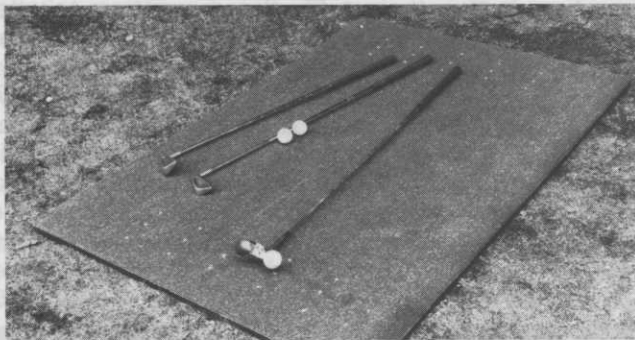


# CARPETITION LTD.

THE 'TUFTURF' TEE MAT —  
Like a piece of firm, well sprung fairway

FOR TEE SHOTS



AND FAIRWAY SHOTS



"A British made porous hardwearing all weather tee 1.5m x 1m and 2m x 1m. Synthetic grass, bonded to reconstituted rubber underlay shock pad with 60 tee inserts, combine to give a superb playing surface. Its use is highly beneficial as a WINTER TEE, or when re-turfing tees in the playing season. Also ideal for DRIVING RANGES and PRACTICE GROUNDS both indoor and outdoor." Further details from:-

CARPETITION LTD.,  
6 KAFFIR ROAD, EDGERTON,  
HUDDERSFIELD HD2 2AN.  
Tel: 0484-28777

## "FENDRESS"<sup>®</sup>

THE TRULY NATIONAL TURF DRESSING AS SUPPLIED TO MANY CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES

A Superior Top Dressing, using soils with a low clay and silt content, carefully blended with Fenland Peat and Lime 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.

BULK DELIVERIES TO ALL PARTS OF THE UK IN 10, 15, 20, 25 TONNE LOADS. CUSTOMERS IN BELFAST, ABERDEEN, PLYMOUTH, EAST ANGLIA, ETC.

PLEASE REMEMBER, THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE FENDRESS, WHICH IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK. BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

Pre-Packed supplies available. Special mixes to your specification prepared. Also, Screened Sedge Peat ("Fenpeat") in bulk. Lime Free Sands, White or Yellow. Screened Loam, etc.

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



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

BOOK EARLY  
TO SECURE SPACE  
CLOSING DATE FOR STAND BOOKINGS  
28 FEBRUARY 1987

Have you  
booked your space at  
the Greatest Spring Event  
for the  
Sports and Leisure Industry?

## SOUTHPORT '87

The second  
JOG Sports and Leisure Spring  
Exhibition will take place at  
Victoria Park Southport Merseyside

from  
12th-13th May 1987: 10am till 5pm daily

- \* Ground rental charges from only £4.50m<sup>2</sup>
- \* Extensive demonstration areas available



BOOKING FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE FROM:

JOG  
SPORTS & LEISURE  
WORLD TRADE EXHIBITIONS

19-25 CHURCH STREET - THE AGORA - WOLVERTON  
MILTON KEYNES - BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MK12 5LG  
TELEPHONE: MILTON KEYNES (0908) 311856

NEWSFLASH  
ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF STAND SPACE  
NOW REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR ROYAL  
WINDSOR '87 - 15th-17th SEPT. MEMBER  
OF THE TOTAL AVENUE  
RACE COURSE. INFORMATION  
SPACE AND STAND  
FORMS AVAILABLE  
ON REQUEST.

## Association News Round-Up

The **South Wales** branch is to stage a one-day seminar at Pen-coed College of Agriculture, near Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan on April 15.

Speakers confirmed are David Jones, course manager at the St Pierre Golf and Country Club, Archie Patterson of Watermaton and Tony Horne, grounds manager of Cardiff Arms Park. A fourth speaker is to be announced.

Please make every effort to attend and support greenkeeper education. Members will receive more details shortly - in the meantime, information can be obtained from me on 0656 771335.

*Raymond Hunt.*

The final golf competitions of last season in **East Anglia** were, as ever, well-supported. The Abridge Golf and Country Club attracted over 50 members to do battle for the Ransomes watch. Phil Staines with 37 points won on a countback from Paul Bertenshaw.

In the 19-28 section, Brian Measor took the top honours with 48 points, while the leading guest was David Chapman. Prizes were presented by John Robson, captain of Gog Magog.

