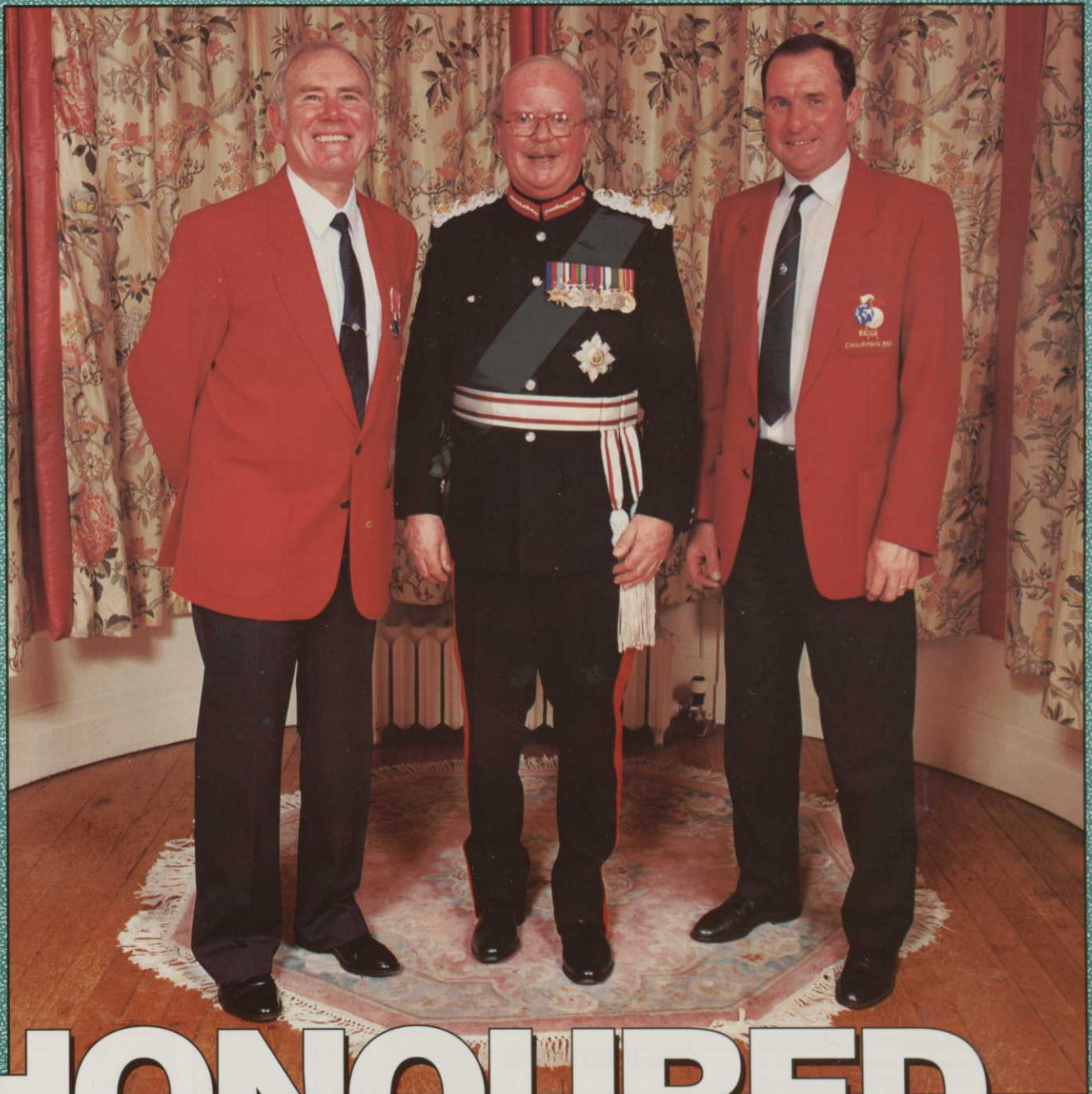


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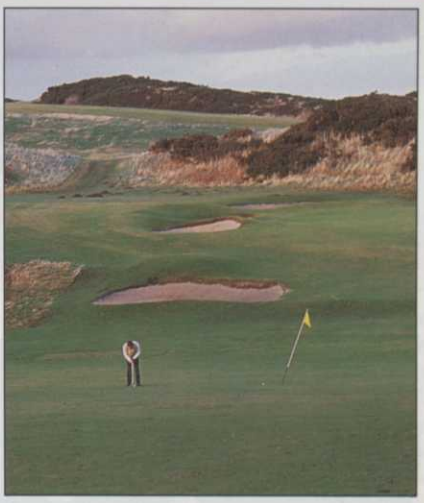
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Around the Green

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Flying Divots

Loopholes in the law, a peek at collective vandalism ...and a gentle reminder

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What's coming up in our world

COVER PICTURE:

Walter Woods, left, Lord Elgin, Lord Lieutenant for Fife and George Malcolm. Story on Page 5



On course for better greenkeeping

Join us

If you're reading this magazine and you've a vested interest in greenkeeping – but you're not a member of BIGGA, now's the time to join. Details are listed on this page and membership application cards are inserted into the magazine, opposite

The Board of Management has approved the subscriptions for 1992 as indicated below:

	New members in 1992	Current members if paying before 31st January 1992
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£50.00	£45.00
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£45.00	£40.00
First Assistant/ Assistant Greenkeeper	£39.00	£36.00
20 years of age or under	£26.00	£23.00
International – all greenkeeping staff	£48.00	
Associate/Company (including one year's subscription to Greenkeeper International)	£45.00	
Associate/Company without magazine	£20.00	
Corporate	£525.00	

Corporate members will receive an annual plaque in recognition of their support of BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession.

NB. The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper subscription rate should apply.

1991 members will be invoiced for subscriptions due prior to 1st January 1992. If you have not received your renewal notice by the end of December, please contact Headquarters.

Those enrolling in the Associate/Company membership category will be encouraged to play a full part in the Association's affairs. Associate members will be those having a close

interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. As such this category of membership will be of interest to Chairmen of Green Committees, Club Secretaries, Golf Course Architects and Constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping. Company membership is available on an individual or corporate basis and will be of interest to those employed within the fine turf industries.

Individual membership cards will be issued and will entitle the member to participate in all national, regional and section events authorised by the Association.

Holders of Associate and Company membership cards are not entitled to use their cards to seek courtesy of the golf course.

Delegate fees at both the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference, as well as at Regional seminars, will be offered to Associate and Company members at a discounted rate. Whilst many members may wish to identify with a particular local section or region, members are able to participate nationally if they so wish. They will be allocated to the section covering the geographical area in which they reside.

All Associate/Company members (with the exception of those Associate members in the £20 category) will receive each month a copy of Greenkeeper International, the Association's official publication and essential reading for those involved with or interested in greenkeeping.

A special Corporate rate is available for those companies wishing to enrol an unlimited number of their staff as members of the Association and individual membership cards will be issued. In recognition of their support of the greenkeeping profession, BIGGA will be presenting an annual plaque.

IMPORTANT – All greenkeeper members will be required to obtain a passport size photograph to validate their 1992 membership cards. The design of the new card allows for the photograph to be sealed, thereby giving proof of identity. BIGGA's Board of Management considers this innovation to be essential in preventing any possible misuse of membership cards particularly in relation to seeking courtesy of the golf course. Photographs are to be affixed by members personally on receipt of their membership card and should not be sent to Headquarters office.



Don't drive into trouble

■ **The ever vigilant** Jon Allbutt, never one to miss loopholes in the law or keep silent about inconsistencies in their application, has been looking into the tangled web of The Law as it applies to driving greenkeeping machinery upon the highway. At first sight it appears you can drive straight across a highway without taxation or insurance cover (though this seems foolhardy, as an accident might occur) but should you need to turn left or right – even for a few yards – a different ruling comes into play. Jon is discussing the matter with New Scotland Yard and will be reporting via Greenkeeper International. In the meantime, if you are in any doubt regarding legality, you are advised to contact your local police station.

■ **Vandalism on the nation's courses** has reached such frightening proportions that plans are afoot to cover the subject in depth during 1992. However, one isolated piece of information received is too good (or too bad) to let pass without immediate comment. Last spring, to 'celebrate' the privatisation of a municipal course in the Midlands, a number of the greens were sprayed by 'persons unknown' with a total herbicide, necessitating removal of the poisoned soil and subsequent returfing. Such senseless vandalism of excellent bent/fescue greens was bad enough but worse was to follow.

The work was put out to tender and an inexperienced firm put in the lowest bid. Instead of working largely by hand, earth moving equipment was brought in – several machines on a green at one time – creating severe compaction and soil destructuring. Despite a sensible specification, which included raking and heeling to ensure correct establishment of a firm but unconsolidated turf bed, the good quality turf was laid direct on to a rotavated and rolled turf bed, with inevitable subsequent local subsidence. One report told of a dog walking over one of the returfed greens and sinking to its belly! Here was a classic case of the contractor failing to understand the importance of maintaining soil structure or taking note of the standard specification: 'no wheeled or tracked vehicles shall be permitted on the area of the green and immediate surround once the basal formation has been constructed' An avoidable tragedy, but little doubt remains as to which was the greater vandalism!



■ It is appropriate that our final front cover for 1991 should acknowledge the recognition shown to Walter Woods, on the occasion of his British Empire Medal presentation at St Andrews.

A prime motivator in the formation of BIGGA and its first ever chairman, Walter was the man to whom the Association so often turned in those formative years. Walter's key role in raising greenkeeping standards is readily acknowledged and we add our congratulations to his richly deserved award.

• **Picture shows** Walter sharing his glory with two year old granddaughter, Leah.

■ **As a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper** member of BIGGA, you will recently have received a survey for completion and return to HQ. When analysis of returned surveys is completed, vital information will be available of lasting benefit to you, your golf club and the industry. If you have not already done so, please take time to complete the survey and return without delay.

Each greenkeeper completing the survey will receive a synopsis of the report; a similar survey conducted in the USA positively revolutionised the industry in that country.

■ **Reports from the recent** International Golf Trade Exhibition suggest that Tony Jacklin, yet one more professional golfer who has formed his own golf course design company, Golfscape, is in serious discussion with the PGA, who are considering leaving their base at The Belfry and purchasing Deer Park in Stoneleigh. If the deal reaches fruition the PGA would not only have new national headquarters but three 18 hole golf courses. One would be a 'championship' course designed by Jacklin, the idea being that it could host the Ryder Cup in 2001!

■ **Absolute clarity** in reporting is something which Greenkeeper International seeks always to achieve. My attention has been brought to a Flying Divot comment in October which was perhaps not entirely clear, that of the edict issued concerning Open Championship courses and of the R&A's insistence that Championship Clubs follow the advice of their appointed agronomists to the letter. This was, of course, not directed specifically at Royal Birkdale and certainly not at the Club's head greenkeeper, Tom O'Brien, but at all seven Clubs on the Championship roster. To quote our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, "the problems of this particular Championship course (Royal Birkdale) have been well known and documented over a number of years. As such, criticism of the present head greenkeeper is not justified – he worked within established guide-lines in presenting the course for The Open, but in terms of preparing the greens he was clearly not working from an ideal base". Greenkeeper International offers an unqualified apology to Tom O'Brien for any misunderstanding in the interpretation of this comment that may have been caused.

The BIGGA recommended minimum salary/wages scale

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary/wages scale, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff. The quoted rates apply from 1st January 1992.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£17,440 pa	£19,020 pa	£21,290 pa
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£12,590 pa	£13,715 pa	£15,345 pa
First Assistant	£209.30 pw	£209.30 pw	£209.30 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£196.70 pw	£196.70 pw	£196.70 pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper (All Courses)	Age 16/17 – £98.35 pw; Age 18 – £122.95 pw; Age 19 – £147.55 pw; Age 20 – £172.15 pw; Age 21+ – £196.70 pw.		

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations up to a maximum of 24% in the South East region.

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy,

the appropriate Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

NB: Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

■ **Basic conditions of employment should include:**

1. Where accommodation is provided by the Club, it should be rent free with heating/lighting costs borne by the Club. The Club should compensate for Poll Tax liability.
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the Club, a suitable remuneration in addition to the above salary should be paid.
3. 40 hour week.
4. Retirement Pension Scheme.
5. Telephone costs on Club business.
6. Mileage allowance.
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.





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GREENKEEPER

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Editorial Comment

'Way Forward' hits a major obstacle

This month's issue was to have included a light-hearted seasonal chiding addressed at green committee men, under the title 'twenty things for your green committee to consider in 1992'. Whilst I was indeed feeling in a sufficiently frivolous mood at the beginning of November to make the selection from the dozens of ideas that had filtered through during the year, my heart sank rapidly on learning (from a show of hands) at the excellent seminar at Cannington College that only a handful of the 120 delegates gathered had ever heard of the discussion document 'The Way Forward', and that only three had actually read it! What made Eric Shiel, who posed the question, and me even more incensed was the suggestion offered by one delegate that this was easily explained. The document, he opined, being critical in its comment of archaic committee practices, especially that of lack of continuity, had been effectively suppressed by Club secretaries and green chairmen.

To quote directly from the R&A document: 'An interest in gardening or farming is deemed sufficient expertise to enable members to dabble in the running of the course... lack of continuity is an inherent problem, though in many Clubs there is often one brave soul who will battle on as chairman/convener until he tires of the yearly abuse thrown in his direction from impatient golfers. His thankless task includes attempting to protect his green staff from the more belligerent members, and fighting in general committee for sufficient funds with which to manage the course. All in all, it cannot be said that the mechanisms of general or green committees are even remotely satisfactory as a way of running a golf course. Whatever else may be wrong with the many forces impinging on course management, there is no doubt that the committee structure (and the fact that those taking bad decisions will not even be faced with their consequences in the longer term,) represents a most serious obstacle to meaningful progress. Perhaps *the* most serious'.

