



## TAKE CARE OF THE ROUGH AND THE SMOOTH.

Bob Andrews will help you look after every inch of your course. From the most immaculate of greens to that well trodden path leading into the 19th hole!

Whatever you buy from us, you know it will be an effective tool. And you know it will last. Giving you a truly professional result. Acre on acre, year after year.

### 1. Lawn Genie

Just the easiest way to look after your course.

Lawn Genie will mow long or short grass; collect cuttings or leaves or rubbish; scarify and renovate.

Easy to handle and manoeuvre, it couldn't be simpler!

### 2. Lightweight Golfers' rakes

The perfect bunker rakes. Light enough to use with one hand, strong enough to stand up to rough use and designed to live their lives outdoors

without deterioration. Bright colours to discourage theft.

### 3. Cyclones

For spreading fertilizer or seed over the best dressed turfs, smoothly and evenly. No burning or missed patches because the unique spread pattern means no overlap or underlap. Spread rate - 1/2 to 8oz per sq yd, 9ft spread width.

### 4. Bluebird

The 3-in-one maintenance system for fine turf.

It's a slitter, a scarifier or a vertical mower, depending on which work-reel you fit.

### 5. Back Pack Blower

Litter just can't hide! This powerful air-broom will quickly winkle out rubbish, wherever it's lurking. Ideal for moving mounds of autumn leaves.

# BOB ANDREWS

POWER TO THE PROFESSIONALS

BOB ANDREWS LTD. Pontiac Works, Fernbank Road, Ascot, Berks. Tel. (0344) 885575

# This issue

JULY 1986

Front Cover:

A Ransomes Triplex 171, fitted with green-cutting units.

<b>BOOKS FOR GREENKEEPERS AND GREEN COMMITTEES</b>	<b>9</b>
Eddie Park, something of a collector himself, looks at volumes through the ages	
<b>NEWS &amp; VIEWS (SIGGA)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NEWS &amp; VIEWS (EIGGA)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>FERTILIZERS ON FINE TURF</b>	<b>12</b>
A major feature detailing the facts as Peter Hayes and Jim Arthur see them	
<b>NOTEBOOK</b>	<b>16</b>
The trade talking	
<b>BUYERS' GUIDE</b>	<b>23</b>

**Publisher:** Fore Golf Publications 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: Fore Golf Publications Ltd 1986

## The Management of British Golf Courses

by  
Nicholas Park  
*Now Available  
from Greenkeeper*

121-123 High St., Dovercourt, Essex. CO12 3AP

@ £2.20 per copy inc. P+P  
Proceeds to the Greenkeeper  
Training Committee

## B.I.G.G.A. may not necessarily be better

At the last meeting of the three Greenkeeping Associations the final draft of a new Constitution was agreed. It was also agreed to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of all the Associations — provisionally the 12th August — when each member will be able to vote on the proposals.

The proposed resolution is as follows:-

"It was agreed as follows:

- a) That the Constitution of the proposed British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association a copy of which has been circulated to each member is approved.
- b) That the English & International Golf Greenkeepers Association shall be disbanded with effect from the 1st January 1987 and the assets of the Association transferred to the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association.
- c) That this resolution is conditional upon the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and the English & International Golf Greenkeepers Association and the Scottish & International Golf Greenkeepers Association passing similar resolutions prior to the 1st November 1986."

In the draft Constitution the objects of the new Association are:-

- a) To promote and advance all aspects of green-keeping.
- b) To assist and encourage the proficiency of members.
- c) To arrange an International Annual Conference, educational seminars, functions and competitions.
- d) To raise money for the benefit of the Association.
- e) To maintain a benevolent fund.
- f) To act as an employment agency.
- g) To provide a magazine.
- h) To collaborate with any body or organisation which may in any way benefit the Association or its Members or with which there may be a common interest.
- i) To carry out and perform any other duties or responsibilities which shall be in the general interests of the Association or its Members.

It is to be hoped that all Association Members will give serious consideration to the proposals and no doubt some searching questions will be asked.



