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MARCH 1985

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# Rigby Taylor

*“That’ll do nicely”*

THIS month's front cover shows Open champion Severiano Ballesteros, who has recently signed a deal with Rigby Taylor to endorse the company's products.

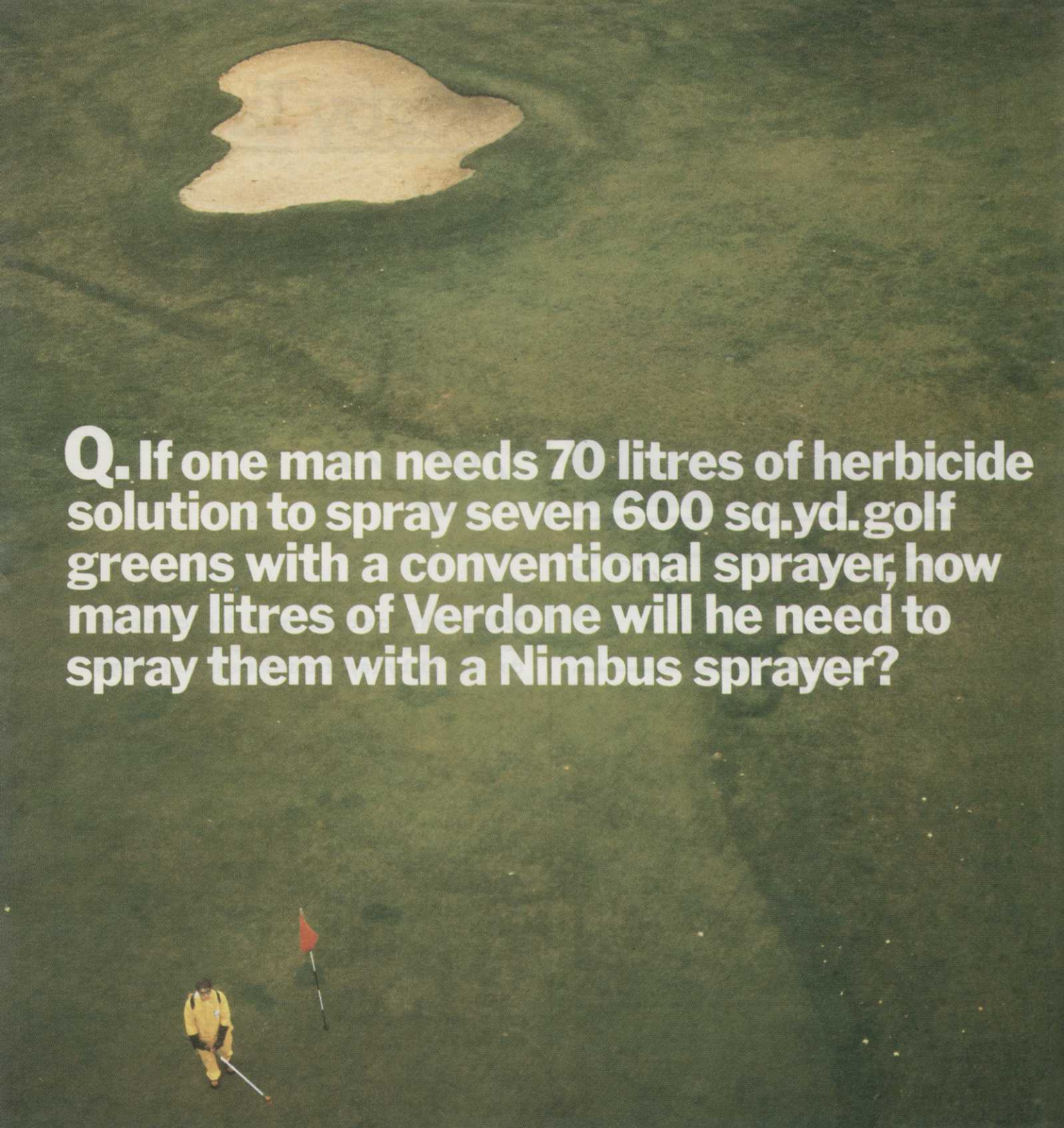
Seve contacted Rigby Taylor when he was in the final stages of completing a six-hole course in the grounds of his new home in northern Spain.

