



George checks aeration equipment.



Transporting the Ryan heavy-duty turf cutter.

feel that the more simplified the control and upkeep of the systems, the better it is for greenkeepers. There are less chances to make mistakes. I have yet to see a trouble-free irrigation system, so the art and skill of fault finding is important to deal with breakdowns.

"No equipment, however good, can succeed unless there is an availability of spares. There is nothing more frustrating than to have a vital machine sitting in the sheds due to lack of spares

when it is badly needed on the course. We always have a good stock of spare parts here—we could carry more, but there is always the problem of storage. We keep all the necessary things, such as bottom blades, spark plugs, drive belts, hydraulic hoses. Spare chain links are also essential."

Finally, I wondered if the Open Championship and other major events at St Andrews created much more work for George. "I am kept quite busy," he said. "The most critical time

for us is during pre-tournament preparations. Contractors want to plough in new cables and water pipes. We have to accompany them to make sure that permanent lines don't get damaged. Last year's Open went smoothly and we had few problems.

"In closing, I would mention my assistant, who is proving invaluable in the workshop—Walter Woods Junior. He has proved to be an intelligent, skillful engineer, who has made the most of his training."

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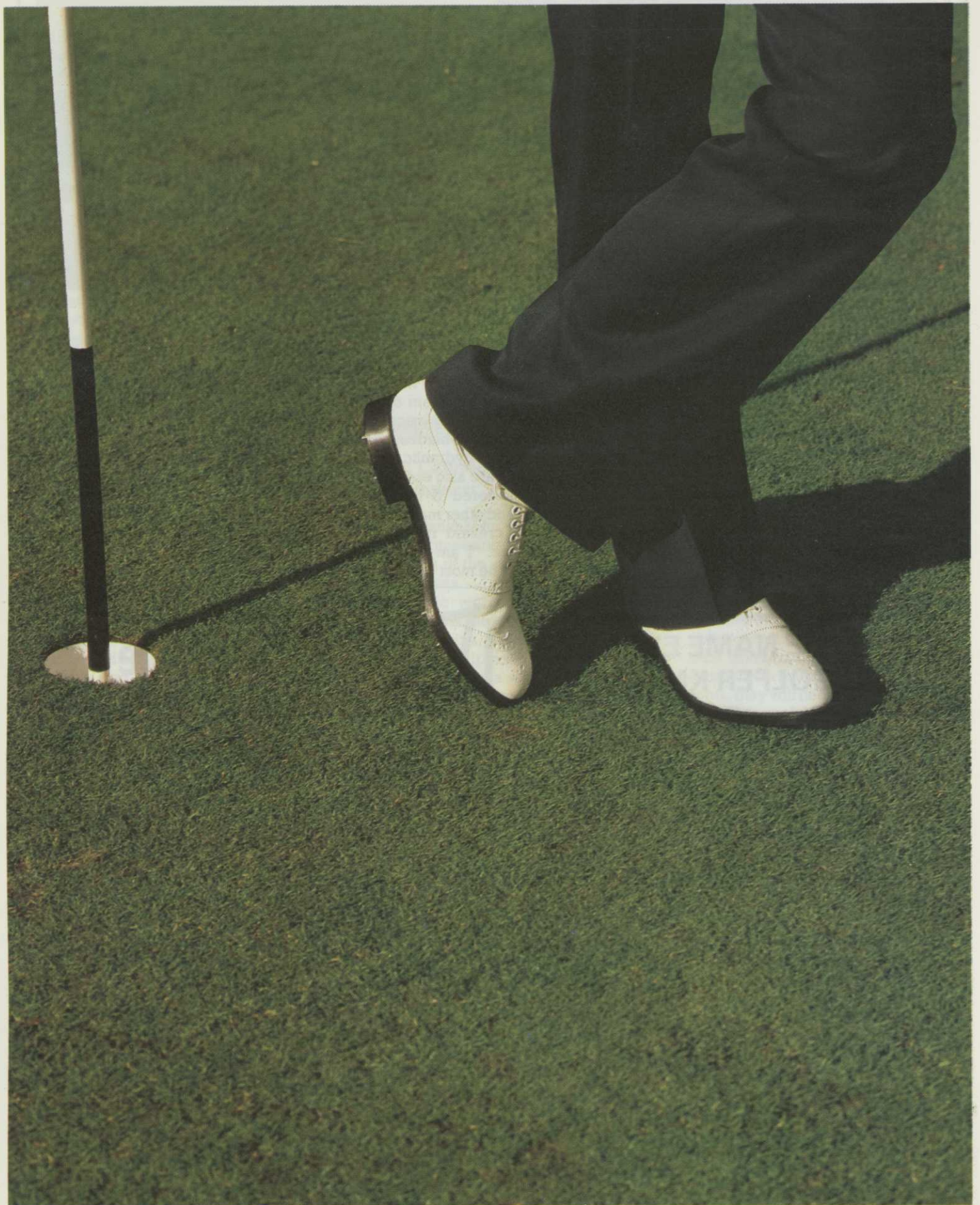
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## EIGGA CONFERENCE REPORT—CONTINUED...



