

FOR ALL YOUR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, TURF MANAGEMENT AND MACHINERY PROBLEMS *CONTRACT OUT TO US.*

Specialist equipment for hire or sale.
Ransomes 5/3, 350's, Triples, 213,
214 machines, mostly available.
All types hand machines, verge
cutters, Mastiff, Marquis etc.

All machines are reconditioned in
our own workshops etc.



Have your Rideon 61's fitted with
CDC's own conversion units, Ford
Escort 1.1 and 1.3 engines, proved
and tested on our own contracts.

Redundent modern equipment
purchased. Annual overhauls carried
out, loan machines available in
case of breakdowns. All commercial
users please contact us at the
address below.

golf course construction and design, maintenance a speciality.



CDC Landscapes Limited

Chapel Works,
Waldringfield,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

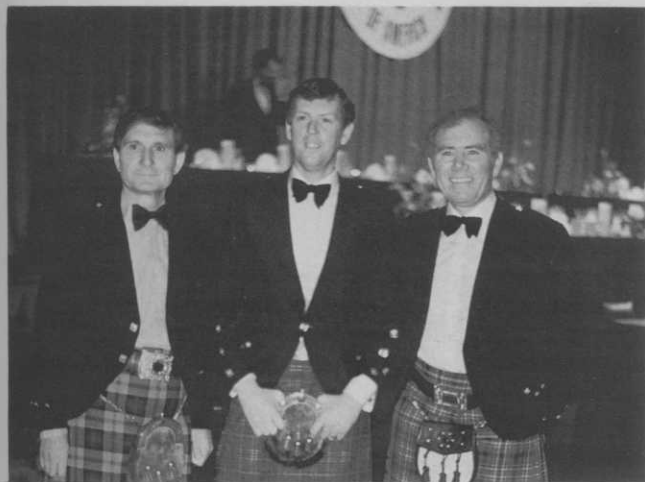
Telephone: 0473-36 733/734

This issue

APRIL 1985

Front cover:

S.I.G.G.A. in Washington, Walter Woods, Jimmy Kid and Stanley Carr.



| | |
|---|-----------|
| ALL IN A DAY'S WORK | 6 |
| Students question Jim Arthur | |
| A CAPITAL SHOW ON CAPITOL HILL | 10 |
| Jimmy Kidd reports from the GCSAA conference and show in Washington | |
| EIGGA NEWS & VIEWS | 13 |
| SIGGA NEWS & VIEWS | 16 |
| OPEN FAIRWAY | 18 |
| You write... | |
| THE RECLAMATION OF INDIGENOUS TURF | 28 |
| Eddie Park continues his series | |
| NOTEBOOK | 33 |
| APPOINTMENTS | 46 |
| BUYERS' GUIDE | 47 |

Publisher: A. Quick & Co Ltd
Managing Director: Michael Coffey
Editor: Robin Stewart

Contributors: Jim Arthur, John Campbell, David Jones, Jack McMillan, Eddie Park, Donald Steel, Peter Wisbey and Walter Woods

All advertising matter, editorial copy and correspondence should be sent to: *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP. ☎ 0255 507526

Subscription rates:
UK—£14 Continent and USA—£25 Eire—IR £19

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B. Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex.
Copyright: A. Quick & Co Ltd 1985

Opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the publisher or the editor.

Comment...

I RECENTLY had the pleasure of attending the annual EIGGA men's dinner at Walton Heath, having played the historic course—thanks go to Clive Osgood for an enjoyable day (writes *Greenkeeper* publisher Michael Coffey). This event, masterminded by EIGGA members Hugh MacGillivray and Kenny McNiven, is first rate. The after-dinner speeches included a notable contribution from Walton Heath secretary Wing Commander Bill McCrea, who said that the greenkeeper gathering was the first occasion since the previous EIGGA men's dinner to fill the club dining room to capacity and there were a number who could not get tickets.