Dipping further back into the archives, Doug Neville retired from the Gogs in July after 34 years service. The staff bought Doug a greenhouse so they could still keep an eye on him! Lyndon Upham is the new boss.

In October, ten EIGGA members played a match at Heath Farm GC - unfortunately, they were trounced. Thanks to Sam Sylvester for organising the event and to the club members for their hospitality.

Back in November, the STRI, led by Dr Peter Hayes, planned a small seminar at Stoke by Nayland and over 140, representing 45 clubs throughout East Anglia, turned up!

Steve Noye is to be congratulated for the professional way he chaired the occasion. The Christmas draw was donated to John Young who, incidentally, has had yet another operation. We wish him and his family a

much better 1987.

I would just like to say thanks to the trade boys for supporting EIGGA. Where would we be without 'Big' Bob Chelsham, Brian Richardson, 'Moycey' and Ken Stern? Answers on a postcard, please! Long live Steve Noye - the lad's been an inspiration to us all.

Finally, I leave you with a quote from Napoleon. 'Always forget the past. No man ever backed in to prosperity.'

*Mick Lathrope.*

Pictured are two of the top winners at the Elmwood Agricultural and Technical College's annual awards ceremony.

Distance appears to be no object for those wanting to attend the Cupar, Fife college's block-release classes in greenkeeping.

**Trevor Dennis** (left), who comes from Norfolk and works at King's Lynn Golf Club, received the St Andrews Links Trust Award for the best practical greenkeeping student. Trevor is currently enrolled on the college's





distance learning supervisory course.

**David J. Merrills** (right) was awarded the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy, which is presented annually to the student submitting the best greenkeeping project. David was, until recently, employed at the Porters Park Golf Club, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

The certificates were presented by Mrs Audrey More, wife of Fife's director of education.

**Surrey** reports the death of Stuart McKay and offers its condolences to his family and friends.

The branch's autumn tournament was held at The Berkshire and 40 members turned out. Our thanks go to the club for allowing us use of the course and clubhouse and to Bernie Tomlin and his company, Rigby Taylor, for providing a superb prize table.

Scores: 1st G. MacNiven (13) 60 points, 2nd P. Pearse (4) 57 points,

3rd P. Weston (14) 54 points and 4th J. Russell (12) 52 points. S. McMillan (12) had the best morning score, totting up 35 points, while the afternoon's honours went to R. Glazier (10) with 22 points.

Brian D. Pierson presented the first winter lecture at Malden GC and our thanks go to the club and Brian.

*Paul Pearse.*

## Dear Sir...

I write as captain of my golf club and a former greens convenor and with the full knowledge and approval of my head greenkeeper.

We have argued in a friendly way for eight years over autumn maintenance and, in particular, the timing and method of the hollow-coring and topdressing programme.

We are an inland Scottish club some 400ft above sea level with a south-easterly exposure on free-draining soil. I believe hollow-coring should be carried out in late September/early October without fail and that, having cored the greens, the topdressing should be applied and brushed into the resulting hollows.

I well remember 20 or so years ago at Gleneagles watching this job being done by five greenkeepers with SISIS hand hollow-corers, followed by a team of spreaders and sweepers.

At our club, we hire a hollow-coring machine, which whizzes round the course and does the coring all right but, by the time we get around to applying the topdressing, it could be weeks depending on the weather, the cores have overgrown or have been trampled in.

I am convinced we should buy a hollow-coring attachment for our Hydromain, so that one green can be completed at a time. Our greenkeeper thinks it is better to hire and that it does not matter if the topdressing goes into the holes or not.

While I don't see every issue of your magazine, I enjoy reading it very much.

*Name and address supplied.*

*It is refreshing to learn of your interest in course upkeep - most golfers don't want to become too involved, writes John Campbell.*

*Your reference to the use of SISIS hollow forks takes me back to the 1930s when hand forking greens was the vogue. As a young greenkeeper in the west of Scotland, we used to do all the greens on our two 18-hole courses with Paul hollow-tine forks. This was extremely tedious, leg-aching work when labour was plentiful and golf courses never had the amount of play they receive today.*

*We did not always follow up hollow-forking operations with topdressing. The cores were allowed to dry out after which they were broken up with a drag mat and worked back into the turf with birch brooms.*

## Old greenkeepers

*Many old greenkeepers favoured leaving the tine holes open through the winter and declared this assisted better surface drainage during periods of high precipitation, as well as allowing the frost to get into the ground to break up panned soil layers.*

