

Buyers' Guide

BARK AND BARK BASED PRODUCTS

Camland Products Ltd.,
36 Regent Street,
Cambridge, CB2 1DB
Tel: (0223) 68780 Telex: 81254

BOWLING GREEN, GOLF GREEN/TEE CONSTRUCTION

Amenity Landscape Construction

1st Floor, 33 High Street,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.
Tel: 01441 0189

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd.,
Bishop House, Bath Road,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks.
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

BRITISH ASSOCIATION GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Full

J. Hamilton Strutt - Hamilton Strutt & Co.
12 Bingham Avenue, Poole,
Dorset BW14 8NE
Tel: 0202 708406

Donald Harradine,
CH 6987, Caslano, Switzerland.
Tel: 091 711561

Fred Hawtree,
Martin Hawtree - Hawtree & Son,
5 Oxford Street, Woodstock,
Oxford OX7 1TQ
Tel: 0993 811976

**Donald Steel - Cotton, Pennink,
Steel & Partners**,
5 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR
Tel: 01-630 5252

Tom McAuley,
7 Donegall Square West,
Belfast BT1 6JE
Tel: 0232 226981

Peter Harradine,
P.O. Box 1165, SHARJAH,
United Arab Emirates
Tel: 009716 356446

Provisional
Alistair Rae,
26 Tannoch Road, Uplawmoor Road
Glasgow G78 4AD
Tel: 050 585 371

**Cameron Sinclair - Cotton, Pennink,
Steel & Partners**,
5 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR
Tel: 01-630 5252

Overseas (Full)
Eddie Hackett,
28 Ailesbury Drive, Dublin 4, Eire
Tel: Dublin 691592

Pier Mancinelli,
21 Via Achille Papa 00195
Rome, Italy
Tel: 06-36036 35

Jan Sederholm,
S 252 34 Helsingborg,
K. Kristoffersg 3A Sweden
Tel: 042-371 84

Overseas
Joan Dudok Van Heel,
Beukenlaan 4, 1640, St Genesius
Rode, Nr. Brussels, Belgium
Tel: (02) 358 5518

Kurt Robknecht,
Dennenmoos 5a, 8990 Lindau-Bad
Schachen, Germany
Tel: 08382-230 05

R. Berthet,
95 Rue Saint Antoine, 75004,
Paris France
Tel: Paris 271-62 59

Senior Member
Fraser Middleton
15 Kilmarnon Crescent, Cupar, Fife
KY15 4DS Scotland

BRITISH ASSOCIATION GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS

Chipman Ltd.,
Horsham, Sussex RH12 2NR
Tel: 0403 60341

Eccles Contracting Ltd.,
Brickfield Street,
Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire,
SK14 7DZ Tel: (04574) 63425

Golf Landscapes Ltd.,
Ashwells Road, Bentley,
Brentwood, Essex. CM15 9SR
Tel: 0277 73720

Land Unit Construction Ltd.,
Folly Farm, Hanslope,
Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK19 7BX
Tel: 0908 510414

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd.,
27 Vicarage Road,
Verwood, Wimbourne, Dorset,
BH12 6DR Tel: 0202 822372

Southern Golf & Landscapes Ltd.,
85 West Street, Warwick,
Warwickshire
Tel: 0926 492898

CHEMICALS

Trident of Compstall Ltd.

Compstall Mill,
Compstall, Stockport.
SK6 5HN Tel: 061 427 7171

FERTILISERS AND TOP DRESSING

D. O. Hunt Ltd.,
Orchard Nurseries, Forders Lane,
Bishopsteighnton, Devon, TQ14 9RZ
Tel: 062 67 2327

Distributors for May & Baker
Synchemicals Fertilisers, Manufacturers
of Top Dressings.

Trident of Compstall Ltd.

Compstall Mill,
Compstall,
Stockport. SK6 5HN
Tel: 061 427 7171

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

Bridges Pennants,
68 Southchurch Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex. SS1 2RR
Tel: 0702 612344

Contact: Mr Elvin

H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.