The theme of Wing Commander McCrea's speech was a topical, if familiar one—namely, greenkeeper training. He recalled that at the same event last year he had thought EIGGA was an association committed to improving greenkeeping skills and qualifications through better training. "I have to say I am disappointed by the apparant lack of progress," was his initial salvo. "However, I understand that the Greenkeeper Training Committee has recently recommended that a new *greenkeeping* syllabus be taught on block release at a number of selected colleges." As clubs appreciate that the golf course is their number one asset, he felt sure this system would receive good support from the clubs.

While we wholeheartedly endorse this view, regrettably the facts are often different. All too often we hear of greenkeepers having requests to attend college courses and conferences turned down. At least 15 clubs refused to pay for staff to attend the EIGGA conference at Warwick this month. This attitude must be changed and it is reassuring for greenkeepers to have such an eloquent advocate for training as Wing Commander McCrea, who will hopefully be able to persuade some of his more reluctant colleagues of the benefits.

It is also disappointing to note that a novel scheme, sponsored by Mentzendorf Kummel, to raise money from golf club members, is to be put to only limited use. According to the Peter Alliss article in April's *Golf World*, the National Putting Championship—at 50p a time for a club member to enter—will raise funds for the Golf Foundation and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, for which Mr Alliss, as president, is promoting the competition. Are the producers of the excellent 'putting mixture' aware of how many greenkeepers there are in Scotland, England and Wales who, unlike all the UK's golfing youngsters who benefit from the Golf Foundation, will apparently not gain from the proposed new 'Centre for agronomy learning. A sort of huge nursery where young and old greenkeepers could come to lectures and listen to the latest ideas on golf course maintenance machinery, etc'.

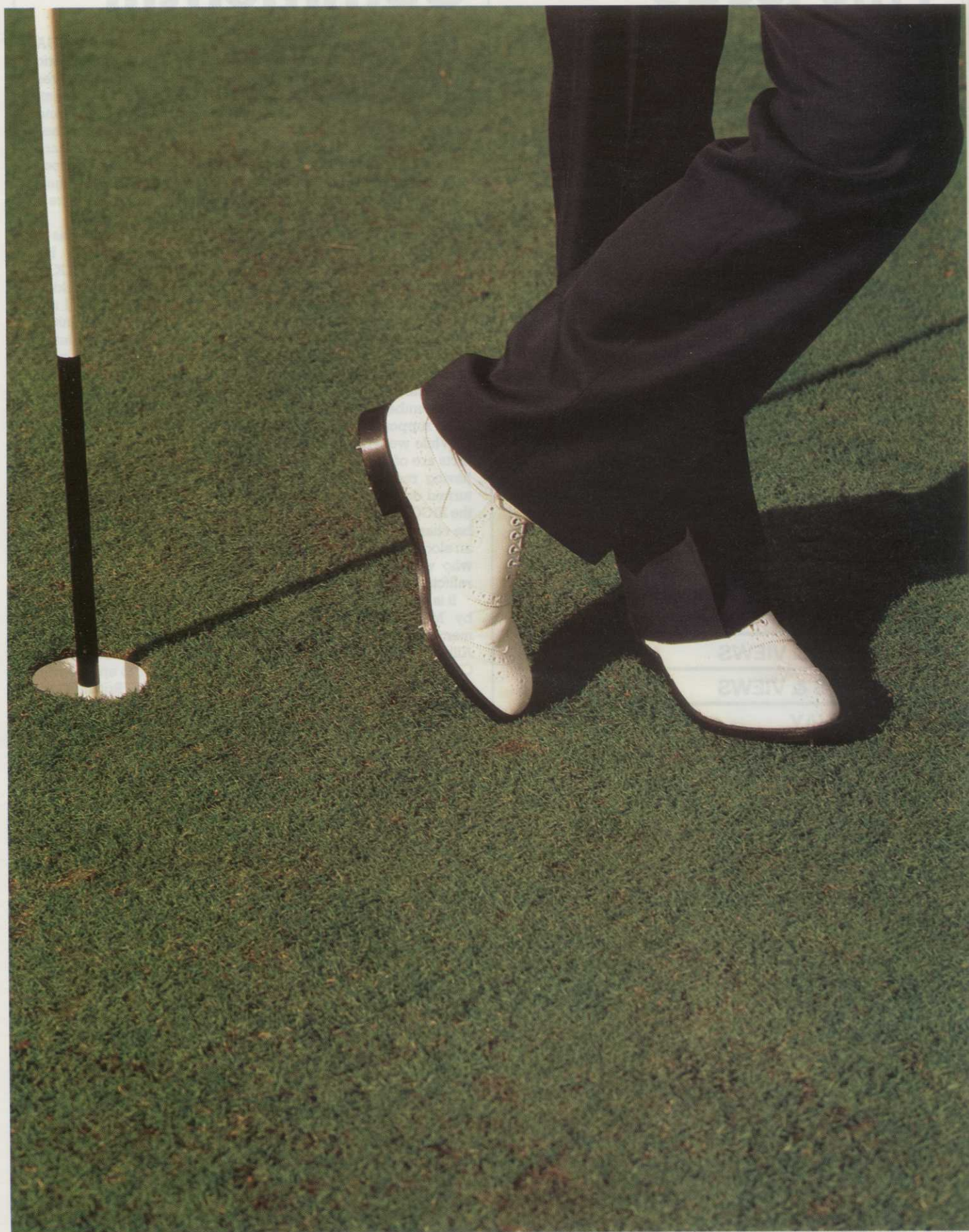
We thought that such an organisation existed in the Sports Turf Research Institute—albeit, until recently, sadly lacking in support from golf.

