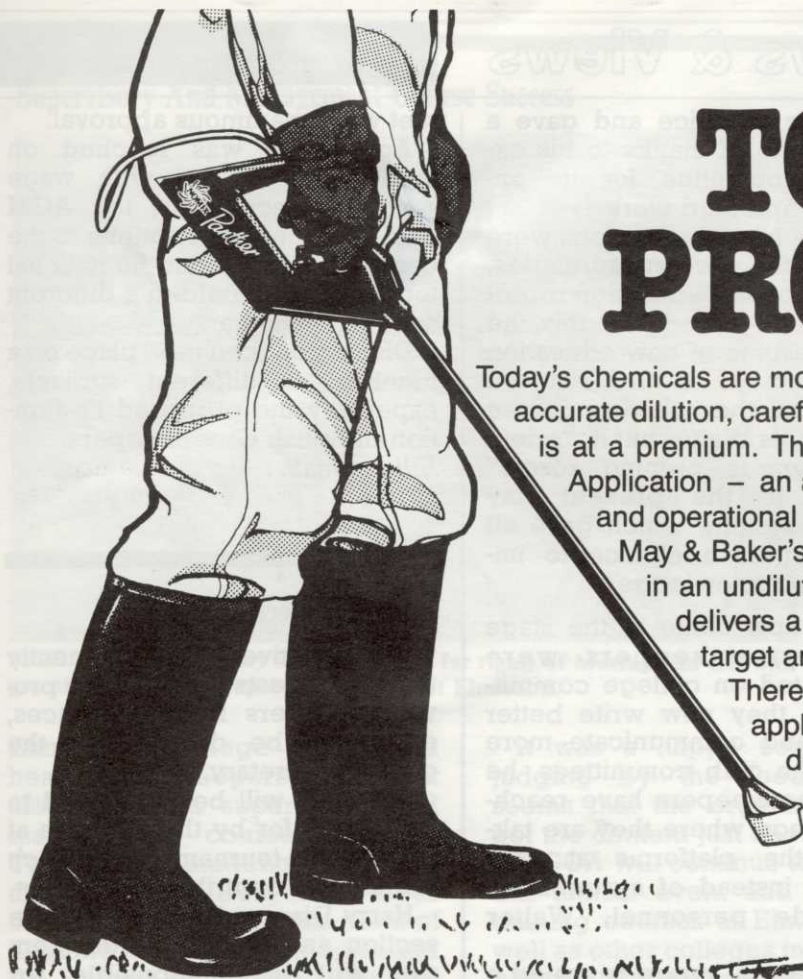


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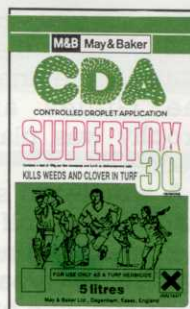
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SIGGA AGM

The 39th AGM of SIGGA was held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. President Jimmy Neilson welcomed everyone and asked for a minute's silence in memory of Russell Brown (Turnberry), Jim Duncan (Barassie) and Bob Scott (Murcar).

The president then gave his report and outlined the high points of a successful year. These included the opening of SIGGA's new headquarters at Haggs Castle.

The national golf tournament at Cawder had been a great success, despite atrocious weather. But the highlight of the year, of course, had been the international conference and tournament at St Andrews in October. SIGGA, he said, could be proud of the superb organisation of this event, which had been enjoyed by representatives from 13 countries.

Jimmy added that SIGGA was proud of its team in the tournament. Raymond Day, Jim Granger, Duncan Gray, Graham Webster and non-playing captain George Hampton had made a great effort to win the event in its first year in Scotland and only the second-round brilliance of the Canadians had stopped them.

To SIGGA members who had not made the effort to attend, he could only say, "you don't know what you missed."

The management and supervisory courses at Elmwood College had again been well-supported. The Elmwood conference in March was also a great success with over 200 present.

The year had also seen the innovation of a quarterly newsletter for SIGGA members only. The first issue was already with members and Jimmy Kidd is responsible for the editorial. Elliott Small has taken over sole responsibility for any SIGGA editorial in *Greenkeeper*.

Jimmy Neilson thanked the members for their support in his

two years of office and gave a special vote of thanks to his executive committee for its enthusiasm and hard work.

Reports from the sections were given by the section secretaries, followed by the education report from Walter Woods. In this, he gave a resume of how education had improved in the last ten years, from the one-year course primarily, as Walter put it, "orientated towards pruning roses," through to the present day modular system, which gave all greenkeepers a chance to improve their knowledge.

It had now come to the stage where greenkeepers were represented on college committees and they now write better reports and communicate more easily with club committees, he said. Greenkeepers have reached the stage where they are taking to the platforms at conferences instead of agronomists and trade personnel, Walter added.

The financial report revealed a healthy balance sheet, which was fully approved. Jimmy Neilson then proposed that Walter Woods be elected president and this was unanimously approved. Walter, in accepting, spoke of the pride it gave him to have achieved this position and he hoped that he would have the support of the members in carrying on the good work of SIGGA. He then proposed that Jimmy Kidd should be vice-president and, again, this

met with unanimous approval.