# Cross-country specialist

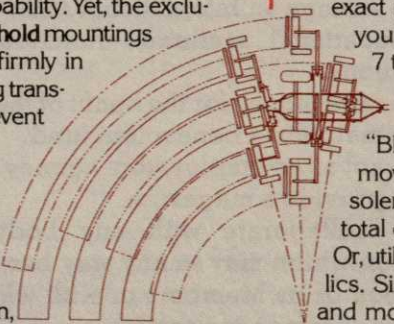
The Jacobsen 5/7 Ram-Lift Ranger covers a lot of territory, with a superior cut from start to finish.

Legendary Jacobsen performance ...to go! The 5/7 Ram-Lift Ranger. Designed for incomparable agility on turf or on the road.

Simply raise the gangs hydraulically to create a sleek, eight-foot transport width that handles narrow service roads and bridges with ease. High-flotation tires and heavy-duty frame give the Ranger true cross-country capability. Yet, the exclusive **steady-hold** mountings keep reels firmly in place during transport, to prevent damage caused by swinging reels.

Utilizing computer-aided design,

The Ranger incorporates CAD-system design for state-of-the-art performance



the frame **steers** reels through turns to eliminate skidding and streaking. Patented hold-down springs enable bi-directional pivoting reels to follow ground contours closely—even at higher cutting speeds, to provide a superior cut.

Tailor the Ranger to suit your application. Choose the exact number of gangs

you need to cut swaths from 7 to 15 feet wide. With your choice of reels: six-blade; ten-blade; or five-blade "Blitzer" for high-speed mowing. Our unique electric-solenoid package gives you total control at your fingertips. Or, utilize existing tractor hydraulics. Simply lower the gangs and move out!



For rapid transport from site to site... with a precision cut from start to finish... go with the cross-country specialist. The 5/7 Ram-Lift Ranger. Call your Jacobsen Distributor for more information. He'll be happy to arrange a free demonstration.

Morrison Industries Limited,  
Bergen Way, King's Lynn,  
Norfolk PE30 2JG  
Tel: King's Lynn (0553) 763333  
Telex: 818861

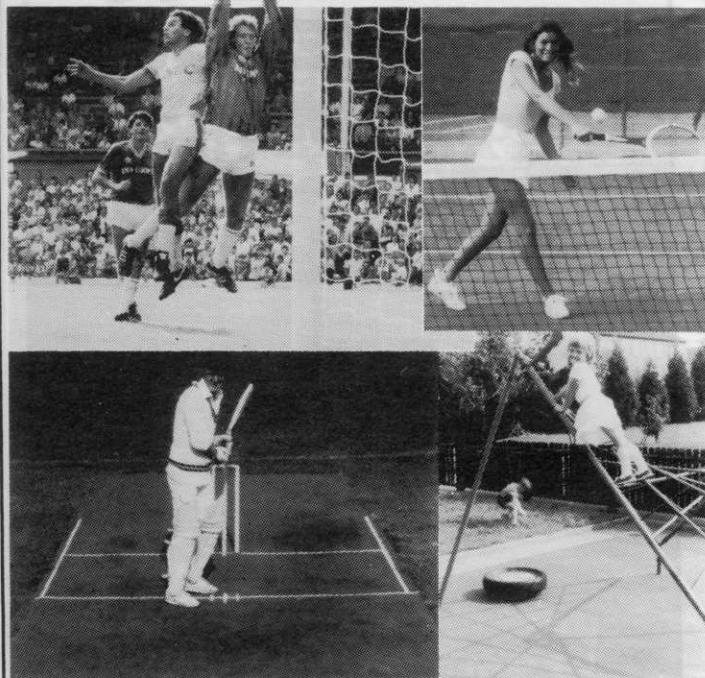
**JACOBSEN**  
**TEXTRON**

Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc.

Engineered from the ground up.

# And now, from the innovators

Nottinghamshire County Council have been researching and developing synthetic grass systems for over fifteen years.



They recommend –

### VHAF Grass Reinforcement

For landscaping, worn out paths, banks and hundreds of other problem areas. For around £200 muddy goalmouths can be returned to continuous use. VHAF is a synthetic carpet overseeded to grow a healthy top sward of natural grass with a reinforced root system.

### Tennis Court Conversions

Convert shale or tarmac courts into high quality synthetic grass areas for as little as £7,000 including installation.

### Notts Cricket Wickets

The famous Notts 'D' system, laid DIY from £2,000

### Child Safety Play Areas

Using the Notts 'Envelope' system laid with a synthetic turf surface, we can offer a reliable, low-cost, erosion-free safety system.

