

This issue

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 1986



Front cover: John Campbell travelled to Letham Grange in Scotland where he met Ken Smith (pictured above). Full story on facing page

ROAD WORKS AHEAD! 4
Jim Arthur returns to the subject of golf course traffic and associated wear

PARKLAND! 9
Everything you've ever wanted to know about trees, as told by Gordon Childs

EIGGA NEWS & VIEWS	11
NOTEBOOK A BASF special...	16
NOTEBOOK More topical snippets from the trade	21
PRUNING TREE BRANCHES AND TREATING SUBSEQUENT WOUNDS Sound advice from David Francis	29
APPRENTICE CORNER A new feature enabling you to indentify and treat diseases	30
BUYERS' GUIDE	33
STOP PRESS! We thought you'd like to know...	34

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

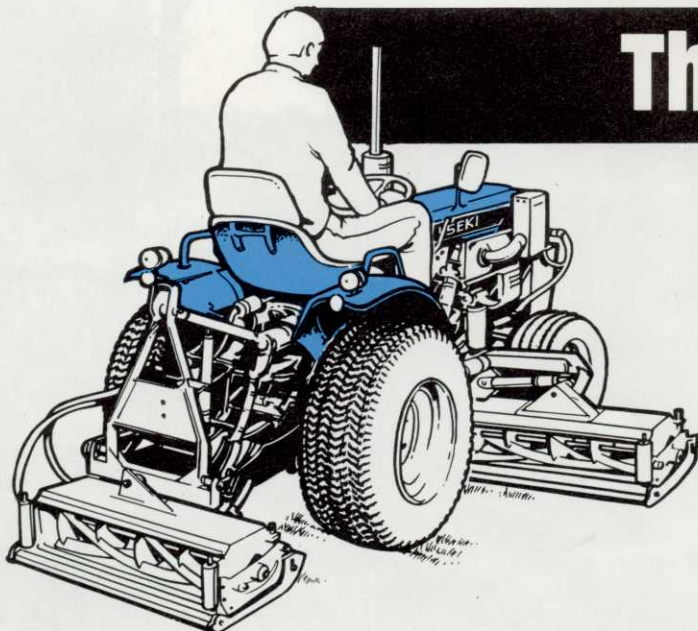
Subscription rates:
UK—£14 Continent and USA—£20 Eire—IR £17.50

Greenkeeper is published ten times a year. Printed in England by J.B. Offset, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex.
Copyright: A. Quick & Co Ltd 1986



ISEKI

The very best in turf



The versatility of any model from 16 to 72hp 4WD is second to none, particularly when you have the choice of such a vast selection of all British-Built attachments which includes the much acclaimed LELY BEAVER GM 386 Triple Mower plus the new 3 and 5 Gang Mowers.

If you want to dig, what better than the exceptional D224 Backhoe/Loader combination. The choice goes on and on and with Sales and Service Distributors in your area why not give Colin Gregory a call to arrange a trial run working under your conditions.



LELY (UK) LTD, STATION ROAD, ST NEOTS, CAMBS PE19 10

Golf home on The Grange



Over water to the short 12th.

CREATING a hotel and sports complex to the highest standard in beautiful surroundings was a burning ambition that began in 1976 for Ken Smith, chairman of F.P.C. (Developments).

He was being shown over the estate at Letham Grange, near Arbroath by a farming partner who was a descendant of the original owner and builder of the unusual Victorian mansion.

It took him another seven years to buy the land and obtain essential planning approval before the project finally began in 1983.

The mansion has now been
Continued on page 8...

TORO

TORO

management equipment



If you want the best equipment that will ensure the finest finish whatever the climate or ground conditions it can only be TORO. The **GROUNDMASTER 300** with new cutting unit is in a class of its own and is recognised throughout the world as the No 1. If you are looking to improve your greens, fairways and any other grass areas it can only be TORO. For example, the 'big boy' illustrated left is the **REELMASTER 350D**, tough, reliable 50hp, 4 cyl, diesel engine, 5 cutting units to effectively get through 10.5 acres an hour, day in day out! Why not have a word with Graham Dale who will be delighted for you or your operative to get behind the controls ... the only trouble will be, getting you off!



Please send details as ticked box/s

Literature Iseki Toro Nearest Dealer Iseki Toro Trial/Demo Iseki Toro

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No _____

GK/1/86

Tel (0480) 76971 Telex 32523

ROAD WORKS AHEAD!