Agreement was reached on resolutions dealing with wage scales, subscriptions, the AGM date, section subscriptions to the central fund and that the national tournament be held in a different section each year.

Discussion then took place on a number of different subjects, especially the proposed Federation of British Greenkeepers.

Elliott Small.

Executive Decisions...

The executive agreed recently that all requests for SIGGA to provide speakers for conferences, etc, must be directed to the general secretary.

A trophy will be purchased to be played for by the veterans at the national tournament and each section will contribute to its cost.

Harry Diamond of the Ayrshire section and Cecil George (Lenzie) will be responsible for bunker rakers at the Open Championship.

The national tournament has been confirmed for Downfield GC on Thursday June 19.

Help promote your association's image by contributing news stories to these pages...

Victory For The Greenkeepers Versus The Secretaries

The annual match between SIGGA and the Association of Club Secretaries (Scotland) for the Gillies and Henderson Trophy was played at Elie Golf House.

A wonderful spring day and a magnificent golf course provided the ideal setting for SIGGA to avenge last year's surprise, but deserved, win by the secretaries. SIGGA did just that, winning by seven games to nil, with one game halved. President Jimmy Neilson accepted the trophy with delight and he thanked all those who organised and took part in the day.

Jimmy made special mention of Sandy Cowan and his clubhouse staff for the high standard of catering and he also congratulated Brian Lawrie, the head greenkeeper at Elie, and his staff for presenting the golf course in an immaculate condition.

While looking forward to next year's encounter, I thank George Forgie, the Elie secretary, for the help he gave me and to the captain and council of Elie Golf House, I express SIGGA's thanks for affording us the courtesy of the golf course.

Joe McKean, General Secretary.

Supervisory And Management Course Success



SIGGA president Jimmy Neilson (front, far right) of Murrayfield GC with head greenkeepers on the supervisory course at Elmwood.

Elmwood College welcomed head greenkeepers and first assistants to a supervisory and management course recently. Twenty-two students attended and they came from many areas of the UK - some from the north of England, others from London and the Home Counties and one student travelled over from Ireland.

It was a happy course and, judging by the feedback, it seems that the organisers have got the content just about right!

SIGGA will continue to support this annual event and all other training courses at Elmwood, as well as other colleges in Scotland offering greenkeeper training courses.

Also At Elmwood...

The Scotec part-three supervisory course was adapted by A. Smith, the course tutor, so it could be taught largely on a distance learning basis (one week in college instead of the normal five).

The wide interest in the course is best shown by the list of those who attended: Gary Armstrong (Co Durham), Robert Brewer (Glasgow), Thomas Byrne (Glasgow), Ronnie Christie (Crail), Graham Clarke (Leeds), Stewart Cruickshank (Larbert), Alan Ferguson (Bathgate), Charles Fotheringham (Falkirk), Christopher Gray (Isle of Wight), Iain Gunn (Kingussie), Robert Hardie (Aberdeen), Alastair Holmes (Berwick-upon-Tweed), Neil Metcalf (Aberdeen), Paul Morrison (Irvine), Chris Nicolle (Guernsey), Alastair Taylor (East Kilbride), Andrew Terry (Stratford-upon-Avon), Graeme MacNiven (Effingham) and Stuart Townsend (Linlithgow).

Dates and details of the 1987 course have, as yet, not been distributed, but there are already eight on the waiting list.

Ayrshire

A further meeting of the programme review team of Radix, the management agents for the YTS in Ayrshire, was held recently. Further progress was achieved with Ayr Technical College regarding greenkeeping students attending in 1987. A meeting has been arranged at the college to assess the facilities.

At the committee meeting, chairman H. Diamond gave a detailed report on the proposals and arrangements for bunker raking duties at the Open. The programme for the Inverclyde seminar was discussed and forms have been drawn up.

The section is providing a trophy for its fourball competition, held for the first time last year. The winners were M. Power and W. Anderson of Troon Darley. New rules have been introduced for this year's competition.

There is a possibility of ten greenkeepers from Ireland joining the section and they will be attending the spring outing at Thornhill.



Students came from far and near to attend the distance learning course.

West

The West section's annual greenkeeper/convenor pairs trophy, sponsored by SISIS, was played over a windswept West Kilbride. Keith Vertigan and Ian McKay from SISIS arranged a demonstration of machinery for the membership and competitors before play began.

Our thanks go to them as they managed to put on a creditable

show despite the weather, which confined most of the audience to the clubhouse!

Only ten holes were contested and the final order was: A. Glachan and D. Middleton (Vale of Leven), 43 points; F. Scullion and W. Bryson (Dumbarton), 44; A. Connell and J. Moore (Cawder) and D. Hindmarch and G. Webster (Milngavie), tied on 45.



North-West

The spring tournament was held at Caldly Golf Club in early March, followed by the AGM, dinner and presentations. The branch committee would like to thank the club captain, secretary and directors for the courtesy of the course.

Also, our thanks go to John Huyton (Mealors) for sponsorship and assistance on the day and all the other companies that donated prizes.

Members and guests were fortunate to find the course playing so well following prolonged frost. The results were: best gross - T. Adamson 75, best net - G. Davies net 65 and the assistants' trophy - G. Cannings net 68.