There can be no doubt that this competition is a highly commendable one. However, shouldn't the sponsors look again at the distribution of funds?

The EIGGA annual general meeting—at Warwick University on March 24—elected the following national officers: president—Dennis Ayling (Sussex); vice-president—David Jones (East Anglia); trustees—Kevin Munt (Surrey), Hugh MacGillivray (Sussex), Michael Coffey; chairman of the board of management—Bill Lawson (North West).

• A full report on the annual EIGGA conference and AGM will appear in next month's *Greenkeeper*.

Greenkeeper



ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey. Tél: Farnham (0252) 724525.

The 18th hole of an international tournament course is the least appropriate place on earth for a weed. Any kind of weed.

Which is why so many international tournament course groundsmen use a cunning cocktail of weedkillers known as Super Verdone: it kills *all* common turf weeds.

What would Sevy say if he found a dandelion on the 18th?

It does this by combining two systemic hormone weedkillers that see off most of the weeds you're ever likely to find on an English green with a third contact weedkiller that deals with the odd ones the first two miss.

Even the toughest weeds like Speedwell and Yellow Suckling Clover are on the way out a couple of weeks after a dose of Super Verdone.

And of course, it does all this without harming established turf in any way whatsoever.

If you don't happen to be overrun by quite such a wide and tenacious range of weeds, then ordinary Verdone will probably do the trick. (It's cheaper as well.)

To find out more about how you can prepare yourself and your course for the day Sevy turns up to play a round get in touch with ICI to find out your nearest Super Verdone distributor.



Professional Products

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Students attending a phase three greenkeeping supervisors' course at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex wanted to know more about the role of a golf course consultant, so they wrote to the top man—Jim Arthur...

What qualifications are needed for the job of golf course consultant?

During the inaugural EIGGA conference at Brighton in 1983, Dr Peter Hayes, director of the STRI, and I stated categorically that the term could be applied only to those advisors holding a degree in natural science or an equivalent qualification.

What is the nature of your profession?

In no way should an agronomist or golf course consultant attempt to act as a surrogate head greenkeeper. His function is quite different—namely, to advise a long-term programme, which must be agreed by the man who has to put it into effect. His functions are to diagnose basic problems and causes, measure progress, advise on new techniques and machinery and ensure 'the trade' complies with sound greenkeeping principles.

In this connection, the poor design work and bad equipment of a number of pop-up irrigation firms have been improved through the British Turf Irrigation Association, which was set up with my enthusiasm and co-operation, partly to discipline the industry and eliminate inefficient operators and partly to specify minimum standards, complying with good management standards laid down by qualified agronomists.

Equally, the gross over-use of complete NPK fertilisers, pushed for commercial reasons by some companies, has, to a large extent, been discredited by the action, over many years, of agronomists.