Stanmore Hill Works, Stanmore,
Middlesex. HA7 3HD
Tel: 01954 4171

GOLF COURSE AND BOWLING GREEN CONSULTANT

John Campbell,
121-123 High Street,
Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. CO12 3AP

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd.,
Bishop House, Bath Road,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks.
SL6 0NY Tel: 062864444

GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies PLC,
Nacton Works, Nacton Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9QG.
Tel: (0473) 712222. Telex: 98174

Contact: J. F. R. Wilson/R. Bishop

Watkins Naylor & Co. Ltd.

Friar Street, Hereford.
Tel: Hereford (0432) 274361

Telex: 35302 W. Naylor or contact your dealer

GRASS SEED

British Seed Houses Ltd.,
Bewsey Industrial Estate,
Pitt Street, Warrington, Cheshire.
Tel: (0925) 54411

Contact: Rodger Saunders

Portview Road, Avonmouth, Bristol,
Tel: (0272) 823691

Camp Road, Swinderby, Lincs.
Tel: (0522) 86714

Mommersteeg International

Station Road, Finedon,
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire,
NN9 5NT Tel: (0933) 680674

Contact: Michael Perkins

GREENKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS

E. I. G. A.
2 Golf Cottage, Bucklesham Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.
Tel: 0473 711810

S. I. G. A.
82 Drumbeck Road,
Glasgow, G41
Tel: 041 427 4242

IRRIGATION

CAMERON

a division of **Wright Rain Limited**,
Head Office, Harwood Industrial Estate,
Littlehampton, West Sussex.
BN17 7BA
Tel: Littlehampton (0903) 713985

Evesham, Worcs.
Tel: Evesham (0386) 49348

Ringwood, Hants,
Tel: Ringwood (04254) 2251

Spalding, Lincs,
Tel: Spalding (0775) 3764

Norwich, Norfolk,
Tel: Swainsthorpe (0508) 470402

Ongar, Essex,
Tel: Ongar (0277) 362444

Whitchurch, Hants,
Tel: Whitchurch (025682) 2655

Bridgnorth, Shropshire,
Tel: Bridgnorth (07462) 61762

Wetherby, Yorks.
Tel: Boston Spa (0937) 845788

Perrot Irrigation Ltd.

38 High Street, Rowhedge,
Colchester, Essex. CO5 7ET
Tel: (0206) 867624

Watkins Naylor & Co. Ltd.

Friar Street, Hereford,
Tel: Hereford (0432) 274361

Telex: 35302 W. Naylor or contact your dealer

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

British Overhead Irrigation Ltd.,
The Green, Upper Halliford,
Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8RY
Tel: 09327 88301 Telex: 928767
Contact: Sales Department

Sports Ground Irrigation Co.

Hereward Lodge,
Paget Road, Lubenham,
Market Harborough, Leics.
Tel: (0858) 63153

Toro Irrigation Ltd.

Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate,
Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SD
Tel: Ringwood (04254) 6261

Watermation Ltd.

Monument Way, E. Woking,
Surrey, GU21 5LY
Tel: Woking 70303 Telex: 859224

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd.,
Bishop House, Bath Road,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks.
SL6 0NY Tel: 06286 4444

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILISER

Farmura Ltd.,
Stone Hill, Egerton, Nr. Ashford, Kent.
Tel: Egerton (023376) 241

RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS

Henton & Chattell Ltd.,
London Road, Nottingham.
Tel: Nottingham (0602) 862161

Contact: Christopher Bryden

D. Rowe & Co. Ltd.

The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex.
PO19 4JW Tel: (0243) 788100 Telex: 86110

Contact: Mr D. Strange/Mr J. E. Burfoot

Wilcocks

Walker Street, Preston, Lancs.
Tel: Preston 53068

SAND

Martin Bros.,
1A Clifton Street,
Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7NN
Tel: Alderley Edge (0625) 584571

Contact: Nick Gray

Trident of Compstall Ltd.