He required not only flagsticks, cups and tee markers, but turfcare products as well. These were duly supplied by Rigby Taylor and, in the course of conversation with marketing director Richard Lawrence, Seve discovered that many of his favourite courses where he has won in the UK are also supplied by Rigby Taylor.

So he was happy to lend his name to the range of products marketed by Rigby Taylor under the Mascot brand name.

Commenting on this promotional coup, a delighted Richard Lawrence said: “Rigby Taylor is proud that the world's foremost golfer is now going to be seen supporting the Mascot range. This is the first time Seve has endorsed products for golf course maintenance and I believe Rigby Taylor is the first company to be associated with such a prominent sportsman in this way.”

Now Mascot products rank along with that well-known American credit card and, among others, one of the world's most-admired watches — perhaps less glamorous, but nonetheless, approved!



**Q.** If one man needs 70 litres of herbicide solution to spray seven 600 sq.yd.golf greens with a conventional sprayer, how many litres of Verdone will he need to spray them with a Nimbus sprayer?

**A. 5 litres.** How do you make that out?

Well, it's quite simple really: the Nimbus is vastly more efficient, quicker, cheaper and easier to use than any other spray system.

It has a battery driven atomiser disc that distributes droplets of oil based herbicide of exactly the right dimensions – 200-300 microns (at maximum spray width).

That makes the Nimbus far more efficient simply because less of the spray drifts away or drips off the plant.

In fact it uses the herbicide so sparingly that 5 litres can cover up to half a hectare of ground. That's how it manages to work out so much cheaper.

And because one back-pack full of herbicide goes so far the chap using it doesn't have to continually stop and refill. That's the main reason why the Nimbus works out so much quicker.

Even when he does stop and refill the task's a lot easier than usual: the three controlled droplet application (c.d.a.) herbicides for the Nimbus come pre-packed and ready for use straight from the pack. There's no need to cart large volumes of water around, no measuring and mixing and no need to carry a large tiring back-pack of diluted herbicide.

Bullseye c.d.a. is a total herbicide ideal for early season application to roads, footpaths and uncropped land.

Snapper c.d.a. is a total herbicide ideal for use from April onwards on the same sort of ground.

Verdone c.d.a. is a selective weedkiller ideal for late spring and summer use on established greens and other turf areas.

(All three will be available from January '85.)

Which just about covers everything from the club car park to the 18th hole.

Q: What should you do next if you think that all sounds like a rather neat idea?

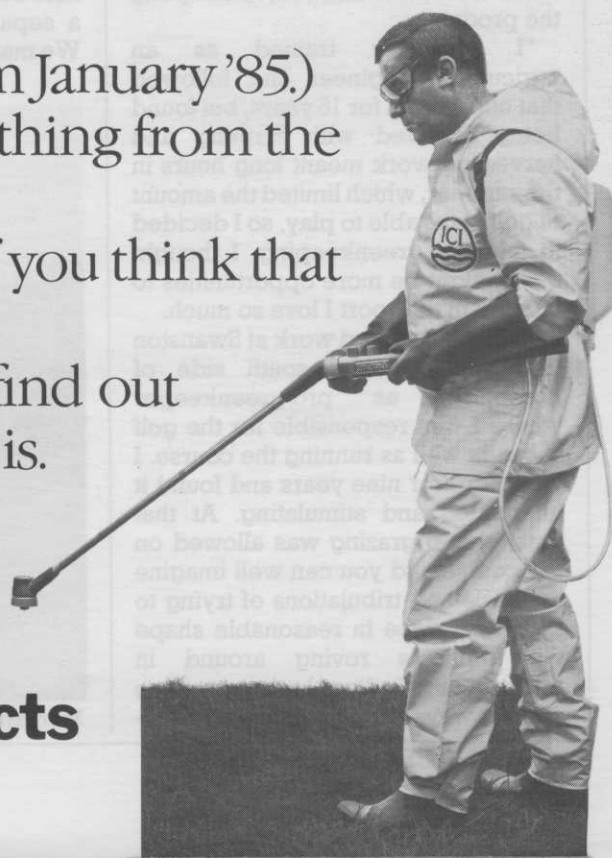
A: Get in touch with ICI and find out where your nearest Nimbus dealer is.

Contact: Farnham

(0252) 724525.