*Nowadays, aeration work is highly mechanised and the job has to be done more quickly and efficiently with a minimum of labour. You take the view that hollow tining should immediately be followed by topdressing, doing one green at a time. This would slow the job down and most greenkeepers do not have the time to do things this way - they prefer to get the work done in methodical stages.*

*Some do six greens at a time, others nine, while there are*

*those who like to do all the greens at once - hollow-coring first, then following up with topdressing. It's a matter of timing and other factors have to be taken into account, such as the amount of play, weather, club fixtures, etc.*

*Golfers often get uptight when these cultivating activities begin on the greens, particularly hollow tining - life is never easy for the greenkeeping staff and it is often difficult to get all the work done according to plan.*

*If one is intent on replacing poor-quality soil in the greens with something better, then it makes sense to proceed one green at a time, working the dressing into the core holes with the back of a wooden rake or birch broom. This is a slow process if done properly. But you have a 'good free draining soil' on the course and are not trying to replace it with something new!*

*I am inclined to have the same view as your greenkeeper, who is obviously very experienced and knows that all topdressing is gradually absorbed by the turf - some material finds its way into the tine holes, some of it gets pushed down and is mixed with the soil through other cultivating techniques, such as slit and solid tining. The main objective with topdressing is doing it on a regular basis to build up a smooth resilient surface that will cope with all the wear and tear.*

*Having your own hollow-tining equipment would be an advantage, but it's not necessary to hollow-tine every year and it should be remembered that a lot of good topsoil can be removed from the greens (if it is done too often), which may have taken a long time to build up with topdressing.*



# Using what comes naturally!

ELIE Golf Club head greenkeeper Brian Lawrie is cashing in on a couple of natural assets that lie right alongside his fairways – sand and seaweed from the shores of the Firth of Forth.

Brian and his assistant David Bowers have combined these with grass clippings from the course to make a giant compost heap and they feed the rotted-down result back on to the grass.

The work of collecting the sand and seaweed and then turning the compost used to be a backbreaker – all done with hand shovels. But, three years ago, Elie invested in a McConnel Ditch

King, a three-point linkage-mounted digger/loader that fits on to the back of the club's Massey Ferguson 135 tractor.

The arrival of 'the machine age' heralded a vastly more efficient operation, with the Ditch King's grab scooping up large amounts of seaweed and its digging bucket collecting the sand in a fraction of the time needed for the hand operation. Splay feet on the Ditch King enable it to work safely on the beach.

It then just remained to transport the material from the beach the 500 yards to the compost heap.

Armed with the digging bucket, the backhoe also turns the compost. The increased amounts it turns over compared to a hand-digging operation mean the heap rots down more quickly. This also means the golf course benefits from frequent small dressings of compost, rather than the occasional heavy dressings that were the norm before the Ditch King arrived.

The Ditch King and bucket have also become essential items for excavating and shaping Elie's bunkers. Again, prior to the machine's arrival, this job had to be done by hand.



Top left: the Ditch King also comes in handy for bunker work. You may notice in the background a ship's periscope! This was rescued from a Newcastle upon Tyne scrapyard and enables the starter to see that the 1st green is clear. Top right: down by the seashore, the Ditch King grabs another load of seaweed. Above left: assistant David Bowers digs into the heap. Above right: David with Elie's head greenkeeper Brian Lawrie.



## Jim Arthur — Continued...

meadow grass and far more serious problems remain a complete mystery to them!

The other hardy annual concerns hollow-tine forking. I must have missed some article or talk that extolled the virtues of this type of aeration, since my telephone has been red-hot on the subject. Hollow-tining has been repeatedly proven by engineering research to be less effective than deep chisel-tining or slitting as a method of achieving maximum sub-surface cultivation with minimal surface disturbance. This has made it far less popular, especially with the accent in recent decades on much more intensive all-year-round slitting and, of course, in the last seven years with Verti-draining. Frankly, the only function of hollow-tining is to aid the introduction of soil ameliorants into the soil profile and, in any case, this is much more easily achieved after Verti-draining.


I am horrified to see a resurgence of the totally disproven practice of intensive hollow-tining and heavy sanding - disproven in every case and by the latest US research, except on pure sand greens - and, be it noted, this does not mean sandy construction to USGA Green Section specification. Again, history repeats itself and 40 years ago hollow-tining was condemned by many old Scottish links greenkeepers on the grounds that it let in annual meadow grass in pure links greens. I cannot see any point in hollow-tining and leaving the holes open. Yet, if you hollow-tine late to avoid upsetting

the autumn meetings, then it is difficult to top-dress afterwards without risking a massive attack of disease.