What it boils down to is that the advisor sees far more courses, far more of often the same problems and far more new machinery and techniques than it is possible for the average greenkeeper to—however interested he may be.

But no one can know a course better than its head greenkeeper and he has the more difficult task as he has to implement the agreed programme within the restraints imposed by available men, machines and money and in the light of variable

and unpredictable weather conditions. The weather always has the last word.

The advisor can also be of great assistance to the head greenkeeper in that he—unfair though it is—may have more influence with green committees and management in securing better equipment, better housing and, dare one say so, better remuneration.

Success is essentially a matter of team work, with no one part of the team—management, greenkeeper or advisor—more important than the other.

Do you use any 'external' information or is it all 'self information'?

I presume you mean do agronomists seek second opinions or the services of outside specialists. I certainly do in such specialist (and time-consuming) aspects as drainage, irrigation and soil analysis. This does not mean that I delegate the whole job and, indeed, I define the terms of reference on which I require the expert opinion.

Equally, it does not mean that I do not know anything about these aspects and, indeed, I can claim to know a great deal more about pop-ups, as one example, than the firms installing them as I have been concerned with such irrigation for a great deal longer—some 16 years in fact.

Increasingly sophisticated equipment, including computerised control systems, makes this more and more a job for the specialist, but I still lay down the rules and give guidance on basic layouts, as well as operation of the irrigation system.

I do my own mycological work as this is my speciality and I know from experience what to deduce from what I see under the microscope. If you see a few fusarium spores, it does not mean that the turf is suffering from fusarium patch disease.

Do you have regular places to visit?

The pattern of advisory work varies considerably but certainly so far as

the STRI's advisors and I are concerned, part of our work consists of regular repeat visits—especially when a remedial programme is being carried out over a period of years. Equally, a number of golf clubs will opt for occasional visits to check that they are still on the right lines or to deal with specific problems.

Needless to say, no advisor should ever receive retainers or considerations of any kind from any trade firm or, indeed, from any other body to influence their advice. An advisor's loyalty should be solely to his client—to see that his client's interests are paramount. But the reverse does not apply! When a client wants advice, he generally wants a specific recommendation, not some vague and totally disinterested comments or attitude to good and bad alike. A client pays for advice and cannot benefit unless he receives specific proposals.

Needless to say, he is not bound to follow that advice, but it should be given without fear or favour. I am sometimes accused of being prejudiced in favour of certain machines, systems or products and I fully accept that I am. Nevertheless, prejudice, i.e. pre-judgement, is my judgement based on years of experience, for which the client pays, knowing that it is not commercially influenced.

Another aspect of my advisory work is guiding the setting up of courses for major championships, especially where the greenkeeper may not have had this experience before and, more so, to ensure a consistent standard of presentation. I do this in my capacity as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the Royal and Ancient, work which I will still be doing for several years!

Are set fees involved?

Scale fees are charged by the STRI and myself—now, incidentally, the same. In other words, there is no question of charging what the market might bear—everyone pays the

same, though concessionary reductions may be made to some clubs.

Are you available for talks and lectures?

In the past, I have spent many, many hours of my time, given freely without even travelling expenses, addressing greenkeepers at lectures, seminars and courses. At times, attendances have been ludicrously low. My reward is often to be accused of self-advertisement, or to be attacked by greenkeepers who do not agree with what I have preached consistently for nearly 40 years.

I am abused in the greenkeeping press by prima donna head greenkeepers (many of whom I have been instrumental in placing in well-paid posts), who want no help from advisors and go round saying it is an admission of inefficiency if a club calls in someone like myself.

Therefore, I have decided to give no more talks for a year, especially as so many trade seminars tend to use people like myself to draw a crowd and then blatantly use the occasion for sales promotion and not education.

I am, however, a member of the Greenkeeper Training Committee and hopefully we will soon see a better training scheme than the old City & Guilds one, where the syllabus is so biased and misleading and based on horticulture or agriculture that it has to be 'interpreted' by the lecturers if it is to be of any use whatever.

Could you give an example of a problem area you have encountered

and the remedies you have given to restore first-class conditions?