Compstall Mill, Compstall,
Stockport, SK6 5HN
Tel: 061 427 7171

SANDSLITTING

L. D. Bourgein Oxford Ltd.,
South Hinksey, Oxford, OX1 5AZ
Tel: (0865) 735420 Telex: 83147

Att. TRENCHERS, SALES, SERVICE, HIRE.

SEATS

Barlow Tyrie Ltd.,
Springwood Industrial Estate,
Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex. CM7 7RN
Tel: Braintree (0376) 22505 Telex: 98173
(Brochure available)

SEAWEED FERTILISERS

Seamac
Foundry Lane, Chippenham, Wilts.
Tel: (0249) 652811

SEMI MATURE TREES

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barsten, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barsten, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SEMI MATURE TREE PLANTING (EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE)

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barsten, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

SOIL CONDITIONERS

Soilife: Liquid Enzymes.

Romilt Marketing for your local supplier

North Wyke Farm,
Guildford Road,
Normandy, Surrey, GU3 2AN.
Tel: Guildford (0483) 811933

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

Evers & Wall Ltd.,
Hardi Division, St Georges Way,
Bermuda Industrial Estate,
Nuneaton, CV10 7QT
Tel: Nuneaton (0203) 372054 Telex: 312426

Contact: Mr W. Hayward

TEE MATS

Carpetation Ltd.,
6 Kaffir Road, Edgerton,
Huddersfield, HD2 2AN
Tel: 0484 28777

('Tufturf' - Synthetic Grass Backed
Rubber - Porous)

Charles Lawrence UK Ltd.,
153A Farndon Road,
Newark, Notts, NG24 4SP
Tel: 0636 76218 Telex: 37668

(Synthetic Grass Backed with Rubber)

Ned Johnson & Co. Ltd.

163/7 Gibraltar Street,
Sheffield, S3 8AF
Tel: 0742 29508/9/0
(Link Matting)

TREES AND SHRUBS

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barsten, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4

Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher

Notcutts Nurseries Ltd.

Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Tel: 03943 3344
(Incorporating Waterers Nurseries, Bagshot,
Surrey.)

Taylor Trees.

Cliffe House, Cliffe Lane,
Gt. Harwood, Lancs, BB6 7PG
Tel: 0254 884563 Telex: 635384

TRENCHERS

L. D. Bourgein Oxford Ltd.,
South Hinksey, Oxford, OX1 5AZ
Tel: 0865 735420 Telex: 83147

Att. Trenchers, Sales, Service, Hire.

TRENCHING MACHINES

A. F. Trenchers Ltd.,
Gosbecks Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO2 9JS
Tel: 0206 44411

Contact: W. D. Baker

TURF (SPECIALITY)

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd.,
Elvington, York, YO4 5AR
Tel: (0904) 85661

Telex: 57796 Rolawn G.

Fine purpose grown sports & amenity turf.

VERTI DRAIN HIRE

Aeration & Drainage Services,
10 Oxendean Gardens,
Lower Willington,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd.,
27 Vicarage Road, Verwood,
Dorset, BH21 6DR
Tel: 0202 822372

SCC Lands Maintenance Ltd.,
12 Foxburrow Close,
Haverhill, Suffolk.
Tel: 0440 62369

Worth Draining.

Cornbecks, Irnham,
Grantham, Lincs. NG33 4JQ
Tel: 0476 84266

SECOND-HAND MOWERS

*SPECIALISTS IN RANSOME
MOTOR TRIPLES*

SHAFTESBURY PLANT

Shaftesbury, Briar Road,
Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex. CO7 7XD

TEL.: (0206) 230442

This issue

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1985

THE STRESS AN OPEN SUCCESS CAN BRING	7
Jim Arthur reports the death of Turnberry's Russell Brown	
EIGGA NEWS & VIEWS	10
JOIN EIGGA!	11
Membership form and details...	
SUMMIT TALKS	12
A new greenkeepers' federation is looking increasingly likely	
EIGGA CONFERENCE 1986	13
Book your place for Warwick now!	
SIGGA NEWS & VIEWS	14
JOIN SIGGA!	15
Membership form and details...	
RANSOMES INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT	16
Greenkeeper's photo report from St Andrews	
CONTRASTING NATIONAL ATTITUDES	18
The global greenkeeping scene	
THE RECLAMATION OF INDIGENOUS TURF	21
By Eddie Park	
NOTEBOOK	26
Talk of the trade	
CLASSIFIED	29
SITUATIONS VACANT	30

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. Tel: 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

Greenkeeper

United we'll stand!