An attentive audience in the lecture theatre.

for East Anglia, had received a clear indication from his branch members that they would not be prepared to pay the increased sum. The board of management also felt it could not justify charging this amount.

The figure of £50 had been submitted with a view to increasing the association's holdings, thus enabling it to employ a full-time administrator. It had become clear that, if the subscription was raised to this level, EIGGA would lose a high proportion of its membership.

David Jones felt that the original idea of a full-time administrator seemed to be of a person who, as well as dealing with the day-to-day administration of the association, would travel around the country visiting golf clubs and promoting EIGGA. He made the point that this would mean providing a car to the person concerned and a salary of approximately £10,000 plus expenses. He questioned the wisdom of using the members' subscriptions to pay a person to travel up and down motorways and stay in hotels as he felt this was not value for money.

The chairman then reported that the figures proposed by the board of management for subscriptions in 1986 were: the full subscription to be raised to £20, the apprentice subscription to remain at £12, the trade subscription to be raised to £25 and national and regional company membership subscriptions to be £125 and £75 respectively. He added that the idea of employing a full-time administrator

had been postponed, as the real cost of employing someone could be in excess of £40,000.

A.Low proposed that figures suggested by the board be adopted. T.Low seconded the proposal and the motion was carried on a show of hands. The chairman informed the meeting that EIGGA's first president Jack McMillan was retiring from the post after two years in office and that a new trustee was to be elected to replace David Jones, who was also retiring from this post.

Sussex had proposed that Dennis Ayling should be EIGGA's new president. This suggestion was endorsed by the chairman. The North-West branch had proposed David Jones as vice-president and the board of management had proposed Kevin Munt as trustee. No other proposals had been received. All three proposals were approved and the motion carried on a show of hands.

The chairman said that Jack McMillan had done an excellent job as president and was pleased to inform the meeting that the board had invited Jack to become an honorary member of EIGGA.

Peter Wisbey indicated that there was a need for a clarification to the wording of the EIGGA constitution, concerning the gold diploma. At present, the item reads: 'Any head greenkeeper with City & Guilds Management or Turf Culture certificate or any other appropriate certificate as determined by the management board, and over five

years practical experience as a head greenkeeper; or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience...' It had come to the board's notice that the wording had been interpreted to mean 'Any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a greenkeeper.' It was intended to apply to any head greenkeeper who had fifteen years as a *head greenkeeper*, but with no certificate. The board, therefore, submitted that the item should now read: '...Or any head greenkeeper with fifteen years practical experience *as such*,' the two last words to be added to the constitution.

D.Archer asked approximately how many diplomas had been issued to date. The figures are: five bronze, 18 silver and 17 gold, making a total of 40 since the inception of the association.

Speaking as EIGGA's new president, Dennis Ayling said it gave him great pleasure to thank Jack McMillan for being a splendid ambassador of the association. Dennis felt honoured to be asked to carry on where Jack had left off. He also thanked the administrator for her efforts. The president felt that the conference had been a huge success, especially the papers given by EIGGA members.

At a meeting of the board of management, following the AGM, Bill Lawson was elected to take over from Peter Wisbey as chairman of EIGGA. Bill is chairman of the North-West branch and a highly respected member of the board of management.

I can assure all members that, in Bill Lawson, the association has a fine successor to the retiring chairman Peter Wisbey who, throughout his term of office, has worked tirelessly on behalf of EIGGA and to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the dates for the 1986 conference have been set at April 4-6 1986, with the venue once again, the University of Warwick.

Danielle Jones,  
General Administrator.

### **EIGGA At Open**

**Courtesy of the R&A,  
EIGGA will have a tent—  
sponsored by Greenkeeper—  
in the Open Championship  
tented village at Royal  
St George's. Further details  
in next month's magazine.**

## London

By now, the season will be getting into full swing and the greenkeepers' golf league, organised by Michael Peters, will be well under way, so make sure you phone your results through as soon as possible. The final will be played on the afternoon of our autumn meeting, which is set for Muswell Hill GC on Thursday October 3.

We have been welcomed back to Northwood again and will have an evening's golf on Monday August 19.

The annual EIGGA conference was an outstanding success, but it was disappointing that no other members of the London branch managed to attend. Hopefully, this situation will be rectified next year.

Reinforcements did arrive, however, on Sunday morning. Alan Moffat of Parkers organised a mini-

bus a couple of days before the event and a dozen members arrived to see me during a nerve-racking experience when I chaired the conference's final session. It was also an honour. As Steve Noye and Bill Lawson will testify from the previous day, it was almost as frightening as presenting a paper, but something we would not have wanted to miss.

Any branch members who would be prepared to stand up and give their views or theories on any aspect of greenkeeping would be welcomed. What about junior and apprentice members? Could you fill a short spot of, say, 15 minutes on how you see the profession? You have until April next year when we again return to Warwick.

The AGM on Sunday afternoon gave rise to some interesting discussion but, as usual, people who are vociferous at branch AGM's throughout the country were not in attendance. As has been said many times before, members should be saying: 'What can I do for EIGGA?' Not: 'What can EIGGA do for me?'

Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcome. If necessary, put them down on paper and send them to me and they can be

discussed at branch committee meetings. As your representative on the EIGGA board of management, I will be pleased to take them to board meetings, too.

*David Low.*

## East Anglia

With just a couple of exceptions, there hasn't been much going on in this neck of the woods. I did attend an excellent demonstration by Anglian Land Drainage at Woodbridge GC. Ben Bunting, the manager of ALD, took a few of us down for the day to see the Verti-Drain doing a marvellous job.

The second event was at an hotel in Norwich where a seminar was arranged by Collier Turf Care Distributors. It was a very interesting day, which was well attended by sports and amenity people. Firms represented included May & Baker, SISIS, Anglian Land Drainage, Mommersteeg, Rolawn and several others. All in all, a good day.

*M.Lathorpe.*

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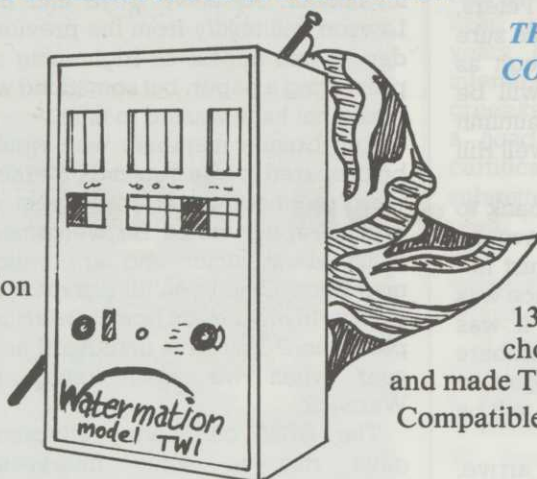


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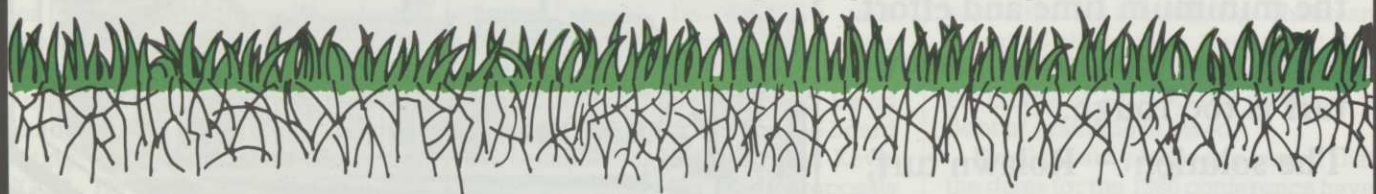
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## West

The section has held a committee meeting and new sub-committees have been formed.

The SISIS Pairs Trophy for greenkeepers and convenors was held at West Kilbride GC. The golf was played in cold, but dry, conditions which seemed to help the general low scoring, but this must be put down mostly to the excellent condition of the course. The West section thanks Jim

Paton and his staff and congratulates him on having the course so good so early in the year.

Prize-winners were: A.Hastie and A.Meechan (Bellshill GC)—65; D.Fleming and I.Ferguson (Hilton Park GC)—67 and J.Paton and B.Gossman (West Kilbride GC)—69. Fifteen teams took part in the competition which, along with the excellent attendance at the section's AGM, has given the section a great start to the year's activities.

## Ayrshire

The first of the season's events was held at Largs, when Greenkeepers from the West section came to play five-a-side football. Later in the evening, everyone adjourned to the Picketlaw Hotel for the annual stag-night.

The section AGM was held at Prestwick. Chairman Harry Diamond thanked everyone for their participation in the past year's events and, in particular, the Open Championship Draw, which was a great success, and will be run again this year.

The secretary stated that the section's funds were healthy and there was an influx of new members this year. He looked forward to meeting them at the Spring outing.

The draw for the four-ball knockout competition has been made. Harry Diamond is organising this competition and will be in touch with the competitors. Harry can be contacted on Ayr 241258 during working hours if anyone has a problem arranging matches.

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The Greenmaster, with a three-wheel design, means that it can turn within its length. The tight-turning design, coupled with two independent, hydraulically driven, front traction wheels, allows this rear-steering triplex to cut up to and around the edges of greens, collars and traps.

A single forward reverse pedal gives the operator additional control in tight turns, together with the variable speed kit which provides speed control from 0-3.5mph and allows the operator to select the constant ground speed that ensures a constant clip as the cutting units mow. For a finer clip at low heights of cut, or for easy manoeuvring in tight spots, the speed is simply adjusted downward.

The 300 is designed with hydraulically-driven traction wheels, reels and reel lifts. These enclosed, self-lubricating power systems give longer service and require less

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The operator station features centralised controls within easy reach, plus a steering arm that can be adjusted in height to allow for more leg room, as well as an adjustable, cushioned, high-back seat.

Maintaining a quality cut in low ranges demands frequent and precise adjustment. TORO's quick-disconnect cutting units allow fast and easy removal of the reels for servicing.

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