With a liking for figures, I calculated there were about 100 greenkeepers at Cannington and in taking the insignificant figure of those who were aware of 'The Way Forward' - generously, say 5% - and computing this nationally, the likelihood is that less than 200 greenkeepers from our membership of 4,000-plus have read the document. Taken a step further, from that 200 perhaps less than half are head greenkeepers, this from a total of over 2,000 British Golf Clubs!

Where does all this lead, you may ask? Instead of listing 20 considerations, I put it to Club secretaries, all save the few that are part of a more enlightened structure, ie. with a green committee consisting only of chairman, head green-



keeper and secretary, and having clearly defined long term policy documents on course management, (Letchworth and Wishaw spring to mind as examples), to make Xerox copies of all 33 pages of 'The Way Forward' available to both their head greenkeeper and to all incumbents, both long standing and newly elected, who serve on committee. Further, I urge all Clubs to discuss and continuously act upon the implications of the document, and the national golfing media to broadcast the essentials which golfers really need to know in relation to golf course management. Acting upon the recommendations of 'The Way Forward', they will discover true salvation for Club, golf course and greenkeeper.

I am thankful to have this editorial column as a 'soapbox', for not only does it give me the opportunity to sound off on such matters as 'The Way Forward', but also to thank those who have made 1991 an exciting and eventful year in publishing. In particular my gratitude to the talented contributors, the BIGGA section reporters for splendid input to Around The Green, the staff at Aldwark Manor for valuable support; especially when I seem to have lost my way with the word-hungry computer; and most of all to the rank and file BIGGA members, dedicated folks all! May Christmas bring great joy to you all and the new year herald peace and prosperity throughout your world.

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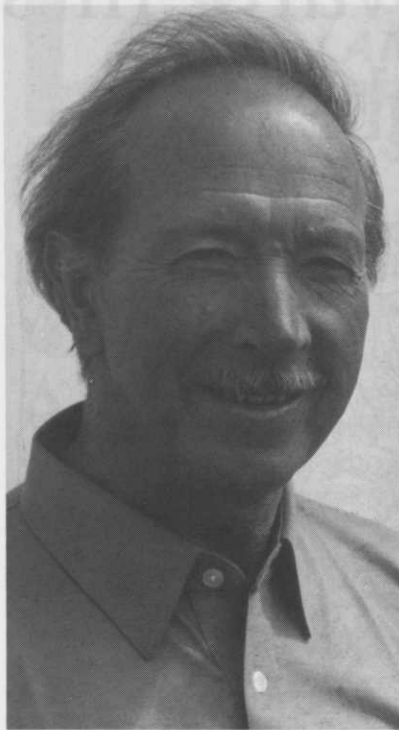
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ELLIOTT SMALL pays tribute to **CECIL GEORGE**, 'a man o' many pairts' who's now retiring



BIGGA's valuable ambassador

As we say in Scotland, Cecil George is 'a man o' many pairts': greenkeeper; educator; committee member; secretary; chairman; president; editor; poet and sometime singer of 'auld Scottish songs'.

Cecil began his greenkeeping career in 1943 at Whitecraigs Golf Club, a war intervening and taking him into the Parachute Regiment (if you can get him to relate stories of that time, don't miss them, they're as good as some of his old greenkeeper memoirs) before returning him to Whitecraigs, from which he moved to Fereneze and Cathcart Castle. Finally settling at Lenzie Golf Club, Cecil has remained true and loyal to the Club and only after 37 happy years is he hanging up his hat. Always renowned for preparing his course in first class order, many young greenkeepers received their own training at his capable hands.

Members of BIGGA will know Cecil from his annual participation at The Open Championship and for his many other Association activities, though what they will not know is the part he played in ensuring that greenkeepers were respected and recognised as professionals – and his gigantic contribution to the greenkeeper training cause. Greenkeeper training was and still is Cecil's passion, though in his early days there was no specific formal training for his craft and he was to attend night school at Glasgow Horticultural College for three years in order to gain his Certificate in Horticulture.

In the 1960s he was instrumental in setting up the first ever training courses for apprentice greenkeepers – at Glasgow's Woodburn House – and apart from his valuable initial impetus he also aided in the establishment of the specific

courses and with Bob Moffat both taught and examined the pupils.

Throughout his long membership of SGCA, SIGGA and now BIGGA, his enthusiasm for education has never waned. First education convenor for the West section, then education convenor for SIGGA and now Scottish Region Chairman of The Liaison Committee with the five Scottish colleges – which he was instrumental in forming, Cecil has also been the Scottish representative on the Greenkeeper Training Committee since 1986.

His contribution as speaker and chairman at our many seminars and conferences has extended over many decades, with one of his highlights being that of representing Scotland at the first European Greenkeepers Conference in Switzerland in 1972.

However, it is not only in the field of education that Cecil has made his mark, for during his long career his service to the West section as member, secretary and chairman is second to none. As a list of achievements, consider the following: SIGGA President 1960 and 1972, Vice President 1974, Editor of Turfcraft (the SIGGA Publication) 1974. Captain of Scottish Team – 1st Ransomes International 1973 (bringing the team to victory), and to mark his retirement he was invited to be Scottish Captain at Fulford in 1991. When BIGGA was first formed, Cecil was an obvious choice to represent Scotland as one of our representatives on the Board of Management.

As I began, Cecil is the essential 'man o' many pairts', though apart from this catalogue of dedication and selfless hard work, he is one who always has time to enjoy himself and can be relied upon to tell a good tale or sing a good song when the business of the day is finished.

On December 13th the Lenzie Golf Club are staging a dinner in honour of Cecil's years of service to the Club, a measure of the esteem in which he is held indicated by the event being a total sell-out! He may be retiring from greenkeeping but he is as keen as ever to continue the good work begun so many years ago and will continue to be BIGGA's most valuable ambassador.

To Cecil George, may you enjoy a long and happy retirement and may your dear wife Margaret enjoy sharing in your new found freedom and enjoy seeing a little more of you! All members of BIGGA echo our good wishes, none more than those college trained greenkeepers, who have every reason to thank you for their success.

● Elliott R Small is Scottish Region Administrator.

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TURNING

Who would have thought that the demise of chlordane would have caused so many problems for the greenkeeper?

Chlordane's only crime was to be a persistent organochlorine compound and as such was part of MAFF determination to phase out such substances. No evidence was presented that it was more harmful than was already known and, when handled according to directions, it gave excellent control of worms in fine turf. Its persistence was such that operator contact was limited to once per year and on heavy soils this could be extended to a span of once every three years. In COSHH terms this would have made chlordane the preferred substance as 'an engineering control'.

Not to worry, they said, now we have Carbaryl in a flowable formulation, which gives good control and is not so persistent in the soil. Carbaryl has the same broad classification as chlordane (both are listed 'Harmful'), but to give the equivalent degree of control as chlordane it needs annual applications and on some soils more than one application was needed. This means a higher degree of exposure to an organo-phosphorus compound for which there is an HSE Guidance Note MS17 - 'Biological Monitoring of Workers Exposed to Organo-phosphorus Compounds'.

The flowable formulations worked well enough providing they were applied in the right conditions and at the right water volume - eg. a minimum of 1,000 litres per hectare, (more than 100 gallons per acre in old money!). We were resigned to the fact that this was to become the standard treatment for worms: after all, this is in line with the current thinking on changing to the use of less persistent substances in general.

The new products have hardly touched the shelves of our stores when we learn that the supply of flowable formulations are to cease due to 'supply difficulties' from the EC manufacturer, who it seems has been recently acquired by Rhone Poulenc. And... surprise, surprise, a new wormkiller product is launched at IOG by Rhone Poulenc! Not a flowable formulation but a wettable powder, taking us back more than 20 years to the days of handling those nasty, awkward materials. Why, you may ask, has this been allowed to happen? The new formulation is MAFF Approved, so presumably all those distinguished (and expensive) people gave careful consideration to the safety of the operator when they granted the Approval. But wait - that is not all - for my bleary eyes read that the new powder formulation is "semi-persistent" for up to two months! Not quite the claims made for the flowable formulation. It now seems that we will have to apply this product, now the only available 'effective' wormkiller on the market, at least twice a year.

The operator must now handle a product that is classified as 'Harmful If Swallowed', in dusty powder formulation, pre-mixing it in a bucket before putting it in the spray tank. Then there are the problems of cleaning the scales (yes - you must go out and buy some scales!) and the mixing vessel, and then worry about effective mixing in the tank.

Is this the best that can be done in this age of enlightenment and concern about health and safety at work? Is the greenkeeper the butt end of some marketing joke by the manufacturers and an off-day by some Ministry scientist?

Not good enough, say I. Even a child can see that using the new wettable powder formulation is not just a

regressive step, it is a mighty plunge backwards to the bad old days.

In COSHH terms, if we were given a free choice, the powder formulation would be discarded in favour of the liquid; but we must not look back. Is this progress?

Jon Allbutt

No-one can accuse Greenkeeper International of blindly taking sides, although we are certainly not above taking a firm stand on issues that concern the well-being of the greenkeeper or his golf course. Thus we invited the manufacturers mentioned in Jon Allbutt's article, Rhone Poulenc, to offer their side of the equation. Here is their reply:

We believe there are a number of factual errors in the material. Our response, however, will be restricted to the main ones relating to our products.

It was surprising for us to read that 'Twister' is the sole worm control product available. This is totally incorrect, as Rhone-Poulenc market three products for worm control in turf.

'Castaway Plus', the original formulation of which was launched as far back as 1984, is as readily available today as it has been for some years. It is a flowable formulation and is held in high esteem by a large number of turf care professionals, offering as it does long term control of worms and leatherjackets.

Rhone-Poulenc launched 'Twister' as a wettable powder to increase the available choice of products. To help minimise handling a specially designed measuring beaker is included with each box of the product. Rhone-Poulenc think it is important that they give turf care professionals the option of being able to use a contact acting product and 'Twister's' contact action gives quick control of problem worms on playing surfaces ranging from sports fields to greens.

To round off this response, Rhone-Poulenc would like to point out that a third worm control product was launched at the IOG exhibition in September. 'CDA Castaway Plus', a flowable product, gives worm control at an application rate of 10 litres per hectare and when applied with a Lancelot CDA lance fitted with the new Rhone-Poulenc bleed valve, requires no mixing, is used straight from the bottle, and can be applied directly to the problem area. It reduces handling, saves time and is a major advance in terms of novel application technique.

In conclusion, Rhone-Poulenc feel it is important that greenkeepers are provided with a wide range of products in order that they may select the best application for their situation.

**Austin Davies, Product Manager,
Rhone Poulenc**

■ As the British greenkeeper struggles to keep down the nuisance of the earthworm, and to illustrate the difference in green-keeping methods and principles between the USA and the UK, an article in the most recent issue of the USGA Green Section Record, written by a Professor of Entomology in Kentucky, offers an alternative viewpoint by extolling the virtues of the earthworm and suggesting they should be encouraged, as they reduce thatch. Aeration and sensible management to ensure thatch-free turf is not mentioned.

Now we read (Daily Telegraph, November 13th) that 1.5 million earthworms are to be imported at a cost of £70,000 from Holland (no-one it seems was prepared to harvest worms in Britain, though in Holland there appears to be a thriving night-time worm catching industry) to improve the top soil over what was once a rubbish tip, on the Stockley Park golf course adjacent to Heathrow Airport designed by Robert Trent Jones.

Within three years the worms are expected to have multiplied 30-fold and when the course is handed over to Hillingdon council for public use in 1993, the worms will be turning thick and fast. Then, no doubt, the greenkeeper will find the worms and their wretched casts a damned nuisance and find the task of elimination made doubly difficult by the aforementioned restrictions on chlordane.



NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

27-29 March 1992

The Royal Agricultural College
Cirencester

For the fourth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education Conference next spring will feature a programme of international speakers. The event is to be sponsored, once again, by **Lindum Turf and Associates**. The Conference programme will be available at the BTME from either the BIGGA or Lindum Turf stands.

Some of the speakers and their topics are:

Tom Cook, Associate Professor, Dept of Horticulture, Oregon State University: Maintaining Pure Bentgrass Greens: Is it possible in cool temperate climates?

Neil Baldwin, STRI: Green Pest and Disease Control

Derek Green, Course Manager, Royal Liverpool Golf Club: Dry Patch

Tor Senstadt, Secretary, Norwegian Greenkeepers Association: Greenkeeping in Norway

Patrick O'Brien, South Eastern Director, USGA Green Section: Bentgrass Management in the South Eastern USA

Jon Allbutt: Using Chemicals on the Golf Course and Complying with the Law

William R Roberts, President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America: The Development of Education Programmes for the Greenkeeping Profession

Carol Borthwick, Senior Lecturer in Greenkeeping, Elmwood College: Where do we go from Here?

Laurence Pithie, Master Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Minchinhampton Golf Club: Golf Course Development – a Greenkeeper's Viewpoint

Barry Cooper: Golf Course Drainage Consultant: Golf Course Drainage – Before and After Construction

Jonathan Gaunt, Golf Course Architect: Project Management – How does it compare to normal Golf Course Construction Contracts?

Jim Arthur, Golf Course Agronomist: Sound Traditional Greenkeeping Practices versus Gimmicks

Gordon Jaaback, Agronomist, Conservation and Land Development Specialist: Limitations in Rootzone Design

Bernard Findlay, Course Manager, Portstewart Golf Club: Can you Build a Seaside Links or is that Nature's Job?

**The programme including application form will be available soon from BIGGA Headquarters
Telephone 03473 581/2 • Fax 03473 8864**

■ Solving the height of confusion

■ I feel I must respond to the Autumn Turf Maintenance programme employed at Ham Manor Golf Club (October), and would make three points:

1) **Height of cut.** Mr George Barr comments that he "raises the height of cut from 1/8" to 3/16" on his greens gradually over a period of three weeks". I presume from this that he regularly cuts at 1/8" during the summer. This would seem to contradict Mr Jim Arthur's article on Page 9, where the regular cutting of greens at 1/8" is thought harmful to turf. It is also contrary to STRI opinion and that of many experienced greenkeepers, who have seen the results of such treatment. Does Mr Barr advocate regular (more than a few days) cutting at 1/8", and if so, does he not agree that there could be serious long-term problems?