I MAKE no excuse for returning, yet again, to one of the major problems in course management today, namely traffic and associated wear. This is most obvious on the busiest courses, but every course shows more wear-related damage today than it did a decade ago.

My experience indicated that the most outstanding feature of course improvement in 1985 – which will be long remembered for its late spring and monsoon-like summer – related to fairways mown by hydraulic-powered, direct-mounted gang mowers and also where broad surrounds and very deep aprons – literally foregreens – were mown by triple mowers fitted with seven-bladed reels and floating heads and where cuttings were removed in boxes.

Quite apart from a dramatic improvement in playing conditions around the greens, this combination kept tractors well away from aprons, as well as putting surfaces, and especially narrow entrances to greens.

How often do you still see good greens and, often, excellent fairways with some five to ten yards of appallingly uneven, damaged, eroded, coarse-textured, open, muddy turf in the no-man's land between? One cause is simply because tractors, especially if towing trailed gangs, have to go over and over almost the same area of ground to mow awkward corners and what with constant traffic and tight turns and tyre marking, if not ruts, run-up conditions are unpredictable. I find that such areas are often the worst feature of many courses.

For too long in greenkeeping (farming learned the lesson decades earlier), we have treated tractors as horses. The design of some trailed gangs has not intrinsically altered since the days when they were fitted with shafts not draw-bars. In more than one greenkeeping shed, I have been shown the old leather boots used to prevent horses' hoof marks on

By Jim Arthur

fairway turf!

Harry Ferguson, who invented the hydraulic lift that revolutionised small farming, never claimed any great genius in the matter. He merely said that he was the first person to understand the difference between a horse and a tractor – namely that you cannot bolt anything to a horse's rump. Yet, we still tow equipment round our courses at the end of a tow bar, with about as much relative manoeuvrability as trying to turn a giant tanker in the English Channel.

By direct mounting, not only is there no need to go back over and over the same area, but you can back or run the machines under cover, as well as using the weight of the tractor, as with direct-mounted aerating machines, to achieve penetration instead of relying on sheer weight – with all its attendant problems in lifting and so wheel marking under soft conditions.

There never was a better summer to illustrate the benefits of hydraulic gang mowing than the last. On many hilly, but wet and heavy courses, the end result of trying to mow in the monsoon conditions that affected the whole of Britain, but nowhere worse than in Scotland and the north, was all too often a confused pattern of spiralling wheel slip and skid marks as greenkeepers desperately tried to stop tractors trailing gangs from stalling on slopes. Have you ever had to try to turn a set of trailed quintuple gangs around when the tractor gets stuck? Once bitten, twice shy!

Furthermore, with the lush growth and interrupted pattern to regular mowing, all too often with trailed gangs, fairways were left covered in unsightly lumps of cut grass accumulating on mowers and dropping off – even if the reels did not jam and land,

wheels consequently skid.

With hydraulic gangs, the higher reel speed, independent of the land speed, meant a better finish for three reasons. One, fairways could be cut more frequently, since it was simplicity itself, especially with weatherproof cabs, to mow fairways even in the pouring rain. Second, a finer finish was achieved with more cuts per yard, leaving no ribbing. Third, the high reel speed flung the finer cuttings further and so there was none of that unsightly 'silage crop' effect that so disfigured some inland fairways last summer.

More and more, we must try to divorce greenkeeper and golfer traffic, especially from vulnerable areas where both play and maintenance converge. Nowhere is this more serious, in both cause and effect, than at entrances to greens and walk-offs from green to tee.

I feel that architects should consider traffic more when designing courses – certainly in the case of potentially busy courses, especially those attached to hotels, to the extent of building 'orbital motorways' in the rough as part of the initial design concept. You can only deplore such extravagant and contrived bunkering around greens that forces all traffic into a narrow entrance. Inevitably, this becomes bare and eroded, while walk-off traffic is similarly constricted, with the same results.

Paths are really no answer. If they are in play, then problems are inevitable and, in any case, paths only transfer the problem to the end of the path. If paths must be made, they must be wide enough to take two players abreast, towing trolleys and with a surface kind to studded shoes. All too often, we see paths unused because they are hard underfoot to spikes. Yet, either side of the path, the turf is worn bare by players walking off.

