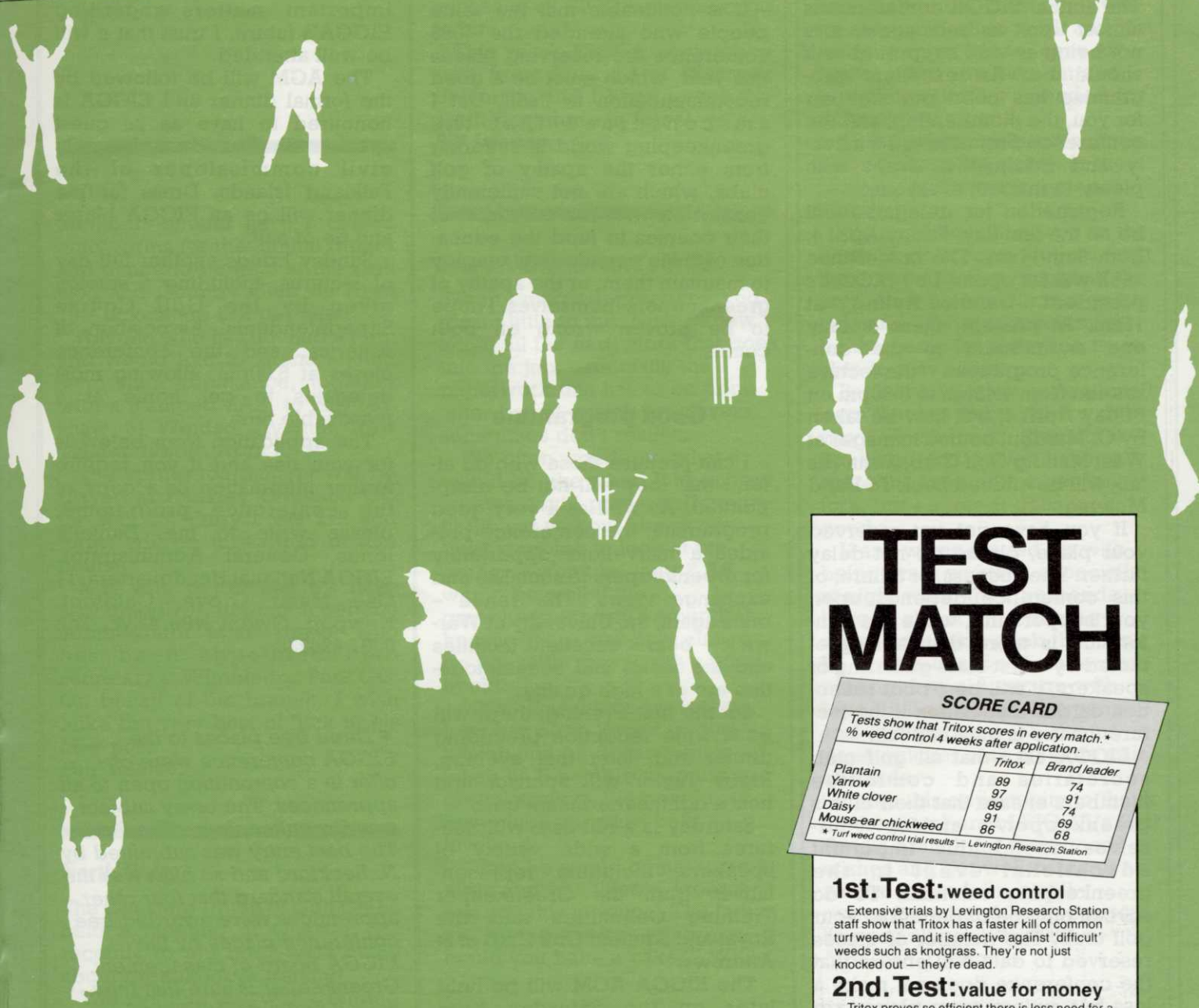




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White clover	89	74
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EIGGA Conference - Warwick University, April 4-6

The annual EIGGA conference is almost upon us and, again, it is not being as well supported as it should be. An excellent programme has been put together for you, the membership, and the conference promises to be a lively and informative event with plenty to interest everyone.