2) **Cutting height of adjustment.** Might it not be time to change to the metric scale, specifically millimetres? After all, we deal with hectares, metres, kilos and litres as a matter of course and I believe much confusion could be eliminated by adopting a millimetre scale dealing in whole numbers and not fractions. The metric scale appears to be eminently more practical and understandable and therefore less prone to error.

Also, is it not time for a more accurate method of measuring height of cut, especially below 6mm (1/4")? Even a small error can adversely affect the accuracy on the putting surface, exacerbated by the fact that cylinder mowers (and units) are set up in the sheds, where both front and back rollers and the height of cut setter are all rigid and unyielding, whereas the surface they relate to is anything but!

3) **Hollow tining.** Mr Barr states that he not only hollow tines in eight hours, but clears as well. This claim must be totally unrealistic unless his greens are only 100m² and all close to his sheds. He states that only one Ryan GA30 is used at 50mm (2") centres. My Club owns an Iseki Coremaster which we attach to a John Deere 885 compact tractor, both being less than three years old and in good working order. The speed needed to core at 50mm centres is so slow that our digital speedometer is incapable of consistently giving a read-out. The time taken to core our greens (average 500m²) at 50mm centres is approx. 50/60 minutes or more per green. If one adds non-coring time, such as essential maintenance on corer and tractor, breaks for the operator, travel to and from each green, plus stops for golfing play (to eliminate noise, if nothing else), the job takes two and a half days – this just for coring! Remember also that the job is done in October, when daylight hours are short and subsequently restricting any overtime that could be worked to finish the job. Mr Barr's statement could give the wrong impression to inexperienced greenkeepers, Club members and green committees.

If agreement on basic course maintenance cannot be reached, how can we achieve consistently high standards nationwide?

PAUL BERTINSHAW Head Greenkeeper, Royal Norwich Golf Club, Norfolk

■ After reading the October issue there are several points that require further discussion. Jim Arthur's article, "The Quick and the Dead", was full of useful and sensible ideas concerning the 'headless chicken' quest for speed. Common sense tells us that higher cuts are healthier cuts, whilst shaving to 1/8" leads to a thinning sward and increased weed and poa invasion. This is especially so when accompanied by the increased wear and traffic of 1,000 playing members, as at my Club. Add this to the dry summers and water shortages of recent years and we have a situation where our priorities have to be those of maintaining 100% grass cover. I am forever telling our members that it is better to have grass you can work with than no grass at all.

If one needs to increase putting speeds for that big event, it is surely better to top dress monthly, followed by verti-cutting, grooming and double cutting the day prior to the event. This would be preferable to keeping these speeds for long periods. The average 10-28 handicapper cannot cope with stimpmeter readings of ten feet anyway, never mind the lady members.

Yet further in the magazine we read of George Barr and his successful management techniques, including cutting at 1/8th for the whole season – what is the young greenkeeper to believe? Surely the magazine should be looking for some kind of continuity in its articles.

M JONES Head Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Course Ltd. Cambridge

We asked George Barr for further comments, which are printed below:

Both Mr Bertinshaw and Mr Jones seek uniformity of advice, or perhaps more accurately, advice with which they can personally agree. At the same time, surely they must concede that the practice of greenkeeping is by no means an exact science. It is the very fact that different management practices are followed – at different locations on different swards and in different circumstances – that makes greenkeeping such a fascinating and infinite subject. In replying to the specific comments, it is my considered opinion that height of cut should be the decision of the head greenkeeper alone – the one who is in control of the course – and not based on rules written in slabs of stone. Granted there are general rules to observe, but there will always be those who break new barriers, repeatedly obtain successful results and feel no pain. Such actions are based on personal experience and are called free choice. The greenkeeper is dealing with a multi-faceted living area and should alone be the arbiter, based on the many factors (soil, grass species, growth patterns, root qualities etc.) he is capable of evaluating. I can state categorically that the management programme outlined works remarkably and consistently well at Ham Manor.

Opinions expressed in these columns are not necessarily shared by the editor or BIGGA and the Association accepts no responsibility for them.

Letters to the editor are welcome on any topic related to the practice or pursuit of greenkeeping.

Write to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firls Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Letters should be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and good taste.

Letters

Regarding coring, the greens at Ham Manor are about 500m² and are what would be regarded as average size. The Ryan GA30 we use is a remarkably fast and efficient tool for hollow coring and, when coupled with a Cushman Harvester, we can (and indeed do) core and clear 18 greens in an eight hour day.

GEORGE BARR Course Manager, Ham Manor Golf Club

■ May I convey my sincere thanks to all those at Aldwark Manor who were involved in the recent TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper awards. Our Association representatives and the Toro and PGA personnel all made us feel most welcome. May I wish the winner and runners-up the very best for their future in greenkeeping and express the hope that we shall all meet again at other BIGGA events very soon. I shall remember the weekend for a very long time.

Mark Ellis Woburn Golf and Country Club, Bedfordshire

■ With BIGGA offering an ever increasing variety of official uniform dress, do you think it would be a good idea to provide official BIGGA overalls? A smart range would do much to improve the professional image we try so hard to create.

PETER LACEY Pennard Golf Club, South Wales

Moves are indeed afoot to make BIGGA neckties and blazers obligatory wear at all official or invited functions, such as the Kubota Challenge and the Ransomes International Tournament, and indeed such a 'uniform' greatly improves one's professional image. At work the choice is perhaps one of greater individuality, though there is certainly merit in a smarter, uniform turn-out.

■ Whilst I normally have the greatest respect for Jon Allbutt's opinions, I was disappointed by his negative comments (October issue) on S.P.I.s (spray pattern indicators).

Here was an opportunity for an authority in his field to welcome with enthusiasm a valuable tool which enables greenkeepers to be more aware of their responsibilities and the need for more accurate and controllable spray applications.

The letter asked for more balance, yet balance assumes some form of equality and I see nothing equal about towing a set of chains behind a spray boom or the spitting of foam blobs to mark a spray boom width when compared to the simple task of adding colour to an existing spray solution.

Regarding his questions on the use of S.P.I.s and the Control of Pesticides regulations, these products fall outside the scope of this Act as they exert no effect on the pesticides activity, being purely visual. Pesticide manufacturers are themselves enthusiastic supporters of this concept.

What I cannot understand is Jon Allbutt's refusal to acknowledge the value of S.P.I.s in identifying faults, eg. blocked nozzles on the job, relying instead on The Code Of Practice. Of course greenkeepers should read this excellent manual and follow The Code, but surely Jon must recognise that not everything is predictable and it is usually 'Murphy's Law' – anything that can go wrong will go wrong – that operates in the real world. If a nozzle becomes blocked it is usually impossible to identify without the addition of an S.P.I. and this results in a repeat application.

One positive aspect of his letter was his observation that some spray colourants sold in the UK can have a higher hazard classification than the pesticide with which they are mixed. Industrial acid blue 9 dye formulations adapted from the textile industry are used, whilst Blazon is a non-ionic polymeric colourant and has a non-toxic and non-hazardous classification.

So come on Jon, show an open mind to one of an ever decreasing number of products specially developed for greenkeepers. Remember, the status quo is a very safe state to be in but does nothing to aid progress.

RICHARD FRY Basildon, Essex

Richard Fry, the author of the article to which Jon Allbutt referred, is a Marketing Consultant, perhaps best known to greenkeepers as the head of Rhone Poulenc's (formerly May & Baker Ltd) Environmental Products Division in the early 1980s and the organiser of the National Turf Care Workshop seminars.

■ Back home again after yet another foray to Florida in my quest for the elusive work permit, my first move is to catch up on all that's been happening in the world of greenkeeping. Congratulations! Greenkeeper International continues to grow in stature and quality and is far and away the most eagerly looked for magazine in this household. Though it is hard to single out any particular feature or series for special praise, I always turn first to the brilliant cartoons of "Badleigh Dunne", whose characters from both the clubhouse and work place succeed in capturing the very essence of greenkeeping in such a delightful manner – and so true to life! Long may he continue. Then it's on to 'Flying Divots', the S E Regional news and stories of golfing prowess, made all the more interesting because I've often witnessed these happenings.

This brings me to a point regarding "the ladies". I believe it is very important for more ladies to give support and encouragement wherever possible. This in turn provides a splendid social outlet, one where the whole thing can be great fun through visiting wonderful places and meeting interesting people. I also gain much from technical features, as this gives me a better understanding of the skills required of our menfolk.

LINDA EXLEY
Northwood, Middx.

Linda echoes the opinion of many readers, all of whom say how much they enjoy the Grinkeeper cartoons. "Badleigh Dunne" is, in fact, John Moran, an ex-greenkeeper turned commercial cartoonist, whose work also appears regularly in national magazines and newspapers.

■ It is always worrying when those with little practical or technical expertise get involved in very important matters such as how to comply with the Control of Pesticides Regulations, and in particular the Code of Practice. In order to fully comply with the Regulations, the operator of a pesticide applicator must show that he/she is using a 'safe system' to accurately apply the pesticide to the target, and only the target. Whereas marker dyes will show the operator where he has been, correctly aligned bout markers quite clearly show him where he is going! Thus it can be seen there is a role for both marker dyes and bout markers and sometimes they may well be used in combination to good effect. Ground conditions vary so much that having options is very wise, and all who are involved in this area, be it selling, advising or using, must be responsible and professional in their approach to protecting the environment.

JON ALLBUTT Biggin Hill, Kent

■ I have now read and re-read Mr Jim Arthur's article entitled 'The Quick and The Dead', which appeared in your November issue. On behalf of our Tournament Committee and senior colleagues I write to advise you that the Tour are appalled at his ill-informed references towards our efforts to assist greenkeepers involved with Tour events. Indeed, we believe that elements of Mr Arthur's comments are potentially damaging to the Tour and look to your magazine to reproduce this reply.

I question Mr Arthur's current knowledge of principles or methods that are now employed on the PGA European Tour, as the consultancy relationship the Tour had with him ended several years ago. It should be pointed out that the Tour look to putting greens; 1) as being true as possible, free from bumps and 'snaking'; 2) having a consistent resilience for bounce and grip, ie. a poorly struck shot should not hold the putting green; 3) having as fast a speed of putting surface as possible taking account of slopes and grass species and; 4) having consistency on all 18 greens, practice putting green and chipping greens.

I will, however, reiterate that the sound principle of aeration and sensible levels of water and fertilisation for putting greens preached by Mr Arthur still hold true today. Our approach in recent years has been one of gentle persuasion to build up a good working relationship with host greenkeepers. In the last three years we have organised two one-week seminars to enable all greenkeepers and managers of the Tour venues to meet and exchange ideas.

We feel these exchanges can only be good for the game, believing that no one person can honestly claim to have total knowledge.

In our experience of running professional golf tournaments, which even Mr Arthur might concede is considerable, we have found that the wish of everyone concerned at a Tour venue is to achieve perfection in terms of presentation for their tournament week, and if we are asked to provide practical help, we will continue to do so.

It is quite wrong to suggest that the Tour have advocated prolonged 'shaving' of greens to achieve speed alone. Indeed, all the methods mentioned by Mr Arthur – including rolling – have been used to good effect and certainly in taking the long term health of the Tour golf courses into consideration. Mr Arthur seems to suggest that the Tour have no care or consideration for the venue when the final putt of the tournament is holed. I regard this as so contemptuous that it does not even require further comment!

It seems that the inclusion of Tour representatives on the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee doesn't meet with Mr Arthur's approval.

Our wish, and we believe it is also that of the R&A, is that with all parties 'pooling' ideas constructive ideas may be forthcoming.

Please suggest to Mr Arthur that many if not all readers of your magazine would dearly love to read constructive ideas from a man who was, for so long, the agronomist. I am sure that he can pass on a great deal of knowledge, rather than embarking on yet another attempt to discredit other organisations or individuals.

J N PARAMOR Director of Tour Operations, PGA European Tour
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1991 11

Breaking

Winter play on greens – a topic never to be brought up in polite conversation. But just what is the answer to this perennial problem? James T Snow, National Director, USGA Green Section, considers a few of the alternatives

It is common knowledge that three topics are simply too controversial and should never be brought up at social functions: politics, religion, and winter play on greens. Not familiar with the last? If not, then you apparently haven't spent much time at golf courses during late autumn and early winter.

Few subjects raise such an emotional response from greenkeepers and golfers alike. Golfers can become irate at actions restricting their access to regular greens during late autumn, winter and early spring, while greenkeepers are just as unyielding in their view that play should be kept off the greens at those times.

Who's right?

As with most topics of this nature, qualifications have to be tacked on to any firm answer. It is safe to say, however, that winter play can only harm the greens and in many instances it has a significant negative impact on the health and playability of the turf during the following golf season.

Repercussions of winter play

It is not hard to understand why many golfers are sometimes sceptical about claims concerning the negative effects of winter play, because to them the turf on greens that have been played throughout the winter usually appears the same as the turf on greens that have been closed. The effects of winter traffic, however, need not be obvious and dramatic to have significant and long-lasting repercussions.

Direct wear injury – Thinning of the turf due to direct wear injury is an obvious and important result of winter traffic. Unlike during the growing season, when the turf is able to regenerate new leaves and stems to replace injured tissue daily, winter weather completely halts turf growth; the grass is continually thinned throughout the winter in direct proportion to the amount of traffic. This thinning of the turf canopy can and often does encourage the establishment of such weeds as *Poa annua*, crabgrass, goosegrass, moss, algae, pearlwort, spurge and other weed pests during the spring and summer. True enough, weeds can indeed be a problem on greens that are not subjected to winter play, but winter traffic causes them to be just that much more abundant and difficult to control.