A presentation was made to the retiring SISIS managing director Eric Staniforth from the EIGGA board of management. We all wish Eric a long and happy retirement. A presentation was also made to retiring branch chairman Bill Lawson, who received a silver salver from the new chairman Rick Fletcher on behalf of the members.

At the dinner, Vicars Cross assistant Mark Sutton was congratulated by the chairman on winning a free place to the EIGGA conference at Warwick.

Contact numbers for the north-west are: chairman - Rick Fletcher on 051-625 9898, administrator - Terry Adamson on 0978 83 2908 and treasurer - Guy Cannings on 051-625 6436.
Guy Cannings.

Surrey

As many of you will probably know, Clive Osgood is in hospital and our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations in their new posts go to David Lenham (Camberley Heath), Billy McMillan (Sunningdale), Kevin

Munt (Royal Dornoch) and Ian McMillan (Hankley Common).

It is with some relief that the Huxley Bowl has finally been concluded. P. Pearse and S. McMillan defeated A. Davey and M. Lower in the two-legged final. This year's first-round fixtures for the Huxley Bowl should have reached you by now and the best of luck goes to all competitors.
Paul Pearse.

The Learning Process...

EIGGA member David McIndoe is something of a Likely Lad residing presently in the haven that is the Killarney Golf and Fishing Club.

Scotsman Dave, with a dapper line of dress for any occasion, has taken to the magnificent locality well and is now busy embarking on many tasks out on the course.

Killarney members and visitors alike have warmed to the affable Scot and his committee was only too willing to contribute towards his visit 'over the seas' to Warwick for the recent EIGGA conference.

Here, David outlines the many plus points of his trip, which will surely prove a very worthwhile bonus for the Killarney club in return for such a modest outlay.

Thursday

Left Cork Airport at 9am on April 3 (only flight available) and was collected by a friend from Heathrow and taken to Sunningdale GC. After lunch in the company of three other course managers, it was back in the old routine - looking at and assessing neighbouring golf courses. The Scots fraternity in London have a great understanding and always appear ready to discuss their problems, theories and ideas. So, there we were, three Scots and one Canadian course manager (over for the conference), walking Effingham GC, Surrey and discussing anything attaining to course management. A good start to my trip!

Friday

Stayed overnight with the course

manager at Leatherhead GC, Surrey. A quick breakfast and by 7.15 I was on my way to Warwick in the company of Bob Moreton, course manager of the famous Berkshire GC. Arriving at 10 am, we were in plenty of time for the first lecture at 11.

Out president Dennis Ayling opened the conference in the presence of 100 delegates, mostly greenkeepers belonging to EIGGA. The first lecture from head greenkeeper David Wells set the pattern for the rest of the weekend - a well thought out and presented paper with enlightening slides showing the many problems in maintaining a busy public golf course. As David sat down to great applause, I hoped that the following speakers would maintain the standard and they did just that. The evening finished, as did Saturday, meeting old friends for a drink in the bar, where talk from every corner was about golf courses and related problems. The old saying 'greenkeepers never take a holiday' has more than a grain of truth!

Saturday

In the morning, we heard about constructing a course from start to finish and how to look after the flora and fauna found there. Next, a session from apprentice greenkeepers was thoroughly enjoyable and the future of our profession looks to be in good hands.

After lunch, came the heavy-weights! J. Arthur, his usual self, burning with enthusiasm for British greenkeeping methods. You almost felt sorry for the Americans! J. McMillan then told us, "the grass is talking to you. All you have to do is listen." Well, we listened to Jack and we learned.

Sunday

Grasses for golf was the theme at 9am, with some extensive research from Dr Shildrick of Bingley. He gave a super paper, detailed and specific. It obviously took many hard hours of research and study to produce.

Then followed an abundance of talent in the forms of M. Jones, course manager at Saffron Walden GC with Parkland Problems; Estate and Golf Course Management by J. Kidd (Gleneagles), who was followed

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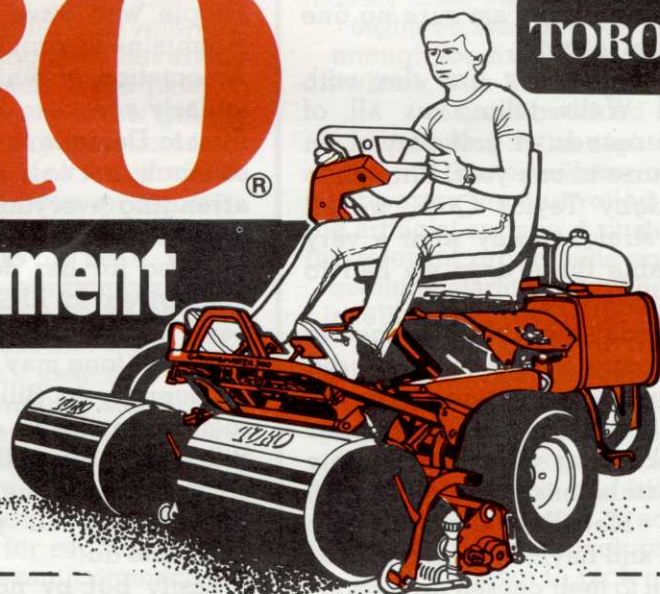
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by a Canadian greenkeeper, G. Witteveen, who showed us some of the mistakes that can and do happen. His paper, entitled Twenty-five Years of Mistakes, was a real masterpiece.