**Professional Products**



# Out·On·The·Course

## Jimmie Neilson

**Jimmie Neilson is the course manager of Murrayfield Golf Club and president of the Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.**

THERE are few courses with more enthralling views of the surrounding landscape than Murrayfield Golf Club, Edinburgh, which lies on the eastern slopes of Corstorphine Hill in a dominating position overlooking the beautiful Scottish capital city. The course is always kept in immaculate condition by an enthusiastic team of greenkeepers under the direction of course manager, Jimmie Neilson, 51.

"I've always been a keen golfer and it was my enthusiasm for the game that really attracted me to greenkeeping," Jimmie said. He's a friendly, genial Scot with an intelligent and shrewd viewpoint on many aspects of his chosen profession. "I have great support from a patient and understanding wife, my married daughter and nineteen-year-old son, who has decided to follow in his father's footsteps and is in the fourth year of a greenkeeper apprenticeship, training with me at Murrayfield.

"In addition to being addicted to the game, I play quite a bit of darts in winter. Wine making is another hobby that interests me and I enjoy sampling the product!

"I originally trained as an agricultural engineer and followed that occupation for 16 years, but found being involved with farming and harvesting work meant long hours in the summer, which limited the amount of golf I was able to play, so I decided to take up greenkeeping. I thought there might be more opportunities to indulge in the sport I love so much.

"In 1968, I started work at Swanston Golf Club on the south side of Edinburgh as pro/greenkeeper where I was responsible for the golf shop, as well as running the course. I was there for nine years and found it interesting and stimulating. At that time, sheep grazing was allowed on the course and you can well imagine the trials and tribulations of trying to keep the place in reasonable shape with animals roving around in bunkers and fouling the greens, tees and fairways. It was also very time-



Jimmie Neilson.

consuming and it finally came to the stage when I decided to have a change and concentrate more on greenkeeping.

"In 1977, I applied for, and was offered, the post of course manager at Murrayfield, which I was honoured to accept. We have an 18-hole course with some 900 members and a nine-hole course, Ravelston, which is run as a separate club with 450 members. We maintain the grounds and course."

Jimmie has a foreman and five assistant greenkeepers. He also has a self-employed estate handyman who, with an assistant, maintains walls, trees and ditches around the club grounds. He also has a retired man on a part-time basis to look after the lawns and gardens.

Jimmie has always been a loyal and enthusiastic member of SIGGA, which he joined in 1970. "I have served the association in the capacity of secretary and chairman of the east section, have done a stint as general secretary of the national association and am now serving a term of office as president of SIGGA. I was also involved with the Greenkeeper Training Committee and helped to organise the greenkeeping educational syllabus for SCOTEC, which is now being implemented by our colleges."

I asked his opinion on greenkeeping as a career. "Let's put it this way, a greenkeeper won't become a millionaire through his job, but it's very satisfying to watch the course as it progresses through the seasons. Every year there is always a challenge to be faced and new lessons to be learned. The work is



Murrayfield's 18th green.



A panoramic view of Edinburgh can be seen from behind the 2nd green.

never dull and you get to meet a lot of nice people and make many friends in the industry. You can command great respect if you are willing to work hard and diligently to achieve high standards.

"Greenkeeping is a job for which you have to be healthy and there are good opportunities for any man if he is prepared to get the right training. He should join a greenkeepers' association and get involved with his branch, which allows you to meet greenkeepers from other courses and broadens your outlook and experience of the profession.

"Murrayfield has a policy of training and education for all the greenkeeping staff, which is fully encouraged and supported by the club. It is unfortunate some head greenkeepers are not interested in training young staff because they are afraid they might eventually take over their job. This is a negative attitude. We have to encourage young men of the right calibre to come into the profession.

"At my club, we have excellent administration procedures with long-term plans for the benefit of the course. We have a green chairman and committee, plus the club captain and myself present at all meetings and no sudden changes can be made overnight. Everything has to be discussed in council. Our long-term plan is to improve the drainage and we have been doing this now for the past three years with another two to go. In addition, up till now, we have planted over 4,000 trees and this will continue.

"I am fortunate to have a good green chairman, who has worked with me for over four years and is extremely interested in all that we do on the course. Our continuity of policy does not give us any of the problems that some clubs have. Constant change is not good for greenkeeping, is worse for the course and is a sad reflection on the way some clubs are run."

I asked Jimmie his views on golf-course machinery. "There seems to

be a reluctance on the part of some manufacturers to listen to suggestions from greenkeepers on machinery improvements and it is usually left to the local blacksmith to get simple alterations done. Equipment companies should pay more attention to our comments. After all, we are the people using the machines.