Demonstrating that, ahead of the joint talks on forming a federation (see page 12), the three greenkeeping associations can cooperate to take on – and beat – the rest of the golfing world, our front cover shows the winning greenkeeping team in the 1985 Kubota Golf Challenge. From left to right: I. McLeod (Tain), I. Toon (Moor Hall), R. Hughes (Little Hay), J. Teixeira (Hillingdon), S. Melville (Murrayfield), A. Peel (Trafford), J. Donaldson (Cherwell Edge) and, sitting, B. Turner (Worplesdon).

This year's event at The Belfry was a four-way contest, with teams of eight also representing golf writers, stewards and secretaries, who were the defeated finalists.

In the semis, the greenkeepers almost whitewashed the stewards – the only reverse coming in the last match with a defeat for Donaldson. The secretaries beat the journalists 5½ to 2½ at this stage, but more than met their match in the final, only managing to take two matches off the greenkeepers – Hughes and Melville going down.

The attention later switched to St Andrews and the fifth Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament, where the Canadians were hot favourites to successfully defend the Ransomes Challenge Trophy. There was a record turnout with teams of four from 13 countries contesting a Stableford competition over 36 holes.

At the end of the morning round, only one point separated the leaders – Scotland stood on 45 and the Canadians had 44. A further point behind were the Dutch, Swedes and Northern Irish.

The wind proved difficult in the afternoon and it was the two teams from across the Atlantic that mastered the conditions – Canada returned a creditable 47 points and America 46. The Canadians retained the Ransomes Challenge Trophy with a total of 91 points. Scotland were second with 89 and the USA third a point behind. Only four points spanned the first four places – Northern Ireland came fourth – and, with three teams (Holland, West Germany and Spain) finishing on over 80 points, it was a close-run competition.

After the tournament, which is held every three years, the traditional Ransomes banquet was attended by 150 at the Rusack's Marine Hotel where Keith Mackenzie, former secretary of the R & A and president of the Golf Foundation, was the guest speaker.

The Ransomes Challenge Trophy, a silver salver, was presented to the Canadians by the chairman of the St Andrews Link Trust Sir John Carmichael, who also gave tankards to members of the first three teams.

Ransomes sales director Guy Catchpole thanked the Links Management Committee for making it possible to play the Old Course. "It's an appropriate venue because the tournament started as a result of Scottish greenkeepers, some 20 years ago, challenging their English counterparts," he said.

NOW TURN TO PAGE 16



The all year all turf treatment

SAI Horticulture have revolutionised turf care with an advanced new range of turf foods called Longlife. Longlife is an integrated range of eight different products designed to provide the right nutrient content to meet the needs of all turf throughout the year.

DIDIN®. Five of the Longlife turf foods contain a unique new ingredient. DIDIN® gives a better grass colour and a longer more even growth response from one application.

Longlife offers value for money to groundsmen and greenkeepers who have more than just the feeding of their grass to think about.

DIDIN is a registered trademark of SKW Trostberg AG.



Longlife, the all year all turf treatment

Scottish Agricultural Industries PLC, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 5QW. Telephone (0506) 39281. Telex 727145.
 Chipman Limited, Horsham, Sussex RH12 2NR. Telephone Horsham 60341/5. Telex 877223.

ROYAL SHOW
STAND K40



“they’re simply in
a class of their

OWN and I’m delighted with the exceptional performance and ability to work under any ground and weather conditions. Hitched up to any attachment the ISEKI TX2160 4WD* ‘HST’ gives me 100% day in day out at a very economical rate. I also have the TE4270 4WD fitted with the appropriate equipment to aerate the fairways and all approaches. As far as I’m concerned I’m using the best team in the business.