### Golf Tees

The Notts 'T' provides a mud-free area, all year round from £89.



For technical advice and information contact:  
Nottinghamshire Sports & Safety Systems Limited, Launde House, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LE. Telephone (0533) 718892/716344/716027.

For further enquiries, please return coupon to: Nottinghamshire Sports & Safety Systems Limited, Launde House, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LE.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone No: ..... Date: .....

Cor/Gr/ AUG 8

# 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.

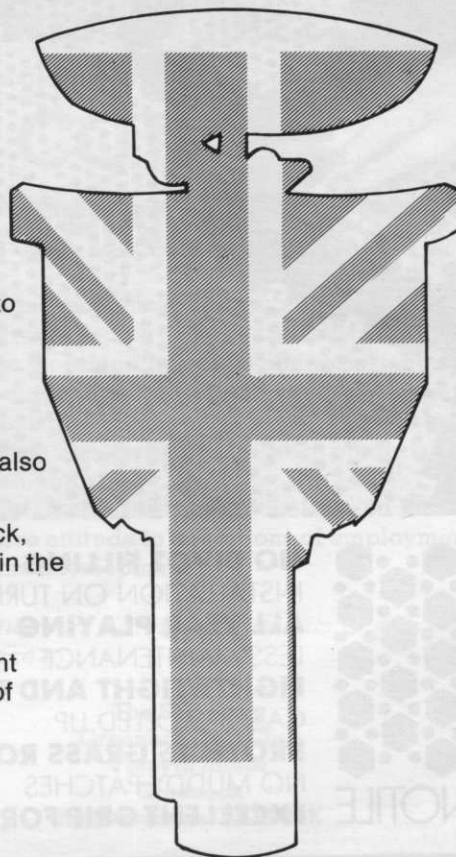
It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

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**



## BEWARE of Imitations

# “FENDRESS”<sup>®</sup>

High Quality Golf Green Top Dressing (FENDRESS) available in bulk loads of 10, 15, 20 and 25 tonnes delivered anywhere U.K. Mainland, N. Ireland.

A Superior Top Dressing, using soils with a low clay & silt content, carefully blended with Fenland Peat and Lime Free Free Silica Sand, shredded and sieved. Ready for immediate application to golf/bowling greens.

Save purchasing expensive equipment which stands idle for much of the year, also high labour costs and problems of finding suitable ingredients of constant quality.

PLEASE REMEMBER THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE FENDRESS REGISTERED TRADEMARK

*Pre-Packed* supplies also available.

SPECIAL MIXES TO YOUR SPECIFICATION ALSO PREPARED

ALSO Sedge Peat (“FENPEAT”) in bulk.

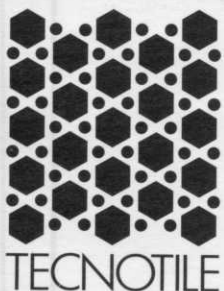
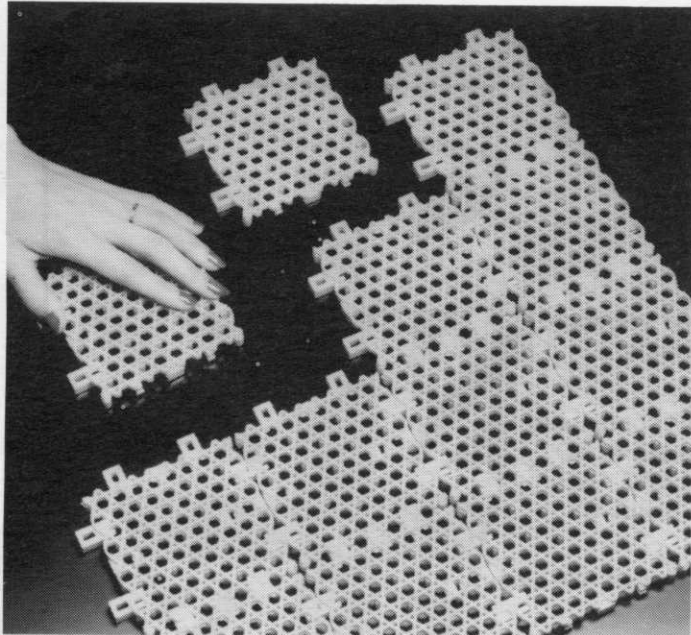
Lime Free Sands, White or Yellow. Screened Loam etc.