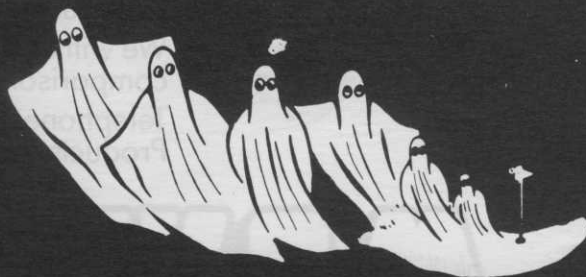
"Within the last 20 years, there have been great advancements in the multiplicity and sophistication of golf course machinery and the wide range of attachments now available has made a significant impact on the ease and speed with which most routine jobs can be done. I still prefer to cut greens and tees on the main course with hand mowers, such as the Auto-Certes, and mow the nine-hole with a triplex machine to save time and labour.

"Because of my early training in engineering, you will appreciate I am very particular about machinery and I insist that accurate daily records be maintained on the amount of repairs, spares and performance, etc, of every single machine. This is something I would advise every course manager to do. At the end of each season, it allows us to assess the condition and cost effectiveness of each item of equipment so that we are able to justify any new investment to the club committee when the time comes for replacement.

"When I was an agricultural engineer, I used to visit many courses in Scotland doing tractor repairs. I came into contact with some great characters in greenkeeping, who were well worth listening to. Names that spring to mind are Jim King, who was at Luffness for many years, Jock Newlands and Harry Smith (Bruntsfield Links), Davie Paterson (Fereneze) and the two Willie Ritchies (Kirriemuir and Montrose) to name a few. They were all good greenkeepers and we would do well to emulate them and their kind."



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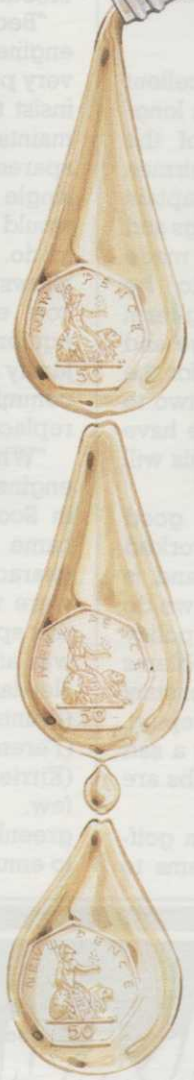
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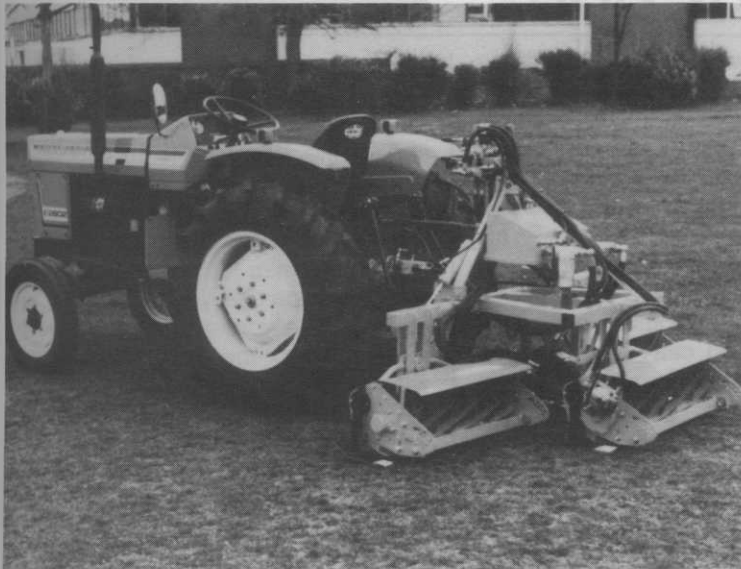


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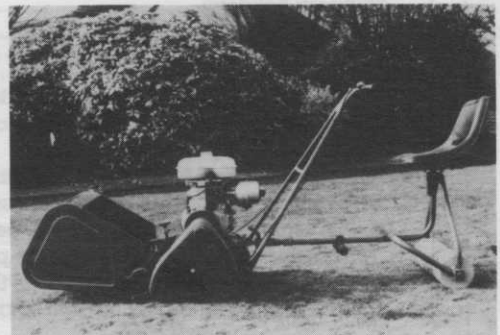
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## New Address, New Number

SIGGA's new office is now in operation at 82 Dumbreck Road, Glasgow G41. Telephone 041-427 4701. The office will be manned five days a week from 10am until midday and 2pm until 4pm on weekdays. General secretary Joe McKean will still be available on Uplawmoor 217 at other times. It is hoped an answering machine will be installed in the office soon.