There are many hundreds of courses throughout Britain and Europe that, prior to my advice, were disgraced by lush, thatchy, annual meadow grass meadows and now have excellent, fine, wiry, *Agrostis/Festuca* turf.

All the championship courses and hundreds of others in good order are maintained on the same basic management system that I have advised since joining the Research Station at Bingley just after the war. These are, in simplified terms, intensive deep aeration; minimal (nitrogen-only) fertiliser; controlled and limited irrigation; frequent (daily), but not too close, mowing; regular (weekly) verti-cutting; sensible, preventative treatment against weeds, pests, worms and disease with the accent on prevention rather than cure and regular 'compost' (never sand only) top-dressing, which today has to be mid-seasonal not in winter.

There simply is not space to describe in detail how and where this advice has worked, though I suppose better known examples are Turnberry for the 1977 Open, restored in just over two seasons from total dereliction to being widely acknowledged as superb links conditions, despite widespread criticism of its selection by the R & A at the time; Sunningdale, which suffered from waterlogged greens in the driest summer on record (1976), with six inches of stinking boggy thatch, but which, to within the space of two years, had meadow grass free greens and, latterly, Lindrick, restored to 60 per cent fine fescue greens and superb heathland

fairways inside three years after agricultural devastation.

There are, of course, hundreds of other less publicised results, but I must stress that I take no credit for these improvements. The head greenkeeper has done the work and my only credit comes from pointing him in the right direction, as well as getting the management to back him up.

I have never claimed to have invented the principles of sound greenkeeping, which have hardly altered basically (though very much in detail in response to changing pressures) since greenkeeping began. Neither do I claim any monopoly in giving sound advice and the STRI's special golf advisory service is now giving basically the same advice as myself.

Hopefully, we may see better agreement between the practical man on the ground at all levels and the advisor. Equally, it is to be hoped that some of the mad theories being promulgated, so far as you can judge merely for the sake of being different, will soon disappear as they fail to give results.

However, greenkeeping improvement, nationally and internationally, depends upon one basic factor and that is better education. There are no quick cures, just good, old-fashioned, sound, commonsense greenkeeping methods, now advised by all but a small minority of golf course advisors.

Greenkeeper



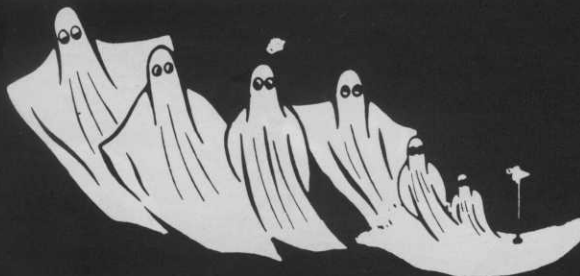
GOSTO

Graded Organic Sports Turf Dressing
a complete range of SUPERFINE topdressings
that are absorbed into any sward — FAST



Surrey Loams Ltd.

3 WAVERLEY LANE, FARNHAM, SURREY GU9 8BB TELEPHONE (0252) 721167



Tractors for all seasons

LELY ISEKI TRACTORS

Please send comprehensive brochure

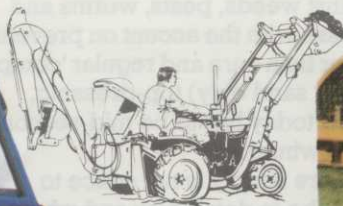
Nearest Dealer Demo details

Name

Address

Tel No.

G/4/85



LELY ISEKI have the finest range of 16 to 72 hp 4 WD TRACTORS in the field, plus, an exceptional variety of all British Built attachments. Give Colin Gregory a call and arrange a demo, it costs you nothing but the financial rewards can be quite considerable. Sales and Service Distributors with fully trained personnel in your locality.

ISEKI

LELY ISEKI TRACTORS
STATION ROAD · ST. NEOTS · HUNTINGDON
CAMBS. PE19 1QH Tel (0480) 76971 Telex 32523



Tree Surgery is a job for professionals



Honey Brothers are the professionals

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE is at your disposal. A properly trained and equipped team is essential if surgery is to be confined to trees!