If regular deep-slitting is carried out, with perhaps chisel-tining in summer to avoid disturbing putting surfaces and if Verti-draining is carried out when and where needed to deal with sub-surface pan formation, I can see absolutely no point in hollow-tining, and especially if this is part of a heavy sanding programme. Very little of the sand goes down normal hollow-tine holes and it merely sits on the top and causes, eventually, a severe root break. It used to be said of some greenkeepers that they earned undeserved good reputations for good greens by feeding and watering and heavy sanding, but they had to move every five years to avoid being sacked in the face of impending disaster.

### Engineering research

I must stress that engineering research shows that slit-tining is the ideal method of sub-surface aeration and hollow-tining, which used to be a useful method, not more often than once a year, has largely been superseded by better methods. We must beware of resurrecting old ideas that have no relevance to today's problems - and those advocating it must remember that 25 years ago you could do what you liked to the greens between October and Easter and hardly a member would ever see what was going on. Today, we play golf all the year round and, hopefully, on good putting surfaces. If we have to upset members at any time, let it be for good, valid and unavoidable reasons and not unnecessarily.



**ASSISTANT  
HEAD GREENKEEPER**  
**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED  
FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT  
HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This is a working position for which applicants should be members of recognised trade associations.

A minimum of five years practical experience is expected and, in particular, a knowledge of sand-based greens would be advantageous.

Please write or telephone for an application form.

Single accommodation is available for this senior post.

Liphook (0428) 724555



**OLD THORNS**

GOLF COURSE · HOTEL · RESTAURANTS  
Longmoor Road, Liphook, Hampshire.

**WEST MIDDLESEX GOLF CLUB  
REQUIRE A PERSON TO  
JOIN OUR GREENKEEPER STAFF**

Must be of proven ability. References and career details with reply please.

Salary to be negotiated.

No accommodation.

Reply to:

**The Secretary  
West Middlesex Golf Club  
Greenford Road  
Southall  
Middx UB1 3EE**



# are you concerned with root development



Slow hard growth, a thick sward, drought resistance, soil conditioning, grass seed germination, tree planting, fine turf, land reclamation, indoor landscaping, a balanced management system, destructured soils, deep green colour, improving your soil ...

... then Farmura Environmental Products can help your management programme.



Ask for details of the Farmura range of products or write for colour brochure to:  
Farmura Environmental Products, Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent. TN27 9DU.  
Tel: Egerton (023376) 241

*Caring for the  
environment  
naturally!*

# farmura

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

## 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.

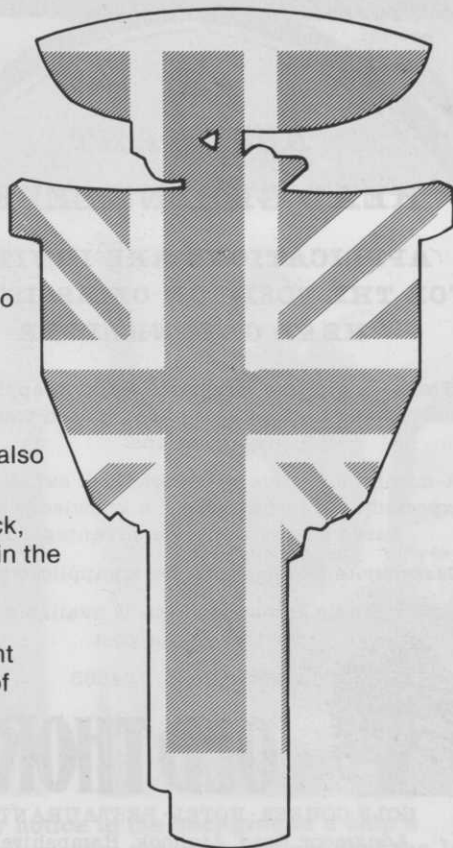
It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