EIGGA chairman Bill Lawson summed up the weekend as "a progressive step in education and better standards of course maintenance."

Monday

Up at 8.30, breakfast and then to Leatherhead GC to inspect the

alterations carried out by S. McMillan. The two new greens and several tees cut through a forest are a first-class operation. By 10.30am, we were on our way back to Heathrow to catch my return flight and a welcome reunion with wife and family.

All in all, a full and informative weekend. My mind refreshed and buzzing with ideas, I returned to my task of ensuring that members and visitors can fully appreciate the joy and challenge of golf at Killarney.

Expenses

Return ticket	
Cork - Heathrow	£137
Petrol	£34
Lunches	£14
Dinners	£8
Total	£193

Travel to Warwick and two overnight stays were covered by friends.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the club for a very enjoyable working weekend.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate and thank everyone who gave us all such a memorable EIGGA conference in 1986. The standard of such well presented papers was a contributory factor to the obvious success of the whole three days that we have now come to expect of such an event in the EIGGA calander.

The tremendous spirit that prevailed throughout the three days was something I am sure no one will ever forget.

From the very first day with David Wells telling us all of 62000 rounds of golf played on his course in one year, through to the Rigby Taylor Quiz, we all knew straight away what a very enjoyable three days we had to look forward to.

Saturday morning belonged to four young men who really did give us something to be proud of, in that they are all part of our greenkeeping profession, many congratulations to David Lucas, David Merrills, Cameron Mc Millan and Raymond Hunt, indeed a credit to their chosen profession.

After the Saturday afternoon papers, once again full of very interesting topics by our more senior gentlemen, we moved to what I am sure was the best formal dinner in our short history. Our guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt related some of his past experiences on golf courses around the world, much to the delight of everyone present. We all wish Sir Rex and Lady Hunt a very

happy retirement at their home in Sunningdale.

On the Sunday I was somewhat amazed at the numbers in attendance at the first lecture after the previous nights festivities, yet again a very enjoyable day with something for everyone with the respective papers holding a captive audience.

I would like to thank on behalf of all members of EIGGA two people who have really moved mountains to provide us with an Association of which I am particularly proud to be a member. First to Danielle to whom we owe so much, not only for the work in arranging everything for a conference from one year to the next, but also for her dedication and help given to EIGGA over the past four years. Thank you Danielle, long may it continue.

Secondly to Bill Lawson who seemed to thrive as Chairman. Bill we are eternally grateful for all you have done on behalf of EIGGA and all you are continuing to do.

Lastly but by no means least may I thank the Members for their support at the conference. I was particularly pleased to see so many old friends and delighted to meet so many new ones.

I can conclude by adding that our Association can only go from strength to strength with the enthusiasm and dedication that now prevails.

Dennis Ayling
President EIGGA

London Branch

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Aldenham Golf & Country Club in March and although no golf was planned, at the invitation of Mr. David Phillips (owner) a few brave soles ventured out, and, guess what? it rained!

A very interesting discussion took place before the A.G.M., with regard to the present moves to amalgamate the three Greenkeeping Associations under one umbrella, very appropriate in the present climate! The feelings of the branch are that the objectives are correct but everything that EIGGA has achieved in the last four years must be safeguarded.

As a result of the A.G.M. the committee for 1986 will be as follows: Tom Low (Chairman), David Low (Administrator), Tom McDonald, Mike Peters, Derek Mason and Chris Greenwood.

The next meeting will be held at Finchley Golf Club on June 23rd at 4.00p.m.

Thanks must go to Mike Peters for continuing with the Summer League he ran so successfully last year. Please try and arrange to play the matches between the stated dates.

At this years conference held at Warwick it was nice to see other members of the London Branch in attendance. We even had a team in the Rigby Taylor Quiz, thanks to Tony Taylor and Bill Thompson for their support, we did not win, but gave a good account of ourselves. As in previous years the whole weekend was most enjoyable, meeting and making friends and sharing experiences both good and bad.

David Low.

INTO THE FUTURE

Nigel Beckford is very much a greenkeeper of today, but with a vision of 'life' in the next century...

I ARRIVED at work around 6.20am, changed into my overalls, loaded up the Hover-Cart (designed to cut down wear on the golf course) with greens maintenance equipment, slotted in the recharged power pack and climbed in to start work on the eighteenth. It was Friday morning. Busy day today. I set the Hover-Cart down at the back of the eighteenth, unloaded the Robo-Keeper and the Hover-Rake, inserted programmes for the eighteenth green, then switched on the golfer sensors. These are able to detect anyone preparing an approach shot and can identify club, stance, etc.

I left the droids whirring and clicking, digesting all the relevant information. I lifted off the Rota-Cut, checked for a fresh set of cups, walked on to the green and selected the new pin position, placed the Rota-Cut on the surface and pushed the necessary button. Another series of whirrs and clicks followed and then a grinding sound was finally punctuated by a blorp! I removed the old cup and renewed the old hole, put the machine in the cart, set the droids into work mode and made off for the seventeenth, leaving the little work droids to carry out their menial duties.

