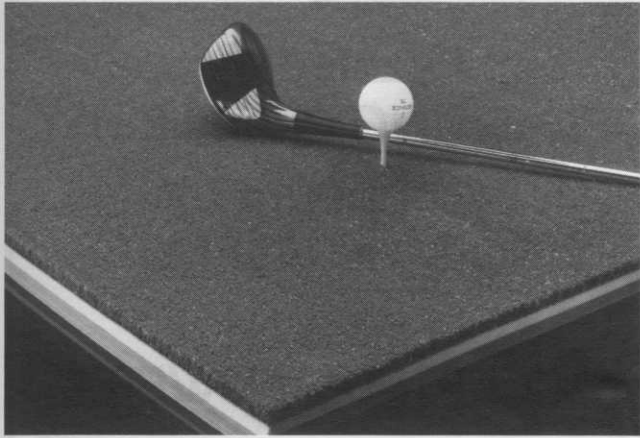


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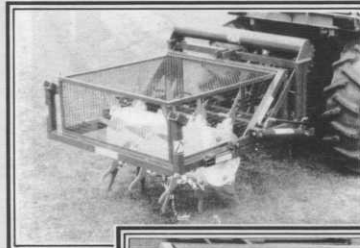
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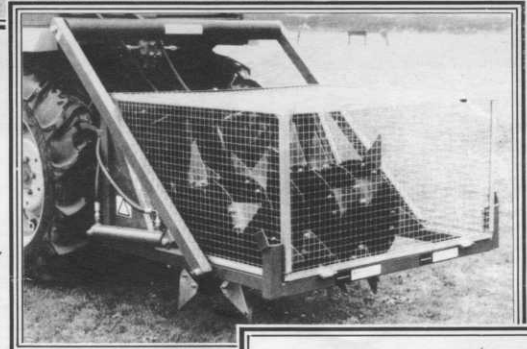
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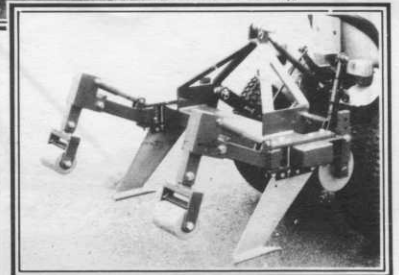
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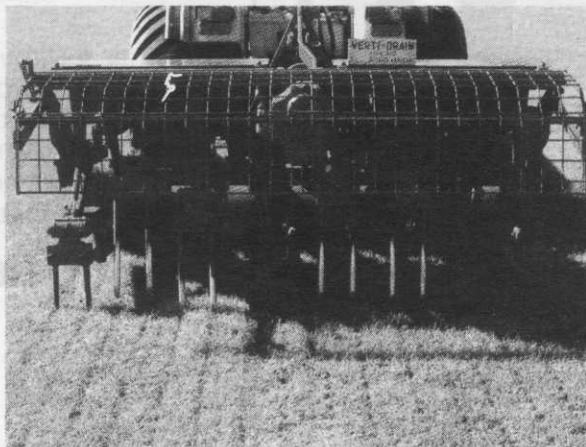