*Please telephone T. I. Banks for quotations. You will be surprised by our competitive prices.*

Please Contact:



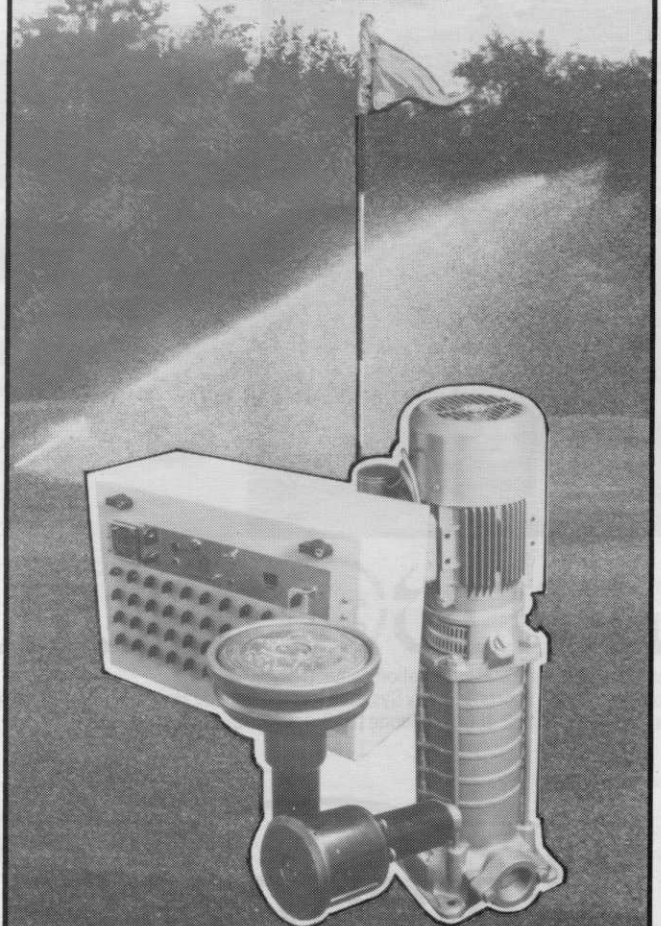
Fen Turf Dressings Ltd., 36 High Street, Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 7NL. Tel.: Market Harborough (0858) 64346.



**NO DIVOT FILLING**  
INSTALLATION ON TURF OR SEED  
**ALL YEAR PLAYING**  
LESS MAINTENANCE  
**LIGHTWEIGHT AND TOUGH**  
CAN BE ROLLED UP  
**PROTECTS GRASS ROOTS**  
NO MUDDY PATCHES  
**EXCELLENT GRIP FOR PLAYERS**

TECNOTILE 64 OAKHURST GROVE LONDON SE22 9AQ 01-693 6287

## DESIGNED TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME



Reducing the handicap of poor tees, fairways and greens, a Cameron irrigation system can make a dramatic improvement to the enjoyment of the game. Installed with minimum disruption, automatic in operation and unobtrusive in appearance, Cameron systems are supplied complete and serviced by the U.K.'s only national branch network. Full details are available from the address below.

**Golf course irrigation systems from:**

# Cameron

Harwood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton  
W. Sussex BN17 7BA. Tel: (0903) 713985

**THE LARGEST COMPANY NETWORK  
SERVICING THE SPORTS TURF MARKET**

## BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons. Must be experienced in all aspects of golf course management. Salary negotiable. No accommodation. The course is in a beautiful parkland setting in country surroundings.

*Applications by letter together with C.V. to:*

**The Secretary**  
Brookmans Park Golf Club  
Hatfield, Hertfordshire. AL9 7AT

## STOKE POGES GOLF CLUB

require

### ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from Greenkeepers with proven experience to assist the Head in all aspects of Course and Machinery maintenance at this well known busy Championship Standard, Parkland Course.

An attractive salary is on offer together with other benefits. Accommodation will be available if required.

*Please apply in writing with full details of experience, qualifications and age etc. to:*

**The Secretary/Manager**  
Stoke Poges Golf Club, Park Road, Stoke Poges,  
Bucks. SL2 4PG



## Natural Goodness

NATURES OWN FERTILIZER



Education Committee

ELMWOOD COLLEGE, CUPAR, SCOTLAND.

