for JL in Denmark. He has an engineering background and is a graduate of the Danish International School of Marketing. Assisting him technically will be service manager Lester Smith and service specialist Russell Cox.

JL is the largest manufacturer of agricultural tractors and grass



John Larsen.

machinery in Denmark. The introduction of the Multi-trac over three years ago quickly brought the company market leadership, in that machine size, in Denmark and Holland.

IOG Regional Exhibitions

The Institute Of Groundsmanship has organised two further regional exhibitions in this its golden jubilee year.

The first will be the north-west exhibition at Ribby Hall Park, Wrea Green, near Blackpool on October 2-3. Scotsturf '84 will be held at the Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, Ingleston, near Edinburgh on November 8.

The exhibition organised by the institute's north-west zone branches is the sixth of its kind. Details from R. Johnston, 9 Cedar Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 9AD. ☎ 051-525 9805.

Scotsturf '84 is the third indoor event organised by the institute's Scottish zone and, as in previous years, a major feature will be a special training seminar. This year's subject will be the Application And Safety Of Grounds Maintenance Equipment.

Exhibition enquiries should be directed to W. Elwood, Inverleith Cottage, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW—seminar enquiries to N. Robb, 9 Ellisland Road, Busby, Glasgow G76 8QB.

Earlier, the IOG announced that its Northern Ireland branch is holding a three-day training course at the New University of Ulster, Coleraine from September 3-5. This will be followed by a machinery exhibition on the next day. Further information from K. Watson, 21 Lecumpher Street, Belfast BT5 5GL.

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More Room For Bob Andrews

A spacious new showroom is the first phase of a £160,000 development programme being carried out by



Pictured at the opening day, Graham Biggadike (East Berks), Fred King of Robert H. Andrews and Gordon Payne (Maidenhead).

Robert H. Andrews of Sunningdale, Berkshire. The second phase, which is to include a new workshop and warehouse, begins in autumn.

Sales manager Bruce Harnett said: "After years of squeezing by mowers,

we now have a great deal of room." Spares manager Bob Usher said the positioning of the new parts counter, away from machinery sales, would mean better service for customers who only wanted parts.

It was over 60 years ago that Robert H. Andrews, Atco's sales manager, decided to set up on his own in Sunningdale selling and servicing lawnmowers. Today, the company, under the leadership of his son, has a turnover in excess of £2,000,000, employs 35 and offers a full range of grass and horticultural machinery.

"The domestic market will always be an important part of our business," resident director Bob Andrews said, "but we really took off after World War II with the growth in demand for professional machines."

Lines handled by Bob's father Robert and still sold and serviced by the company include Atco, Qualcast, Ransomes and Webb. Today, the range has grown to include Allen, Flymo, Hayter, Mountfield, Stihl, Victa and Westwood.

Backing For Burt's Boys

The second in a series of training days by May & Baker at Warley Park Golf Club, Brentwood in Essex was held recently.

The company is assisting in a Youth Training Scheme started last autumn by club chairman Burt Green. Twenty young greenkeepers are undergoing a comprehensive training programme at Warley Park.

May & Baker's environmental products department set up a series of training sessions covering every aspect of chemical control in fine turf and amenity areas. In the first session, safety, spray machinery, calibration and chemical supply were covered.

In the second, turf diseases and turf pests were the subjects dealt with, in conjunction with soils, green con-

struction, grasses and cultivational control methods. SISIS demonstrated the Hydromain System.



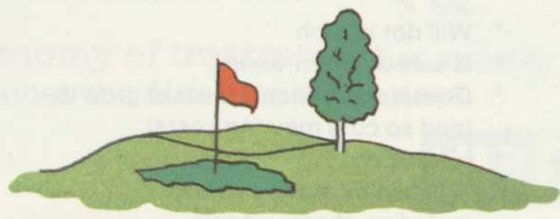
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