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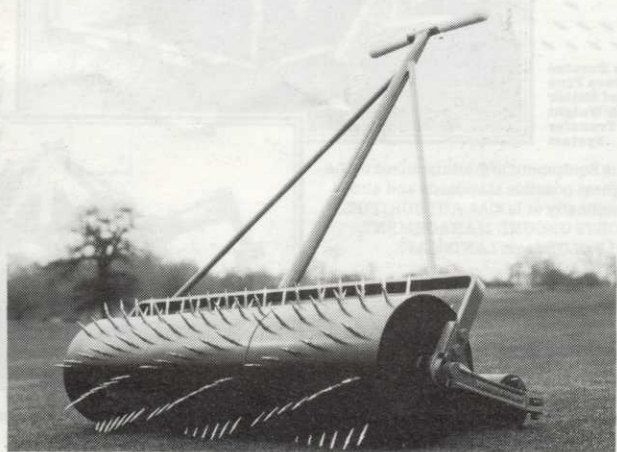
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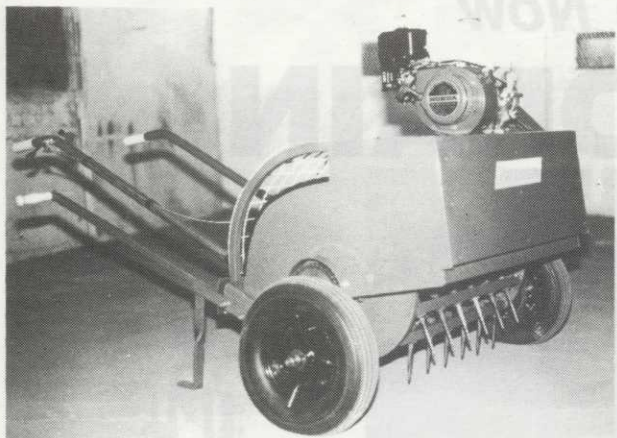
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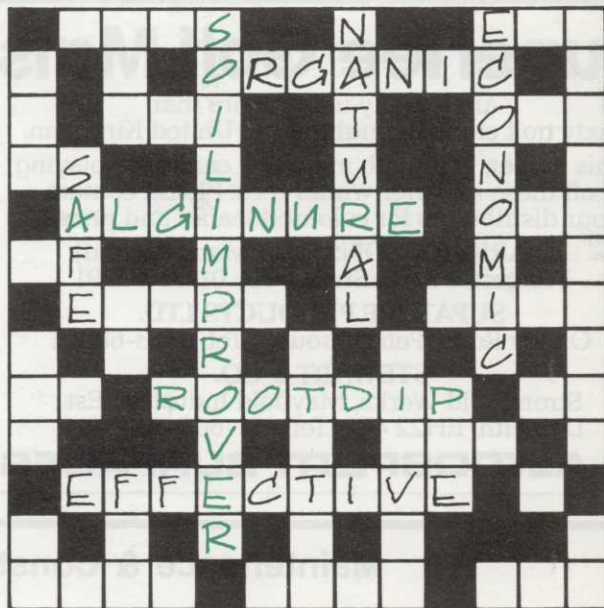


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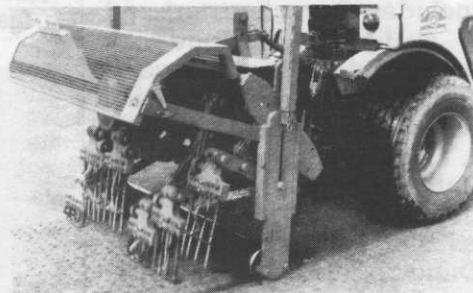
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Golf's Great Man Is A Rigby Taylor Fan

Just about the hottest news from within the industry in recent times was the coup by Rigby Taylor when Seve Ballesteros no less was boldly signed to endorse the company's products. Seve is seen discussing with Richard Lawrence, Rigby Taylor's marketing director, application details of Mascot fungicides. Seve has used a wide range of Mascot products on his course in Spain and has been particularly impressed by Rigby Taylor's fungicides. Further details can be obtained from Richard on 0204 394888.



Ransomes/Mountfield Link Announced

Ransomes has completed the acquisition of Mountfield's UK and European estate and garden machinery manufacturing business and certain of its subsidiaries for a total of £4.25 million. The purchase price is subject to certain considerations. The remaining business of the Mountfield Group, principally Power Gardening (Slough) and Robert H Andrews, which distributes and retails grass machinery, and other unrelated assets will be retained by the vendors.

Ransomes currently manufactures and sells grass machinery mainly for the professional user. Mountfield is a leading name in the domestic mower market and the introduction this year of the new Mountfield Triple M ride-on cylinder mower also gives them a presence in the semi-professional market. Mountfield will continue to operate as an autonomous company located at Maidenhead.

Didin Can Do It

Developed after several years of research, the Longlife range from SAI includes three fine turf and three outfield turf foods, a pre-seeder and an all-in-one weed and feed treatment for all types of turf. Five of the turf foods contain Didin, an ingredient designed to regulate the availability of nitrogen to the turf.

Sales and marketing manager Jim Duncan said: "Didin saves money by reducing nitrogen wastage caused by leaching and excessive grass growth even when greens are regularly irrigated. Turf foods containing Didin supply the grass with nitrogen for longer than conventional turf fertilisers. As a result, the groundsman has to make fewer applications throughout the season and there is less grass cutting."

SAI Longlife Fine Turf products are for golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares and ornamental lawns. They include a spring and summer

turf food with Didin, an autumn and winter treatment to promote hardiness and disease resistance and help turf respond quickly at the start of growth and a fast acting spring and summer



Jim Duncan.

treatment to provide a quick green up and to suppress moss.

SAI Groundsman products are for all playing fields and outfields, including fairways, tees and other recreational areas. They include a spring and summer food with Didin, an autumn and winter treatment to establish good grass cover for the start of the season and a once-a-year nitrogen treatment for even growth in the summer.