Soil compaction – Soil compaction is a more subtle and perhaps more important consequence of winter traffic. Because of the cold winter temperatures and the lack of active turf growth, the loss of excess soil moisture through evaporation and transpiration is greatly reduced. In addition, frozen sub-surface soils may completely block the movement of excess moisture through the soil profile. During the summer a very heavy rainfall often creates soil conditions that warrant closing the course for a day or two until the excess moisture is eliminated by way of evaporation, transpiration and downward percolation through the soil

Pictured right, top: an intelligent, well prepared temporary green is no punishment.

Below, left: the blotched effect of winter play shows up early...

...and is exacerbated the following spring! (Centre).

Picture lower right: poor drainage and air circulation. Likely cause? Heavy compaction through playing on wet or thawing greens.

profile. Because these moisture losses are often non-functional during the winter, saturated soil conditions can persist for weeks or longer. Yet the golfers who can appreciate the need to close the course during the summer are completely unsympathetic to the same conditions during the winter.

The effects of soil compaction on the health and playability of the turf are insidious at any time, but because wet soils are especially prone to compaction, the likelihood of traffic causing the collapse of good soil structure is of constant concern during the winter. As soil particles are compacted and pushed closer and closer together, the pore space that facilitates drainage and root growth during the summer is gradually lost. As the season finally commences golfers often complain that these compacted greens are hard. From an agronomic stand-point, turf begins the season in a weakened state predisposed to a host of summer problems. In addition to the potential for weed encroachment, the turf on greens played during winter tends to wilt more readily during hot weather and often is more susceptible to a wide array of primary and secondary disease organisms.

Effects on playability – With the loss of turf density from direct wear injury and the loss of turf vigour caused by soil compaction, greens played during winter tend to be hard, slow and bumpy, and they are slower to develop during the spring compared to greens that are not subjected to winter traffic. Footprinting is often a problem and golfers tend to complain about the lack of trueness even after several topdressings in the spring. Finally, the effects of compaction on the health of the turf can last to a certain extent for much of the season, making it difficult or impossible to keep greens as closely cut and intensively groomed as some golfers may desire.

Many winter golfers have heard these arguments before and have dismissed them as being the ravings of overprotective greenkeepers and turfgrass scientists. A favourite response is: "I pay plenty to play golf at this Club and I'm going to use the regular greens during the winter. That's why we pay the greenkeeper – to fix up the greens in time for spring. Besides, the Let-'Em-Play-Anytime course down the street lets them play through the winter and they don't lose any grass during the summer. Anyway, we only have a few groups that play much during the winter. How much damage can we do?"

Factors to consider

On the surface, these comments seem quite valid; after all, everything is a matter of degree. But many factors should be taken into account in developing a logical policy on winter play.

Anticipated traffic – If a single round were played on the course during the winter most would agree that the potential for serious damage would be nil. Same for ten rounds? How about 100, 500 or 1,000? If the weather is mild and there is little snow, how many more rounds will it add? Where do you draw the line?

Soil type – Winter golfers argue that sand-based greens drain well and don't compact, making them very suitable for winter play at any time. While it is true that sand-based greens don't suffer from compaction to the same extent that older soil-based greens might, it is also true that direct-wear injury is likely to be more severe on sand greens. Turf density can be greatly compromised and weed encroachment

a TABOO



can be a real problem. Obviously, courses with older soil-based greens are especially vulnerable to both types of winter injury.

Specific weather conditions – Though traffic on dormant turf will indeed cause some injury, the weather and soil conditions at the time of play will dictate the type and extent of the damage. Traffic on dry, unfrozen soil will cause the least damage, but this condition is rare during the winter. Frozen soil can cause significant wear injury but little soil compaction. Play on wet, unfrozen soil can result in significant

soil compaction but less wear injury. Play on a thawing soil (wet on the surface, frozen below) can result in severe soil compaction and wear injury and should be avoided. Finally, frosted turf is extremely susceptible to direct injury and play should never be allowed.

Grass species – Do you have fine bent/fescue greens and want to keep them? Then don't allow winter play. Thinned turf and compacted soil is just what *Poa annua* is looking for in the spring.

Cultural maintenance programmes – Winter golfers argue

'Temporary greens can be est

that a good head greenkeeper should be able to fix any damage done during winter by aerifying, topdressing, overseeding, fertilising and irrigating during the early spring. If weed encroachment is a problem, then he should apply herbicides to kill the weeds and pre-emergent herbicides to prevent crabgrass and goosegrass from developing. However, a) it would be a rare case where intensive spring work would completely compensate for the wear injury and soil compaction resulting from winter play, b) chemicals applied to control crabgrass and other weeds have a negative effect on the root growth and the overall health of the turf during the summer, c) golfers despise the intensive aerification and topdressing required during the early spring, since most of them return after a winter lay-off and find their greens ripped up and in poor playing condition for weeks or more, and d) all of the work to renovate the greens takes more money for labour and materials and comes at the expense of other spring course preparation activities.

History of winter injury – The effects of winter play can exacerbate the injury from other types of winter problems, including desiccation, winter diseases and low-temperature kill (ice damage). Winter play should therefore be avoided if the course regularly suffers from other forms of winter injury.

Previous weed problems – Courses that have previously experienced and are concerned about weed problems such as crabgrass, spurge, moss, algae and *Poa annua* would do themselves a favour by avoiding winter play on the regular greens.

Recent stress problems – Winter play is best not allowed on greens that have experienced any turf loss or extreme weakness during the previous year or years caused by heat stress, secondary disease problems such as anthracnose or summer patch, nematodes or other summer stress problems. Greens like these probably would suffer even greater prob-

lems if they were burdened with the vigor-inhibiting effects of winter play.

Trees – Greens close to large trees that suffer from shade, air circulation or tree root competition problems should not be forced to endure the complicating effects of winter play. Compared to turf growing in clear areas, greens in locations like these usually respond very slowly in the spring and tend to be weak during the summer. Many greens on older, mature courses can be grouped in this category.

Standards for play – One of the most important questions to ask in contemplating whether or not to use regular greens in winter concerns what the golfers want from the greens during the regular season. If they want top-quality turf from spring to autumn, involving close, frequent cutting, double cutting, frequent verticutting, lean fertilisation, minimal irrigation or other stress-inducing practices, then it is best to avoid winter play. If the golfers don't mind higher cutting heights, slower speeds and greater inconsistency then winter golf was made for them. Some bias in that statement? Perhaps, but too many golfers want to trample their dormant greens in winter and then enjoy US Open conditions from April through November. There are still some things that money can't buy.

Some alternatives

Given that this article won't end the use of regular greens during winter on all courses, a look at some of the alternatives might prove useful in establishing a winter policy.

Use temporary greens. Many courses avoid winter injury by establishing temporary greens on the fairway approach to the existing greens. Often these areas are aerified and topdressed several times during the autumn and the cutting height is lowered to provide a reasonable putting surface for the winter. Sure, it's more fun to hit to regular greens but isn't it worth sacrificing a little bit during the winter to keep



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Established on existing fairways'

the greens in good condition for spring, summer and autumn? The best policy is to close the greens when growth ceases and open them in spring only when growth resumes and the soil has dried enough to resist compaction.

Design a winter course. This should be especially appealing to the addicts who simply can't get enough. Many Clubs play their course backwards, going from green to tee using the tee as a target or establishing a temporary green at the tee end of the fairway. Others use their imagination and design holes in a cross-country style, crossing roughs and water hazards that might rarely be seen or appreciated when golfers play the regular course. Temporary greens can be established on existing fairways or roughs, near fairway bunkers, water hazards or groupings of trees. The possibilities are limitless.

Establish temporary greens, but use them only when conditions are not appropriate for using the regular greens. This is a bad policy because conditions can go from fair to terrible in just a few hours. For example, greens that are frozen in the morning can thaw as temperatures rise during the day. If play is allowed on the regular greens in the morning, at what point should you switch to temporary greens? Who will decide? Will golfers already on the course be notified of the change? Obviously, the logistics of this policy are difficult and the likelihood of damage to greens is great.

Use regular greens during the winter but close the course on days when the potential for damage is great. This policy has the same flaws as the one previous. In some ways it's even worse, because the days when the greens should be closed, when temperatures rise above freezing and the putting surfaces become thawed, are the same days that most winter golfers want to be on the course. Greenkeepers can come under great pressure from Club officials to keep

the course open, despite their misgivings, and sometimes they are simply overruled.

Play the greens throughout the winter, regardless of conditions. Because the alternatives require difficult decisions and complicated logistics, many courses opt for this worst-choice policy. For the reasons we've outlined, these courses are just asking for problems.

Close the course for the winter. From the stand-point of having the greens, tees and fairways in the best possible condition for spring, this is certainly the best policy. There is no doubt that winter play on the tees and fairways can thin the turf and compact the soil just as it can on greens. However, golfers don't putt on tees and fairways during the summer and don't mind some cultivation and overseeding of these areas during the spring. Nevertheless, many courses establish temporary greens for the winter, or sacrifice small portions of the regular tees for winter use if play is expected to be moderate or heavy. If the Club decides to keep the course open, whether or not regular greens are used, golfers should be asked to wear shoes without spikes or cleats whenever possible and carts should be restricted to paths - if they are allowed at all.

Winter play can do an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens in relation to the number of rounds. Every Club considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting their playability for a significant period of the regular season by allowing a relatively small percentage of the Club's members to use them all the time. In the view of most head greenkeepers, turf grass scientists and agronomists, it is not. Unfortunately, even the considered opinion of the experts is unlikely to separate winter play from politics and religion as a topic of controversy among golfers.

● This article first appeared in the USGA Green Section Record in November 1987 to nationwide acclaim. It is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks to James Snow, whose wise words demand repeating. Certain minor text changes have been made to adapt US terminology to a European readership, eg. 'fall' has been changed to 'autumn' and 'golf course superintendent' to 'greenkeeper'.

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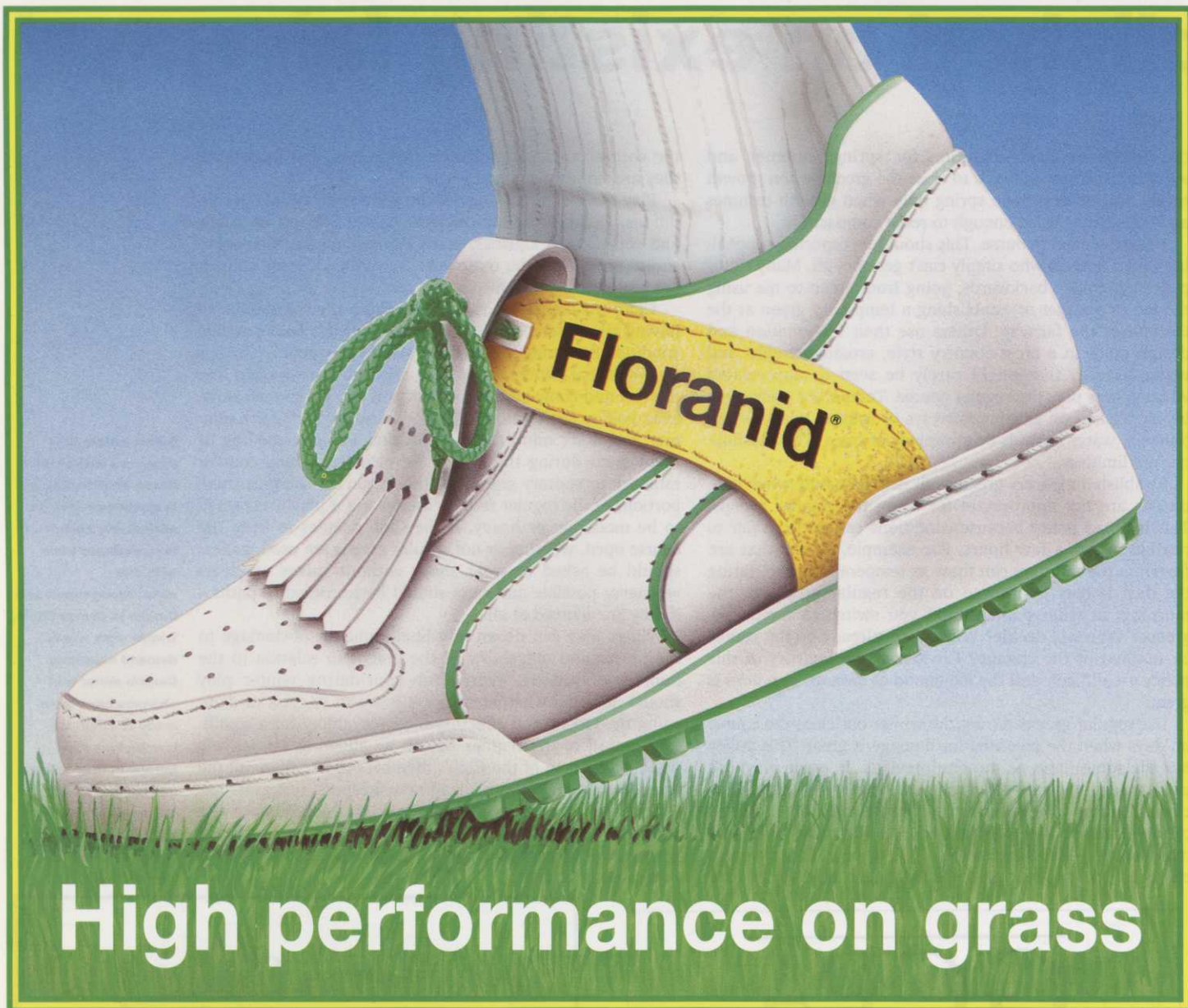
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GREENKEEPERS LIBRARY

by DAVID WHITE

Readers of this magazine will be well aware of my enthusiasm for the course design excellence of Harry Shapland Colt, the golf course architect of genius who left a lasting legacy of perfection on every course he created. The player who is jaded by dull routine, or exasperated by the weird, monster creations of many of the latter-day pro-cum architects, has only to seek out a Colt course in order to re-discover the proper meaning of golfing joy and its many delightful examinations.