Jack McMillan

Course Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club

There’s no doubt about it, LELY ISEKI TRACTORS are rapidly becoming the most sought after in turf management. The versatility of any model from 16 to 72hp is second to none and with a wide variety of all British Built attachments which includes the LELY BEAVER GM386 Triple Mower, isn’t it time you had a demonstration on your land.

We have Sales and Service Distributors with fully trained personnel in your locality, why not give us a call now.

*TX range available with LGP Tyres

**LELY ISEKI TRACTORS, STATION ROAD,
ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS PE19 1QH.
TEL (0480) 76971 TELEX 32523**



ISEKI



Watermation

FOR ALL SPORTS TURF IRRIGATION

You can't beat us when it comes to first class irrigation. With over 15 years experience behind us, we have installed irrigation systems all over Britain, in all the best places, and our sprinklers pop-up in Ireland, in Europe and in Africa.

But you probably know about our past. In the future we will continue to offer the best automatic irrigation installations but now we are ALSO OFFERING A NEW RANGE OF SPRINKLERS, CONTROLLERS AND OTHER SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT, ALL DESIGNED AND BUILT BY WATERMATION IN ENGLAND.

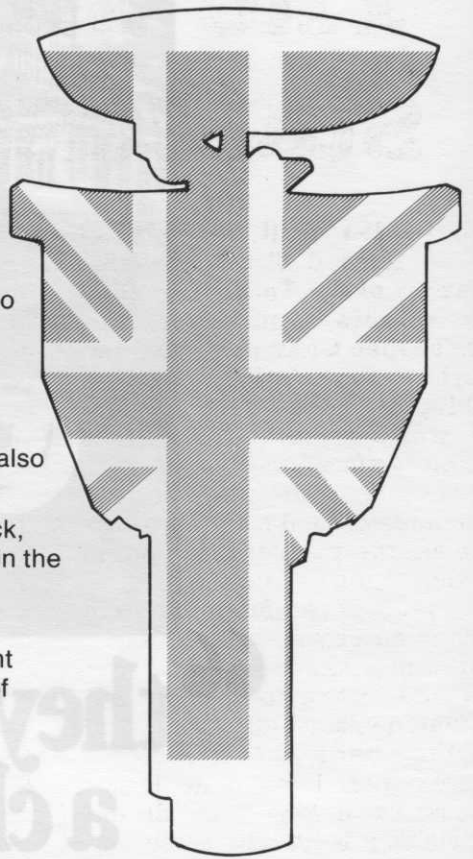
It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

So if you have a golf course, tennis court, bowling green, running track, football pitch . . . or even a whole town to be irrigated and monitored in the Middle East, we can offer you irrigation equipment which is specially designed and suitable for the needs of those areas.

Naturally, we can still supply you with all our usual range of equipment and spares and in fact we now have the most comprehensive range of irrigation equipment in the Country. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

WATERMATION LTD.
Monument Way E.,
Woking, Surrey. GU21 5LY.
Woking (04862) 70303

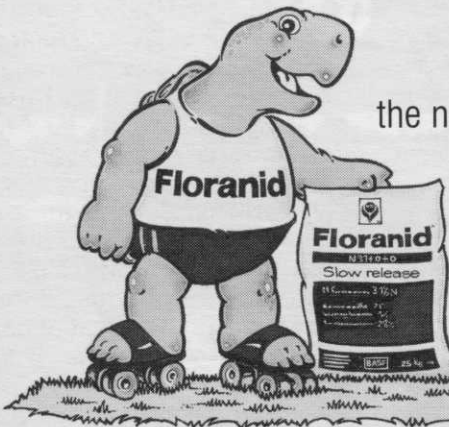
also at:
Stirling (0786) 70252
Dublin 760964



Watch the grass grow under your feet!

See what new, slow release Floranid can do for your grass. It means better growth, fewer applications, less mowing.