Longlife Plus is a new weed and feed application with Didin that contains herbicides to control broad-leaved weeds in all grasses. And the Longlife Pre-seeder is a new mini-granular and organic-based turf food with the ideal nutrient ratio for the establishment of fine turf and outfield grass areas.

The Longlife range replaces the SAI Mini-Crum fertilisers.

For marketing information on any of these products, contact Mrs Jill Heeks, Scottish Agricultural Industries, Firth Road, Houston Industrial Estate, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 5QW.

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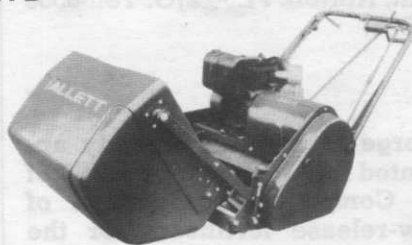
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Trident Of Compstall, Stockport has extended its activities to the sports turf business with the purchase of specialist machinery for hire to sports clubs. Trident has a Ryan Greensaire 16, Ryan Greensaire II for hollow tining, solid tining or slitting, a Jacobsen Sweeper for core removal and a Howard Gem Rotorvator. Contact an area representative or the sales office on 061-427 7171 for availability and charges.

Morrison Industries has moved to a new warehouse and office complex in King's Lynn. From August 1, the company has been located at Unit 12, Bergen Way, North Lynn Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JG. Tel: 0553 763333.

George A Palmer, recently appointed sole importer by BASF of the Compo Floranid range of slow-release fertilisers for the horticultural and amenity market, has appointed nationwide distributors. Made by the BASF company in West Germany, the range initially includes nitrogen, NPK and NK products and is suitable for application in all turf grass situations and cultivated areas. From mid-July, 13 distributors have been offering the four products. The appointed distributors are: Richard Aitken, Glasgow; Gwyn Cadogan, Usk, Gwent; Maxwell M Hart (London), Wokingham, Berks; D. O. Hunt, Newton Abbot, South Devon; S Kenworthy, Altrincham, Cheshire; John K King & Sons, Coggeshall, Essex; Nursery Supplies (Bourne), Bourne, Lincs; T Parker & Sons, Worcester Park, Surrey; Sports Turf Services, Hewbridge, Midlothian and Supaturf Products at Wakefield, West Yorks, Iver Heath, Bucks, Peterborough and Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

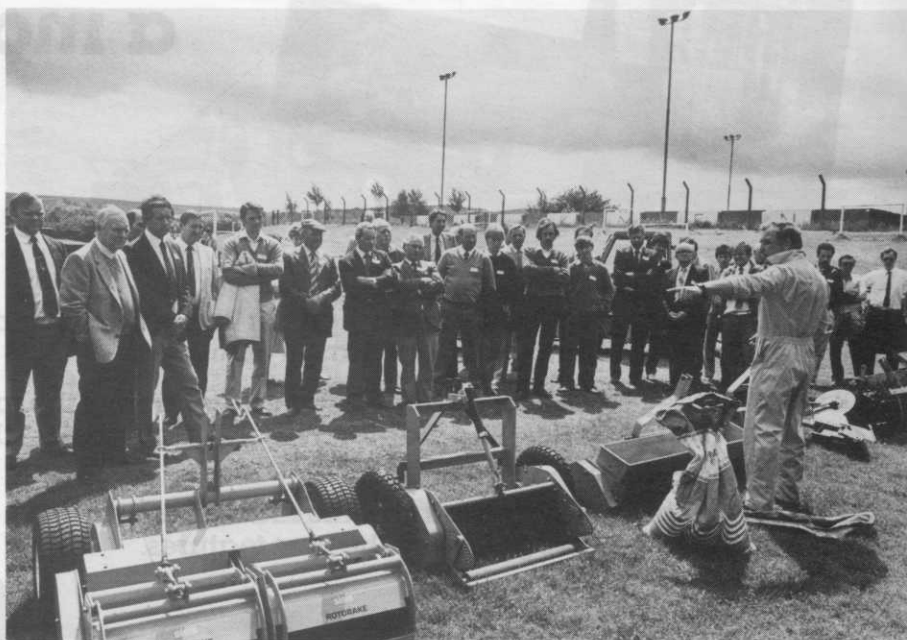
Burts & Harvey has recently taken on two new regional sales managers. Covering the East Midlands and East Anglia, Richard Allen has transferred



The Pershore College of Horticulture, Worcestershire was the venue for a recent NTC workshop attended by over 50. Entitled *The Mower For The Job*, the workshop was organised by Peter Wallin, the college's amenity lecturer. NTC chairman Michael Chance said: "This year has been an important landmark in the NTC's short history because this is the second workshop in the space of a month arranged by a non-member of the council." He believed this was tangible evidence that the NTC was supplying a need of the turfgrass industry.

from the agricultural division of May & Baker. He is conversant in the use of pesticides in the crop spraying sector and based near Grantham. The second recruit, Graham Munro, has a quarrying and road construction background. Graham lives near Huddersfield and covers the northern counties up to the Scottish Border. For further information, contact Burts & Harvey on 01-311 7100.

