

## Nice One, Jack!



Just about the only cheery note to come out of the recent Walker Cup debacle at Sunningdale was the universal acclaim for Jack McMillan's golf course. There was further cause for celebration in the McMillan household, for youngest son Cameron, 21, had just landed the top job at Liphook Golf Club, Hampshire, making it a full set of head greenkeepers following in father's footsteps.

Sunningdale courses manager Jack lined-up with (from left to right): Ian, 26 (Hankley Common), Bobby, 29 (Upminster), Stewart, 30 (Leatherhead), Billy, 29 (Sunningdale) and Cameron. Proud Jack said: "The McMillan family - 97 years in greenkeeping, 62 as head greenkeepers and its early days yet!"



Among the many helping hands during the Walker Cup were, standing: Cyril Hollis, G. Wilson and A. Moreton (all Sunningdale), Bobby McMillan, A. Watson (Tyrrells Wood), Billy McMillan, B. Wiles (RAC), M. Howton, Jack McMillan, G. McNiven (all Sunningdale), K. McNiven (Effingham), Bob Moreton (The Berkshire), J. Houston (Addington Palace) and D. Green (Sunningdale). Front: S. Godding (Sunningdale), Stewart McMillan, Ian McMillan, N. McTavish (Sunningdale), Cameron McMillan and Ian McNiven (Sunningdale).

Bill Brown has retired from the post of head greenkeeper at North Hants after 21 years.

At a ceremony in the club-

house, the captain, major-general Pat Kay, paid tribute to the outstanding way Bill had carried out his duties, presenting

## Changing Times At The Home Of Golf

The Links Management Committee at St Andrews recently opened five Playturf synthetic tees on its full-size practice ground.

The synthetic tees - the first artificial turf at St Andrews - were supplied and laid by Charles Lawrence Scotland. Each tee measures 5ft by 13ft and consists of an excavated porous base 6in deep, a ½in rubber shockpad and a woven carpet surface with a ¾in pile of green polypropylene.

Playturf was chosen after a two-year comparative trial of synthetic tee materials carried out at Stirling University for the Scottish Sports Council.

The new practice ground at St Andrews is a temporary arrangement following the purchase of 120 acres of farmland south of the Old Course.

Major developments, involving remodelling the 18-hole Eden and 9-hole Balgrove courses, are planned for late 1988 and, at that time, the synthetic tees will be moved to a new permanent practice ground. The small old practice area is now restricted to seven-irons and upwards.

Permanently laid synthetic tees are being increasingly considered for other stressful locations, such as winter tees, under trees and par-three holes.

Synthetics are used as well for heavily trodden paths. A recent example is the porous rubber walkway laid between the pro's shop and 1st tee at the Tytherington club, near Macclesfield.

The Charles Lawrence group is also experimenting with synthetic golf greens. As a first initiative, Charles Lawrence have installed an 'alternative' synthetic green at a course near their Newark headquarters.

For further information, contact Mike Abbott or Dave Blamire, Charles Lawrence Scotland, 42 Silverknowes Road, Edinburgh EH4 5LF. Tel: 031-312 7976. The Newark, Nottinghamshire office can be contacted on 0636 76218.

the course in top-class condition.

Bill received a framed certificate granting him courtesy of North Hants for life.

## TOO MUCH WATER OR TOO LITTLE? THE NTC'S 4th RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR COULD PROVIDE THE ANSWER

The National Turfgrass Council has established a tradition of topical and successful conferences, which draw together the industry's leaders. The fourth conference, a residential seminar at the Post House Hotel, Allesley, near Coventry, maintains this tradition. The subject - *Water Management For Turfgrasses* - will be covered in three sessions over one and a half days on Wednesday and Thursday October 21-22.

Good drainage is essential on the golf course and, yet, an STRI survey in 1981 showed four out of five courses had a drainage problem on at least one green. Research work has been under-

taken at Aberystwyth and Bingley to investigate the best construction methods and the right sands to use in different situations, to give the benefit of extra play throughout the year. This work will be reviewed in two papers, one by Steve Baker from Bingley and the other by Bill Adams and Richard Gibbs from Aberystwyth. There will, no doubt, be plenty of attention to the use of sand for golf greens.