To see the quick results of slow release Floranid contact your distributor or send off the coupon and we'll send you all the details.



Floranid

the new slow release fertiliser range for turf

BASF United Kingdom Limited, Fertiliser Department,
Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6BQ

Please send me all the details on Floranid.

Name _____

Position _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Floranid is a BASF trade mark



The stress an Open success can bring...

THE sudden death recently, at 51, of Russell Brown, course manager of the Turnberry Hotel golf courses, venue for next year's Open Championship, emphasises the strains on those looking after the courses where the world's premier event is played, writes Jim Arthur..

It is usual for the press and TV commentators alike to fail to appreciate the problems in setting up the Open Championship. It takes years of careful preparation to stage and by no means all of it is pure greenkeeping, what with spectator paths, lorry-ways and the tented village, all of which fall on the back of the head greenkeeper. Even if he is not necessarily involved in all the decisions, it is he who has to implement them.

I recall after one Open, a BBC commentator deigned to talk to the head man. He asked when the course would be back in good order again. The reply was along the lines of, "I rather thought it was right now." Likewise, when the weather intervenes, greens like those at Muirfield in 1980, where there were six weeks of rain prior to the off, are criticised and the fairways come in for 'too much irrigation' comments. In that particular case, it was a rather ill-informed statement as there weren't even pop-ups around the greens! Sadly, I feel some of those responsible are presenting courses not so much for golfers as for TV viewers.

The Open is not going anywhere new in the foreseeable future, if ever, so it is largely a question of starting preparations for the next one on the following Monday, repairing the damage off the course, for the course in itself probably suffers less during the Open week than in normal play. There is little time to relax and all too little time before the Open is back again.

Today, of course, the head men of all the Open Championship courses have seen at least one, if not several Opens, and can afford to be a great deal more relaxed,

but it is still a worrying time and you always have to be prepared to give instant first aid in the event of accidents, such as hydraulic pipe bursts, or errant courting couples in Minis cavorting over greens just before the championship, which we suffered at Turnberry!

Turnberry was different - as, indeed, in a different way, was Royal St George's in 1981 where there had not been an Open Championship since 1938. In both cases, of course, the experts derided the R & A's choice - in fairness, not primarily on the basis of course quality and character, but over such aspects as accessibility, accommodation and car parks.

Turnberry was selected in 1974 as the venue for the Amateur Championship in 1976 and the Open in 1977. At once, the decision was attacked as mad by the Press and, looking at the state of the over-fertilised annual meadow grass greens and lush fairways, suffering from severe drought damage early that year, with only two years to get it right, you might have thought it was a bold decision.

It was my lot to be told by the championship committee to sort things out and much sorting had to be done. This included the removal of those who had become complacent, looking after courses that saw little play when the hotel shut in autumn. The management, too, was swayed, wanting a pretty course for television rather than the great test of golf, which many think is Mackenzie Ross' best links course and which it proved to be in 1977.

Monthly visits

I literally had to act as head greenkeeper with almost monthly visits until responsibility could be devolved on to Jim McCubbin. We had to correct the mistakes of decades of mismanagement designed to make the courses look nice and green. The first task

was to find some 500 tons of black, sandy, top spit soil for basic top dressing and the rebuilding of greens.

Nothing happened for three months. There were the usual excuses that it was not available until the man charged with the task was clearly given to understand that if he did not find it, someone else would and he would not be needed. It was found within a month.

Of course, you cannot reverse the mistakes of years overnight, but a good team convinced of the correctness of an agreed programme, well directed and encouraged by a skilled head man who developed new potential under the increased responsibility, generously provided with the tools (machines and materials) to do the job, was bound to show results.

In the event, the Open at Turnberry was hailed as a major success by the same Press that, only six months earlier, was prophesying doom and disaster. The Ailsa links were not, of course, perfect, but the course was eminently playable, with fast, firm greens, tight lies, good tees and especially good aprons and approaches. It provided one of the most exciting finishes of any recent Open - a two-horse race between Watson and Nicklaus, with the rest of the field nowhere. Only three players, including the two leading gladiators, broke par for the four rounds. So much for the Ailsa being criticised as too easy.