Fyffes-Monro Horticultural Sundries has published its latest *Amenity Recreational And Industrial Catalogue*. Copies are available free of charge from the company's Aylesford, Burscough, Cheltenham, Chichester, Penzance and Spalding offices or 15 Stratton Street, Piccadilly, London W1A 2LL. Tel: 01-499 3411.



Alan Barnes of SISIS explained the Hydromain System to some one hundred greenkeepers, groundsmen and parks personnel during a tour of the company's Macclesfield factory recently.

May & Baker's environmental products department has launched Rovral Granules for simple fungicide treatment. With the identical broad-spectrum disease control of Rovral Green, Rovral Granules control fusarium patch, red thread, dollar spot, brown patch and leaf spot/melting out at the 2.5kg rate (applied to treat 500sq m) and grey snow mould at the higher 5.0kg rate.

Applied by a standard granular applicator, Rovral Granules require no mixing with treatment taking place in dry or damp conditions despite light winds. Unlike sprays, there is no danger of drift. Rovral Granules diminish the need for pressure spraying equipment - indeed, the granules are ten times lighter than the equivalent liquid spray treatment. Supplied in a 2.5kg carton, Rovral Granules are priced at £15 per pack.

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three one-week courses in the autumn on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last five days, starting Monday morning and finishing on Friday afternoon and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. Starting on October 21, October 28 and November 4, the fees (exclusive of accommodation and meals) are £85 for members and £100 for non-members (plus VAT). Further details from the Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131.

This year's Scotsturf exhibition and seminar will take place at the Royal Highland Exhibition Centre at Ingliston, near Edinburgh on Wednesday November 6.

Over 50 companies have already booked stand space and a record number of delegates have registered for the morning seminar sessions. Special terms have been negotiated at Edinburgh's North British Hotel, Princes Street for exhibitors and visitors.

This is the fourth year the IOG's Scottish and Northern Ireland zone has organised the annual

Scotsturf event and more than 4,000 visitors are expected. The exhibition will be open from 10am till 6pm and entrance and car parking are free.

The Institute Of Groundsmanship and the Horticultural Correspondence College are to co-operate in the development of correspondence courses in groundsmanship. The institute sees them as a valuable preparation for its examinations. The first course covers the institute's national technical certificate examination and the two organisations are already working on a course for the intermediate diploma. The IOG and the HCC will also co-operate in the provision of practical training courses at Milton Keynes and several regional locations to supplement the written material.

The Institute will also be running a series of one-day and weekend training courses this autumn on golf greenkeeping and bowling green maintenance. The golf greenkeeping course will be at the Woburn Sports Club, Bedford from October 14-15. Fees are £30 (plus VAT) for IOG members and £40 (plus VAT) for non-members. Venues for those interested in bowling greens are Manchester (September 29), Grays Thurrock, Essex (October 5) and Graves Park, Sheffield (October 12). The fees are £10 and £12 (plus VAT).



Mary Wood-Hill has been appointed a director of Brian D. Pierson (Contractors). Mary, who has been with the company for seven years and has been the company secretary for the last five, will have special responsibilities for landscaping and local authority contracts.

Broderick Grass Machinery of Dublin was the outstanding Kubota tractor dealer in Ireland and the UK last year. Managing director Noel Broderick received a special commendation in Tokyo for sales of tractors in 1984 and was also voted the outstanding dealer. Further information from Noel on Dublin 970 822.



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G/9/85

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER

Steve Donnachie will be familiar to many readers as one of the great characters of northern Scottish greenkeeping. Recently retired from Deeside Golf Club, he tells his story...

I was home after six years army service and looking for a job. It was on April 7 1947 that I began my new career and, looking back in 1985, it seems like yesterday.

The head greenkeeper at Banchory Golf Club was George Leighton, a dedicated man. In fact, after preparing the course for big events, 'Dod' was reluctant to let ANYONE play on it! Someone was required to scythe the bunkers in those days so, having used this now obsolete tool on the farm at home in Ayrshire before the war, I got the job. Part of the course had been ploughed up for the war effort and our first job was to thresh corn, clear the two fairways and sow seed.