Take the first step towards becoming a

**REGISTERED GREENKEEPER**

by attending a block-release programme of study in

**GREENKEEPING & GROUNDSMANSHIP**

(Leading to the SCOTVEC National Certificate)

We also conduct distance learning/block-release courses in

**GREENKEEPING & GROUNDSMANSHIP**

**SUPERVISORY STUDIES**

Leading to the SCOTVEC Certificate 672 Part III level.

(One week only will be spent in college).

*Details and Application Forms from the Registrar*

Telephone: 0334 52781

## CARNOUSTIE GOLF LINKS

require

### ASSISTANT LINKS SUPERINTENDENT

Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee invite applications for the above position from persons with the essential drive and enthusiasm to carry out the duties associated with the maintenance and development of three 18 hole golf courses including the famous Championship Course.

The successful applicant must have a thorough practical and technical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods and equipment. Man management skills are an obvious requirement in controlling a larger than normal work force.

Preference will be given to member of a recognised Greenkeeping Association. Salary and conditions are negotiable and reasonable re-settlement expenses will be paid.

*Applications in writing to:*

**The Chairman,**  
Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee,  
Links Parade, Carnoustie.

## GREENOCK GOLF CLUB

invite applications for position of

### COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Applicants should have thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping techniques in particular in relation to moorland turf and wide experience of use and maintenance of machinery, equipment and watering system. Ability to manage staff and organise and participate in work programmes will be essential.

Greenock Golf Club has 27 holes and has a progressive attitude to conditions of employment and course development.

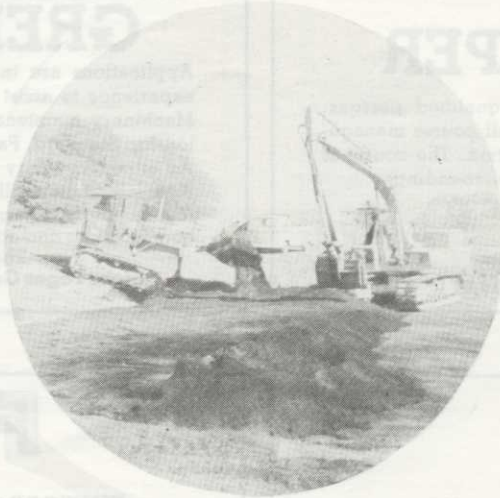
*Applications in writing with details of age and experience to:*

**The Secretary**  
Greenock Golf Club  
Forsyth Street  
Greenock  
Renfrewshire. PA16 8RE

# 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)

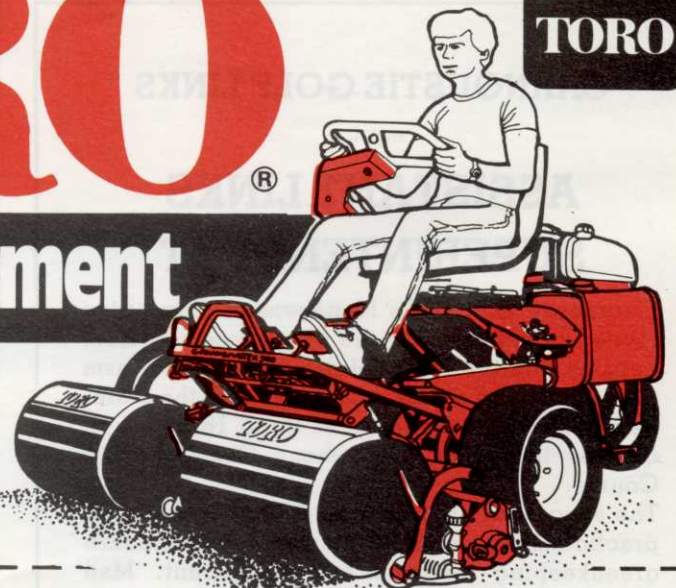
# TORO

**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 GREENSMaster 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 there's a model to suit the task. 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  Nearest Dealer  Trial/Demo

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

**LELY (UK) LTD** STATION ROAD, ST NEOTS, CAMBS PE19 1QH  
TEL (0480) 76971 TELEX 32523

G17/86

# BOOKS FOR GREENKEEPERS AND GREEN COMMITTEES

THE most frequent question I am asked by young greenkeepers is: where are the books we can study? I am afraid that until we have a definitive text book, we must seek our information where we can find it, not just in books specifically devoted to greenkeeping, but those on golf, golf courses and basic science, writes Eddie Park.

