

Each piece of machinery could have an 'index card' within the data base, giving its age, serial number, purchase price, date of renewal and, finally, renewal cost. You might want to include the machine's service record, when the last service took place, parts fitted, cost of parts, time spent in servicing - all of this would help evaluate when machinery is becoming too expensive to maintain and would be better traded in for replacement.

To take record-keeping further, it might be interesting to categorise the course maintenance. How much does it cost in sand and man hours to look after all the bunkers? Could some savings be made in this area? Answers to this type of question can be made easier with the help of a computer's memory.

A finance programme will be extremely valuable in budget preparation and I find a purchase ledger file useful for maintaining a monthly running cost of expenditure on my course. All materials are set out as nominal accounts within the file - i.e. petrol, sand, seed, etc. The running totals are

up-dated as new purchases are made and, so, they give an up-to-date control figure. Two months before the end of the budget year, it is possible to determine if there is room for manoeuvre for a sought-after item of equipment.

A stock-control file on disk will also keep track of such items as irrigation and machinery spares. If these are categorised by number, the computer finds the numbers quickly and soon tells you whether you have the 2in PVC fitting needed to repair that burst pipe on the 4th fairway. But if you used that same fitting three months ago and forgot to input the information, the computer will be of little help.

As far as specialist programmes for golf courses are concerned I can't recall having seen any on the UK market.\* Perhaps the computer programmers are waiting for us to let them know what we want from a computer.

Programmes such as grass and disease identification are possibilities and, some time in the not-too-distant future, we might be able to input specific parameters, such as the date,

type of course, present weather conditions, course agronomist, fixtures, staff levels and find that the computer will give us a list of work we should be doing that day.

Whether a computer is for you or not depends largely on your present paperwork load. Initially, you will spend a lot of time putting in your information but, once you have what you want on record, the extraction of that information should be very simple.

With the Epsom Grand Prix of Europe Matchplay Championship at St Pierre this month, my personal computer has been invaluable in helping to plan the course preparation.

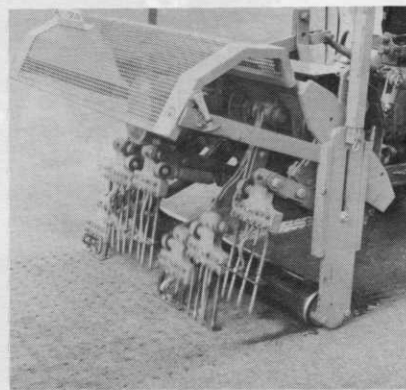
Having decided that you are going to try a computer, the next decision is which one?

*\*The February 1986 edition of the American magazine Golf Course Management carried a feature on educational software for turf management. As the saying goes, what happens in the States... Ed.*

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## Apprentice Corner

### Red Thread Disease (*Laetisaria fuciformis*)

*This is a disfiguring, rather than a killing, disease. It attacks chiefly Festuca and Agrostis species in early to mid summer and again in autumn. It is most prevalent in wet seasons, giving a paradoxically droughted appearance despite heavy rain.*

*The characteristic pink or red outgrowths can be so prolific in muggy weather as to*

*give the entire affected area of fine turf a pink tinge.*

*It is rarely worth using fungicides to 'control' this disease - especially as a light, nitrogenous dressing will soon correct it. Beware of late nitrogen applications, of course, as red thread may be replaced by Fusarium patch disease.*



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Both products will kill existing weeds and grass, and prevent re-invasion for a whole season. Bullseye is best used as a pre-emergent residual weedkiller; Snapper, after the weeds have developed.

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Both products come in special backpacks which are comfortable to wear, and as they weigh in at only 13lb produce the minimum of fatigue. An operator can easily treat five miles of roadside weeds in less than two hours *and* without returning to base.

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## People, Places, Products



John Edmunds, John Van der Vord and Michael Bush of Victa (UK).

The appointment of two new directors at Victa (UK) has been announced by John Edmunds, the company's managing director. Michael Bush has been promoted to marketing director with responsibility for market planning, new product development and promotion. He joined Victa as marketing manager from Wilkinson Sword four years ago. John Van der Vord, who has now been appointed sales director, was formerly a national accounts sales manager with the Wilkinson Sword Group.