Against all this research background, Geoffrey Davison of Cambridge Associates will describe the kinds of turfgrass drainage system that can be installed today and how to keep them effective, in spite of surface

capping and compaction. The various bypass systems (sand-slitting, surface-banding, etc) are particularly important in this respect. In the fourth paper of the first session, Bob Fry of the Land Drainage Contractors' Association will review the drainage industry, the cost benefits it can offer and likely future developments.

The second session looks at water management from the opposite point of view, making sure turfgrasses have sufficient water, especially on the free-draining constructions considered earlier in the day. Of all the technologies the greenkeeper has to master, irrigation is probably the most



Join Dr. Peter Hayes, DIRECTOR - STRI, James Kidd, ESTATE MANAGER - GLENEAGLES, Howard Swan CHAIRMAN - NTC and many more experts from the UK and International Turfgrass Industry, to discuss the subjects essential to the success of your job.

The Workshops will be of particular value to those delegates with responsibility for the planning and purchasing of products and the day to day management of all turfgrass situations.

Also of considerable interest to delegates will be the exhibition of a wide range of products and services, and the outdoor demonstrations of turf maintenance machinery.

### WORKSHOP DATES AND VENUES

- Tuesday 6th October**  
STIRLING UNIVERSITY - SCOTLAND
- Wednesday 7th October**  
HOUGHALL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE - DURHAM
- Thursday 8th October**  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTRE - STONELEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE
- Tuesday 13th October**  
BRITISH STEEL COMPLEX - EBBW VALE, GWENT, SOUTH WALES
- Wednesday 14th October**  
OAKLANDS HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE - ST. ALBANS, HERTS.
- Thursday 15th October**  
MERRIST WOOD AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE - WORPLESDON, SURREY

Attendance at the Workshops will be by ticket only and these are available from the organisers on receipt of the attached application form and a cheque or postal order for £7.50 (incl. VAT) for each delegate made payable to **Turf Care Workshops**. This small charge covers luncheon, refreshments and a publication containing full details of all the speakers' presentations.

Numbers may have to be limited - early application is recommended.



complex, both in the equipment itself and the understanding of its proper use.

The session starts with two of the country's most knowledgeable turfgrass irrigation specialists. Robin Hume deals with all kinds of sports turf, for which the ability to provide irrigation, at some period or other in the year, is virtually essential in a good management programme. Philip York will review the development of irrigation for landscaping and prestige amenity areas, where the importance of irrigation in order to achieve the highest standards, even in our climate, is just beginning to be recognised.

Two top managers, David Bracey of the Metropolitan Police Sports Club and Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles, will explain how irrigation is integrated with mowing, fertiliser application and all

the other aspects of fine turf management. In the session's final paper, Bob Moore from the Aquatrols Corporation of America will explain a technique that is becoming increasingly important - the use of wetting agents to ensure maximum water efficiency on turf, especially where thatch-related conditions cause problems.

In the third session, the perspective widens to include water in and around turfgrass areas. Glyn Williams of the Severn-Trent Water Authority reviews the availability of this basic resource - no irrigation system can function without assured supplies of sufficiently good quality water. Recent pesticide legislation has put particular emphasis on avoiding the contamination of water, in the ground or in waterways, and it will be especially valuable to

learn the proper management of the water areas themselves from this point of view. Gordon Fisher of Land Capability Consultants will deal with this topic.

The conference's second guest from North America is Jim Watson of TORO, who will explain what the USA has done to conserve water by using it more efficiently - another aspect of the wise use of irrigation. Finally, Peter Hayes of the Sports Turf Research Institute will look back over all aspects of water management and the needs of various turfgrass species. He will review research currently in progress in order to forecast the sound management practices of future decades.

Details of the seminar and a booking form are available from J.P. Shildrick, Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ. Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131.

## PROGRAMME

**10.00am**  
Registration of delegates - Coffee

**10.25am**  
Chairman's introduction  
**HOWARD SWAN**, CHAIRMAN - NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL

**10.35am**  
"Research today for the needs of tomorrow"  
**Dr. PETER HAYES**, DIRECTOR - SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**11.05am**  
"Modern turf nutrition"  
**KARL SEELIGER**, SKW Trotsberg AG, West Germany

**11.35am**  
"The thinking mans guide to turf irrigation"  
**PETER ROBERTS**, GENERAL MANAGER - TORO IRRIGATION

**12.05pm**  
Discussion

**12.15pm**  
Exhibition - Demonstrations  
TURF MAINTENANCE MACHINERY DEMONSTRATIONS  
Featuring Equipment from **Lely UK** (Toro Machinery) and **Sisis (Equipment) Ltd.**