Registration for delegates will be on the first day, Friday April 4, from 9am-11am. The conference itself will be opened by EIGGA's president, Dennis Ayling, at 11am. At present, there is only one amendment to the conference programme - the lecture session from 4.45pm to 5.30pm on Friday April 4, will now be taken by C. Mardon, course manager at West Malling Golf Club, Kent. His talk will be entitled *Back To Hand Mowing*.

If you have not yet reserved your place, please do not delay further. The success, or failure, of this conference depends upon your support and, while the conference is more than ably promoted by a first-class gathering of speakers, it will be a poor reflection on this association if the lecture theatre is only half full.

EIGGA asks that all golf club secretaries and committee members ensure that their club's greenkeeper/s and/or yourselves attend this important educational event in the greenkeeping calendar. To do so, can only be of benefit to your golf club. The number of places reserved to date will ensure that the conference does not make a loss but, unless more places are taken up, the future of the annual conference will be in jeopardy.

It is noticeable that the same people who attended the 1985 conference are reserving places this year, which must be a good recommendation in itself, but I am concerned that the greenkeeping world is suffering from either the apathy of golf clubs, which are not sufficiently concerned with the condition of their courses to fund the education of those persons they employ to maintain them, or the apathy of greenkeepers themselves. I hope to be proven wrong on both counts.

Good programme

I can promise those who do attend that they will not be disappointed. As well as a very good programme, the conference provides a marvellous opportunity for greenkeepers to socialise and exchange views. The venue - once again, the University of Warwick - boasts excellent facilities and the meals and accommodation are of a high quality.

On the first evening, there will be a wine reception preceding dinner and, later that evening, Rigby Taylor will sponsor and host a lighthearted team quiz.

Saturday is a full day, with lectures from a wide variety of speakers, including representatives from the Greenkeeper Training Committee and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

The EIGGA AGM will be held later on the Saturday from 6.00-7.30pm and, as the meeting will be dealing with some very

important matters regarding EIGGA's future, I trust that it will be well attended.

The AGM will be followed by the formal dinner and EIGGA is honoured to have as its guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt, formerly civil commissioner of the Falkland Islands. Dress for the dinner will be an EIGGA blazer and tie or suit.

Sunday brings another full day of lectures, including a session given by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, and the conference closes at 5.00pm, allowing most delegates to get home at a reasonable time.

The application form below is for your use and if you require further information or a copy of the conference programme, please write to me, Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW. Tel: 0291 424235.

● Three free places to the EIGGA conference were on offer in a competition open to all apprentices. The essay subject was Greenkeeping - The Future. The best entry was submitted by N. Beckford and so high was the overall standard that four other apprentices were awarded free conference places by the EIGGA board of management. Greenkeeper is sure that they will all find a great deal to interest them in the three days at Warwick University.

I wish to reserve a place at the EIGGA Annual Conference and enclose a deposit of £20 made payable to the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.
Post to Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National HQ, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW.

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Surrey

Members should have received entry forms for the annual dinner and dance to be held at the Drift Golf and Country Club on April 19 - tickets are £12 per head.

Anyone who has not had a form and would like to attend should send their remittance, together with a stamped SAE, to A. Bradshaw, 61 Windsor Avenue, New Malden before April 2.

The spring tournament will be played at Hankley Common GC on May 13. Entry costs £12 and forms will be forwarded in due course.

It is with regret that we have said 'goodbye' to branch general administrator Mike Hayle, who has been appointed club secretary at Wimbledon Park GC. On behalf of the branch, I wish Mike the very best of luck in his new post.

Paul Pearse.

North-West

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs held a meeting at Chester GC recently to tell north-west clubs about greenkeeper training.

The meeting was well-attended and those present included G. Ashton, CUGC president, who opened the proceedings, Roger Robinson for the R & A, Peter Wilson for the EGU, Dr Frank Hawkins, CUGC liaison officer, and Dr Dennis Mottram, senior lecturer at Reaseheath College. The branch thanks the club and its secretary Vic Wood for their help.