Virtually every aspect of greenkeeping had to be altered or reversed in 1974 and this included re-equipping both courses and updating the inefficient irrigation system. Because of the effects of the prolonged drought in 1975 and 1976 on the annual meadow grass-dominated fairways and the need to carry out intensive applications of fenpeat and over-seeding, the Amateur was moved, not so much because of the condition of the course, but because we needed to be able to carry out intensive remedial work



CLEAN GREEN AND EASY

These are the great benefits of new Rovral Green.
Clean – because all the major diseases of UK turf are controlled by Rovral Green.

Green – because its unique contact action works the whole year round and gives a “green-up” effect during the winter. **And Easy** – because Rovral Green is an easy-to-handle and measure liquid with exceptional “rainfastness.”

To keep your turf clean and green, use Rovral Green. It makes greenkeeping a lot easier.

THE LIQUID CONTACT-ACTING FUNGICIDE FOR ALL MAJOR TURF DISEASES

M&B May & Baker

Rovral Green is a trade mark of May & Baker Ltd., Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7XS.

RUSSELL BROWN CONTINUED

without suffering the restraints imposed by preparation for a major championship.

It is remarkable how short memories are. Within a space of two years, those same experts who derided the R & A's choice and who said the course would never be ready in time were claiming, equally exaggeratedly, that the links were perfection personified. What is irritating is that these critics never learn and even last autumn one commentator was pontificating on the hotel steps that the course was dead, it would take years to restore and would never be ready for the Open in 1986.

A month later, when I saw the course in October after a week or so of rain, everything was perfectly satisfactory. The problem was that the course water supply depended on what was left after the hotel had taken its share and it was a very dry summer with an abnormal demand. We now have an independent bore-hole supply - so that problem is solved.

In 1982, Jim McCubbin retired and Russell Brown, from Perth, was selected to take charge. Previously, he had been in command at Prince's which, while hosting Open Championship qualifying rounds, is a great track in its own right.

Even more investment in the courses was carried out by the new owners of Turnberry Hotel and Russell was in charge of implementing many quite major changes, advised by Donald Steel, to improve the Ailsa Course. One of the most significant was removing and recontouring a long length of dune top by the 6th green to provide greater space for pedestrian traffic, caught, in the past, between the 6th green and the 7th tee. Even a few months after massive cut and fill operations, the recontouring was so skilfully done (by Brian Pierson) that it looked as if it had been there for ever.

Even more spectacular were extensions to the 9th and 11th tees with massive retaining walls, built up, as Russell proudly told me last month, without so much as a trapped finger - a major engineering effort that we called Hadrian's Wall and which, perhaps, will be his 'memorial'.

The year 1985 was doubly worrying for anyone charged with preparing a course for an Open Championship in 1986. The

severe drought of 1984 had left some remedial work to be done, but the winter, though not as severe as further south, was snowy enough to stop work and then came one of the coldest and latest springs anyone can remember. After an all too brief spell of fine weather at Whit, the Ayrshire coast suffered, in common with most of Scotland, monsoon conditions with almost incessant rain from June to mid-October. Ten inches of rain fell in September alone, ceasing, in fact, only on the day I carried out my regular examination of the course in mid-October. I was happy to find everything in excellent and promising order and the effects of the wet weather and heavy play on the greens were about to be corrected by Verti-Draining for the second year running.

Luckily, the Ailsa course can, as a hotel course, be closed for three months, which makes the preparation for the Open much easier, but it has been exceptionally busy all summer despite the rain. The weather has the last word and we are dependent on it, but a good greenkeeper can make intelligent guesses once he knows his course and Russell was beginning to do this with accuracy. He said that if you could see Ailsa Craig, it was going to rain if you couldn't, it was raining! This was very true last summer.

To those who knew him well, Russell, although a quiet and rather withdrawn man, had an equally quiet sense of humour. His staff respected him and worked indefatigably for him. He was a first-class, skilled and caring greenkeeper and perhaps tended to keep his worries to himself too much.