I started to collect books on golf and greenkeeping 35 years ago when the price of old books was measured in pennies. Prices have now escalated into hundreds, sometimes thousands, of pounds. Some books are strictly for collectors, but there are still bargains to be had.

In the case of books on golf greenkeeping, it is clear that the small potential market caused publishers to play safe and ask authors for a general volume covering also garden lawns or other sportsgrounds.

This has led to some unsatisfactory compromises and we must also bear in mind the fact that individual books reflect the fashionable methods of the time - using a steam roller (1906), spreading lime (1926) or agricultural granular fertiliser (1978) and these should be recognised as the blind alleys they undoubtedly were.

*Country Life* magazine was at the forefront in the early years but, naturally enough, the earliest books came from seedsmen and contractors. Martin Sutton produced a book of grasses (mainly agricultural) with beautiful illustrations over a century ago. The first edition of *Lawns And Sportsgrounds* appeared in 1892 and revised editions were still appearing seventy years later. A useful buy.

The same author added *Layout And Upkeep Of Golf Courses And Putting Greens* in 1906.

In these very early days, we find golf greenkeeping chapters in golf books, such as Gardon G. Smith in his *World Of Golf* (1898) and Horace G. Hutchinson in *Badminton Golf*.

Hutchinson, the first amateur

champion (from England), became a prolific writer and in 1906 published *Golf Greens And Greenkeeping*, which was a series of essays by the experts of the day. They range from greenkeepers to architects and, unfortunately, tend to contradict each other.

Sutton again contributed a chapter to Harold Hilton's *Royal & Ancient Game Of Golf* (1912), dealing with the establishment of golf courses on dry and sandy soils. Present-day research on this topic would find his methods of interest, including a nurse crop of rape to bring up fertility for germination.

Sutton also produced his *Book Of The Links* in 1912 and as the game gathered momentum, Reginald Beale, director of rival constructors Carter's, produced two books, *Lawns For Sport* (1924) and *The Book Of The Lawn* (1931). These are of more than passing interest, as they display the then perceived notion that agricultural liming would help golf courses (there's a marvellous picture of the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club being 'reconditioned' with the stuff).

We know now that all this caused such widespread damage that the Board of Greenkeeping Research was established. Just before this, Norman Hackett (the founding secretary of Bingley) produced a small book entitled *Soil Acidity - The Vital Importance Of Top Dressing* (1928), which sets out the 'cure' for over-liming - the acid theory. J. MacDonald and William Wood were other contractors and purveyors of fine turf who produced books in 1923 and 1934.

A.J. MacSelf and T.W. Sanders were, at times, editors of gardening magazines and produced books on *Lawns And Sports Greens* in the early 'thirties and *Lawns And Playing Fields* (1940) by F.J. Reed is often available and is a useful general reference.

In more recent times, there has been quite a spate of smaller books aimed ostensibly at the subject of lawns, but with some

useful information for golf greens. Authors such as David Pycraft (of Wisley), Roy Edwards and, most recently, Bob Palin (director of Sutton's) and George Shiels (Writtle College, Essex) have brought the subject up to date.

I fear that I've strayed from my subject of golf greenkeeping and I have omitted the real heavyweight in the field. *Practical Lawn Craft* by R.B. Dawson, the first director of Bingley, initially appeared in 1939 and continued through several editions. In his declining years, Dawson was ably assisted by W.H. Bartle (also of the STRI) and this book should find a place in everyone's library.

It does seem a bit dated in parts and it is not entirely helpful with our modern self-inflicted problems of Poa Annua domination and thatch, but it nevertheless contains a great deal of useful information.

Dawson also produced a Penguin Handbook on *Lawns* in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society and one of his former assistants I.G. Lewis wrote *TURF* in 1948. To close the Bingley connection, it should not be forgotten that Dawson's successor J.R. Escritt published an *ABC Of Turf Culture* in 1978 and *Lawns* in 1979.