Consider the attractions of the wonderful Colt courses in Britain such as Beaconsfield, Betchworth Park, Blackmoor, Calcot Park, Churston, Denham, Edgbaston, Ham Manor, Longniddry, Moor Park, Northampton County, Princes (with Guy Campbell), Rye, St Georges Hill, Stoke Poges, Sunningdale New, Tandrige and Wentworth, the delicious St Cloud in Paris and the glorious Pine Valley in the USA, where his hugely effective influence resulted in the greatest course creation of all time, and you will instantly appreciate why Colt is still held to this day as the consummate course artist of all time.

Already reviewed in these pages in August, I make no apology for bringing the book *Colt & Co., Golf Course Architects*, by Fred Hawtree to your attention again, simply because in my view it is a work of merit that will add greatly to the greenkeepers understanding and appreciation of the way the great man operated: his ideas, dreams and design concepts.

My views on Colt's brilliance are endorsed by almost every modern day architect, with this further exposure encouraged by the knowledge that the publishers, Cambuc Archive, are to make available a special **BIGGA members only** offer over the winter of 1991/2 (ends March 31st 1992), reducing the price of the book to £21 inclusive of post and packing, representing a saving of £6. The book is a numbered limited edition of just 1,000 copies, and if present trends in golf book collecting continue, is likely to become a highly prized collectors item before too long. The offer made is strictly on a first come first served basis. I ended my original review by urging every reader to buy the book. I still do!

Colt & Co., Golf Course Architects, by Fred Hawtree, (214pp hardback), published by Cambuc Archive. Readers should send a cheque made out to BIGGA for £21. Orders received before December 15th will be posted in time for Christmas.

Congratulations are due to NTC and GNAAC for a much expanded and revised 'Amenity Code', officially titled: *The New Revised Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides In Amenity and Industrial Areas*. The very difficult job of knitting the COSHH regulations into the text, as they apply to the use of pesticides, has been achieved without making the Code more complicated and difficult to read.



The improved layout makes it possible to quickly find and look at individual sections without plodding through the text, clear guidance being the rule of thumb. One such example is the guidance given to the problem of when certification is required by operators who use pesticides, another the very important consideration when using pesticides as to what other legislation might be involved, particularly as it

relates to possible pollution of the environment arising from misuse. The Code deals with this very well, placing information where it is relevant to the operation.

The guidance on storage, disposal, the selection and use of personal protective clothing and the planning of the operation well ahead of the day of spraying, are very well covered, and of particular value is the guidance on who should be consulted to ensure that particular operations – such as disposals – do not constitute a breach of other legislation.

I am at a loss to understand why the 'Protective Clothing' chart used in the Agricultural Code for 'Permitted Non-Label Uses' is reproduced here. The term 'Protective Clothing' is now referred to as Personal Protective equipment, and the idea of using Approved products for non label uses in Amenity Horticulture makes me shudder!

Sadly the guidance on calibration is confusing and not in line with the standard system taught on pesticide courses. It is correct as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.

I would have thought that the BCPC guide on spray quality and its importance in minimising spray drift would be very helpful in Part 9 of the Code, for it is something that is being emphasised on training courses and NPTC Examiners are obliged to ask test candidates questions on spray quality.

Overall the Code has been very well revised and is now an invaluable and essential reference work for all involved in the use of pesticides – order your copy now! JON ALLBUTT

Copies of *Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity and Industrial Areas* (80pp soft cover) are available from The Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, BD16 1HZ. £12 including postage.

The recent STRI publication, David Lawson's *Fertilisers for Turf*, is one that will find considerable appeal amongst greenkeepers, though some of the more learned sectors ('learned' being editorial jargon for 'over my head') contain chemical formulae written perhaps more to please the technical laboratory boffin than the practitioner. That stated, the chapters on sources of mineral nutrients for turf, fertiliser programmes (including timing), and an eminently understandable chapter on soil pH and turf growth, make this a worthwhile and practical working manual for all within the amenity turf industry. Copies of *Fertilisers for Turf* (47pp soft cover), published by the STRI, are available from The Secretary, STRI, Bingley, W Yorks BD16 1AU, at £4.50 including postage.

Conservationists are often vociferous in their condemnation of new golf course developments, never more vehemently than when crumbling country mansions or 'stately homes' with adjacent parkland are the subject of a developers attention. This writer is all for preserving our heritage, but must express horror at the almost total damnatory attitude expressed in a report for The Georgian Group – *In The Rough?* – which puts all such development – often nothing more than sensitive rescue plans to save otherwise decrepit houses and overgrown and neglected parkland from oblivion – as the work of The Devil incarnate.

How much happier we would be if the antagonists could also see our point of view through their tinted spectacles of prejudice, exercising some restraint in their carte blanche dismissals and accepting the better compromise of seeing such lovely places survive and prosper. In the knowledge that it's wise to know thine enemy, *In The Rough?* (40pp soft cover) will prove invaluable to those in the business of rescuing such properties. £3 plus postage from The Georgian Group, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.

Perhaps the greatest gift available to man is a sense of humour. There's no question about it, some are blessed with 'the sense' in abundance, whilst others amble turgidly through life with rarely a smile, failing to see anything but doom and gloom.

I like to believe that most greenkeepers are of the gifted majority, for in their work they are exposed to more than average doses of pompous hypocrisy, with an ability to see 'the funny side' often their one salvation. If you doubt me, ask yourself how many other professionals have upwards of 500 bosses, all of whom know more about their work than they do?

How fortunate we British are to have so many grand cartoonists, many of whom specialise in sporting absurdities and including the handful who capture the funny side of greenkeeping. One such is John Hart, whose *Hart of The Green*, a collection of cartoons based on characters that are the figment of John's fertile imagination, is guaranteed to bring a chuckle to greenkeepers – because it is all about greenkeepers and the absurdly comic happenings witnessed in their everyday tasks. The sketches are never mocking or hurtful, though often tongue in cheek, and draw on the escapades of the Headgreenkeeper (the one with the tie), Hamish and Harry, a YOP trainee called Harvey and the inevitable Chairman of Green, who is described as being 'loved by his mother' and who delivers requests through a powerful index finger and a bark! Above all they project the conflict between traditional views and new technology, attitudes toward members, green committees and pro's and offer instant identification with most of the situations. I'm sure you'll see at least one fantasy character you know – though not on your own golf course, naturally!

Hart of The Green, Humour for Real Golfers, (96pp soft covers) is published at £5.95 and is available from W H Smiths or direct from Thrivelar, 1 Eldon Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 7JG. Add 75p postage.

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BTME

BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1992

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Viscount Whitelaw will open exhibition



Wednesday morning, January 22nd, brings the official opening by the Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, President of BIGGA, of a wondrous display of products and services, aimed exclusively at our industry and presented by a larger number of exhibitors than ever before. Many exhibitors have hinted that BTME will be their launching pad for introducing new products and services to such an

exclusively greenkeeper orientated audience, and with such a large and varied display accessible under cover and on a single floor, visitors can be assured of evaluating the very latest equipment.

Quality speaker

An unmistakable air of excitement is erupting from those associated with the greenkeeping industry's greatest annual event, the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, to be held in Harrogate during January 20th-24th 1992. As the day draws near a large number of registrations have flooded into the Association's headquarters at Aldwark Manor, ensuring a spirited pool of participants for the biggest and most ambitious workshop, seminar and exhibition programme ever staged by the Association.

Looking at the schedule of events, one cannot fail to be impressed by both the substance and the quality of speakers chosen and the fascinating subjects they will present to audiences eager for learned information.

The educational seminar programme brings together speakers who will not just educate but also stimulate debate within the halls of Harrogate. Four workshops take place on the Monday and Tuesday.

Among the speakers are:

Graham Phillips:
Keynote speeches will help delegates handle green committees



■ **Dr Norman W Hummel**, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science at Cornell University, currently on leave of absence to work for the USGA Green Section on a project relating to USGA Specifications, and on methods for testing construction mixes. Dr Hummel has operated a laboratory at Cornell for testing construction mixes for some years and has worked closely with architects, contractors and superintendents on sand and peat selection. In his Educational Workshop, which he will present with Stanley Zontek, various options for constructing golf course greens will be covered, including the USGA Specifications for greens

you can expect to see

A message from the
BIGGA Chairman



As Chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I look forward to welcoming you all to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme.

Both on the exhibition stands and in the lecture rooms I'm sure you will enjoy renewing old friendships and making new ones. Harrogate is a welcoming and friendly town and those who have been before now look forward to returning each year.

I hope to meet many of you during the week, either at the exhibition stands or at our social functions, which past experience indicates will once again be a forum for a forthright exchange of views and opinions on our great profession.

Providing educational opportunities for greenkeepers is now very much to the forefront within the game of golf, and BIGGA has a leading role to play in developing training programmes which will produce well qualified and technically sound Course Managers. As knowledge increases and techniques improve, the golfer will be the ultimate beneficiary of better presented and maintained golf courses.

In developing our training programmes, we do need support from our members' golf clubs and it is my hope that many Green Chairmen, Secretaries and club officials will take this opportunity to attend at Harrogate to see how much real and visible progress our profession is making.

Finally, the week at Harrogate simply would not happen without the support of the many trade companies present at the Exhibition. To them BIGGA expresses its sincere thanks for backing the event which I feel sure will mark another step in BIGGA's development.

Having read about BTME in the pages of Greenkeeper International, I hope that you will follow the trail to Harrogate and I look forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE MALCOLM

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s, fascinating subjects

John Hacker:
Passing on
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extensive
and practical
knowledge of
golf course
agronomy



construction.

■ **Stanley Zontek** is USGA Green Section Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, essentially a practical man with many years experience of greens constructed by different methods. It is said that what Stanley doesn't know about greens is not worth knowing, and he can and will provide a very practical overview of the successes and failures of greens..

■ Another dual presentation that promises to be hugely entertaining is the workshop on Irrigation, tutored by **Robin Hume** of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association and aided and abetted by **David Hal-**

ford, Senior Lecturer in Horticultural Mechanisation at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

■ A soil scientist, **Mike Harbridge** has specialised in sportsturf and golf course soils, rootzones and drainage for the past 16 years. As Senior Soil Scientist at Myerscough College and subsequent independent consultant, he has an extensive knowledge of the practical problems associated with aging drainage and construction systems which are taken beyond their limit by heavy play.

■ After gaining his Diploma in Horticulture from Kew, **John Hacker** specialised in Applied Plant Physiology while studying in the USA. His interest in plant hormones led him to study growth regulants in turfgrass, whilst working at the University of Bath, and eventually to his becoming the Senior Sportsturf lecturer at Myerscough College. Together with Mike Harbridge, John now provides agronomy advice on the construction and maintenance of golf courses under the title banner of Professional

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■ Dealing with green committee personnel has never been the easiest of tasks for greenkeepers, many of whom express frustration at having perfectly reasonable proposals turned down! **Graham Phillips** is an experienced presenter with just the answer to those frustrations, with many major companies such as Shell UK testifying to the efficacy of his presentations. Graham's interest in golf has intensified over the past years through involvement in a regional golf newspaper and his keynote speeches will reflect some of his experiences within the golf community. With a reputation for presenting lively, upbeat and enjoyably practical presentations, he will help you to identify those who constantly oppose investment in course and greenkeeping facilities, and will guide the listener with a series of useful tips and strategies that will help in the development of a selling story that will convince even the toughest committee.

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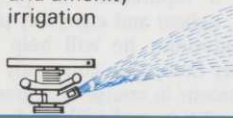
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Building BTME

1992 will see the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition entering its fourth year. With an established date in the industry's calendar, the Exhibition is looked forward to by exhibitors, delegates and attendees alike.

From the outset, BIGGA saw the need for full consultation and co-operation with the industry if the Exhibition was to be properly planned and successfully mounted. For the 1991 Exhibition, three Steering Committee meetings were held and a further meeting during the Exhibition assessed relevant feedback. All four meetings were well attended and proved an excellent example of BIGGA and companies within the industry working together to mutual benefit. A similar consultation process is in place for the forthcoming event.

BIGGA has much appreciated the support and enthusiasm displayed by company representatives at these meetings and a wide cross-section of the industry is currently represented on the Committee. Exhibitors may wish to note that the Committee includes representatives of Ransomes, Iseki UK Ltd., Rolawn, Kubota (UK) Ltd., Supaturf, Lely (UK) Ltd., Toro Irrigation Ltd., ICI Professional Products and Farmura. All members of the Steering Committee will be pleased to receive views or representations from Exhibiting Companies at any time.

Technical support/consultation is a vital area and a close working relationship has been established with both the Resort Services Department in Harrogate and the official Exhibition Contractor, Joe Manby Ltd., who are a company of national repute with the great benefit of being locally based in Harrogate. The technical support and expertise

available has proved invaluable in ensuring a high standard of presentation within the Exhibition Halls. Any last minute problems experienced by Exhibitors can be attended to without delay by utilising 'in-house' resources. The Exhibitors Kit agreed by BIGGA in conjunction with Joe Manby Ltd and approved by the Steering Committee is geared to ensuring a minimum of 'red tape' for Exhibitors with advice and guidance easily accessible for those companies with queries to be resolved.

The policy from the outset of the Exhibition in 1989 has been to encourage a large European presence. In the future, the Steering Committee will be examining ways of achieving a greater European awareness and will be looking to establish links with European Greenkeeping Associations as well as seeking out local authority contacts. BIGGA now has a growing European membership and means will be sought to enable BIGGA members in Europe to promote their own Exhibition.

Internationally, the promotion of the Harrogate Exhibition is being taken on board particularly through an official BIGGA presence and stand at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Exhibition. All in all, the Steering Committee believes that the Exhibition has much scope for further development and looks forward with anticipation to the 1992 event.

