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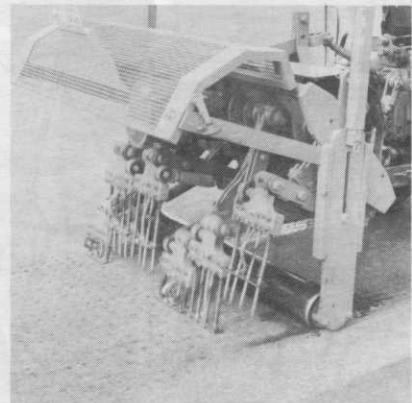
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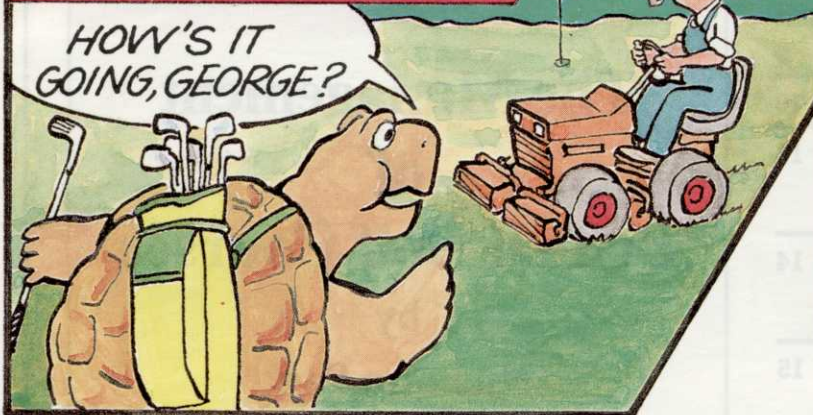
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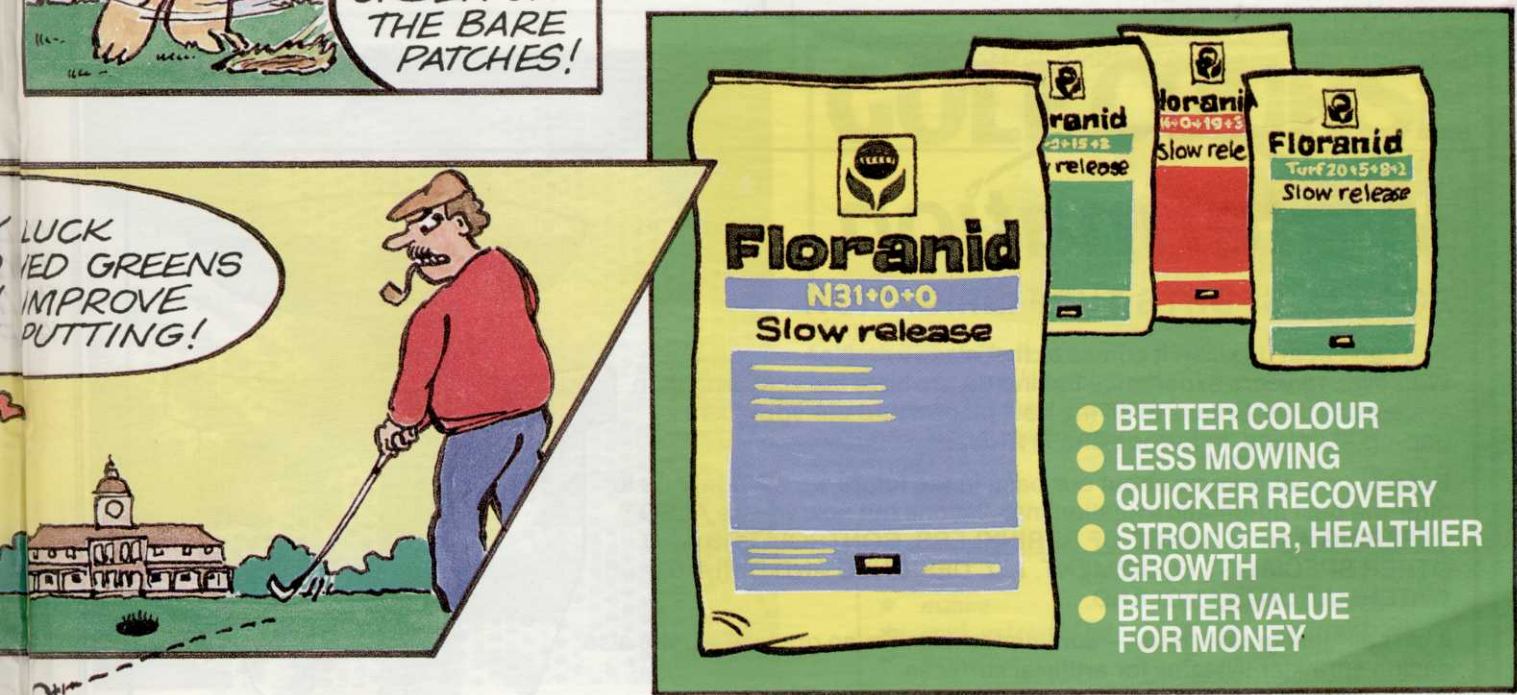
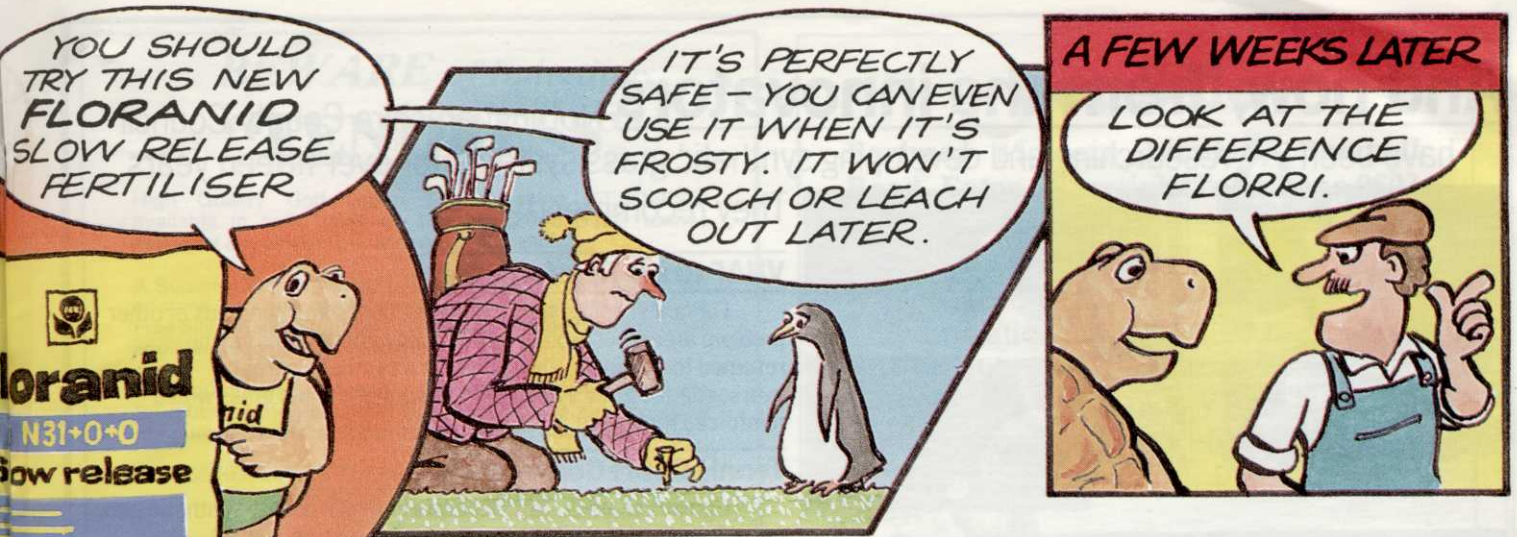