I changed the pin position, repaired pitch marks and went on to the sixteenth to carry out some spraying, as well as regular maintenance. I set up the Hover-Spray droid with the appropriate fungicide, programmed it for the sixteenth green and all its relevant dimensions. That done, I returned to the eighteenth to pick up the Robo-Keeper and the Hover-Rake.

There they were, waiting patiently at the rear of the green, hovering millimetres above the ground. I loaded up, took them to the seventeenth, pushed in the relevant programme and went off to continue work around the golf course.

I finished the fourteenth, returned to pick up the droids

and set them in motion once again on the sixteenth, loading the Hover-Spray back on. I looked at my watch: 7.45am, another three greens and I'll have a break, I thought.

I had finished changing the hole on the eleventh and was on the way back to pick up the droids from the thirteenth when I heard a familiar voice calling me from behind. It was Dave, the head-keeper. I slowed down to let him catch up.

"I've just seen the secretary, Nigel, and he reminded me that there is a tournament on Sunday, so can you do the necessary work on the tees?"

"Yes, OK, Dave, but I'll have to stay late."

"That's all right, just put it into the computer. Any problems, I'll be over at the clubhouse."

I carried on with my work until I had finished the eleventh. It was 9.30, time for breakfast. I walked into the rest area, switched on the video and watched some old golf veterans.

I recognised Severiano Ballesteros, back in the 1980s. It always amazes me how golfers managed to play the courses of that era. They look so worn out.

My thoughts were on the extra work Dave had given me - an idea came into my head. I went round to the programming room. One wall was covered by banks of computers and monitoring screens. I switched on the necessary computer and picked up one of the Robo-Keeper and Hover-Rake programming discs. I tapped in the layout of the golf course and relevant information for each droid and then the relevant commands in the correct order. The computer did its work and out popped the finished programmes.

I climbed back on to the Hover-Cart and took off to the tenth wondering if my deviousness would pay off. I unloaded the little droids and pushed in the programmes.

While they digested the information, I changed the hole and repaired pitch marks.

I loaded the Rota-Cut on to the

cart and walked over to my little work mates filled with anticipation. Pushing their work mode buttons, I sat back to see if my efforts would pay off. The little droids hovered around carrying out their duties, oblivious to all distractions except approaching golfers.

Would it work? They came to the end of their respective toils and stopped as if to think about their tasks and then, to my satisfaction, they took off to the ninth and carried on once again!

I sped off to catch up and change the holes on the greens in front, leaving the droids to carry out their work.

The course was getting busy now, so I switched the play to temporary tees and hastened back to the yard to change my machine. There, I parked the Hover-Cart and unloaded the equipment into the cleansing room, started up the Hover Auto-Turf, went round to the nursery area, cut enough turf for eighteen tees and loaded up enough for six. That's the only drawback with hover-tools - you mustn't overload them.

I started at the eighteenth again, put the tee marker on the temporary tee and rolled back the artificial surface. I pushed in the relevant programme and the machine started to lay the turf, levelling and rolling as it went.

In no time at all, the tee was finished and ready for play. I put the marker back on the tee and sped off to the next one, gliding along almost silently. I carried on until the last tee was finished and then stood back to admire my work. I hopped back on and went down to pick up the awaiting droids. My new programme had worked well. I put the droids in the cleansing room, shut the door and pushed the cleansing button. I cleaned myself up and disposed of my overalls.

I walked outside feeling much fresher. By now, the sun was really beating down.

Just one last job - I must check that irrigation in the nineteenth!

"Ah, I remember it well...!"

IN conversation with a group of young greenkeepers on a training course the other day, one or two questioned whether greenkeeping was all that different in the immediate post-war years when I started advisory work and which period they clearly equated with the start of life on earth, writes Jim Arthur.

This made me think because, when I looked back, I realised that the greatest changes did not really start until much later. I make due allowance for the tendency of the old to philosophise on the past and to remember what they want to remember, but I have always had a good memory!

It seems hard to accept that the first Auto Certes was produced in January 1950 and the Paladin not until 1961. Up to that time, most greens were mown with hand-pushed Certes or the equivalent, needless to say, *not* every day of the week.

The controversies over triplex mowers, which still keep returning, were then centred on the Overgreen, first produced in 1937 and the last of which was made in 1963. Because the units could not be 'lifted,' the machine had to be turned on the putting surface. The technique, I well remember, was to turn, very slowly and under the momentum of the machine and not under drive, to avoid scalping the ends. This resulted in the greens having to be mown one half in one direction and the other in reverse, leading to dark and light half-greens.

We had the same nonsenses talked then about nap and different putting speeds as we do today, with the alternate wide stripes with a triplex. Incidentally, the same embargo on turning under power on putting surfaces applies as much to modern triplex machines as to the old Overgreen. I fully agree that some greens are so designed - or, like Topsy, just grew - with tightly surrounding mounds (so characteristic of Braid's courses); steep banks; close bunkering or very narrow surrounds, making it impossible to turn off the green, that they do not mow satisfactorily with a triplex.