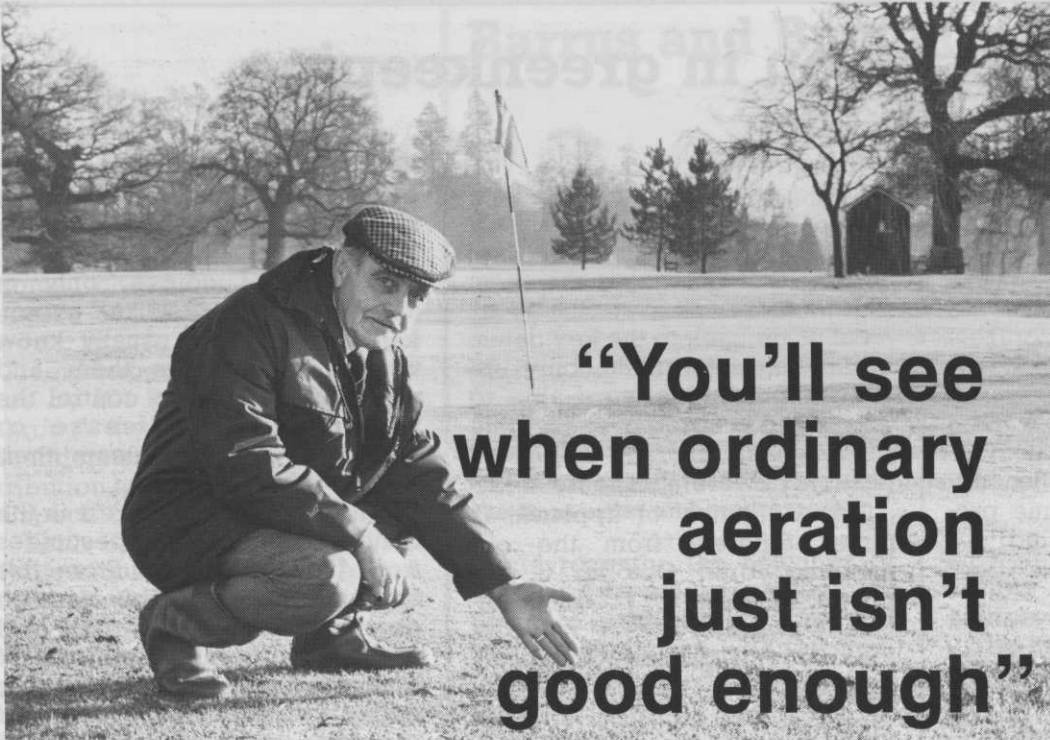
So if you have a golf course, tennis court, bowling green, running track, football pitch . . . or even a whole town to be irrigated and monitored in the Middle East, we can offer you irrigation equipment which is specially designed and suitable for the needs of those areas.

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





**“You’ll see  
when ordinary  
aeration  
just isn’t  
good enough”**

“You’ll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

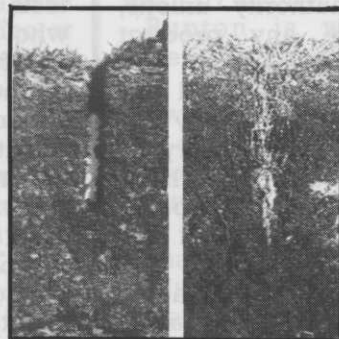
“What you can’t see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result’s the same. Water doesn’t soak in properly. The soil is starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You’ve got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn’t going to solve it.

“Hollow tine aeration is the answer. What the Ryan people call Core Cultivation.

“In fact, I reckon that for most heavily used sports areas, Core Cultivation should be a routine part of any turf maintenance programme. Not just a problem solver. Obviously, how often you use hollow tining varies according to different soil conditions. I find once in the Spring and Autumn is about right.

“So what’s this core cultivation all about?

“First, hollow tining actually removes cores of soil—and thatch of course. That obviously relieves soil compaction far better than a spike or slit. As a result, it opens up the soil giving better movement of air, water and fertilisers. If the soil is good, breaking up the cores, either by a scarifier or a Ryan core processor, separates the thatch, which can then be removed easily.



*New vigorous growth after hollow tining*

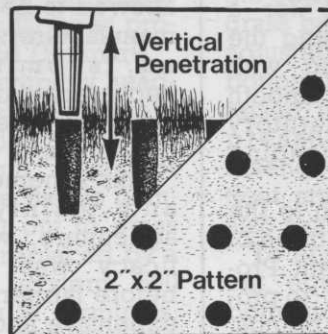
*Cores of soil and thatch*



“Why do I think Ryan hollow tine aerators are the best?

“Well, they’ve got some very special design features.

“Look at the Greensaire for instance. There’s the core pattern created by the tines. A close 2 inch by 2 inch up to 3 inches deep with a 24 inch swath. On a green of say 6000 square feet that’s 3 cubic yards of core material. And you can do that in well under an hour.