Dennis Mottram has graduated two more very successful students - Alan Frost (Astbury) and Alan Huxley, head greenkeeper at Astbury GC. Well done, lads!

A presentation was made at a committee meeting to Raymond Hunt, who is leaving the area to

join Bruce Jamieson as assistant head greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl.

SISIS' sales director Arthur Harrison is now recovering from illness and I'm sure that the best wishes of all EIGGA members go to him.

This year's EIGGA conference runs from April 4-6 at Warwick University and I hope to see the north-west there in force!

Bill Lawson.

From A Greenkeeper's Wife

When I married, greenkeeping meant little to me. Now I know about all the hard work that goes into the job, especially the paperwork that has to be done 'after hours', which employers sometimes don't realise.

We often wondered what it would be like when John retired and we could pass a golf course in the car without him saying: "Just stopping to look at the greens - won't be long." All would be well if the greenkeeper wasn't around; if he was, there was little else to do but settle down with a good book!

Now, after minor operations, John has been forced to give up his job and he doesn't know when he'll be able to return to greenkeeping. We now know how much we were both involved.

Often he would come home at night and say: "Sorry, I forgot to ask you this morning. The ladies are having a match tomorrow, could you bake a cake?" While

father and son settled down by the fire, I would be in the kitchen.

On another occasion, one of the men was off work, so I was brought in to rake the bunkers and change the flags! So, it was up at six and off to work and just as we were ready to leave for home, "Will you have time to type this report? It's needed for a meeting tonight."

At one of my husband's clubs, I was picking up stones in the morning and pulling pints at night!

We spend our holidays on the north Norfolk coast and we must have visited every course in the area. Now he has our son on his side and I think that golf might be the game for me when he is able to play again.

Back at home, we have a small lawn that has to be cut the right way. "Brush it first, then cut it," I'm instructed. I even have to spike the lawn with a garden fork, but I agree it does look good.

If any wives are fed up with being grass widows, especially at night when their husbands have to check the watering system or tackle a job that can't be done while the members are playing, I would say: go with him! He'll enjoy the company and, remember, a job can be done quicker with an extra pair of hands.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of EIGGA's East Anglia branch for their good wishes and get-well cards. It's nice to know John is still remembered and he hopes to see you all again in 1986.

Mrs John Young

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West

Since the last executive, a series of winter lectures has been undertaken by the section. Presented by D. Coleman, A. Connell and J. Kidd, they were also given to third-year students at Woodburn House.

The section wishes every success to D. McLellan on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Eastwood GC in succession to A. McDougall, who has become course manager at Stirling GC.

Finally, the committee wishes Bob Fitzpatrick (Whitecraigs GC), section vice-chairman, a speedy recovery to full fitness after his recent operation.

A. McDougall.

Ayrshire

Proposals by J. McKean were discussed at length during a recent committee meeting. The wording of a letter from P. Wilson caused concern and the committee wished clarification on the points raised.

It was felt that there should be an increase, on a sliding scale, in subscriptions for the new association.

Ayrshire finished 1985 with 70 fully paid-up members, an increase of some 20 on the previous year.

The spring outing is to Thornhill on April 17, while the autumn outing goes to Barassie on September 11.

Since the New Year, the chairman and secretary have been busy at meetings, the first of which was with Raddix Training, organisers of the Youth Training Scheme in Ayrshire. They are keen to make sure that students have the best possible training and, with this in mind, the chairman and secretary have been invited to sit on the programme revised team. At a further

meeting, the general secretary of SIGGA will also attend.

The same two representatives travelled on to Turnberry to welcome the new course manager George Brown. Arrangements for bunker rakers at the Open were discussed and plans formulated for discussion at the next executive.

The chairman and secretary then met the Ayrshire Golf Union to discuss methods for greenstaff and golf clubs to develop better lines of communication. It emerged that the clubs were unaware of the aims and aspirations of our association and it was felt that some detailed correspondence on this matter would assist them.

It was also stated that it would be possible for articles to be published in the Scottish Golf Union's magazine.

We have been in touch with the Northern Irish greenkeepers since they showed interest in joining SIGGA. They have been invited to our spring outing at Thornhill to play golf and discuss the subject.