**Buffet Luncheon**

**2.15pm**  
"Organics towards balanced management"  
**JONATHAN HARMER**, DIRECTOR - FARMURA ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

**2.45pm**  
"Chemicals - Management tools for the future"  
**KEITH CLEVERLY** BUSINESS MANAGER - ICI PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

**3.15pm**  
"Gleneagles a natural experience"  
**JAMES KIDD**, ESTATE MANAGER - GLENEAGLES HOTEL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX

**4.00pm**  
Discussion and close

**4.15pm**  
Tea - Exhibition

A complete and fully illustrated prestige publication featuring the 'Workshop' presentations given by all the speakers including special papers from both **Lely UK** (Toro machinery) and **Sisis (Equipment) Ltd.** will be available to each 'Workshop' delegate.

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- Thursday 15th October**  
MERRIST WOOD AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE - WORPLESDON, SURREY

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## People, Places, Products

Scottish Agricultural Industries and Norit-Klasmann (Scotland) have announced that SAI has purchased the business of Norit-Klasmann (Scotland), enabling SAI to continue expanding production of its peat and compost products. Further details from A. Gordon of SAI Horticultural Products. Tel: 0506 39281.

When Groves Marketing, manufacturers of Soilife, were taken over, Soilife, used by many greenkeepers to help overcome drainage and compaction problems, looked lost to the marketplace.

Now, Interbac are producing a range of enzyme products in Cork and Soilife is, once again, available. Farrant Chemicals have been appointed the sole UK marketing agents and all enquiries should be sent to their new office at 37/39 Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EH. Tel: 0962 51226.



Walton Heath secretary Wing Commander Bill McCrea (left) and head greenkeeper Clive Osgood (second right) took delivery of the Case International 485 tractor with loader and McConnell ditcher/digger.

Sportsturf consultants John Hacker and Mike Harbridge have joined Vitax to advise on product usage for sportsgrounds, golf courses, landscaping and general amenity areas and new product development.

The company's new fine turf fertiliser Weed 'n' Feed Extra is now available in 50sq yd (3kg) and 100sq yd (6kg) packs. At pre-

sent, the development is only available in 10kg bags (to treat 142m<sup>2</sup>) and 25kg bags (to treat 357m<sup>2</sup>).

Further information on Weed 'n' Feed Extra can be obtained from the Technical Advisory Service, Vitax, Palais Buildings, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB. Tel: Burscough (0704) 893311.



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## People, Places, Products - Continued...

ICI, whose wholly owned subsidiary, SAI, supplies fertiliser and peat-based products to Scotland, much of England and Wales, is to integrate its marketing arrangements.

Production by SAI of fertilisers and peat-based products will continue at their various sites, but ICI's plant protection division will be responsible for sales and marketing of the current SAI and ICI product ranges. Garden and amenity products will be marketed by ICI's garden and professional products departments and those for commercial growers by ICI Midox, which currently handles ICI's range in that sector.

In Scotland, the latter products will continue to be sold by SAI as ICI's sole distributor.

SAI production staff will not be



The Hodges & Moss low ground pressures sprayer at work.

affected by the changes and almost all technical and sales staff will be integrated into the new structure, which will become effective from next January.

For further information, contact Richard Walker at ICI's plant protection division on Farnham (0252) 724525 or Alec Gordon, SAI Horticultural Products. Tel: Livingston (0506) 39281.

The Belfry recently called in Shropshire amenity experts Hodges & Moss to conduct a comprehensive weed control programme on the Brabazon and Derby courses.

A two-man team from Hodges & Moss accomplished the task, with the help of a special low ground pressure self-propelled sprayer, in two days.

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## Wheel Of Fortune

L.D. Bourgein Oxford's latest attachment for the Task Force 700 trencher is the Oxford Wheel. It features tungsten carbide cutting tips to deal with the worst of ground conditions, including stone, concrete and brick found on made-up sportsgrounds.

The Oxford Wheel attachment ensures a fast neat trench with minimum disturbance, the spoil being removed by alloy conveyor at trailer height. Standard trenches are 2in wide by 10in, variable to 16in deep.

Other attachments include the VariDrainer for trenches 2½in to 8in wide by 0 to 25in deep, with 100 per cent soil pick-up and the standard boom for trenches 4in to 18in wide by up to 4ft deep.