I am all for the occasional cut with a 'hand' machine, but it is more important to mow every day, including weekends, in peak growth seasons and also to verticut as often as weekly - this is impossible without triplex mowers.

What the controversy is all about, as with so much in greenkeeping, is in the eye and the TV camera lens! The narrower stripes look nice, so they are put on by a dawn cut with 'hand' machines for the Open, but the main cut the previous evening is often with a triplex.

The first triplex mowers came into this country in the very late 1960s and did not take off until the 1970s. I well remember criticising (and being abused by) agents selling triplex mowers on the basis that, since all the greens could be cut with one machine and one operator instead of three, the machine could be paid for by sacking two greenkeepers. As one old Scot enquired, "does yon machine build tees in winter?" Of course, machines do not save men - they save time on a golf course, keeping essential work ahead of play.

Laziness

It always annoys me when pompous members hold forth on the laziness of greenkeeping staff. "Never see anyone working on this course," they say. But if play catches up with, for example, mowing, this doubles the working time with unproductive delays. In any case, the greenkeeper was out working at first light before the aforesaid member had probably emerged from his bed!

Pop-ups came relatively late - the first five courses had them installed in 1965. The early systems were very inefficient, using the only equipment then available. Indeed, almost every system installed in the first decade has been substantially upgraded and improved to get better coverage and, therefore, making it possible to use less water. All too often, the early systems dumped water in the centre of the greens and left missed areas. Equally all too

often, by a thought process the logic of which eludes me, pop-ups were then set for longer periods in a predictably futile attempt to catch the missed areas, thus aggravating the effects of uneven application and so thatch started.

In fact, thatch was a very rare problem forty years ago. We were emerging from war-time austerity in every sense. No fertilisers could be used in the war and everywhere reverted to more natural swards. Few courses had irrigation and many of those with pre-war installations had suffered damage to them from war-time ploughing up of some fairways. There were certainly problems of neglect, which are always much easier to correct than those of misguided kindness and over-feeding.

The pressures on turf were, literally, far less, with fewer people playing, especially in winter. Membership figures were not all that much lower, but there were many more non-playing members and only a handful of fanatics played winter golf, except on links courses and in Scotland generally. This meant that winter work could proceed with minimum notice, let alone objections by members. We used to say, thirty years ago, that a good greenkeeper could lift and relay a green and have it back in playing condition without more than a handful of members knowing the work had been done.

Prior to more efficient machines, enabling more intensive routine aeration to be carried out, it was a common pre-war practice to lift one green a year, especially on sandy courses, fork over the base and relay. Today, we dare not, and would not, get away with it, so we Vertidrain instead!

I suppose the big changes in techniques came with the increasing popularity of golf, engendered by television coverage, and the associated golf boom of 20 years and more ago. This was accentuated by many new courses being built on basically 'unsuitable' land, as sandy heaths and links were naturally in short supply near the main urban areas.

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From tee to green—from hole to hole—wherever you are on the course there's a RANSOMES machine to match your mowing requirements.

RANSOMES, the Number 1 in professional grass machinery brings you the widest selection of specialist mowing equipment available today.

Whether you are maintaining the semi rough, a long grass area or a fine putting surface, you'll find a RANSOMES mower designed to make the most of your golf course.



Ransomes grass machines

DRIVING—OFF THE TEES

The Motor 180, a compact, lightweight ride-on triple, is ideal for cutting golf tees and green surrounds. Its low profile design hugs the ground and gives outstanding stability and performance, even on steep slopes.

There's the option of fixed or floating heads—with or without grass catchers to match the machine to the finish you require.

Hydrostatic drive makes the Motor 180 simple to operate with instant forward and reverse from a single foot control.



MOTOR 180



HYDRAULIC 340 TG

FLYING DOWN THE FAIRWAYS

RANSOMES range of hydraulic and trailed gang mowers are second to none.

From the economy and simplicity of the RANSOMES trailed gangs, through the power and high performance of the tractor mounted Hydraulic 5/7, the Mounted Hydraulic 5 and the Mounted 214.

The Hydraulic 340 TG shown, with floating head cutting units, and 465 TG trailer mowers bring a new concept of gang mowing onto the golf course. Completely self contained, the five and seven unit mowers combine all the performance advantages of hydraulic drive to the cutting reels, with the flexibility of electric control and fast connection to your tractor, leaving it free for other tasks when there's no mowing to be done.



MOTOR 350 D

For fast ride-on fairway cutting and real savings in running costs, there is the RANSOMES all hydraulic 350 D (shown with floating heads). There is a choice of 10" diameter fixed or 8" diameter floating head cutting units.

Right round the course



HYDRAULIC 5/7



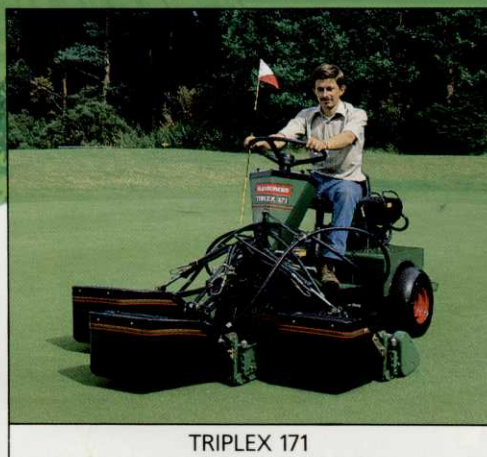
MOUNTED 5

ONTO THE GREENS

The Triplex 171 is a triple greens mower which makes it easy to obtain an immaculate finish to your greens. With its up-front cutting units and instant forward and reverse hydrostatic drive, manoeuvring onto and off small or large greens presents no problem.