Naturally, there was a vast amount of preparatory work still to do but, the very day before he died, Russell spent the whole day with his first assistant walking the course and detailing precisely the work programme for the coming months.

Greenkeeping has lost a most able, deep thinking and sincere man and as honest as the day to himself, his employers and his course. I have lost a good friend and an able ally who was interested in everything he observed. It is a great shame that he will not be there to take the credit for another great Open Championship at Turnberry for which he had made so many preparations.



Russell's beloved Turnberry, with the Ailsa Course in great shape.



Chairman's Message

As the end of 1985 approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to look back over the last eight months. I was elected EIGGA chairman by the board of management after the association's AGM at Warwick University during the national conference.

As chairman, you soon begin to realise how much effort and time is put in behind the scenes by the board of management and, in particular, the general administrator Danielle Jones.

Warwick was a joy and a disappointment to me. The joy was that we had people in our ranks who could stand up and deliver a paper good enough to hold the attention of the entire audience, as well as coping with lively question and answer sessions.

The disappointment was the poor attendance. Cost and time should not stop a keen EIGGA member from attending, so, please, let us see more of you at Warwick in 1986.

The marquee at the Open Championship was a great success. Board of management members worked very hard on your behalf and the visitors' book looked like a who's who of golf.

Greenkeeper training is moving along at great speed and I'm pleased to be joined by Peter Wisbey as EIGGA representatives on the Greenkeeper Training Committee. The phase three block-release has started in some colleges and will begin at most others in 1986.

EIGGA was well represented at St Andrews for the SIGGA conference and fifth Ransomes International Golf Tournament in October. David Jones gave an excellent paper on heathland management and there were other interesting sessions from all over the world, with a notable contribution from Nick Park.

In the Ransomes tournament, England was represented by a



EIGGA chairman Bill Lawson with the former R & A secretary Keith Mackenzie.

joint EIGGA/BGGA team of Kevin Munt and Terry Adamson from EIGGA combined with Jim Richardson and Gordon Payne. England finished sixth behind the winners Canada and runners-up Scotland. The Old Course proved very testing, but a great experience for all who played and watched.

Finally, we are holding talks with representatives from the R&A, EGU, SIGGA and the BGGA about a possible greenkeeping federation, which would operate from a central of-

fice. This idea was first discussed at St Andrews, where it received support from R&A secretary Michael Bonallack.

The discussions have only just started, but some progress has already been made and future developments will be published in *Greenkeeper*.

Meetings have also been held with the PGA about a possible joint organisation, but this development has been shelved for the time being.

Bill Lawson.

North West

The branch held its autumn seminar at the Reasheath College of Agriculture, Nantwich. The speaker for the morning session was Dennis Mottram, who is now senior lecturer at Reasheath. Dennis went into the technicalities of sportsground drainage in his usual articulate and professional manner.

To follow, Jack McMillan, who had travelled up from Sunningdale, chose the Verti-Drain as his subject for the afternoon lecture. Jack described the situation at Sunningdale, where he has found its implementation very successful. It was invigorating to hear an independent assessment of such a machine from an experienced and knowledgeable professional.

Jack was accompanied by his wife and we thank them both for making the trip north. We also thank Dennis Mottram and everyone at Reasheath for giving us all a rewarding day.

It was encouraging to see so many of the younger members sporting EIGGA blazers and ties and also to see some new faces from the Bolton and Manchester area. Members will have received a newsletter giving details of further lectures - please make every effort to attend.

The autumn golf tournament was held at the Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club in North Wales. Thanks go to the club captain for making us feel welcome. Thanks also go to John Richmond and his staff for their efforts on the day.

The tournament winner was Seve Lunt with a net 67 and the guest's prize went to Steve Stonehouse with a net 68.

Our thanks go to all the trade representatives who donated prizes - in particular, Ellesmere A.G. and Richard Jones for sponsoring the event and their continued support.

Bob Evans of Ruthin-Pwllglas