**Vitax has launched a new range of grass seed mixtures - three without ryegrass.**

The first is a blend of 80 per

cent chewings fescue and 20 per cent browntop; the second, a mix of creeping red and chewings fescues and browntop, is for tennis courts and cricket squares; the third is an economy mixture of creeping red fescue and browntop for fairways and lawns, with *Poa pratensis* added to improve its hard-wearing qualities.

The ryegrass mixes are a blend of two leading sports-type perennials (50 per cent) with creeping red fescue, browntop and *Poa pratensis*; a blend of three purpose-bred perennials and a genuine economy mix for roadside verges and other amenity areas, which contains perennial ryegrasses and creeping red fescue.

Further details from Vitax, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB.

Grass maintenance in Taiwan is hampered by a warm and humid climate, which encourages particularly vigorous rates of growth.

The Chiang Kai-Shek International Airport in Taipei has overcome the problem by utilising a fleet of Bomford flail mowers, consisting of six Bandits, three mid-mounted models not currently available in the UK and one 7.2m reach B728.

The airport authority intends to purchase a further 12 Bomford mowers over the next five years. Contact Clive Fowkes, Home Sales Manager, Bomford and Evershed, Salford Priors, Evesham, Worcs WR11 5SW. Tel: 0789 773383.

A 'brace' of Bromfords lined up outside the Chiang Kai-Shek Airport in Taiwan.



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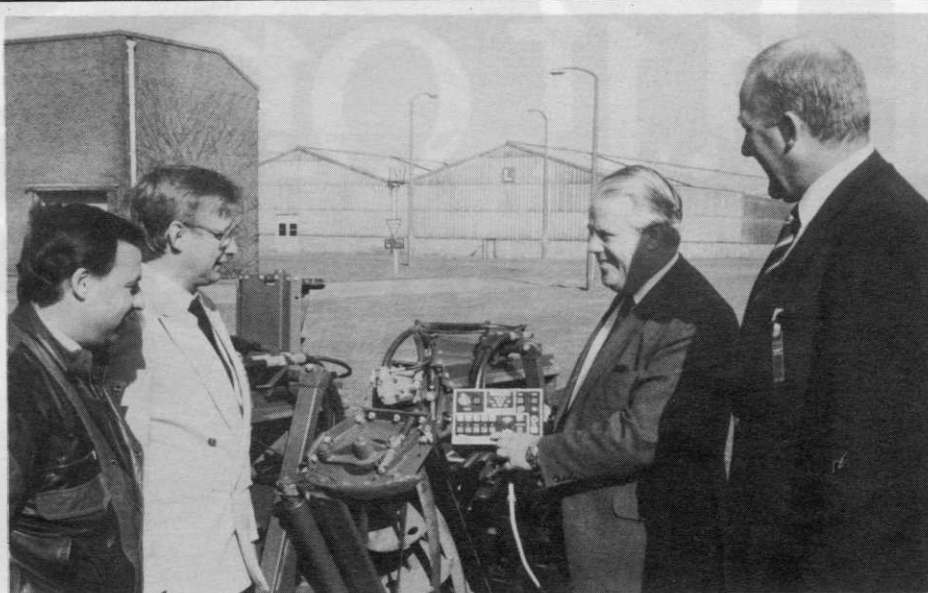
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Write for details · Farrant Chemicals Ltd  
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PH: 0483 574562

Appointed two years ago, Ransomes distributor in Sweden, Park and Grasvards of Stockholm, has made what UK general sales manager John Wilson described as excellent headway. Eight dealer personnel, accompanied by Kurt Revestam, owner of Park and Grasvards, visited the parent company at Ipswich recently. Park and Grasvards had placed orders worth £600,000 with Ransomes by the early part of 1986.

The *Grandstand Product Catalogue* from Maxwell Hart has become something of an early-season highlight! This year's full-colour, 40-page publication offers a good read, as well as detailing the latest developments in chemical treatments, grass seeds, fertilisers, turf dressings, golf, cricket and bowls equipment, line markers, litter bins, 'extras' such as pacers to slow traffic and armbands to identify club officials, and so much more.