● It's not too late to book your stand space for the 1992 event - but you'll have to hurry. Contact Debbie Savage, BIGGA's Exhibition Officer, on 03473 581/2 or fax 03473-8864.



The 1992 BTME will be an event to remember for Minchinhampton Course Manager Laurence Pithie. As Britain's first Master Greenkeeper, Laurence, pictured above, will receive his certificate from BIGGA President, Viscount Whitelaw

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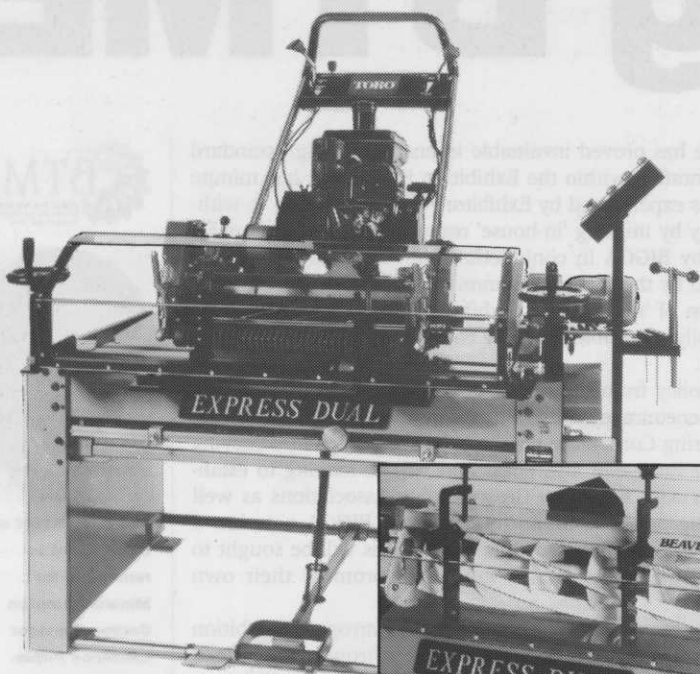
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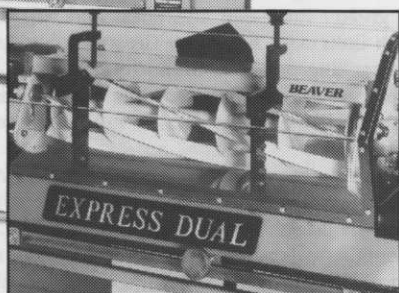
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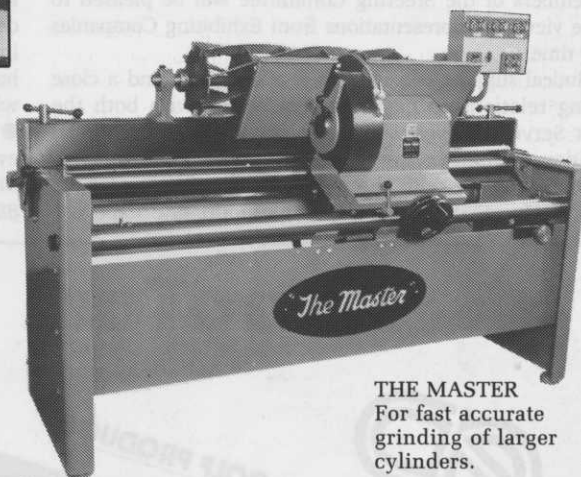
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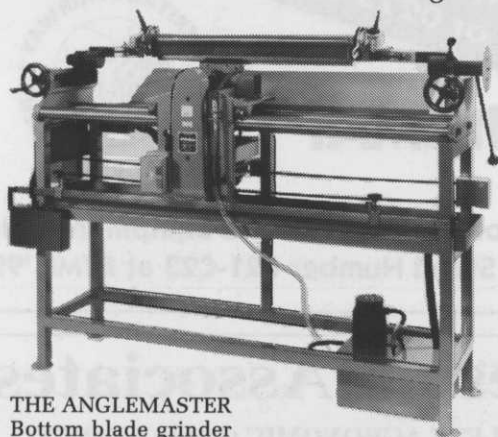
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Comedian ends week with a laugh

The week's main social event is to be a sumptuous Exhibition Banquet on Thursday January 23rd – and following the meal will be entertainment from Norman Collier, one of Britain's top comedians.

Perhaps best known for his hilarious "chicken" routine in the 1970s, Norman has delighted thousands of people in a glittering showbusiness career which has taken him all over Britain – and into America.

Highlights of his career include many Royal Charity Galas.

Norman and his wife live near Hull. For relaxation, he enjoys an occasional round of golf.

Finding your way to Harrogate – by air, road, rail and ferry

BY AIR: International flights from most countries now operate to Manchester Airport which is only 1½ hours drive away or use London Heathrow and take an internal flight direct to Leeds/Bradford Airport which is only 13 miles away and 20 minutes by taxi. There are flights every weekday between London Heathrow and Leeds/Bradford Airport. Direct flights are also available from Amsterdam, Belfast, Brussels, Canada, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey and Paris.

BY ROAD: Road access is equally convenient

whether by car or coach – the motorway network incorporating the M1, M5, M6, M62 and A1 are all within easy reach of Harrogate.

BY FERRY: North Sea Ferries have regular crossings from both Rotterdam and Zeebrugge into Hull, 60 miles to the east of Harrogate.

BY RAIL: Due to Harrogate's central location it is well served by British Rail connections from all over the country including direct Intercity services from London King's Cross.

Free accommodation booking

■ BIGGA has again nominated Inntel as the Association's agents for accommodation booking during the 1992 Education programme and Exhibition.

Please take advantage of this service: it's efficient, accommodation can be found for both exhibitors and delegates – and it's FREE!

Contact Annie Moncrieff on 0206 211106 (fax 0206 210881) for more details. Inntel have access to hotels and guest houses to suit all price ranges.

Special rates at Exhibition hotel

■ Special room rates for the Old Swan Hotel have been negotiated for BTME exhibitors and delegates. They are £59 single or £72 double, including breakfast and VAT. For a stay of four nights or more, reduce the rate by £5.00 per night. Again, Annie Moncrieff at Inntel is the person to contact for bookings, telephone 0206 211106.

The Old Swan will be the venue for pre-Exhibition workshops and the social programme. A hospitality room will be open in the evenings where everyone connected with the BTME can meet and relax.

How to save time and money

Whether an exhibitor or delegate, you are urged to pre-register for the event.

Why should you bother? Quite simply, you will save time and money. A reply-paid pre-registration ticket can be found facing Page 36 of this magazine. If you complete and return this ticket to BIGGA, you will automatically be pre-registered, handed your exhibition catalogue and identification badge at the entrance and admitted to the Exhibition without charge or delay. Otherwise, admission is by catalogue at a charge of £2.50 and you will have to await issue of your identification badge.

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COMING UP

December 10th: STRI South of England Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Hatfield Lodge, Hertfordshire.

January 14th: STRI North of England Seminar – As December 10th – Askham Bryan College, York.

January 20th-21st: BIGGA Seminar Programme – Harrogate, Yorkshire.

January 22nd-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition – Harrogate, Yorkshire.

February 4th: STRI Ireland Seminar – As December 10th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

February 11th: STRI Wales Seminar – As December 10th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

February 12th-19th: GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans USA.

March 27th-29th: BIGGA National Education Conference – Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

April 29th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

June 3rd-4th: BALI Trade Show – Stoneleigh, Warwick.

July 16th-19th: The Open Championship – Muirfield, Scotland.

August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent.

September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Show – Peterborough, Northants.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Section secretaries and correspondents should note that the closing date for 'Around The Green' copy is the first day of the month preceding publication – eg. copy for February issue to be received by January 1st. This means that section scribes must think ahead by at least one clear month and send relevant new copy before the appearance of the current issue. All out-of-date announcements will be rejected. Co-operation in meeting these deadlines will be much appreciated.

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

This column is so up-to-date I've decided to give it a title. Various ideas have been tossed around and my final choice is 'hot and fresh'. On that theme, we have another fine victory to add to our list of conquests in 1991, this time perhaps our most notable and dangerous, for we beat The Section Secretaries by 5 to 1 at Ellesborough GC on October 31st. This is something we would all like to crow about, but considering it is almost wage review time I think it's best that we just say how lucky we were and no doubt the secretaries will get their own back next year! Thanks go to the Ellesborough staff, secretary Ken Flint, head greenkeeper Dave Childs, and Alma Cheshire for the marvellous catering. Also we thank Bob Stewart – for the secretaries – and Golf Turf Equipment for the magnificent shield donation.

Our other golf event in October was the

Autumn Invitation at Sonning GC. It must be some sort of justice that over 30 greenkeepers, all of whom had been praying for rain over the past months, should get so thoroughly soaked throughout the day. Never again will I doubt The Great Greenkeeper In The Sky! Weather apart, the day was a resounding success, thanks in no small part to the sterling efforts of our section secretary, Bob Woodward, whose tireless work made this the smoothest run event we've had yet. RESULTS: 1st overall – Colin Vince and Andy Elmey, 2nd – Phillip Slater and Paul Wakefield, 3rd – Bob Woodward and Terry Jackson. Best a.m. – John Bevan and Dennis Ellington. Best p.m. – Simon Robinson and Owen Cooper. Nearest the Pin – Alan Collis (a.m.) and Steve Craddock (p.m.). Longest Drive – Ian Pierce (a.m.) and Simon Robinson (p.m.) Special thanks to Sonning GC, especially secretary Peter Williams, Club captain Derrick Howes, who presented the prizes, and course manager Alan Collis and his staff, for an excellent day. Finally, our trade friends from Parkers, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, Pattissons, County Mowers, and Maxwell Hart, with a special word of thanks to Bernie Wall, who walked round with a score card when one of 'ours' decided not to play the second round.

Just a few reminders to tidy things up, with a gentle reminder not to forget our Gentlemen's Dinner at Frilford in Feb '92. Tickets are avail-

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able but are going fast, so ring Bob now and make a reservation. Last may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a fuss-free (or fuzz free) New Year. Please make a note of my new address and 'phone number, which is: Flat 1, Temple Golf Club, Henley Road, Hurley, Berks. SL6 5LH, Tel: 0628- 829208.

RAY CLARK

EAST SCOTLAND

The section held its annual Autumn Tournament over the Peebles course on September 10th, with bright sunny weather shining kindly upon us. Our thanks as always go to the captain and council of Peebles for courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities and to the green staff and catering personnel for their respective excellence. A total of 46 members, guests and traders enjoyed a splendid day, the winners being: Scratch - G D Thomson, Goswick, 1st Class - S Melville, Lothianburn, 2nd Class - A Wyllie, Newbattle, 3rd Class - N Stalker, Torphin, Veteran - G Stavert, Peebles, Aggregate - S Dixon, Newbattle, Fourball - R Thomson and G Stavert, Peebles.

A presentation was made to one of our senior members upon his retirement, S Dixon presenting an inscribed clock to George Stavert from the section and wished him a long and happy retirement. George has been a member of the section since 1967 and although asked on many occasions, he always declined to hold office. There have, however, been few occasions when George has not appeared at our events and we all wish him well.

The William Woods Memorial Trophy took place at Swanston GC on October 3rd, a howling gale greeting us on arrival and remaining throughout the day. Needless to say, scores were on the high side and local knowledge helped in the end, with Swanston GC being the eventual victors. Our thanks to the captain and committee for course courtesy, Chris and his staff for the course preparation and the catering staff for grand food. Let's hope the weather can be better organised next year!

The last tournament of the year was the match of East Scotland v The North East of England. It is always a pleasure to meet our old friends and on this occasion victory went to the English. Our grateful thanks to Stewart & Co and to Goswick GC for making the event one to look forward to with keen anticipation.

On behalf of the chairman and committee, may I thank everyone for their support throughout the year and express the hope that you will continue to give us solid support throughout 1992. I am sure you will air your views at the AGM on December 4th at Kingsknowe. Always remember that this is *your* Association and we want to run it the way you would want it.

WILLIE BLAIR

LONDON

A good turn-out of 40 members and guests descended upon West Herts GC for the London section Autumn Tournament on September 30th, George Whitby having prepared the course to his usual high standards. The competition was fiercely competitive, the battle that ensued eventually producing a worthy winner in S Cox of Abridge G&CC, with 40 Stableford points, hotly pursued by M Storey of Hatfield G&CC on 39 and Norman Exley of Northwood GC on 38 points. It seems that the administrator for the S.E. is making the collection of trophies something of a habit! Our playing guests were D Ede, R Croci and R Drake.

A London team travelled to Ashridge on October 10th to inflict a 3-1 defeat on a representative Mid Anglian team. The game was arranged to foster closer relationships with our near neighbours and a return invitation was mooted for next season. The lovely course at Ashridge lent itself perfectly to the very friendly day and was

AROUND THE GREEN

thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. Our sincere thanks to George and his crew for a superbly turned-out course.

There will be a seminar at Aldenham on Feb 26th, and I hope to see many more of you at this and other 1992 scheduled events. Details will follow in the next newsletter. My sincere good wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year.

BRIAN KELLY

SOUTH WALES

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Morrison GC on September 18th, with numbers down on our annual average. The reasons for this drop are many and varied and, no doubt, are easily explained by the individuals concerned. The competition was medal play over 18 holes, with scores very 'up and down', though the winner of the Presidents Shield, Graham Cox, produced a very creditable nett score of 67. The best gross score was that of Steven Price with an 83. Second nett came Doug Donne with a 76 (on count-back), Gerwyn Price, also on 76, was in third place and Peter Lacey was fourth with 77.