Honey Bros. know how to minimize the risk of injury and possible claims. And in so doing create a work force that operates smoothly because it has the confidence that training brings.

Honey Bros. organize regular



arboricultural Safety Training Courses on site in Guildford or with owners on their own land. Our latest Catalogue of equipment for sale includes over a thousand items. Remember equipment is only sold after we have proved its worth for ourselves in use! The picture shows only some equipment. To illustrate the complete range would occupy many pages! View it all in our Showrooms or

See us at the Harrogate Show April 25—27 & Chelsea Show May 21—24



Honey Brothers Limited, New Pond Road, Peasmarsh, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1JR. Tel: Guildford (STD 0483) 61362

Jimmy Kidd, estates manager at Gleneagles, and Walter Woods, links manager at St Andrews, travelled to Washington for the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America conference and show. Jimmy reports the trip.

A capital show on Capitol Hill



A COUPLE of years have passed since SIGGA was represented at the GCSAA annual conference and show. It was, therefore, with a great sense of pride and responsibility that Walter Woods and I set forth from Edinburgh via Heathrow to Washington Dullis Airport.

The temperature in Edinburgh that day was an unseasonal 49°F. On arrival at Dullis at 5.00pm, the temperature was already -5°F and going down!

A rather agitated debate between us as to whether we should travel into Washington by taxi at the rate of \$30 plus tip or coach at \$9 was settled by a broken Scots-American accent encouraging us to "hurry up" and get into the bus. It was wonderful to hear once again the friendly voice of Stanley Carr from Del Rey, Florida, superintendent at the Gulf Stream Golf and Country Club.

A native of Tillicoultry, Stanley directed us to the GCSAA headquarters at the Sheraton Hotel, Washinton. There, we were met by associate executive director James Prusa who, in his usual efficient manner, had organised accommodation for us in the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill and within walking distance of some grand architecture.

The Smithsonian Institute has to be seen to be believed. The buildings record the history of everything from aviation to agriculture and natural history to art and the evolution of man display is vast.

This was the one and only occasion that I was delighted not to be accompanied by the wife, as the Natural History Museum contains some of the largest and most valuable stones in the world, including the largest uncut diamond. The Hope Diamond is priceless. I brought home photos so June and Caroline can drool at home.

Our Thursday and Friday thus occupied took our minds off the impending reason for our trip. Walter was to speak to the conference on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on The Thinking Superintendent and The Renovation Of The Old Course After The 1984 Open.

The GCSAA's organisation of all sessions is second to none. Carousels are available days previously. Slide projectors and rooms are laid on, leaving no excuses on the day.

The courtesy and attention paid to Walter during his first session and the comments afterwards were generous and encouraging to SIGGA.

We were particularly impressed by the quality of speakers, especially some of the younger superintendents, who have a lot to offer the profession. Their presentations were extremely professional and informative and not one of the older superintendents felt they could not learn something new.

The conference seminars cover such a diversity of subjects in a dozen rooms that it pays to be selective and choose a theme, whether it be budgeting and cost-control management, irrigation and machinery, preparation and renovation for major golf tournaments, man management and motivation, golf course architecture and many more.

To this end, and in the words of past-president James Timmerman, we went, we learned and we participated.

Walter's second session followed Robert Alonzi of Winged Foot Golf Club on preparing for the 1984 US Open and Theodore Woehrle of Oakland Hills preparing for the 1985 US Open. It is never an easy task speaking at conference level, but performing at such a gathering of internationals is even more nerve-racking. Walter was extremely relieved when his second 15 minute session was over.

The international session on the Monday was started by Rolf Lawgren of the Swedish Golf Federation. I followed with The Natural Experience Of A Game On A Classic British Golf Course.

The session began a little nervously as a voice admitted to having dropped a few slides. He was most apologetic and warned that they could now come up in the wrong order! I stood there saying: "Why me?" But a nod of confidence and reassurance from Walter set me off again with confidence.

Some sterling work from the back of the room and only one slide out of 80 was misplaced. I was exceptionally proud to see in the audience a large presence of the GCSAA's executive committee. It was our intention not to let our friends down and from the complimentary comments and