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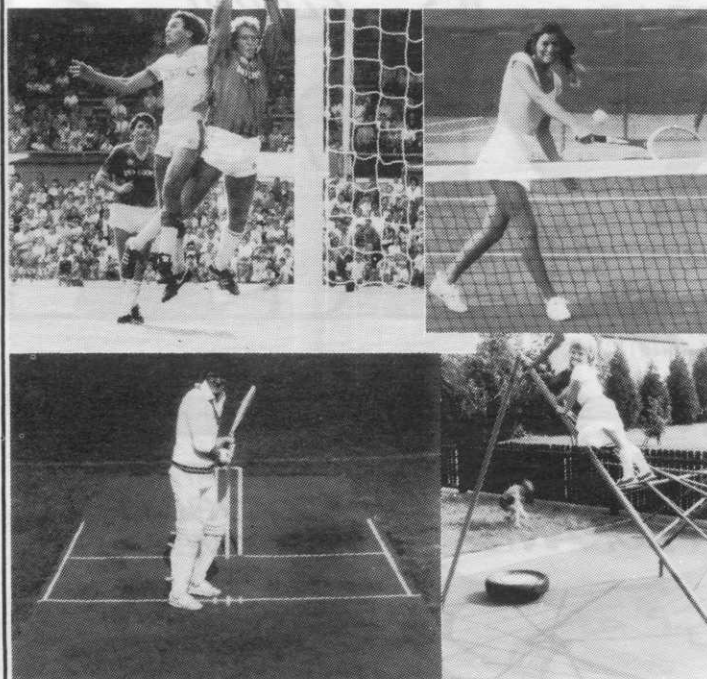
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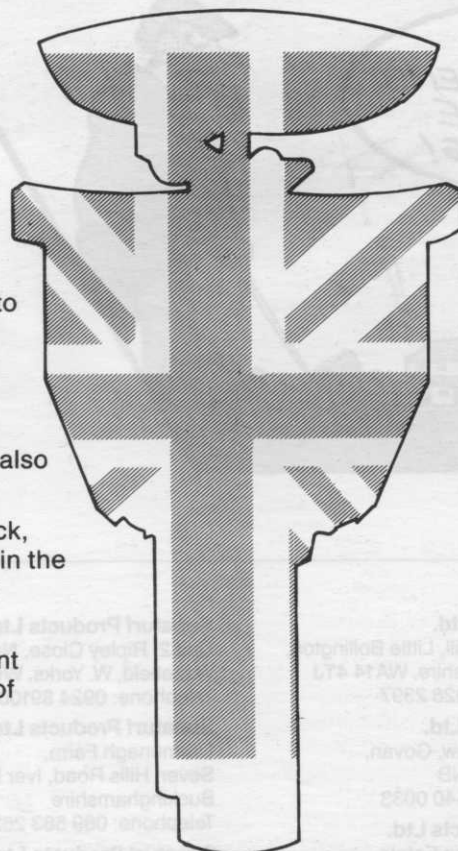
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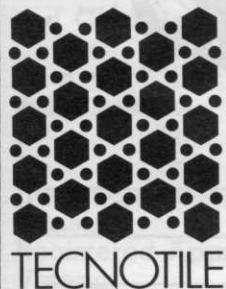
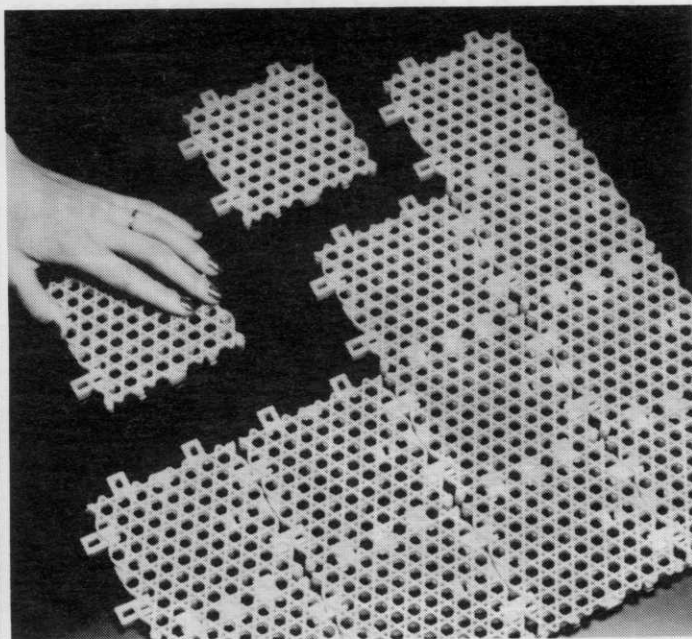