We welcome new members G. Irvine, H. Logue and S. Rooney and hope they will take a full part in section activities.

Jim Grainger.

Central

Section events organised for the coming year include a spring outing courtesy of Lundin GC on Tuesday April 22 and an autumn outing courtesy of Muckhart GC on Thursday September 18.

Congratulations go to these members upon their new appointments: Craig Stewart, who moves from Stirling GC to become assistant links supervisor at St Andrews, and Douglas Mackinson, promoted from assistant greenkeeper to head greenkeeper at Braehead GC.

Agronomist Martyn Jones gave a talk to the section recently. Sixty members were treated to three hours of interesting, informative and, in his own words, at times controversial aspects of greenkeeping.

We are indebted to Martyn who, despite his father being

seriously ill, travelled up from Preston. Our thanks to Dunfermline Golf Club for the use of its clubhouse.

We are pleased to welcome five new members from Carnoustie GC, one from Crieff GC, one from Falkirk Tryst, one from Grangemouth GC and one from Souters of Stirling to the section.

Tulliallan Golf Club staged the section AGM, at which Sandy Brown retired as chairman and Elliott Small took his place. Jim Cameron (Callander GC) was unanimously accepted as vice-chairman.

John Crawford.

North

After a committee meeting at the Bon Accord club, a carriage clock was presented to Doug Grassick in recognition of his hard work and service to the section. Best wishes for his future were expressed on behalf of all north section members and Doug replied by saying how honoured he was to have served the section over the years.

We welcome N. Metcalf, K. Wood, K. McGrath, D. Wilson and M. Pearson as new members to the section.

I. Hamilton

East

The date of the spring tournament has been brought forward from Tuesday April 15 to April 8. Royal Musselburgh is the venue for the autumn tournament on Wednesday September 24.

It was gratifying to see a large turnout of the membership for an extraordinary general meeting recently.

W. Blair

Executive Report

The AGM of SIGGA will be held on Thursday March 27 at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling at 2pm. A comprehensive agenda was set at an all-day executive meeting recently.

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Out on the course



John Philp.

John Philp, links superintendent at Carnoustie, recently met *Greenkeeper's* regular correspondent John Campbell.

THE town of Carnoustie is a small unpretentious resort on the Angus coast – a popular spot for family holidays. Its main claim to fame is a championship golf course, well-known all over the world. Carnoustie has carried the game to most corners of the golfing world and, since the early days, has produced many teaching professionals.

To Americans, Carnoustie is holy, for it was in copying the swing of Stewart Maiden that Bobby Jones learned to play. The famous links has been the scene of many epic events including the Open Championship, which was last played there in 1975 when Tom Watson triumphed. The quality of the test of golf is reflected in the names of other Open winners there – Player, Cotton, Armour and Ben Hogan.

The man recently appointed to manage the links is John Philp, formerly assistant links supervisor at St Andrews. John is an energetic and enthusiastic student of golf-course upkeep with a knowledgeable viewpoint on many aspects of his chosen profession.

"I was attracted to greenkeeping when I used to play a lot of golf at Pitreavie Golf Club in Dunfermline, my home town," he

said. "During school holidays, I worked on the course and found the style of life and involvement in the game appealed. On leaving school, I was offered a job with the club as apprentice greenkeeper and my career has gradually blossomed from there.

"I was a fairly good player and toyed with the prospect of taking up professional golf and, in fact, I was appointed head greenkeeper/professional at Pitreavie in 1970. After marrying in 1971, the following two or three years were very hectic with my dual role at the club and it became apparent that a choice had to be made.

"The golf professional position was a 'sideline' really and my heart was in course maintenance, so I opted for greenkeeping and have no regrets. It is a way of life I enjoy and you generally find that the vast majority of good greenkeepers or superintendents are dedicated to their vocation.

"In 1974, I moved to Newmarket Golf Club on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border, where I had my first experience of triplex greens mowers and automatic irrigation systems. I enjoyed five years in the employ of a friendly and generous club, looking after an attractive heathland/parkland

course. From there, I was fortunate enough to be appointed to the new position of assistant links supervisor at St Andrews in 1979.