There's a colour spread on Hart's new northern sales and distribution centre at Warrington, Cheshire and the company's



John Wilson (second right), Ransomes general sales manager, escorted the Swedish party around the company's Nacton Works.

'here to serve' claim is supported by a 24-hour answering service. Copies of the catalogue can be obtained from Maxwell Hart, Winnersh, Wokingham RG11 5HF. Tel: 0734 785655.

combined to provide a comprehensive range of protectors covering most popular turf sizes. Further information from Hugh Hartley of Axleline Eastern on 0205 79531, or Hugh Williams of Moplant on 0202 677504.

Punctures can be reduced by a new range of tyre protectors from Axleline Eastern of Boston and Moplant of Poole. Turf tyres, necessarily thin to avoid damage to grass, can now have these thick rubber protectors placed inside the tread and held in place by the tube, thus providing an extra strong layer to absorb thorns, etc, helping greatly to reduce punctures.

Capital expenditure by Moplant, well-known for protectors in the industrial field, and the experience of Axleline, with its large range of turf tyres, has



Fitting one of the new range of tyre protectors.



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has been used on a wide variety of sites including

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- GOLF COURSES — Birkdale, Lytham St. Annes, St. Andrews, Woburn
- RACECOURSES — Ascot, Ayr, Chester, Uttoxeter
- LAND RECLAMATION — Work in progress on NCB sites
- ALSO on cricket pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts — in fact, wherever grass is sown, grown and mown



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

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

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

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



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

Here then are the results.

**Greenmaster Autumn 6:4:12 + 6% Fe**

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

**Greenmaster Spring/Summer 14:2:4**

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

**Greenmaster Mosskiller 14:0:0 + 8.9% Fe**

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

**Greenmaster Extra 14:2:4 + Selective Herbicides**

Two powerful herbicides - MCPA and mecoprop - give excellent weed control

combined with a fertilizer ratio calculated to give a fast, even colour.

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

A full 12 week growth and colour response achieved by incorporating 50% of the nitrogen content as slow release IBDU. Added iron ensures a better colour response.

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

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



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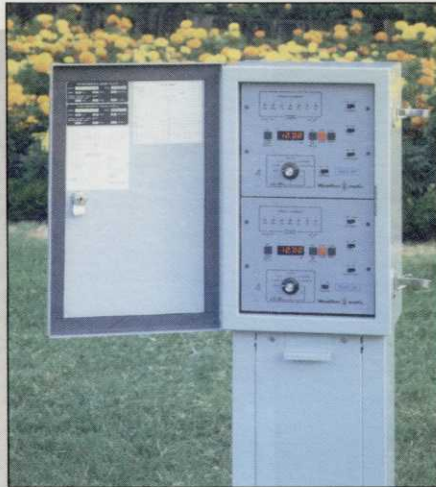
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# Five simple ways to take control.

Whether you need a 6, 8, 12, 16 or 24 station irrigation controller, you can't beat the micro-computer Mark Series from Weather-matic. All models are available in three types of housings — U.L.-listed rainproof aluminum; economical plastic for indoors or heavy-gauge, industrial-grade steel — so they can fit every application.

The Mark Series is easy to program, too. A function selector switch and large pushbuttons reduce operator confusion and help cut training time, all but eliminating installer call-backs.

Among the advantages are two watering schedules, four daily start times on each program and 0-99 minute timing at one-minute increments. Plus the new Day-Bright™ LED display —



filtered and recessed for daylight visibility.

Special features include a self-charging battery back-up system. This retains the program and clock time in the event of a power failure. And it eliminates periodic battery replacement. The controllers will also detect and skip a shorted valve.

Teamed up with Weather-matic's proven valves, sprinklers, Rain-Stat® and other products, Mark Series controllers work and work and work.

They're five reasons why so many irrigation professionals

say you can't beat the system — when the one you choose is Weather-matic.