Materials must also not damage mowers. I abhor chippings or

even red blaze and the best material I find is chopped brushings (a cheap source of supply on heathland courses, where only constant culling of seedling birch keeps this invasive weed at bay) or bark, which can be purchased. Shell (cockle shell used so widely on Lancashire links and in Essex), is satisfactory, except where the soil is acid, as it kills heather. With brushings, you need a chopper, such as the old turnip chopper of my farming youth. But there are efficient ones on the market, either pto driven or self-propelled.

Prevention is always better than cure, but at times we have to cure as well. Constant deep aeration of areas subjected to compaction will help, but there is no guarantee against erosion, by wheels or feet, as those in charge of famous beauty spots have discovered!

This is why better mowing and better preparation of wide surrounds, with its implication of constant aeration; regular mowing three times a week; even top dressing and certainly controlled, periodic, rather than permanent, irrigation helps such vulnerable

areas to survive the effects of traffic better.

Even so, patching - especially of paths from tees, as well as from greens to tees - is inevitable, often on an annual basis. Too often, imported turf - either seeded turf, which can never be hard-wearing enough initially (and it rarely gets a chance to survive long enough to become mature), or coarse meadow turf - is used. Contrary to opinions still being expressed, ryegrass does not form a hard-wearing turf because it is so open and easily invaded by annual meadow grass and it gives an unsightly finish.

Fairway turf

The answer - even if it is unpopular with the members - is to use well-established fairway turf. If the scars are patched at once with imported (or nursery) turf and, if necessary, protected by white lines or even rope and if the turf is lifted away from the main line of traffic, even the least satisfactory replacement turf will eventually establish and become very similar to that surrounding it.

This will happen, if only because the grass type will stabilise and is determined by two factors - natural (the soil below and the weather) and applied (management in the broadest sense).

Needless to say, never patch with ryegrass-contaminated imported turf. The correct solution may mean double work, but no more than patching the same walk-off area twice in one season and still not solving the problem.

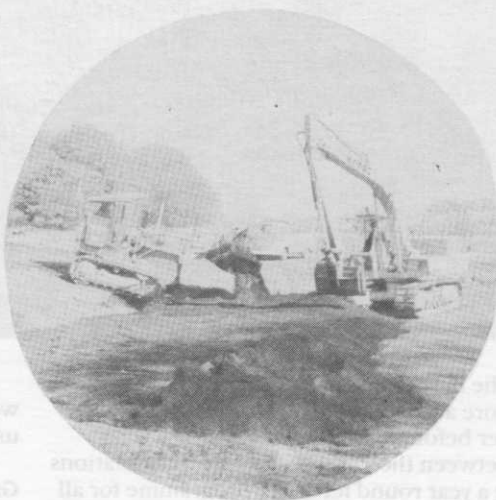
The problem of traffic is certainly not new. The great increase in winter play and, therefore, the greatest damage on more easily sealed wet soils, coupled with ever-increasing standards that are expected - indeed, demanded - in course presentation is. Much more repair and remedial work is, therefore, required and we can safely say that the problem of traffic and its results will get worse.

Even if every precaution, such as introducing white lines, banning trolleys in winter, making greenkeeper roadways and intensifying remedial work, is taken, we shall all be needing much larger and better managed turf nurseries in future years.

Specialist Golf Course Constructors

NEW COURSES — ALTERATIONS — BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

ROYAL BIRKDALE
GOLF CLUB
BROADSTONE GOLF CLUB
BROOME PARK GOLF CLUB
FERNDOWN GOLF CLUB
ROYAL LYTHAM & ST.
ANNES GOLF CLUB
MILGATE PARK GOLF
COURSE



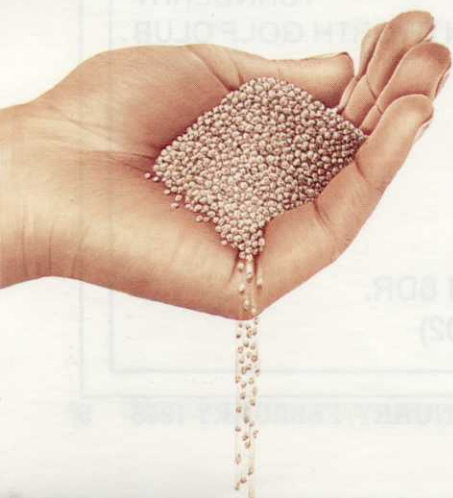
PARKSTONE GOLF CLUB
RADLEY COLLEGE, OXON
ABBEY PARK, REDDITCH
ROYAL ST. GEORGES
GOLF CLUB
ROYAL BIRKDALE
GOLF CLUB
TURNBERRY
WENTWORTH GOLF CLUB