Our main tractor unit was an old Morris car for pulling the three-gang iron-wheeled cutters, with an attachment for fitting a cart. I had a hand push mower for the greens and a Talisman push mower for the tees and approaches. These machines, although slow, did a good job.

We used mainly sulphate of ammonia with sulphate of iron in the spring and mid-summer, with a good earthy top-dressing. Of course, soon after the war, fertiliser was hard to come by. Daisies were left to grow, then cut short with the units set low.

Bunkers were scythed three times during the season, rough about four times with a reaper (Albion). With no weedkillers, clover on the greens was bled with the scythe set low. My father-in-law was a blacksmith, which was very handy.

To get rid of moss, we used water from a gasometer. This controlled the moss, but never rid our inland river-side course of it. The first motor mower we acquired was

a Jehu made by Shanks of Arbroath, a firm that has now closed down. The first Overgreen came to us via Ransomes and Bill Beveridge – alas, no longer with us. A great fellow, Bill. We in the north still think a lot of him and miss him.

It was about this time, 1951, that selective weedkillers started. We took a lot of persuading to use them, but they proved a boon. In 1959, I moved to Deeside Golf Club as head greenkeeper. We had progressed from foot-tining to the Auto Turfman. It was at Deeside that I really discovered the duties of a head greenkeeper – ditcher, drainer, mechanic, forester, soil scientist, landscaper. You name it, we greenkeepers are it!

Now we moved on to the age of hydraulics – Haan, Toro, Jacobsen. Gone were the eight hours hand-cutting, three times per week. This was now reduced to two and a half hours every day. The next step was irrigation. Pop-ups were regarded as the finest thing since sliced bread, but be wary of having them at your fingertips.

We now have machines of every type and for every type of work – aggregators, irrigators, slitters, hollow-tiners, dethatchers and tractors, everything to make life easy. But when I was pushing the old hand Pennsylvania in 1947, there was no water, no fertiliser, less worry and,

Continued overleaf...



PHOTO: ABERDEEN JOURNALS



Steve Donnachie received a gift of Edinburgh crystal from SIGGA president Jimmy Neilson. Steve's wife Jean was presented with a necklace by members of Deeside Golf Club, who also gave Steve a cheque in recognition of his service over the years. In particular, Steve thanks Mr and Mrs A Leek and the club secretary Mr I Hamilton for their thoughtfulness.

to my mind, a better type of green. Greens? They were more often brown, but firm and fiery and good areas to putt on.

There is also now a big difference in the free clothing, protective boots, wellingtons, gloves, overtime, payments to attend college, forty-hour week and a host of other prerequisites, which are all a good thing and quite a contrast to a pair of moleskin trousers, fifty-four hour week, no overtime and one week's holiday yearly. It was then considered your duty to see that the course was always fit for play, no matter when it was prepared or how long it took.

Now, I have left all this behind. On June 6, I retired and having kept a day diary for about forty years, it is great to look back at the weather, duties and oddities. For instance, Deeside Golf Club has been fully closed for play 626 days over a twenty-six year period. The members will want a rebate! I have planted about 15,000 trees on the course. Salmon have been found in the sand traps and left there after the floods have gone. Moles have let me know when a flood is due - heaps appear on top of the high grass banks.

I could go on for pages about all the ways and means a greenkeeper has of obtaining local knowledge of his course. The amount of strange stories would fill a book, but a few here would not go amiss. Like the member who kept lifting his divots and throwing them into the adjacent wood. He was rather upset when told that if all members did the same, the fairway would be in the wood within a week. Or the member walking off the green wondering why the following players were shouting fore, only to be told he had the flagstick in his golf bag! One notable greenkeeper who was asked to sweep the snow from his greens told the convener, "Nature brung it an' nature can tak it awa."

I wonder what the old notables of my early days would think of conditions now. Gibb, Munro, Pirie, Willie Richie, Gordon, Patterson - these were the cream in my book. Hard men in all aspects of life, but great chaps. The aforementioned were booked into an hotel by the then secretary. On enquiring the whereabouts of the bar, they were told to go out the front door, turn right and walk a hundred yards along the street. They had been booked into a temperance hotel!

Those days are gone, but to any young man joining SIGGA I say you are entering a great career. Enjoy it!



It must be the retirement season. Last month, Greenkeeper reported that Scott Walker had retired from Gleneagles after 37 years. Scott is seen with Gleneagles estates manager Jimmy Kidd, Scott's wife Nan and general manager Peter Lederer.

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