"Going to St Andrews was a big step up. To be involved with the home of golf and the famous links was getting close to the peak of my ambition. I was tackling a much bigger challenge where there are four and a half golf courses to look after – all public links – which also meant broadening the scope of my experience and getting used to dealing with a much bigger staff.

"I enjoyed working with Walter Woods at St Andrews and learned a great deal from him, as well as from the links engineer George McLaren, for which I am deeply indebted. Now I have the responsibility of managing the Carnoustie links, my ambition has been realised."

John and Helen Philp have three children – two boys and a girl. "At the moment, I am commuting daily to Carnoustie until I sell my house in St Andrews – it's about 40 minutes by road, not always convenient with regular early starts and late finishes."

Open venue

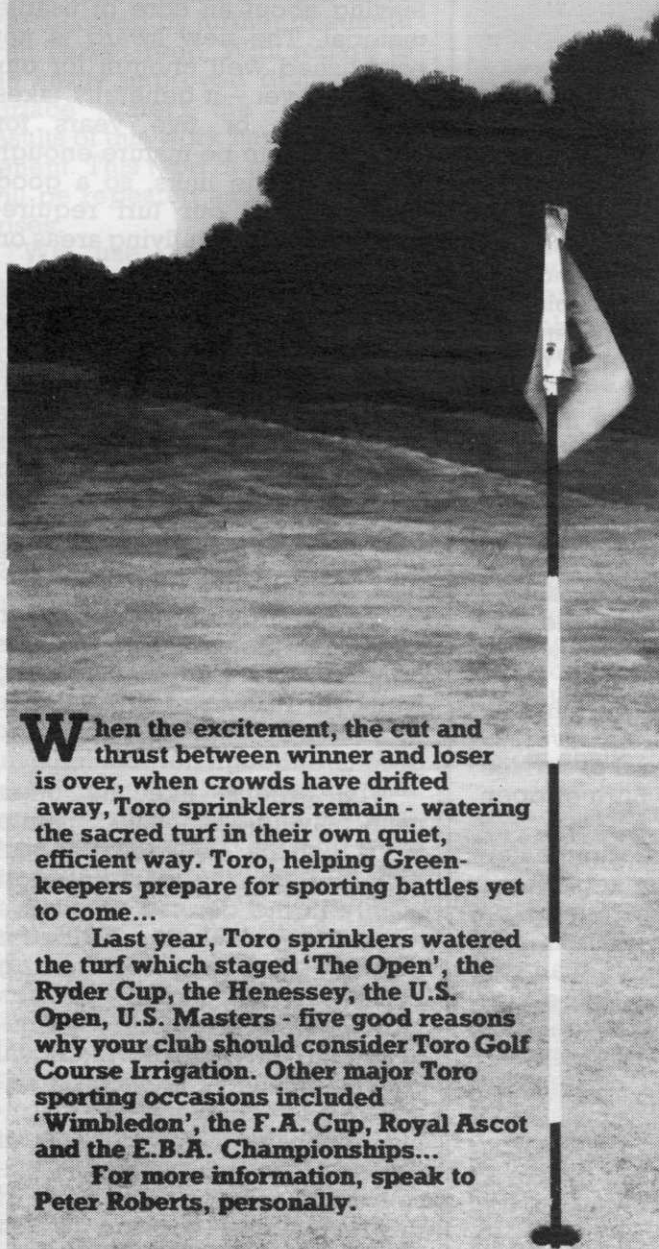
"It is my goal and the wish of the links management to stage the Open Championship again at Carnoustie, but we have to convince the powers that be of our suitability. Of course, there are several aspects to be considered by the R & A, apart from the course itself. However, we feel these can be accommodated and the aim is to get the course into a condition that merits their unequivocal support.

"My brief is to raise the standards by improving the efficiency and quality of the maintenance programme, encouraging the return of true links conditions. We are working in close collaboration with Jim Arthur and the intention is that everything possible be done to achieve our objective.

"We have a big job ahead of us and there is a great deal of work to be done. Bad flooding last autumn from the Barry Burn overflow set progress back and is something that will have to be dealt with in the long term. Although our priority is getting the championship course into first-class condition, we cannot af-

Continued on page 20...