*Ryan’s unique design features*

“Then there’s the way the tines actually penetrate the soil. Ryan have a really clever design which makes each tine go in and out absolutely vertically. Unlike other makes, where the tines sort of rock to and fro which can damage the surface.

“It’s that sort of thing that makes Ryan aerators the best. In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It’s the best you can buy”.

## The Ryan Range

### Aerators

Greensaire 16in  
Greensaire 24in with optional  
Core Processor  
Ride-Aire 19in ride-on  
Lawnaire 19in  
Lawnaire 3ft tractor towed  
Tracaire 6ft tractor towed  
Renovaire 6ft contouring  
tractor towed

### Scarifiers

Ren-O-Thin 5hp 18in  
Ren-O-Thin 7hp 18in  
Mataway 10hp 19in self propelled

### Turf Cutters

J.R. 12in width.  
Heavy duty 12 and 16in widths  
with automatic chop off and  
turf rolling

### Purchase, hire or contract schemes available

Contact your nearest official  
Ryan dealer for further  
information

### Scotland

Autogarden (Glasgow) 0505 24341

**Northumberland, Tyne & Wear,  
Durham, Cleveland, N. Yorks. (NW)**  
J M Raine 0388 604847

**Cumbria, Lancs, G. Manchester,  
Merseyside, Cheshire, Derbyshire, N.  
Yorks (W), W. Yorks (W)**  
Fletcher-Stewart (Stockport)  
061-483 5542

**S. Yorks, Humberside (N), N. Yorks  
(Cen. & E), W. Yorks (E)**  
Sewards Agricultural Machinery  
0904 704121

**Ciwyd, Gwynedd, Shropshire, Powys**  
Walker Engineering 069-186 2447

**Staffs, W. Midlands, Warwicks,  
Hereford, Worcs.**  
E T Breakwell 021-7444477

**Lincs., Notts., Leics., S. Humberside**  
Lawnmower Services (Lincoln)  
0522 810562

**Northants., Cambs., Beds.**  
Rogers Engineers 0234 870201

**Norfolk, Suffolk (NE)**  
Ben Burgess Garden Equipment  
0603 628251

**Essex, Suffolk (SW), London (E)**  
R Johnson (T.E.S.S.) 0708 28811

**Oxon, Berks, Bucks, Herts, London  
(NW)**  
Risborough Turf Suppliers  
08444 3023

**Glos., Avon, Wilts. (N)**  
Bristol Garden Machinery  
0272 719361

**Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gwent**  
Celtic Mowers 0792 41517

**Somerset, Devon**  
L F Jewells 0278 424088

**W. Sussex, Hants, Dorset, I.O.W.,  
Wilts (S)**  
Marshall Rolfe 0794 513185

**Kent, E. Sussex, Surrey, London (S)**  
Shanks Mowers (Croydon)  
01-771 4811

**N. Ireland**  
Cyril Johnston & Co. 0232 813121

**Eire**  
Brophy’s Lawn & Turf Machines  
0001 974081

# RYAN

## Turf Care Equipment

### Distributed in the UK by Victa (UK) Limited



Rutherford Road  
Daneshill West  
Basingstoke  
Hants RG24 0QY  
Tel: (0256) 50301  
Telex: 858282



# Pesticide legislation in greenkeeping

OCTOBER 6 1986 was a momentous day for the chemical industry. After decades of non-statutory codes of conduct on the development, marketing and use of products, it signalled the change to statutory controls which will not only affect chemical manufacturers, but anybody involved in selling them through the established distribution chain in the UK. From January 1 1989, users of these same products will also be controlled.

## By Michael Coffey

The chemical industry is, of course, deeply involved in the new statutes. It needs to be because it will be most affected. Within this side of our industry, plans have been made for a number of years, expecting the inevitable and consulting with government to ensure a smooth transition from non-statutory codes to legally demanding controls.

There was a simple aim to the legislation, based on part three of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. This was: 'to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants; to safeguard the environment and to secure safe, efficient and humane methods of controlling pests.'

The act gave ministers the power to:

- Control the import, sale, supply, storage, use and advertisement of pesticides.
- Make information supplied in connection with the control of pesticides available to the public.
- Enforce these provisions with powers of seizure, disposal or remedial action.
- Call for data on all products.
- Issue codes of practice.

- Charge fees.
  - Authorise enforcement officers.
- These are the main issues likely to affect greenkeepers with, of course, the first being the most pertinent.