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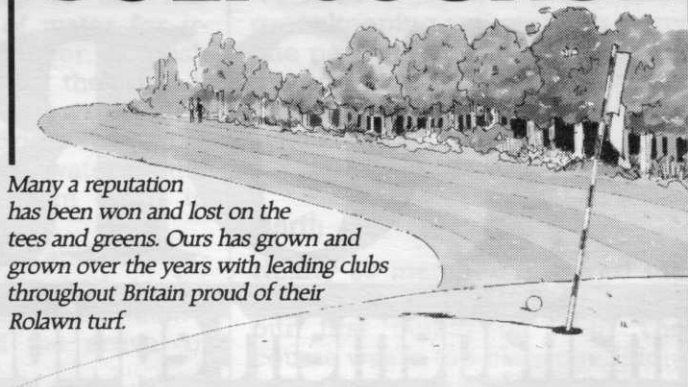
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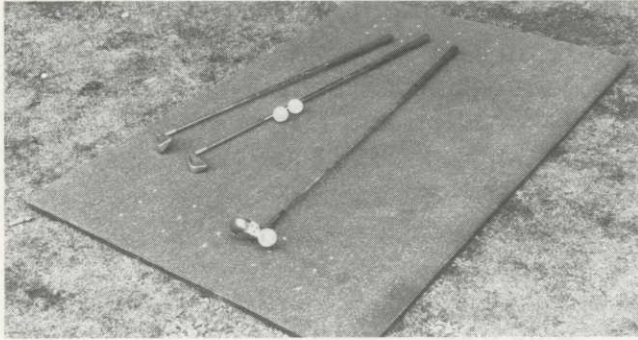