Another Bourgein development is the fully automatic laser depth control, which means that, whatever the surface conditions, a level trench base with 0 to 11 per cent grades is guaranteed.

These attachments, together

with the dozer and backhoe options, make the TF700 a versatile machine.

L. D. Bourgein Oxford has offered a trencher sales and hire service for over 20 years, supplying the full range of Case/Davis trenching equipment. These are available with tracks or rubber tyres and units range from 10 to 70hp. The company will advise on the correct specification for each job.

Full details from L.D. Bourgein Oxford, South Hinksey, Oxford OX1 5AZ. Tel: 0865 735420.

**John Shaw Machinery recently held a field day at their headquarters near Hailsham, East Sussex. Among the many machines demonstrated were several models from the TORO range, including the new Reelmaster 216, Reelmaster 450D and Greensmaster 300.**

For further details, contact **Graham Dale at Lely (UK) TORO, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1QH. Tel: 0480 76971.**

## West Malling To Defend Course Management Title

The Course Management Trophy will again be held at Hankley Common Golf Club, on Tuesday August 4. The competition, for teams of three consisting of head greenkeeper/course manager, secretary and green committee chairman from each competing club, has a Bowmaker format (the best two Stableford scores from three) over 36 holes.

Winners of the inaugural meeting in 1986 were West Malling GC, who will be defending the trophy this year.

Hankley Common, used for Open Championship pre-qualifying, is a heathland course originally designed by James Braid and was described by the late Charles Lawrie as one of the best inland layouts in Britain.

Entry forms are available from the secretary, Hankley Common GC, Tilford Road, Tilford, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DD. Tel: Frensham (025125) 2493.

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# OUT ON THE COURSE



**with Ken McNiven.**

EFFINGHAM Golf Club lies in the heart of Saxon England – an area of Surrey that is a feast of rural beauty. There is scarcely a village without some picturesque association with the past.

A fine Georgian clubhouse lends an air of dignity and splendour to the character of the golf course. Like most others in the downland belt, Effingham is built on chalk, the finest base after sand for a golf course.

The course opened in 1927 and is a tribute to the architectural genius of Harry S. Colt. There are no drainage problems on the beautiful downland turf. The gently undulating terrain and fairways of ample width help inspire a golfer's confidence, its hazards are generally visible and, in keeping with modern requirements, its large greens are fair and interesting to play to, but provocatively subtle to putt on.

Course manager Ken McNiven (see footnote) is an engaging personality with an infectious sense of humour. Among his special qualifications in greenkeeping, he has a wealth of experience on different kinds of golf course.

"When I left school, I went into greenkeeping at Williamwood Golf Club, Glasgow, which was a heavy clay, parkland course not too easy to manage, but it was extremely good experience for me. From there, I moved to Ralston

Golf Club for a short spell before taking up my first head greenkeeper's appointment at Old Ranfurly Golf Club, Bridge of Weir, a moorland course. Later, I went to West Kilbride, a links.

"As I was relatively new to links type management, I was fortunate to meet an old greenkeeper, John Wilson, who had worked on the course for over 50 years and we spent many hours discussing the problems involved. His knowledge and shrewd advice was invaluable to me and, as a result, we resorted to using sand from the dunes and started collecting the seaweed on the doorstep, which was plentiful and free. This was stockpiled, shredded and mixed to make an excellent compost, which was used on the links in tandem with a regular slitting programme and it dramatically improved the quality of turf.

"I have two sons and a daughter and the boys have followed in my footsteps. The oldest, Graham, started at Effingham with me and did a four-year training programme, involving a three-year greenkeeping course and a 4th year in management at Elmwood College, Cupar. He has since moved to Sunningdale to broaden his experience. My youngest son, Ian, has also been at Sunningdale for the past two years. Daughter Kirsty, 14, is a great help to my wife Linda in the house.