Brian D. Pierson
(Contractors) Limited

27 Vicarage Road, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 6DR.

Telephone: VERWOOD 822372 & 824906 (STD 0202)

Put on a fi



The new Greenmaster range from Fisons gives more accurate control of fine turf growth than ever before.

Between them, these five new formulations provide a year round fertilizer programme for all situations.

They are produced in medium density, dust-free granules to a uniform size for easy and accurate spreading.

Greenmaster will resist disturbance by wind and rain and because of its light colour can be seen when spreading to avoid over or under application.

All this means that you are able to apply it more evenly and so much more cost-effectively, whilst minimising patchy growth.

It has taken a great deal of development work at Levington Research Station and many user trials to produce Greenmaster.

Here then are the results.

Greenmaster Autumn 6:4:12 + 6% Fe

Specially designed for autumn-long moss control combined with good colour response from the iron and nitrogen. Improved sward resilience from the potash.

Greenmaster Spring/Summer 14:2:4

Balanced nutrient treatment for a fast, even colour response. Only 2% phosphate.

Greenmaster Mosskiller 14:0:0 + 8.9% Fe

A unique 'high iron' formulation for excellent moss control with a nitrogen level designed to stimulate rapid grass regrowth.

the spread.



5 completely new fine turf fertilizers.

Greenmaster Extra

14:2:4 + Selective Herbicides

Two powerful herbicides - MCPA and mecoprop - give excellent weed control combined with a fertilizer ratio calculated to give a fast, even colour.

Greenmaster Super N 24:0:0 + 2% Fe

A full 12 week growth and colour response

achieved by incorporating 50% of the nitrogen content as slow release IBDU. Added iron ensures a better colour response.

That is the Greenmaster range. Scientifically balanced for superb results. In fact, all you would expect of Fisons.

Isn't it time you put on a fine spread?
New Greenmaster fertilizers from Fisons.



By Appointment to HM The Queen
Manufacturers of Horticultural Products
Fisons plc Ipswich

GREENMASTER

FINE TURF CARE

FISONS

Horticulture

Fisons plc
Horticulture Division
Paper Mill Lane Bramford
Ipswich IP8 4BZ
GREENMASTER is a Trade
Mark of Fisons plc
©Fisons plc 1986



The 6th green with sculptured bunker surrounds.

LETHAM GRANGE CONTINUED...

converted into a first-class hotel with a four-sheet ice rink for curling – a superb housing development is being integrated into the estate.

There is a championship golf course that should be ready for play early this year. Once more, the man at the hub of things is Ken Smith, a keen golfer who planned

the fairway layout and site balance in association with Donald Steel and Cameron Sinclair. Brian D. Pierson was responsible for the construction and landscaping and Jim Arthur the consulting agronomist.

Maximum use has been made of the land's natural features and the course's routing has evenly balanced the constraints of the site and the need to develop other activities against essential and desirable design criteria.

The fundamental philosophy was that the existing landscape should direct the golf course layout, rather than the artificial im-

position of design theories and dictums.

Water has made an interesting feature on a number of holes and this has added to the strategy, character and aesthetic appeal of the layout. From a greenkeeping point of view, the course has been designed for minimum labour levels through the use of sophisticated machinery. This has been done by the careful planning of slopes on all mouldings, the design and shaping of bunkers and the distances between hazards, greens, tees and planted areas.

John Campbell



The imposing entrance gates to Letham Grange.



John Campbell talked to Ken Smith in front of the hotel.

PARKLAND!

WHEN you think of parkland golf courses, you imagine lush green, almost pasture, land with woods and big trees dominating the landscape. In fact, the word park is defined as a large enclosed piece of ground with woodland and pasture attached to a country house. So, if you make the house into a clubhouse and the ground into a golf course, you have a parkland golf course!

There are differences in the maintenance of parkland to other courses. The most important one is tidiness. A parkland course must never look untidy, although I would not suggest that other types should look unkempt.