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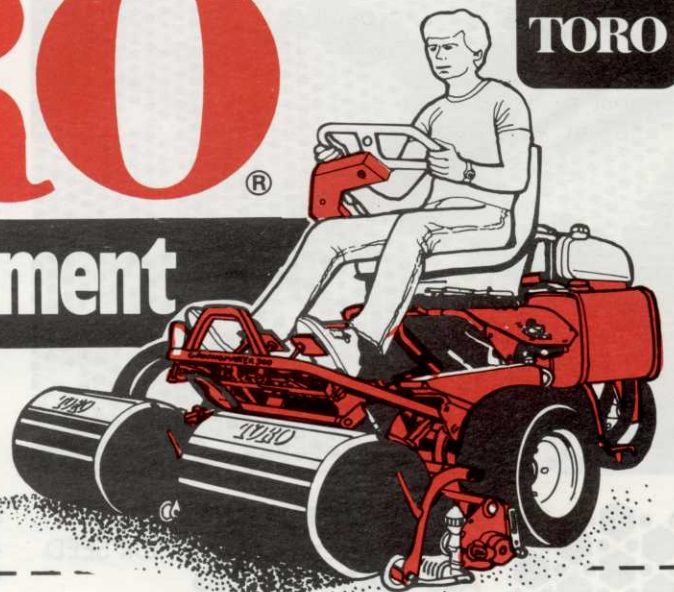
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G/8