Let us go back to the key dates. From October 6 1986, only *approved* pesticides were able to be supplied, stored or used. Only *provisionally* or *fully approved* pesticides were able to be sold.

This definition of approval is rather different from the old meaning. Until October 6, approval applied to products officially awarded the 'A' mark by the old Agricultural Chemicals Approvals Scheme (ACAS). Products cleared on safety grounds under the old Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme (PSPS) were allowed to be sold and used, but manufacturers could, if they wished, submit to ACAS the necessary data on efficacy after two years' use under commercial conditions.

This scheme was non-statutory and mainly designed for agriculture, where proof of efficacy was usually required before farmers risked the use on expensive and valuable crops. It had no meaningful use in the amenity pesticide industry, although many people, most notably local authority unions, refused to use any product without the 'A' mark.

After October 6, the word 'approval' embraced both safety and efficacy. To meet the statutory requirements, manufacturers have to submit data on both aspects before ministers will grant full approval.

This has, perhaps, been rather long-winded, but with legislation now controlling all aspects of pesticides, all users can be sure

that the product chosen and bought will have been effective in proper trials, or is undergoing that process.

This is, of course, only of academic interest to greenkeepers who will usually know what product suits them and which is the best to control the various weed, disease or whatever other problems their course is afflicted with.

What is of more interest is the control on the users of pesticides from January 1 1989. From this date, any user who was born on or after December 31 1964 will need to possess a certificate of competence or else be working under the direct supervision of someone with a recognised certificate.

A certificate is also required for anyone using pesticides in the course of commercial service, such as contractors. Included here also are greenkeepers who may occasionally offer neighbouring clubs a spraying service whether or not a payment of any kind is involved.

Tests of competence for spray operators are being developed by the National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC), but are not likely to be set up until mid-1987. This leaves only 18 months to handle tests and issue certificates to all who require them. It may be helpful to note here that there is bound to be a long queue for the services of the NPTC. It has 52 county committees and they will be responsible for not only testing greenkeepers, but farmers, contractors, local authority groundstaff and all other categories who would be affected.

It seems clear that help will be needed. As a start, one of the first

## DOING IT IN GRASS? — DO IT

We believe we have the very finest and most comprehensive range of cultivars currently available in the Country. The quality of our turf is backed up with



duties of BIGGA should perhaps be to organise and coordinate the applications to the NPTC for testing. This coordination will not come cheap and a relevant source of finance is perhaps the contribution made to the Greenkeeper Training Committee by ICI Professional Products through the PGA European Tour. I understand that the 1986 contribution has yet to be allocated to a specific use.

Keith Cleverly, manager of ICI Professional Products, is committed to helping the industry through these complicated procedures. Keith initiated the Amenity Horticulture Committee of the British Pest Control Association and, as an executive board member, is actively involved in managing the training and certification of the ICI distributors who have joined the BPCA. These distributors are, perhaps, more affected than greenkeepers as they need to obtain a certificate of competence by January 1 1988 to sell pesticides. The chairman of the Amenity Horticulture Committee of the BPCA is Len Breakwell.

In the course of 1987, information about how to pass the NPTC tests will come from ICI and any help in matters of chemical application is always available from the company's Farnham office or territory managers. Similar services may also be offered by other manufacturers and distributors.

*Greenkeeper* plans to keep fully up to date with developments and will report regularly on details of courses and NPTC tests. In the meantime, it would do no harm for BIGGA regional representatives to get to know their local NPTC man.

## Barrus and Bunton get together



The Bunton 22in greens mower complete with powered rotary brush between the front roller and cutting reel.

"Until recently, the activities of E.P. Barrus were principally confined to outboard motors and garden machinery," Robert Bennett, company chairman and managing director, said, "but we have formed a new division to handle professional grass-care machinery and now represent Bunton, which manufactures products in the USA and Denmark."

The impressive company headquarters at Bicester is well-equipped to handle sales enquiries. After eight years of yeoman service, the Barrus computer has been put out to grass and has now been replaced by a brand new IBM system 600 megabyte unit with 27 terminals. Each sales desk has its own terminal that allows orders to be entered as customers dictate them by phone.

Bunton is well-known to American superintendents, for it has been building commercial mowers for over 35 years. Today, the company markets its equipment all over the world through a network of distributors specialising in turf products for professionals. The product line includes multi-purpose grounds maintenance tractors, commercial rotary mowers with cutting widths from 12 to 61 inches, greens-

mowers, edgers, trimmers and a variety of other specialised equipment.