The two most interesting American text books are *Turf Management* (1950) by H. Burton Musser and *Golf Course Management* (1982) by Jim Beard, both sponsored by the USGA. Although they show an increasing divergence from British requirements, they are packed with interesting thought and information and we simply have to admire the commitment and leadership that the USGA has shown.

An interesting paperback I found is *Lawn Keeping* (1976) by Robert W. Schery, which manages to blend a good deal of basic science with practical information.

● This series will continue with books on golf and golf courses.





## Obituary

It was with deep regret that we received news recently of the death of Steve Donnachie. Steve, a native of Maybole in Ayrshire, served with the 4th and 1st Battalions The King's Own Scottish Borderers during the last war and was a popular personality with his fellow regimental members.

Severely wounded in action, Steve eventually finished his army life as company sergeant major. However, he retained his links by way of reunions and also in his work with the army cadet force in Banchory after the war.

His greenkeeping career started at Banchory, where he worked for 12 years. From there, he moved as head greenkeeper to Royal Deeside GC, where he remained for 26 years. He was much respected for the work he carried out improving and keeping the course in excellent condition.

He was a past-president of SIGGA and an enthusiastic member of the north section for many years, where he served on the committee and as chairman.

Steve was a gifted man in many ways. Many of us remember his poems and sketches, which appeared from time to time in greenkeeper magazines. He was also a great character, a fund of humorous stories and a personality in his own right.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends in SIGGA, especially those in the north section, and, no doubt, his name will crop up in many greenkeeping conversations for years to come.

Steve is survived by his wife, son and daughter and our sympathies are with them at this time.

## Executive Report

The executive held a meeting on June 3, at which a comprehensive agenda was covered. The draft constitution for the proposed new association was discussed

thoroughly and a few alterations mooted for the next meeting.

SIGGA's representatives at that meeting will be president W. Woods, vice-president J. Kidd, past-president J. Neilson and general secretary J. McKean.

Organisation for the national tournament was finished and we look forward to a great day at Downfield.

The Open Championship arrangements were discussed fully and everything seems to be running to plan. SIGGA will again have a tent and we look forward to continuing the successful venture that started at St Andrews in 1984.

Cecil George gave a report on education, indicating that all colleges were pleased with the standard of greenkeeper training. Section secretaries gave reports on outings and activities and it was pleasing to note that membership is still rising.

The president stated that he had attended all the section events, which he found well-organised and attended by well-dressed greenkeepers and he would like, on behalf of the general secretary and himself, to thank all the sections for their hospitality.

*Elliott Small.*

## Central

At the April committee meeting, members were given an updated report on the new greenkeepers' association. Numerous questions were raised by the committee and, after hearing the chairman and secretary's answers, it was felt that the steady progress being made was in the best interests of the profession as a whole.

It was decided that the two trophies presented to the section by the Australian Mutual Provident Assurance Company would be awarded to the best third-year student at college within the section and to the player with the best combined scratch score over the spring and autumn tournaments.

Golf outings for 1987 were proposed to Leven Thistle in the spring and Callander in the autumn.  
*J. Crawford.*

## East

With the problems of last year all ironed out, the section has settled down. Membership stands at 70 fully paid up with a few still to come in.

The annual spring outing was held at North Berwick GC. A windy day did not deter the 60 members, guests and trade. We were delighted by the presence of the SIGGA president, past-president and general secretary, who presented the prizes.

Our thanks go to North Berwick GC for the courtesy of the course, head greenkeeper D. White for the condition of the course and the clubhouse staff for the catering.

New dates for diaries are: the national outing at Downfield, Thursday August 21, greenkeepers and greens convener tournament, September 24, autumn outing to Royal Musselburgh, Tuesday October 28 and a winter outing to Winterfield, Dunbar (date to be announced).

The annual match versus the north east of England has not been finalised yet, but should be in early October. The first winter lecture will be held in early November and will be a visit to Oatridge College.

*W. Blair.*

## West

A joint seminar involving the west and Ayrshire sections was held at Inverclyde. Speakers were W. Lockie, who gave his views as a professional golfer, and W. McLaren of the Ayrshire Golf Union.

D.G. Allan Oils presented a talk and then a video of how an engine and its lubrication work.

Our spring outing was held at Cowglen - some 40 participated and all found the course in fine shape.

The education committee has been very active. A meeting between them and the Woodburn House principal has taken place and the winter programme of college lectures is well in hand.

*A. Connell.*