SIGGA National Tournament

The association's major golfing occasion was held courtesy of the captain and council of Downfield Golf Club. The weather was excellent and a splendid entry of over 100 took part.

The course, as usual, was in great condition considering the extremely wet, cold spring. Our thanks to Willie Milton and his staff for their efforts.

The hospitality afforded us by the club and the clubhouse staff under Mr Parker was first-class and we are indebted to them for making the day a success.

Club captain Mr E. Boyd and his wife presented the prizes and drew the raffle.

Scoring, on what is generally recognised as one of the hardest courses in Scotland, was very good.

John Souter would surely have won the prize for the luckiest shot of the day - if there had been one - with his 'heid up' approach to the 9th green, which finished 15 feet from the flag.

A most pleasing aspect of the tournament was entries from as far afield as Seahouses in the north of England to Dornoch in the north of Scotland and even from the west coast of Ireland.

Elliott Small.

Memory Lane Again

The discussion on the 'old days' in the June issue of *Greenkeeper* between John Campbell and Jack McMillan stirred a few memories among some older greenkeepers.

George Alexander, vice president of SIGGA, wrote 'It took me back to my early years in greenkeeping at Prestwick St Nicholas, Ayrshire, where my father was head greenkeeper. My entry into this work coincided with the introduction of the Ransomes Certes mower, which proved to be an excellent machine. It was sheer joy after the brute strength needed to push a Shanks Caledonian, which ran on brass brushes. What a boon it was to see the advent of ball bearings!

Fairways were cut with a horse-drawn triple mower then, which was eventually replaced by a Model T Ford tractor and gang-units. The tractor took some of the drudgery out of our work. We did not have a watering system, so the club decided to purchase a 500 gallon tank as we had an old water-filled quarry on the course and the idea was to use this valuable source of water for irrigation in the summer. Scottish summers being what they are, it was not until 1934 that we needed it! It was the driest period I remember and we watered the greens non-stop from April to September.

Many steep slopes and odd corners of the course had to be scythed in the summer until we finally welcomed the arrival of

two Kutruf side wheel mowers. Repairing club marks with seed and soil was a time-consuming task, for there was little grass cover on dry sandy fairways during the summer.

After the busy playing season was over, all the greens were hollow tined with Paul forks. This was extremely laborious, leg aching work. Top dressing, using material from the compost heap that was made up of alternate layers of soil and manure or seaweed, followed.

Winter could be an easier time, but often there were alterations to be done and before the days of turf cutting machines, this was back breaking work with old diamond-shaped turf spades and edging irons.

I remained at Prestwick St Nicholas until the outbreak of war. After demob from the army, I returned to the club to take my father's place as head greenkeeper when he retired. The installation of an automatic watering system and all the other advances in equipment made the job much easier, but it takes total commitment to keep on top of all the work.

I have enjoyed my career in greenkeeping and meeting many fine people in the business. Continued success to all those who are working hard to improve the status of greenkeeping.'

North

Nearly 50 members enjoyed the hospitality of Fraserburgh GC for our first outing of 1986. The course was in top-class condition, but we could have done without the hurricanes! This kept scores fairly high and Stephen McIntosh managed a scratch 77, which won the Bowen Trophy and the Registered Apprentice Trophy.

Other main prize winners were: 1st Class-A. Grant 72, 2nd Class - D. Munro 75, 3rd Class - G. McKie 87, Vets - D. Dingwall 79, Trade - Eddie Connaughton (Wales) 80.