TRAILED GANGS



TRIPLEX 171

OUT OF THE BUNKERS

The Motor Rake eliminates the intensive effort of bunker maintenance by hand. This ride-on machine with its rear mounted rake and finisher will reach down to the base of the majority of bunkers and leave a perfect surface, it has optional mid mounted attachments for weeding and sand movement.

The high transport speed of this machine also makes for faster bunker maintenance.



MOTOR RAKE

Its combined front wheel and greens unit steering leaves no uncut grass when turning and eliminates the possibility of damage to the playing surface. Accessories are available for spiking, verticutting and tee mowing.

For the finest of finishes there's the Auto Certes, renowned throughout the world on championship courses for providing a playing surface for the perfectionist.

From tee to the green it's got to be RANSOMES—the best of British mowers.



AUTO CERTES



TM 80 AERIFIER

EXTRA CARE ON THE FAIRWAYS

In those areas where drainage is a problem the RANSOMES TM 80 Aerifier comes into its own. The TM 80's action helps improve drainage, aeration and root growth.

For general verticutting there's the RANSOMES Verticut 214. The tractor mounted, fully floating, verticut units help prevent the build-up of thatch and encourage new growth.



VERTICUT 214



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MANUFACTURERS OF AGRICULTURAL
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For your copy of our catalogue write to us today or ring Ipswich (0473) 712222, and ask for further details of the specific machines that you are interested in. You can then see for yourself why RANSOMES can be found in all the best kept places.

YOU'LL FIND US IN ALL THE BEST KEPT PLACES

The effects of extra play, and more winter play especially, had to be counteracted by more aeration. There is still debate about how to aerate greens, though I note with quiet satisfaction that some of the more extreme views have since been modified. No-one denies the need for more aeration. Yet, thirty and more years ago, many greenkeepers were aerating greens once a year only and fairway aeration was not carried out, if at all, more than once a year, despite the fact that SISIS brought out its first (horse-drawn) fairway spiker in 1936!

Mechanisation

Changes in mechanisation of greenkeeping equipment have taken place in two phases - first, putting engines on hand machines in the 'fifties and then putting man on as well in the late 'sixties. The next phase was to treat tractors as tractors and not as horses with direct-mounted machines - aerators as well as mowers for greens and fairways alike.

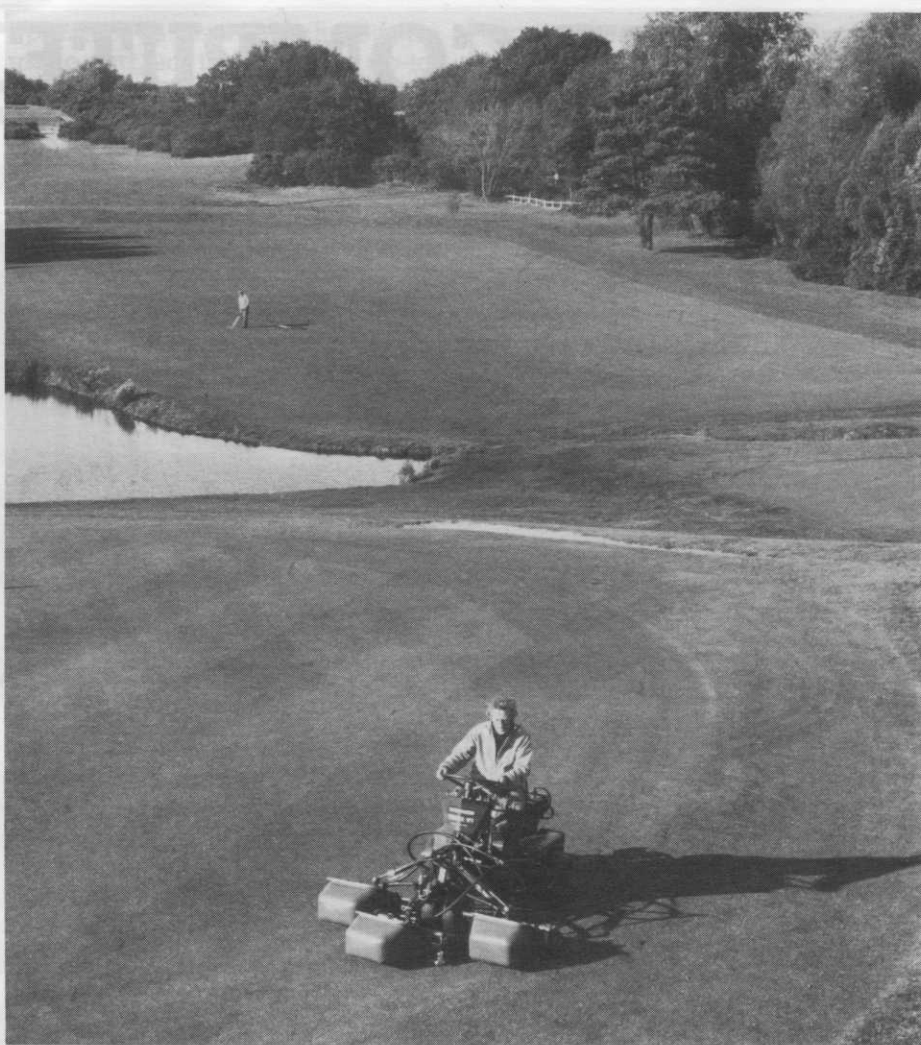
Progressing from using existing rear wheel drive agricultural tractors, more and more the emphasis is changing to four-wheel drive, which has the advantage of better power/weight ratios, not to mention adhesion and traction. There are some very interesting developments in this connection which, doubtless, will be unveiled at Windsor, if not before.