A raffle was held to swell the coffers and resulted in Anthony Smyth winning golf balls, with Dennis Jones, Doug Donne and Henry Fry all taking away a bottle of something warming. This was followed by a lecture evening, first with Frank Chute of Modern Maintenance Products (MMP) giving a company sales presentation on lubricants, greases and fire extinguishers, complete with slides. He also touched on such items as industrial glues, adhesives and compounds that can be utilised in repairing irrigation piping. A sales package prepared specially for greenkeepers is available, those interested should let me know.

Next came Dr Paul Wilson from Agriland, who addressed us on the subject of Agrimaster and Agriland fertilisers, backing up his talk with revealing tests and trials successfully carried out by the STRI.

Our annual match against the South West was held at St Pierre on October 3rd, with a tied result at three games all resulting in our retention of the trophy for another year. Our thanks to St Pierre management for courtesies received and to course manager, David Jones, and his staff for making the day so enjoyable.

Pennard GC was the venue for our seminar on October 4th, attracting greenkeepers, local authority representatives and green chairmen. A total of 80 people attended the John Deere/Power Cut jointly sponsored event, enjoying the demonstration of Power Cut machinery on display and listened spell-bound to a presentation by Howard Storey of John Deere on the John Deere range and their applications.

Dr W G Rees, BSc, MA, PhD, FRCS, a soil scientist and former Head of Agricultural Chemistry at Glasgow University gave a talk entitled "Grass Care Starts with Soil Care", with Neil Squires, BSc, closing the meeting with a talk on agronomy before chairing a question and answer session.

Our thanks to the Pennard GC committee for granting us the facility for this seminar and to their secretary for his valuable help in organising the mailing of letters to golf Clubs. Additionally, thanks to Colin Murphy, Malcolm Rees and Pen-

nard head greenkeeper, Colin Reilly, all of whom did sterling work behind the scenes.

Finally our congratulations to Paul Hopkins and Nigel Owens on additions to their family and we hope they are coping with the inevitable sleepless nights! Our final competition will be the Christmas thrash at Pyle and Kenfig on December 11th. We'll play for the Vitax Shield and follow with our AGM. Arrive by 9.30am please. A very merry Christmas to you all.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

The decision to change our 1991 lottery format, running it on the World Match Play proved to be very successful. Almost all members sold their tickets and made it the best section money spinner thus far. This is vital for the continued running of the section, providing as it does the means to keep prices down and provide support in sending three delegates to BTME in January. For the first time since our lottery began, the major prizes were won by greenkeepers, with Robbie Allan of Hazlehead GC drawing Seve Ballesteros and winning £100 and Steven Sullivan of Craigiehill GC drawing Nick Price for second place. Other prize winners were: 3rd (£50) M Donald, 21 Windford Rd, Mastrick, Aberdeen. 4th (£40) I Ross c/o Tain GC. Others winning £20 each were S McPherson, c/o Mathew Gloag, Perth. S Hay, 4 Prunier Place, Peterhead. E Urquhart, 4 Ness Hs., Fortrose and I Thom c/o Westhill Inn. The £10 winners were: A Low, c/o Westhill Inn. J Sweeney, Birkenhill, Elgin. Katrina Foster c/o Donside Paper, Aberdeen, and I Phillips, 22 Harley St. Stoke.

Plans are afoot to stage a conference, similar to that of last year in Aberdeen. Our hope is that it will be staged at the Dundee College of Further Education around Nov/Dec 1992, with attendance fees again being held to a very reasonable level. The committee would welcome any fresh ideas for speakers.

GORDON MOIR

NORTH EAST

The now traditional four-ball matches against our arch rivals - the East of Scotland section - took place at Goswick GC on October 8th. The result was a close affair until the very last match, with our North East team finally making it with a 3 1/2 to 2 1/2 result. Our thanks to Goswick GC, George Thompson and his staff for splendid preparation and to the captain of Goswick for presenting the prizes. Finally a special thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the competition yet again. Results (S. E. players named first): G Lauder & I Johnson beat G Wood & G Thompson 2 & 1. B Wilson & G Atkinson halved with S Greenwood & W Blair. J Richardson & S Cram beat J Neilsen and R Dugan, 1 up. P Robinson & K Ruthford lost to R Bullock & S Melville, 5 & 4. C Parkinson & R Black lost to P Bowden & A Holmes, 5 & 4. S Pope & A Wright beat S Dixon & C Yeaman, 2 & 1.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

SHEFFIELD

May I apologise to section members for lack of news over the past two months. This was due to a misunderstanding over deadline dates, which I kept missing! Now this is sorted out I → 28

AROUND THE GREEN

27 ➔ promise to keep you well posted.

To bring you up to date with past happenings, I shall first congratulate myself on winning the Autumn Tournament at Brough. For this event we extend thanks to The Club and to John Price and Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event again. Let us wish them good fortune in their new venture in becoming Ransomes Agents. With immediate effect, and already having started with the Brough event, we shall run an optional putting competition to raise funds for the section. At Brough we raised £10.50 and thank Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor for donating a snazzy golf umbrella as first prize.

Now let me move on to a 'hearty congratulations' for the Northern team on winning Team Iseki for the second time in three years and lifting the individual prize for the second successive year. Well done, lads!

Our winter lecture programme continues, meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Thrybergh GC, Rotherham. Come on, lads, let's support these lectures and have a large turn-out, they are meant just for you. May I finally wish Steve Burroughs (formerly of Hutchins Ltd) all the best on setting up in business. Good Luck, Steve. That's it for this month, though I hope I'll see you all at the Wortley Christmas Competition. A very Merry Christmas and New Year to one and all.

IAN COLLETT

DEVON & CORNWALL

The first meeting in our Autumn and Winter programme was held at Carlyon Bay Hotel on October 23rd, the golfing 'set' tackling the challenging course in quest of the Hunt Trophy, whilst our non-golfing members enjoyed their now customary course walk. The results were: 1st - B Ridgeway, Fingle Glen GC, 40 points. 2nd - S Dymond, St Eneadoc, 39. 3rd - T Martin, Torquay, 36.

Our thanks to Don Hunt of Roffeys for kindly donating and presenting the golfing prizes, also to Brian Summers and his team, who prepared the course to such excellence. A special thanks must go to the Brend family, who kindly allowed us the use of their hotel and golf course.

The water diviner, Don Wilkins, was our after lunch speaker, entertaining us in an intriguing fashion with his delightful Cornish humour and tales of water divining over many decades. Don brought with him a selection of divining rods and many of our members tested their skills - with varying degrees of success! Don's talk was a resounding success, our best ever, and we again thank him most sincerely.

Our first new year meeting will be the Section Seminar at Fingle Glen (near Exeter) on Wednesday Jan 15th. The format will begin with nine holes over Fingle Glen, followed after lunch by Neil Baldwin of the STRL, who will present a paper on Wetting Agents and Dry Patch. I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and successful new year.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

Rounding off our year, we must give heartfelt thanks to the generosity of Woburn's Alex Hay, along with the Club's fine team of greenkeepers so ably master-minded by the irrepressibly

enthusiastic Neil Whittaker, for providing the perfect ending to our golfing season on October 30th. The great attraction of playing both the Duke and Duchess courses proved irresistible to a full field of greenkeepers and was undoubtedly a most fitting season finale. Woburn was at its autumnal best, wreathed in the colourful tints that only Mother Nature can provide, and in a condition that would have brought reams of praise in the golfing press had ours been a PGA Tour event. Though we are not Tour players, we can and do appreciate such excellence and our vote is clearly stamped - NEIL WHITTAKER. Casting an expert eye over both courses, one could not fail to admire the architectural excellence of the late Charles Lawrie, whose design career spanned an all-too-brief span, cut short by his untimely death at the age of 53. There is little doubt that the Duke & Duchess courses were his greatest legacies.

So another year of fixtures is over, a new committee has been elected, and I am bowing out gracefully by taking this opportunity to thank all those who have made my spell as secretary so very enjoyable. Throughout the year we have been very well supported by so many members and traders that to thank them individually would take up too much space. I would be bound to miss someone out and rather than risk unintentional omission, I give a hearty thanks to one and all for continued support, which is much appreciated.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a happy Christmas and to ask that you continue to support YOUR section, which belongs to you, you know.

GEOFF SMITH

MIDLANDS

The warm welcome given to us at the recent Open Day of Brockton Golf Club was much appreciated, with many Midland section members commenting on how much they enjoyed the event.

During the winter we plan to hold two lectures, in January and March, and members will be advised more fully in our new fixture list, which is due in December. May I take this opportunity of reminding you all of the all important AGM, which will take place at Edgbaston Golf Club on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

How are things in the North West? One can only assume that there are no problems, and that everyone is happy. How do I arrive at this assumption? Simply by recalling the North West Section AGM, which was held at Bury Golf Club on October 24th, which called for our membership of 335 greenkeepers to attend. From this figure of 335 only 16 people turned up, eight of which were members of the committee! Whilst being delighted that the committee appear to be running the section to the satisfaction of our members, this was by every standard a very poor attendance.

Prior to our AGM, Peter Jefford of Ruffords Top Dress Supplies gave us an interesting and most informative talk on top dressings and how to choose the right product. How nice it would

have been to see more members present, especially as Peter had given freely of his own time to be with us.

Arrangements are in hand for the preparation of a 1992 calendar of events, and once dates are finalised all members will receive a complete fixture list. That's it for now, save wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND

The start of our autumn fixtures began on October 1st with the Autumn Invitation at Woodham G&CC, Our thanks to the management of Woodham for the use of the course and to Mark Hodgeson and his staff for presenting the course in such good order - especially so following a season of heavy play. RESULTS: 1st - A Naisbitt and M Ruddick, 40 points. 2nd - D Croacher and D Darby, 36 points. 3rd - M Hodgeson and K Watson, 34 points. 4th - R McCabe and D Telford, 32 points. Thanks to our main sponsor, Mr Alan Goodchild, and to all trade and golf Clubs who contributed prizes. Please continue to support future events.

ROGER SHAW

EAST ANGLIA

This report will start in the summer and finish with a merry Christmas, such is the time span to catch up. First to Stowmarket GC in August, a lovely course and a record turn-out. Warm welcome from John Daul, Stowmarket Captain, who also presented prizes and won nearest the pin on the 18th (8'3"). Bob Chapman was actually 2' away, but his shot was off the 1st tee - good old Bob! The longest drive was won by Peter (John Daly) Howard. RESULTS: (handicap 0-18) 1st Alan Carter (32 on countback), 2nd Sam Sylvester 32, 3rd Ranald McNeil 31. (handicap 19-28) 1st Paul Fletcher 38, 2nd Steve Pigott, 3rd Richard Mitchell. Guest: John Riches 36. It was nice to see a few more players from Norfolk and our thanks to Stowmarket GC for a grand day out.

Our congratulations to Ranald McNeil on his course management appointment at Quietwaters and on fathering a baby girl. Also to Steve Denton and Mike Fance, both with new babies, Steve a daughter and Mike a son.

Next to Gog Magog in October, a record breaking turn-out of 70, players coming from as far afield as Sussex and Surrey. The course was in good 'nick', as was the meal, and the awards went as follows: RESULTS - Scratch, Peter Howard 78 gross. Handicap 0-18 - 1st Stephen Patison 37, 2nd Stephen Cox 36, 3rd Stephen Freestone 34. Handicap 19-28 - 1st Stephen Pigott 41, 2nd Richard Mitchell 39, 3rd Ernie Hart 33. Longest Drive - Steve Dickinson (300 yards) Nearest the Pin - Dave Wilkinson (4'6"). Guest prizes: 1st John Jackson 42, 2nd Harry Shelley 39. Prizes donated by Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Cowies, Ransomes, Colliers and Ernest Doe. Our thanks to all the trade members for their support.

There were reports of slow play and in future a penalty will be imposed on offenders (docked shots). The captain of Gog Magog offered a good closing speech, welcoming us back and saying he had never stood before so many greenkeepers before - except at the Club's AGM! Nice one, captain, and our thanks for a grand day out.

I said I would end with a merry Christmas, so to all East Anglian section members, wherever you are, a merry Christmas.

MICK LATHROPE

KENT

It is always a great pleasure to play Knole Park, and our Autumn Tournament played there on October 8th was once again a fabulous day. I have to admit that for many years it has been one of my personal favourites. The course was

AROUND THE GREEN

prepared to the very highest order by Andy Arthur and his merry men and I hope he will pass on our thanks to the staff for their exceptional hospitality.

The morning play produced some pretty unspectacular scoring, due perhaps to the super slick putting surfaces. Our thanks to Sta-Brite and Chris Sharp for donating the new Sta-Brite shield and handsome trophy, awarded to the medal winner, John Rootes with a nett 69. John was followed closely was Steve Phillips with 70 and Malcolm Arthur with 71. The scratch prize was won by Ian Rawlings.

The afternoon saw a three man Texas Scramble played, with much better golf and won (not unsurprisingly by the rest of us) with a gross 67 by the Rootes, Rawlings, Stapley combination. Personally, I feel the man responsible for 'arranging' the teams has much to answer for and I am still pressing for a stewards enquiry. Why did nearly all the teams have a combined handicap of around 50, with my team on 64? A credit here to my partners Bernie Sturdy and Bernie Dibhams for a battling 73. I must apologise for the initial confusion over handicaps and the missing raffle tickets, but as some may know, these were in John Millen's hands and he was away on Joint Golf Course Committee business. I have never seen such an expression of relief as that on David Wood's face when the mislaid cheque book finally surfaced! Perhaps the highlight of the day was the presentation of awards by Knole Park's greatest son, Sam King. Sam is a pro from the great days of golf and played in the Ryder Cup during the 30s and 40s. His list of achievements are legendary and best listed by David White, who spent an hour with Sam in totally spell-bound admiration. All I can say is that it was a great honour to be at his table during dinner and to listen to his recounted tales of an illustrious golfing career.