The Bunton special 22in greens mower, manufactured in Japan, has a powered rotary brush mounted between the front roller and the reel. The brush rotates in the opposite direction to raise the grass before it is cut and is easily adjusted to suit the pitch of the bottom blade. The brush can be raised to reduce the amount of pressure on the grass or disengaged completely. A verticut attachment for thatching is also available.

To ensure a stable and straight cut, equal power is supplied to both sides of the heavy gauge aluminium alloy drive roller. The nine-blade, cutting reel is resilient and resistant to wear due to its hardened steel construction.

The machine is fitted with a standard handbrake to aid transportation over slopes and banks. Quick-release wheels have pneumatic transport tyres, which give good adhesion on uphill ground. It has an all-gear drive train and a four-cycle Robin engine.

Other features include a plastic grass box designed to catch all the cuttings and hold them.

# INTURF!

ated sports and amenity turf  
a friendly "traditional" customer service.

**INTURF LTD.,**  
**75 MARKET STREET,**  
**POCKLINGTON (07592) 4101**  
*evenings & weekends*  
**WILBERFOSS (07595)352**



# Aeration is not a passing fad but now a constant necessity

**IN 40 years of greenkeeping, I have lived through the acid theory, the alkaline theory, lime recommendations from Bingley in the 1960s and '70s, the 'unable to afford' fertiliser time to the 'as much as you can afford' fertiliser time. There was the time when we used little or no water and the time when it was "give 'em as much water as you can," which was followed by the time when cutting back in water was again advised! Things in this business seem to go in cycles, writes Jack McMillan.**

We have now reached a point in our history when another cycle is taking place. Over the last decade, everyone who is employed in the business of preparing and presenting golf courses has realised the importance of aeration. If courses are to become busier then, to keep a very natural structure, i.e. soil healthy, under very unnatural traffic, then we must be allowed to cultivate it.

Aeration programmes have caused so many problems for course management that there is now a move to temper the programmes in the interest of good club-member relations. I can again see a turning back of the clock to all the problems related to surface compaction, for there is nothing that can cause more aggravation, confrontation and pain among golfers than to see an aeration machine on the course.

I remember many years ago listening to an old American turf consultant from Miami, Tom

Mascaro, who said that man has known from early in time that if he stirred a soil with a stick, it became alive and plants thrived - early aeration, in fact.

Everyone in the business end of producing golf courses is aware that soil of any structure, whether it be on links, downs, parks or the varying types of heathland, requires aeration to remain healthy.

The machine trade, consultant agronomists, including the STRI, secretaries and greenkeepers are all aware of the importance of a healthy aeration programme. The only individual not aware of this is the paying customer, i.e. the golfer.

The machinery trade has gone to great lengths to produce good machines to carry out this work. Their responsibility finishes there - they take their money and go. I am sure we all, as greenkeepers, are delighted that these machines are available to us today.

The consultant agronomist, with one exception, gives excellent

advice and leaves the greenkeeper to get on with the painful business of applying the programme. Jim Arthur has, over the years, I am sure tried to get the message across to the paying customer, the golfer, not, I may add, without some pain in the process.

The club secretary is, like the greenkeeper, a bit nearer the scene of the crime. It is the secretary who is first in line when any complaints about the course arrive. It is his unfortunate role to justify the programme to the members. Hopefully, he will not be influenced into bringing pressure on the greenkeeper to reduce his programme.

The greenkeeper is the man in the firing line. It is he who is left to get on with the programme and carry it out. This part of the maintenance programme is the one that affects greenkeepers lives more than anything else. It removes him further from the person he is employed to please, i.e. the golfer.

Somewhere, somehow, we have to get the message across to the golfers that rather than it being a problem, aeration promotes his pleasure more than any other operation we carry out.

Without aeration, the benefits from fertilisers are lost, as it is pointless applying fertiliser to a compacted surface. Without aeration, the full value of wetting agents or irrigation systems is completely lost, leaving more serious problems from run off on proud areas, resulting in dry patch, or soft wet areas due to ponding in low areas, causing a stagnant rot. Without aeration, the course's ability to handle wet weather is also affected. Compacted surfaces do not let even normal drainage and infiltration rates work.

One of the more common comments greenkeepers receive is that the course is overplayed. Again, the message must be got over and it is that golf courses are for playing golf on, all the year round, as long as the prevailing weather conditions are right and



**Two generations of McMillans - Jack with son Billy, one of five sons in the business.**