Certainly, greenkeeping forty years ago was much less complicated for various reasons. One was that lower standards were accepted. We rarely discussed anything in detail except green-management, with a few lines on tees and nothing on fairways, unless some disaster loomed.

Second, there were neither the machines nor money to treat much more than greens. In a way, this was a help, as the lack of money prevented disastrous mistakes being made, which would have cost even more to correct! Sadly, mistakes are made on an heroic scale today and cost astronomical amounts to correct.

Third, pressures with play were far less.

What is relevant, however, is that the *principles* of greenkeeping, relating as they do to the 'cultivation' of a narrow range of grass species adapted to low-



Regular mowing - the typical modern-day scene.

fertility soil conditions, the direct opposite of agricultural grassland husbandry, have not changed.

The battle against annual meadow grass was as important in the 1940s as it is today, but we had more chance of winning then as we did not have to first correct mistaken overfeeding (except to try to counteract the 'harmful' legacies of war-time crop production on many of our courses) and were less subject to the courtship of fertiliser firms, which were then too busy supplying farming to have time to worry about a miniscule market in golf.

Now, of course, the wheel has turned - maximum agricultural production (no matter at what marginal cost) has ceased to be economic and disappointed suitors are turning their amorous attentions elsewhere.

What is certain is that there is nothing new in this world. Even in the early 1930s, agricultural experts were warning that the management of fine turf and agricultural grassland was diametrically opposed in end-

result and, therefore, method.

All I can emphasise to today's young greenkeepers is that the British soils and climatic conditions have not altered; that the game of golf is played at its best on fine wiry turf and that the needs of those grasses have not altered either. We must modify and intensify treatments, especially the physical ones, but if we try to paint greens green with fertilisers, we shall be in as much trouble as were earlier generations of greenkeepers in the 'thirties, 'fifties and 'seventies!

Hopefully, better greenkeeper training means that the next generation of head-men will be even better equipped to think for themselves and not be swayed by high-pressure salesmanship, masquerading as the results of research.

Every club should insist that its young staff become technically qualified, encourage and liaise with the new greenkeeping centres and pay *qualified* staff more while treating them as professionals.

THE COMPUTER AGE



David Jones (on screen above) makes full use of his Epson computer...

WITH the advancement of head greenkeepers to golf course managers, it has become apparent that the latter is not just a fancy job description, says David Jones, who holds that title at the St Pierre Hotel Golf and Country Club, Chepstow, Gwent.

Today's golf course managers are expected, and should expect, to actively manage their golf courses. After all, the term 'manager' means someone who controls a business, or a person who makes decisions.

A golf course manager has to control the golf course and make the necessary decisions, so that the course receives the appropriate treatment at the right time and by properly trained personnel. He also has to keep records of treatments given and be able to prepare and present a budget to the greens chairman or course director.

It is in the keeping of records that course managers can benefit from a personal computer.

Computers are now widely used in many fields and I forecast the dawn of the computer age for golf course managers - a frighten-

ing thought some might say.

Others might ask, "what can a computer do for me?" Well, let's look at one or two of its uses.

One thing you must be sure of from the beginning is that you can only get out of a computer as much as you put in. A computer comes into its own for record-keeping, record-retrieval, working out averages and giving you a paper copy of the information.

A basic system would comprise a keyboard to 'type' in the information, a disk drive to run the programme, which will receive the input, a floppy disk to store the information on for future use, a screen to display the information and, finally, a printer to print out a hard copy of that information.

There is a variety of what are termed 'off the shelf' programmes that could be utilised for

your new 'record keeper.'

A word processor would allow you to keep daily records of work completed on the course; it could be used for writing letters ordering materials; to produce a work schedule for the coming week's jobs or to write an article, as I am doing, correcting my typing errors before they hit the paper.

One of the most useful programmes is termed a 'data base.' As the name implies, it is a base for the storage of data. There are many data-base programmes available - the best are the more flexible type. By flexible, I mean those that you can design to do a specific task of data recording and retrieval to suit your requirements.

The data base is a type of flexible card index system, which can be used for keeping records on staff, holding information such as the date of starting employment, certificates of turf culture, capabilities with types of machinery and overtime details, etc.