Trees are vital to parkland and have, in recent years, become a big problem with the ravages of dutch elm disease and many other destructive elements. We need to be much more aware of the needs for replanting and the types of tree that are going to grow on our courses.

We have often seen greens committees and greenkeepers trying to plant, with all the best intentions, the wrong types of tree and, in many cases, in the wrong place, forgetting how big they become. It is much better to call in a good architect if a programme of tree planting is to be carried out.

Maintenance of trees is also a consideration and, in many cases, there is a tendency to forget this

when planting. Plant back-up trees for the more important trees, golfwise, on your course. Then, at least, you will not have a big space left when a tree is lost. Do not plant the same type of tree as the one already there, for if it is lost to disease, it is almost certain you will also lose your back-up tree to the same disease.

Trees can be purchased as semi-mature, up to 25-30ft. Of course, they cost more, but it may be worth spending the money if you have a golf hole spoilt by the loss of a tree. But it is better to plant young as long as time is on your side.

A good selection of trees would always include:

●Horse Chestnuts need only be avoided where wet clay forms the site to be planted on. They grow quickly and will reach 90-100ft with a spread of 60ft or more. All heights and spreads should be taken into account when planting.

●Beech. Although chalk and limestone soils are its natural home, the common beech will grow in most situations, including exposed ones near the sea. They can reach 80-100ft with a spread of 70ft.

●Limes are accommodating and will succeed in most types of soil. They are among the finest of parkland trees with a height of over 100ft and a spread of 50ft.

●Sycamore is quick growing and hardy. It has a height of 80ft-100ft

and a spread of 50ft-60ft.

●Oak. Of all oaks, the turkey oak and the common oak are the best known. The turkey oak is the fastest growing of the two and will grow in any soil as long as there is plenty of depth. It will grow up to 100ft and spread up to 80ft. The common oak will grow 60-70ft and spread 60ft.

●Willows are usually associated with damp, but may be grown in most, soils.

●Hornbeam is one that will also grow in most places, as well as damp heavy soils.

It is well worth spending a little time to become more knowledgeable about your trees. Of course, trees need attention, keeping the low branches trimmed to the needs of the golfer, cutting off the sucker shoots, taking out dead wood, etc. The big task comes each autumn when leaves start to fall and you will probably need a leaf sweeper!

Finally, a word of warning. The tree root will spread to find water. It will often contain a central root, the tap root, with many branches from which a mass of fibrous roots will grow. These can spread well beyond the spread of the tree, so care should be taken not to plant too near to greens, etc.

●The above is an extract from a paper given by Gordon Childs at the recent SIGGA educational conference.

farmura

'1976-1986 10 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND SERVICE TO TURF'

The Liquid Organic Fertiliser

Make it part of your management programme — from re-seeding to maintenance

farmura

benefits include

- * Thicker sward
- * Deeper roots
- * Improved germination
- * Greater resistance to stress

For detailed information, contact your distributor or

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

farmura

has been used on a wide variety of sites including

FOOTBALL GROUNDS — Wembley, Aston Villa, Arsenal, Coventry

GOLF COURSES — Birkdale, Lytham St. Annes, St. Andrews, Woburn

RACECOURSES — Ascot, Ayr, Chester, Uttoxeter

LAND RECLAMATION — Work in progress on NCB sites

ALSO on cricket pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts — in fact, wherever grass is sown, grown and mown





Growth control. Just picture how it could help you.

Cutting grass, even when it is a joy ride, is time consuming and expensive. In some areas it is also inconvenient and difficult. Sometimes it is downright dangerous.

But now that ICI has introduced Holdfast, mowing can be reduced or even eliminated in medium or rough amenity grass*.

This unique soil-active growth retardant is fully

Holdfast.

proven, effective and makes economic sense. It is easy to apply by spray application whatever the weather – rain isn't a problem. And once absorbed by grass roots will inhibit growth for about three months.

The photograph above proves the point. On the left is a grass sample allowed to grow normally and untreated. On the right is a sample which has been treated. Imagine how Holdfast can help you. Saving time, wear and tear and helping to release manpower for more important seasonal work.

Before deciding on your 1986 grass maintenance programme send for our Holdfast leaflet. It is the only way to get the complete picture.

An  Professional Product

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB, Tel: (0252) 724525.
*This product has Limited Clearance under the UK Government's Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme for use as directed.