"My golf handicap is five, but my main sport has always been shinty which I have played almost since the day I started to walk. I was born in Tighnabruaich, Argyleshire, a great stronghold of

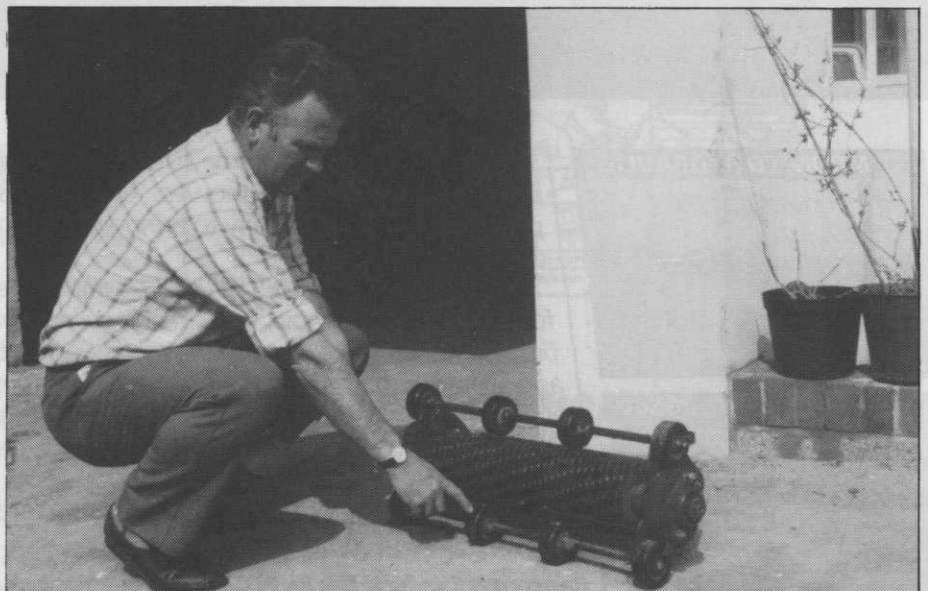
the game. It became a way of life for me – in fact, I was playing until the very day I moved to Effingham. I have represented Scotland on a number of occasions, playing in Dublin and Cork, as well as other international games – it's a fine sport.

"My move to Effingham in 1981 presented me with an entirely different situation from the heavy clay, semi-moorland and links courses that I was familiar with. Being on the chalk downs, I had to contend with another type of terrain and problems, so it took a little time to adapt to the new surroundings. That is one of the exciting aspects of our profession, it is never dull.

"The club is run on business lines. There is Effingham Golf Club and Effingham Limited, both of which are run by one board of management and I am totally responsible to the general manager, John Norman, a fine administrator with whom I have an excellent working relationship. His long experience with the club is a great help to me.

"A general budgeting system allows us to have the best of machinery and a staff of six greenkeepers to look after 18 holes set in 300 acres. Of this, 100 acres in the middle of the course is arable farming land.

"We have one of the first automatic irrigation systems ever installed by Watermation. This was updated about six years ago. As we're on chalk, the fairways don't dry out very easily – deep roots tend to draw a lot of moisture from the chalk. In winter, the turf is always clean



**Ken shows the extra roller wheels he fitted to this verti-cut unit, preventing the scalping of high spots on greens.**



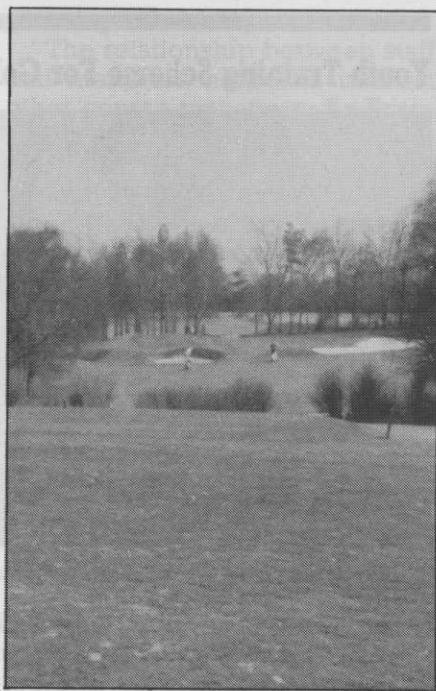
and dry and a joy to play golf on.

"Among my responsibilities is the upkeep of four tennis courts, two of which are grass and two hard surfaces. With no previous experience of looking after such sporting facilities, I had to look around for someone to give me a few wrinkles on the subject. I was fortunate enough to meet up with Jim Thorn, head groundsman at Wimbledon, and he gave me a lot of sensible advice and good information about all kinds of tennis court. This is a different kind of management from golf green-keeping.