**Crowds come,
Crowds go,
We remain!**



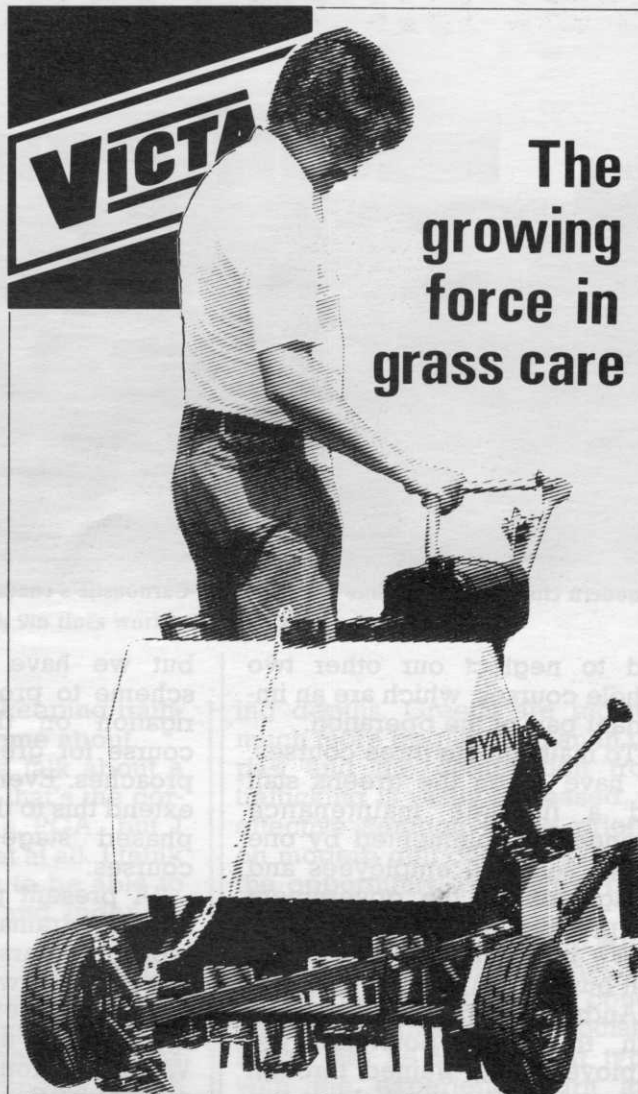
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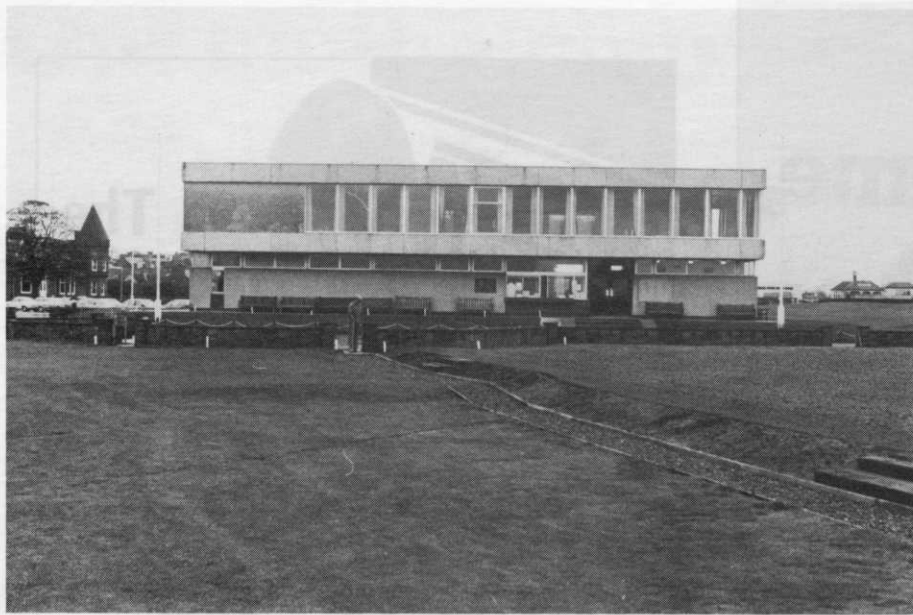
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A modern clubhouse overlooks the 1st tee on Carnoustie's championship course.

ford to neglect our other two 18-hole courses, which are an important part of the operation.