## Central

The section held its AGM at Tulliallan GC. In a busy meeting, Elliott Small stepped down from the position of secretary/treasurer, which he has held since the section's inception in

1980. Elliott was presented with a crystal decanter and glasses as a token of the section's appreciation. Elliott gave his thanks and added how much he enjoyed seeing the section grow and prosper and hoped everyone would support his successor in the same manner.

Sandy Brown, course manager at Crieff GC, was appointed chairman; Elliott Small (you can't keep a good man down!) vice-chairman and John Crawford, head greenkeeper at Dunfermline GC, takes over as secretary/treasurer.

## Ayrshire

The section recently enjoyed a games night in the Irvine Ravenspark GC clubhouse. Darts, dominoes and pool

were played for prizes of birds and booze (pheasant and wine)! Thanks go to the club for the use of its facilities and to the steward for an excellent supper.

Inverclyde Sports Centre, Largs was the setting for a game using a larger ball than we're used to as the west section played Ayrshire at football. The younger and fitter west team took to the Astraturf surface, winning 5-3.

We hope that Alan McDougall's leg will be all right for the return match. With the minimum of fuss and effort, Joe McKean officiated from the middle of the park, so look out Tiny Wharton!

The section's spring outing will be to Southernness GC on April 16 and the autumn outing, at Glasgow Gailes GC, will be on September 10.

*Jim Grainger.*

## Minimum Wage Scale And Basic Conditions Of Employment

Golf clubs often seek guidance from SIGGA on a fair wage for greenkeeping staff. Although the figures remain the subject of negotiation between the golf club and head greenkeeper, a wage scale has been formulated for 1985.

Head greenkeeper .....	Negotiable
Assistant head greenkeeper .....	£130 per 40 hour week (certificated)
Assistant head greenkeeper .....	£123 per 40 hour week (uncertificated)
Assistant journeyman .....	£113 per 40 hour week (certificated)
Assistant journeyman .....	£107 per 40 hour week (uncertificated)
Apprentice to start at 50% of certificated journeyman's wage .....	£56.50
After one years employment, an increase of 12½% to .....	£70.04
After two years employment, an increase of 12½% to .....	£84.08
After three years employment, an increase of 12½% to .....	£98.12
After four years employment, an increase of 12½% to .....	£113

### Basic Conditions Of Employment

40 hour working week, Monday to Friday. If not salaried, overtime to be paid as follows:-

Basic overtime .....	time and one half
Saturday .....	time and one half until midday—thereafter, double time
Sunday .....	double time
Statutory holidays .....	double time plus one day
Statutory holidays .....	eight days annually, three local holidays and four weeks annual leave
January 1 and 2, Easter Monday, May 6 and 27, September 30, December 25 and 26.	

1. Where accommodation is provided by the club, it should be rent and rates free
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the club, a suitable remuneration should be paid
3. Retirement pension scheme
4. Car travelling expenses. Club business—25p per mile
5. Telephone costs on club business
6. Washing and toilet facilities as per Government (Health & Safety) Act
7. Insurance accident policy to be paid by the club
8. A clothing allowance of not less than £100 per annum
9. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations and SIGGA tournaments

### Objects Of The Association

To advance the status of golf greenkeepers and to educate the members by way of lectures, discussions, competitions and functions of like nature; to assist the colleges involved in the training of apprentice greenkeepers and the golf clubs to our mutual benefit; to collaborate with the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and to promote golf greenkeeping.

### Regions

WEST:	A.McDougall, 17 Poplar Avenue, Newton Mearns. ☎ 041-639 2109.
EAST:	W.Blair, 13 Redhall Avenue, Edinburgh EH14 2HP. ☎ 031-443 3214.
NORTH:	I.Hamilton, 58 Whitecraig Road, Newburgh, Fife. ☎ Newburgh 40727.
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AYRSHIRE:	J.Grainger, 3 Castlepark Gardens, Fairlie. ☎ Fairlie 564.