To learn more, write or call tollfree: 1/800/835-2246. (In Kansas: 1/800/362-2421)

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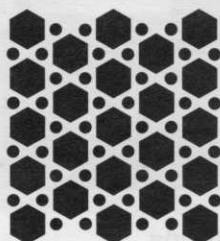
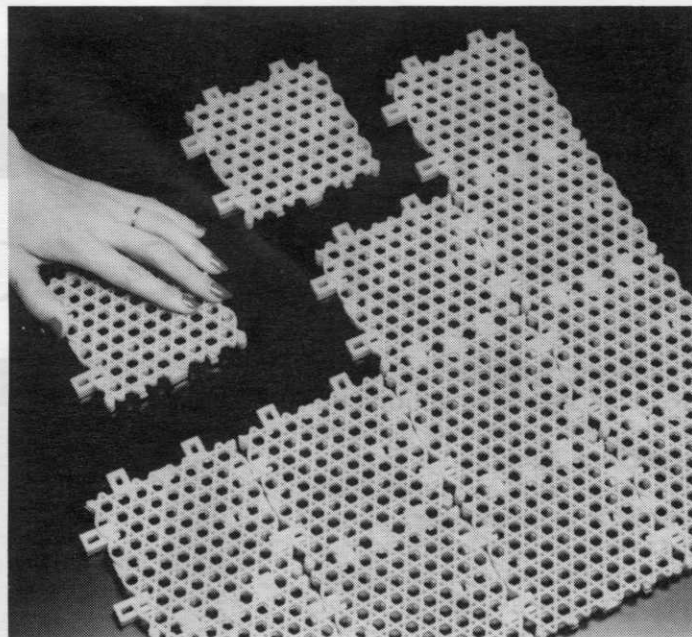
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# Palm Desert Greens Country Club is positive proof.

Maintaining one of the heaviest played executive golf courses in Southern California is a challenging job. An average of 290 rounds of golf a day puts tough demands on the turf, and on the irrigation system. That's why golf course superintendent Robert Stuczynski recently installed Weather-matic rotary pop-up sprinklers to upgrade the system at the Palm Desert Greens Country Club.

Stuczynski was won away from a brand he's used for more than a decade by Weather-matic's high quality design and features. The exclusive adjustable armspring allows fine-tuning while the sprinkler is on or off, and *stays* adjusted once set — a must for handling Palm Desert's exacting schedule of watering or fertilizing.

Weather-matic impact drive, rotary pop-up sprinkler heads are available in rugged cast



aluminum alloy and high impact plastic housings for your long-range or medium-range needs — from golf courses, parks and athletic fields to commercial use.

Designed for years of dependable service, they offer many outstanding features. Like the backsplash control arm on K-50/80 and PK-50/80. And the optional check valve, available on PK models, to prevent backflow in low areas and damaging line surge. Plus only Weather-matic can help reduce your inventory with interchangeable parts for plastic and metal housings.

When you team up our rotary pop-up sprinklers, controllers and valves, you have a combination that can't be beat. Just ask Stuczynski. He's now finalizing a plan to changeover the entire Palm Desert system to Weather-matic. Because Weather-matic works.

Write or call for all the details.