"To maintain the three courses, we have 11 on the greens staff and a full-time maintenance engineer, supplemented by one or two seasonal employees and young lads on the government YTS programme.

"We really have to persevere with our system, similar to that at St Andrews, where young men with the right potential, are employed, fully trained through college courses and built up through on-the-job training. We have three young apprentices who recently completed educational courses at the Kingsway Technical College in Dundee and one in training at present.

"We have two major events here this year, the British Youths' and the Scottish Amateur Stroke-play Championships, in addition to a whole host of foreign visitors and golf society bookings, not forgetting local clubs' calendars. About 40 per cent of our income comes from visiting golfers, of which a high percentage are American - they boost the revenue and allow us to invest more money on the upkeep of the courses.

"Our maintenance programme is along the lines of proven green-keeping practices. The high volume of play creates major compaction problems and much wear and tear, so regular aeration is an important part of the regime, particularly during autumn and winter. We don't have an extensive automatic irrigation system,

but we have embarked on a scheme to provide automatic irrigation on the championship course for greens, tees and approaches. Eventually, we plan to extend this to the fairways and, in phased stages, to the other courses.

"A present priority is improving the drainage on the championship course. We have about five or six fairways where work is needed to get rid of casual water in low 'lying' areas more rapidly. We have done a considerable amount of this work on the 6th, 17th and 18th fairways, where some sunken spot levels have been raised and pipework installed with boxes and drain covers to ensure quick dispersal of surface water into the Barry Burn or open drainage ditches.

"The fairways are dominated by poa annua, which aggravated the surface water problem last year. We intend to reduce this infestation by appropriate management encouraging the indigenous bents and fescues to gradually re-populate the sward. We will be looking closely at reducing seed-head production and will be over-seeding as and when the situation dictates. Routing fairway aeration is accomplished with two SISIS D.P.48s, varying the knife depth. All fairways have been hollow-tined with a fine turf aerator.

"The links management has recently purchased SISIS Triple Veemo units and a Litamisa Sweeper, as well as an Atkinson spreader.

"Approaches to the greens in

certain places are dominated by ryegrass, which was probably introduced many years ago by seed or the use of poor-quality turf for repairs. It creates an unsightly appearance, with dense colonies of rye standing proud of the surrounding areas of finer grasses. It is particularly noticeable in the winter and has no place on any links.

"Obviously, the quickest way to deal with this problem is by reurfing, but this would require several acres of good nursery turf and we don't have a sufficient supply. Most of our nursery area has been reseeded recently, leaving about an acre of usable material. The new sward is not established well enough for our purposes yet - it generally takes about four or five years for nursery turf to be mature enough for use on the links, so a good proportion of our turf requirement is cut from outlying areas on the Buddon course.

"The unused nursery area is dominated, to some extent, by finer grasses, but it has a fair amount of *Nardus Stricta*, or mat grass, which does not form a good dense sward at low heights of cut. I am reluctant to use it, for it does not blend well due to its habit of growth - it has been used on several tee extensions in the past, but not very successfully.

"Teeing-ground, especially on the championship course, is generous with many holes having well over 1,000sq yds in total. Tee maintenance will be similar to greens, although not so intensive.

"The greens, like the other main playing surfaces, contain a fairly high percentage of annual meadow grass, concentrated mainly in the centres creating a marked contrast with the better quality grasses dominating perimeters and higher spots on most greens. The correct firmness and turf resiliency, critical playing qualities, are almost impossible to achieve while poa annua dominates the sward. This, of course, is not an uncommon situation and the promotion of desirable bent species, which constitute about 20 per cent along with the poa annua on many green centres, will be the initial objective as the small percentage of fine fescues is unable to compete effectively at present in these heavily compacted areas.

"I am not convinced that over-seeding in this situation is the