The flag at Fraserburgh was flying at half mast in honour of Steve Donnachie. It's hard to believe that it was at this outing last year that we presented Steve with his retirement gift. He will be missed. *I. Hamilton.*

Prize winners

Best Net Score	A. Patterson	(Powfoot)
Best Scratch Score	D. Mackison	(Braehead)
1st Class 1st	T. Murray	(Ratho)
2nd	D. Gray	(Lahinch)
3rd	J. Grainger	(Letham)
2nd Class 1st	J. Kidd	(Gleneagles)
2nd	R. Bulloch	(Seahouses)
3rd	G. Farrington	(Ballater)
3rd Class 1st	G. Matheson	(Dornoch)
2nd	W. Linn	(Powfoot)
3rd	J. Granger	(Helensburgh)
Head Greenkeeper	D. Gall	(Cardross)
Assistant	P. Murray	(Card Park)
Registered Apprentice	G. McKie	(Tain)
Veteran	J. McCulloch	(Peebles)
Visitor and Trade	M. Dennis	(STS)
Team	Ayrshire	



South Wales

The branch is staging a weekend educational seminar at the Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern, Worcestershire on November 1-2.

Although organised by South Wales, a venue 'across the border' was chosen because it was felt a more central location would attract more delegates.

The Abbey Hotel can accommodate 300 conference delegates and has bedrooms with full facilities. Situated at the foot of the Malvern Hills, the hotel is a mile from Great Malvern station and ten miles off the M5.

The seminar will follow national EIGGA conference lines with at least half the papers being presented by greenkeepers and there will be a session set aside for younger members of the profession. Full details of speakers will be announced in *Greenkeeper*.

Delegates will be required to register on Saturday morning prior to lectures and the entire package comprises one night's accommodation with full board.

The cost for EIGGA members is £57, non-members £62. Daily attendance costs £15 (EIGGA members) and £18 (non-members).

All EIGGA members and

anyone else in golf and green-keeping will be welcomed.

Further information can be obtained from me at the address on the reservation form below.

Raymond Hunt.

North-West

A good turnout of members had an enjoyable evening at Watmore's Turfland recently. Chris Watmore and his staff showed the party his turf farm, gave a demonstration of machinery and provided a visit to his new farm at Chester, all of which was rounded off with discussion and refreshments back at Turfland.

Many thanks to Chris and his staff for all their hard work and for making it such an interesting and informative evening.

The autumn tournament is to be held at Mold GC on Monday September 15, sponsored by C. Howells, a Lancia agent in Wrexham. Anyone wishing to play or attend the dinner should contact Terry Adamson on 0978 83 2908.

Guy Cannings.

London

On behalf of all members, I would like to wish our branch chairman Tom Low a speedy recovery from recent illness.

Tom has received an EIGGA gold diploma for 25 years service as a head greenkeeper - I'm sure he'll do another 25.

An evening Stableford was held at Finchley GC and our thanks go

to the club and indoor staff for making us so welcome. The club's new head greenkeeper Gary Mosey has joined the branch and thanks go to him and his staff for providing a golf course in excellent condition.

Prize winners were: low handicap - 1st I. McMillan 40 pts, 2nd G. Mosey 33 pts; high handicap - 1st C. Greenwood 39 pts, 2nd J. Ewing 38 pts; guest prize - J. Russell 36 pts.

We are indebted to Norman Exley and Chris Slater for helping with the cards and D. Smith of King's, D. Craig of Pattisson, A. Moffatt of Parkers and D. Murphy of Maxwell Hart for, once again, supporting us.

The summer league pairs is now well under way and thanks go to Mike Peters for organising it with the able assistance of his wife. Not only does the league raise golfing standards, it brings a lot of greenkeepers together on different courses and that must be a good thing.

Finally, on behalf of all EIGGA members, I would like to congratulate our branch administrator David Low on being elected national chairman earlier in the year.

Derek Mason, Highgate GC.

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I wish to reserve a place at the South Wales seminar and enclose a deposit of £10 (cheques made payable to 'EIGGA South Wales').

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