## You can't beat the system.



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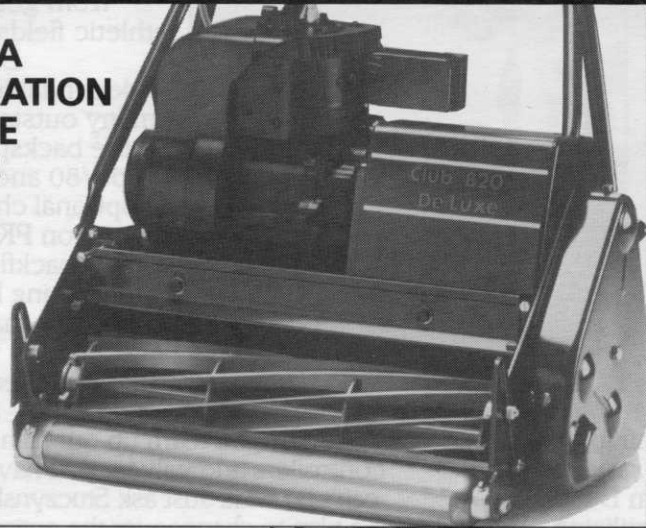
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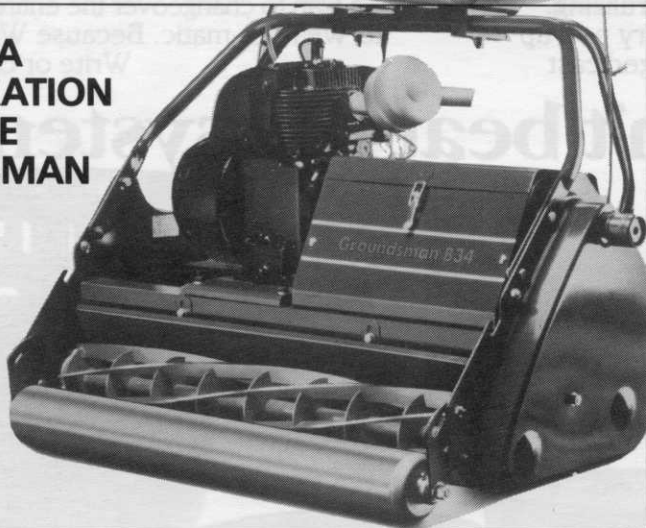
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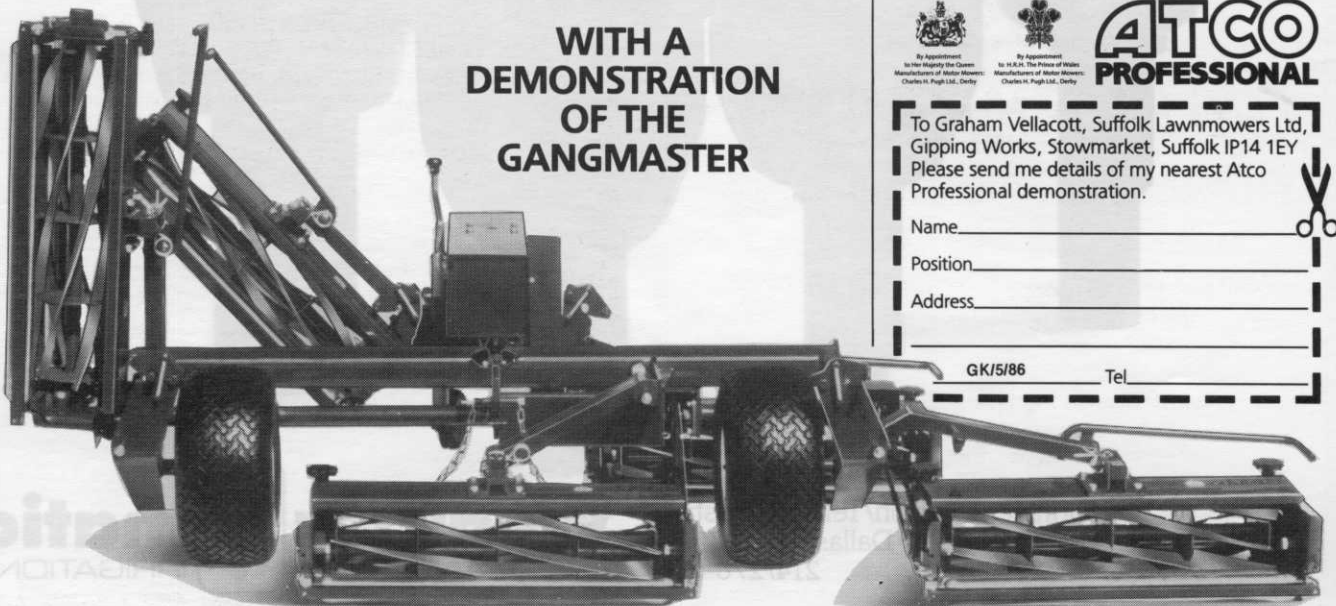
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