"On the chalk downs, our main problem is the weeds and worms - if you don't keep the worm population under control, it means a lot of weeds, particularly daisies. I have also inherited a lot of speedwell, which takes time and considerable expense to get rid of as it spreads so rapidly.

"Our maintenance programme for weed spraying has to be done with a certain amount of care and caution. We have a great many wild orchids and flowers in certain areas that have to be preserved at all costs. A few of the copses get cut in the winter with a rotary, after which they are left to flower for the rest of the period. The trees on the course are mostly beech apart from a few ornamentals that have been planted by the club over the years.

"Effingham has formulated a long-term policy for the good of the course, so that the green-keeping staff can work within certain guidelines and plan the work programme accordingly. Many clubs don't have long term policy documents and work plans chop and change at the whims of every new committee. This is not good



**Effingham GC.**

for the course and it often disorients the staff to a point where they lose interest in the work.

"With regard to course upkeep, we slit the greens fairly regularly and topdress from February through to October on a monthly basis with a sand based compost - about 1½lb per sq yd. We spray the greens occasionally in the winter with sulphate of iron. This gives them a good colour and keeps fungal disease at bay. In the early spring, sulphate of ammonia is added to stimulate gentle vigour.

"I have always been a firm believer in the use of sulphate of iron. Its a good remedy for many things and is applied at 1lb per 200 sq yds to the greens. The best way is to spray it on and mix it with a wetting agent. It needs

very hot water to liquify the material after which it should be strained through a nylon stocking before using.

"I have been seen sneaking away from the rear of the clubhouse clutching a pair of ladies' tights, which makes me feel guilty, but it's all for a good cause!

"We try to maintain an even standard of upkeep and don't bring the course up to a peak for any one competition. If you take things to a peak, then you obviously must have troughs. We strive to keep the same standards every day, so we treat all golfers the same - one golf event is not necessarily more important than another.

"We have three acres of putting surface, which take just over three hours to mow with a TORO 300. We also have two GM3s; one is used for verti-cutting and the other, a back-up machine, does tees and surrounds. The fairways are cut three times a week with a set of Lloyds Leda Gang units even though there might not be a lot of growth. This always keeps them trim and tidy, in keeping with club policy."

Ken McNiven is popular among his contemporaries in the Surrey area and his enthusiasm to promote the cause of greenkeeping deserves some acclaim. His organising ability recently brought together greenkeepers and club officials for an enjoyable day's golf and dinner at Walton Heath. It was a convivial day for the 150 who took part.

● *Since John Campbell conducted the interview, Ken McNiven has accepted a post at Old Thorns.*

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## EDUCATION CORNER...

SISIS, in association with May & Baker and their distributors E.T. Breakwell and Cameron Irrigation, have announced an autumn series of seminar/demonstrations.

At each, turf management techniques and machinery for bowling greens will be shown, followed by lectures with slides covering disease recognition and necessary chemical applications. There will also be advice and information from irrigation specialists.

Dates and venues are Tuesday September 29, Hatfield Lawn Tennis and Bowls Club, Herts; Monday October 5, Blaby Bowls Club, Leicester; October 6, City and County Bowls Club, Oxford; October 7, Potterton International Sports Club, Warwick; October 8, West Midlands Travel Sports and Social Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

Admission by invitation only from SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield), Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire. Tel: 0625 26363.

## Youth Training Scheme For Golf Greenkeepers



Dominic received an engraved tankard from J. Hargreaves of SISIS.

*A scheme was set up in June 1986 to provide specialist training for 16 and 17-year-olds seeking a career in golf greenkeeping.*

*Close liaison between the De Vere Hotel group, managing agents and owners of The Belfry, and the Warwickshire College of Agriculture, who provide job training on a residential basis, has provided the basis of a successful first year's training.*

*The initial year of the scheme has been spent following the City and Guilds phase one course in horticulture and, during this time, a strong basis has been placed on greenkeeping and mechanisation. The second year will follow the City and Guilds phase two course in greenkeeping.*

*On a recent visit to SISIS, top trainee Dominic Moore-Corey (Worcester GC) received an engraved tankard.*

*Full details of the course can be obtained from the Warwickshire College of Agriculture, Moreton Morrell, near Warwick, Warwickshire.*

# THE DRIVING RANGE

The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases — whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.

**SUPER VERDONE\*** The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

**GAMMA-COL\* turf.** Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.

## TURF CARE PRODUCTS



# Professional

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.