I was delighted to read that the winner of the GCSAA Trip to New Orleans was John Atkins, head greenkeeper at Chestfield GC. I dispute the term 'lucky' winner, for there is none more deserving of this splendid trip of a lifetime. John was a former Kent section secretary in the old BGGGA and EIGGA days and as some may know, does not enjoy the best of health and fitness that we take for granted. John is not one who would wish me to elaborate, but I must add that he and his staff do a superb job at Chestfield and my artisan members, who make regular visits, always speak highly of the condition.

On the subject of Chestfield, this prompts the view that many courses in Kent are under threat of alteration and perhaps those working on the courses might elaborate on the changes. We have Chestfield and Herne Bay at threat from dual carriageways and re-routing of the Thanet Way, Gillingham threatened from an Isle of Grain relief road and now Rochester and Cobham from the 'good old' Channel Tunnel Rail Link, not to mention Sittingbourne and Cobham Manor that are already making way for larger road routes – and they say that golf courses damage the environment! I would include Barnhurst on the casualty list after seeing the proposed alterations (desecrations) of the course, submitted to the council by a well known architect/constructor, supposedly to speed up play and 'modernise'. Granted the course requires playing in a different order, some enlargements to tees are necessary and some reconstruction and reinstatement is required to many of the bunkers if it is to withstand the rigours of modern golfing traffic. All this work was already planned, in sympathy with the established course and its environment. That stated, many Barnhurst players see the new proposals as vandalism, amounting to wiping the slate clean and starting again. To put the 'alterations' into perspective, the current nine holes are all that remain of the original 18, a ladies championship course laid out by James Braid for £12,000 in 1903. For many years it was regarded

as the sister course to Royal Blackheath. Rather than being lost to tarmac and steel, Barnhurst may well be lost to bureaucracy, the quick buck and the USGA spec!

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH COAST

This year it was again our privilege that Jacobsen Limited, with Jenman Engineering and Vitax Home and Garden Products, provided the generous prizes for our Autumn Meeting at Hockley Golf Club. The meeting proved very successful, with 45 players battling for honours. An additional prize was donated by New Forest Garden Machinery, and handed to Terry Patchin, the head greenkeeper of the host Club. The coveted Jacobsen Trophy was on display for most of the day, with members keen to get good scores on the board in their efforts to win the event.

The morning Greensome provided excitement, with Joe Newman and Robert Woodward (Downshire) scoring 40 and Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett (The Army) scoring 39. This left no doubt in the minds of other players as to the eventual winners. However, following similar scores from different players in the afternoon Foursomes, Jeremy Norris and Mark Walker (The Army) and Brian Forder and George Gale (Southampton/Romsey), the outcome was far from settled. Soon it became apparent that Joe and Robert had 'done enough' with their afternoon 34 to clinch the trophy by just three points. How nice it was to see some of 'The Trade' playing with greenkeepers – Dave Rogers of Sta-Brite, David Haskell of Parkers and Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor – with representatives of our sponsors remaining for the dinner and presenting prizes to the worthy winners. RESULTS: The Jacobsen Trophy to Joe Newman and Robert Woodward 40+34=74. Second: Brian Forder and George Gale 32+39=71. Third: Jeremy Norris and Mark Walker 30+40=70. Other prizes were awarded for 'surviving' scores from the morning and afternoon rounds as follows: Greensome: Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett, 39. Foursome: Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd, 34. Our thanks to Joe Burdett for the above report and for organising our tournaments in such a professional manner.

The January Winter Lecture will be at Came Down GC on January 15th, the speaker being Peter Jefford, addressing the subject of top dressing treatments. The talk will begin at 2pm and refreshments will be available with the speaker's compliments. Stephen Pell, head greenkeeper at Came Down, will welcome you and is eager for a grand turn-out. This is an opportunity for members in the west of our section to meet other members and guests will be most welcome. We shall be returning to this part of England for our Spring Tournament, which is at the Weymouth GC on Thursday, May 28th.

Finally, as 1991 draws to a close, I wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BOB DENNIS

NORTHERN

The final golf event of 1991 was held on a blustery day at Garforth GC, made the more pleasant by the appearance of two Northern section members who have been ill recently: Mick Hegarty of

Cobble Hall and Garforth's very own Colin Garnett. Both looked fit and well. The contest was won by Graham Wilson, with Edwin Walsh second. In the second division Les Nelson, Graham Oxley and Mick Bryant collected prizes, with Philip Palmer and Derrick Batty victors in category three.

The Eclectic Trophies, played for over our Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments, went to Mick Bryant for the over-50s and Mick Lealman for the under-25s. Very many thanks to all at Garforth for extending such a warm welcome to us all.

Our lecture evenings are now underway, the first being an informative talk by Eddie Sims and his team from Par 4. A good audience attended, which included some very welcome new young faces. Thanks to everyone for coming and I hope to see many of you again in the future. The next lecture is on January 15th – Munro's on Spraying – and a Quiz and Social Evening with colleagues from the IOG at Headingley Cricket Club on February 11th.

We are again having a trip this year – to Lloyds of Letchworth – and with many names already listed for this one, a booking now may save later disappointment. Cost about £10.

On a serious note, the misuse of a BIGGA membership card has been brought to the committee's attention. Members MUST realise that this will not be tolerated and action will be taken to stop any repetition. Please keep your cards to yourselves.

I am happy to finish with some good news – Nick Faram, long serving assistant at Baildon GC, finally tied the knot in November. Very best wishes to Nick and Betty, and to all our members a merry Christmas.

BOB LUPTON

SOUTH EAST REGION (Surrey Section)

It was the Surrey Section's honour to host the 4th S.E. Region Seminar recently at Merrist Wood College, graced by the presence of BIGGA's National Chairman, George Malcolm, and Executive Director, Neil Thomas, together with splendid contributions from seven lively speakers – all of whom contributed towards an enjoyable and highly educational day, made even better by an encouragingly high turn-out of members.

The morning session concentrated mainly upon the matter of ecology and conservation, opening with a combined address given by Jonathan Adey and Desmond Hobson of Environmental Golf Services, this followed by ICI's Dr David Riley, who opened our eyes to the huge investment made in order that pesticides may be safely available.

This was followed by Dr Rob McGibbon, whose concern for the vanishing heathlands and disappearance of heather was shared by many greenkeepers. All is not lost however, for with the odd bulldozer and chainsaw the heather seed (which has been in the ground for 50 years or more) will still germinate if given the right conditions.

One good talk deserves another, and this led to the last public appearance in England for some time of our own Phil Baldock, soon to join Royal Portrush as their head greenkeeper. ➔ 30

AROUND THE GREEN

29 ➤ Phil's talk concentrated on the practical side of conservation, and with the help of slides Phil showed the sound results achieved at Hankley Common following a calculated conservation programme over the past years.

A substantial roast luncheon followed, with Jack McMillan opening the post prandial session by telling us of his experiences in Europe, with emphasis on his recent 'French Connection'. This did not stop Jack from hopping back across the channel occasionally, expounding upon his well known views of winter play and the stress factor involved for both course and greenkeeper!

The final speaker of the day was our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who presented a comprehensive paper on the present and possible future prospects for our Association. Stressing the need to 'get out and generate more support', this was seen as the way for us to capitalise on the terrific progress made over the past few years, years in which BIGGA has taken the initiative in greenkeeper training and education, whilst other golfing bodies have been content to talk a lot and do very little.

The seminar closed with Chris Marden, the SE Region Chairman, thanking all speakers and sponsors and giving no small praise to those members who by their attendance had made the day successful.

The Surrey Section committee acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their gener-

ous support, each in their way contributing to our success: CMW, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, T Parker & Sons Ltd, Ian Kerry, Huxley's, RFE Turf Machinery Ltd, SISIS and Watermation Ltd.

Forthcoming events for 1992 include a winter lecture on Chainsaw Use and Safety, to be held at Walton Heath GC on Jan 15th, the Regional Gentlemen's Dinner, also at Walton Heath, on March 13th and the Spring Tournament at Foxhills GC on April 29th. Finally, a most welcome return to New Zealand GC for the Cresta Cup on June 8th.

Our annual 'knock-out' competition for the Huxley Bowl has been concluded with a fine win (for the third time!) by Alex Armitage and Paul Weston, beating Paul Mayne and Mike Oram on the last green after 36 closely contested holes. The winners afterwards celebrated with champagne in the clubhouse of Richmond GC. May I take this opportunity to wish ALL members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

CLIVE OSGOOD

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION

None can deny that the now well established annual S.W. & Wales Regional Seminar, staged recently at Cannington College and masterminded by Gordon Child, is anything but a great success. The simple fact that the event was a complete sell-out speaks volumes for both organ-

isational ability and regional enthusiasm, each complementing the other.

The event was sponsored by Modus 'T' Systems, whose sales director must have been gratified to have such a large and captive audience to view the system machinery on display in the college grounds, and it was a Modus 'T' presentation which opened the proceedings. This was followed by an enthusiastic slide presentation - marred perhaps by a less than perfect projector more suited to a smaller and darker room - but nevertheless showing some marvellous slides of flora and fauna, with the presenter making an impassioned plea to keep the rough rough and for greenkeepers to conserve wild life. If I may make one minor comment, Allan Mitchell should qualify his plea with sound reasons, for example what might happen if the rough is cut back drastically or how one might convince a green committee of the merits of such conservational acts. After all, too much rough and dense undergrowth rapidly increases the probability of already tiresome four hour plus rounds!

Eric Shiel is thoroughly enjoying his job of promoting the Joint Golf Course Committee and the new way forward, and it is heartening to learn that golfers will have to buckle under in order that the new generation of greenkeeping specialists may be thoroughly and competently trained. That he was preaching to the converted might have seemed apparent, yet it was depressing to learn from a show of hands that only a handful had even heard of 'The Way Forward' document and even fewer had actually read it! From the floor came a comment that because of the critical comments in the document regarding archaic Club committee methods, many secretaries had seen that it was effectively suppressed, this giving food for much thought.

At his fire-eating best, Jim Arthur was to have presented an uncontroversial paper but was prompted to re-write, telling us that having been brain-washed earlier at the week-end into ➤ 38

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Applications for the post of Head Greenkeeper are now invited. The applicant must be of the highest calibre and have suitable qualifications and experience in every aspect of course and budget management combined with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

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Application with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Penrith Golf Club
Salkeld Road, Penrith
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LEIGH GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from experienced Greenkeepers who have the appropriate qualifications and can demonstrate a sound knowledge of course maintenance and good organisational skills, preferably gained on a parkland course.

The successful applicant will be expected to have the ability to motivate staff and operate within a planned budget, and have an eye for attention to detail.

Salary negotiable, according to experience and qualification.

Application in writing with a full CV should be sent to:

**Mr G D Riley
Secretary, Leigh Golf Club
Kenyon Hall
Culcheth, Warrington
Cheshire WA3 4BG**



Tramore Golf Club

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and appropriate experience in all aspects of course maintenance related to a Championship parkland course.

The ability to control costs sensibly and motivate staff are essential together with an eye for great attention to detail.

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This is a live out position.

Please reply in writing in strictest confidence to:

**The Secretary/Manager
Tramore Golf Club
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Tramore, CO. Waterford**



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HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping techniques in particular in relation to an inland course, with wide experience of use and maintenance of machinery, equipment and watering systems. Ability to manage staff, organise and participate in work programmes will be essential.

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Applications in writing with a full CV should be sent to:

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**The Captain, Delamere Forest Golf Club,
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require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, use and maintenance of machinery and staff supervision.

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Please telephone or write for an application form to:

**The Secretary, Dudley Golf Club Limited,
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SOUTHERNDOWN GOLF CLUB

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by 31st December to:

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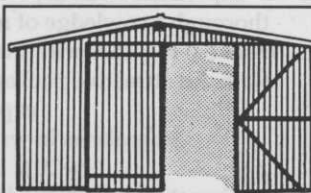
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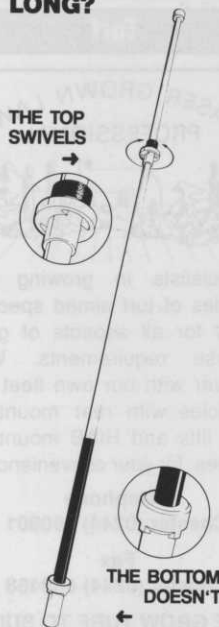
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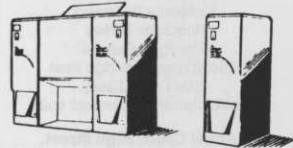
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AROUND THE GREEN

30 ➔ believing that the professionals are making overtures to eventually take over from the R&A in controlling British and European golf, he was spurred by such convictions into making an impassioned plea for the grass roots to at least be aware of the situation. He was equally passionate in condemning invidious attempts by Club professionals to take over the 'management' of golf courses, without getting their hands dirty of course, (there were a couple of vocal Club professionals/managers in the audience) suggesting that their essentially commercial interests would have dire consequences. Above all he urged greenkeepers – interspersing his comments with documented case histories of those 'warm climate' methods that had proved both disastrous and costly in our colder climate conditions – to remain ever vigilant and to learn from past mistakes and avoid repeating them. His address was loudly applauded.

It could be said that safety regulations and The Law is a subject guaranteed to be about as exciting as watching AstroTurf grow, but this is never the case when the speaker is the hugely entertaining Jon Allbutt. Jon has the skill and personality to cut through the gobbledegook of official government publications and ministerial edicts, with the wit to interpret even the most tiresome of regulations and make them appear almost as interesting as The Ryder Cup. There is none finer than Jon and his warnings of the consequences, should one be tempted to flaunt the law on such diverse subjects as chainsaws and pesticides, held the audience spellbound and he quite rightly drew both loud acclamation and the bulk of questions at question time.

From the floor came one question from an eminent head greenkeeper, Ivor Scoones, which brought both wry smiles and a silence in which one could hear the proverbial pin drop. 'Why', he asked, 'since 'The Way Forward' condemns large committees and favours their abolition, does the Joint Golf Course Committee have such an indefensibly large committee?' The question remained unanswered.

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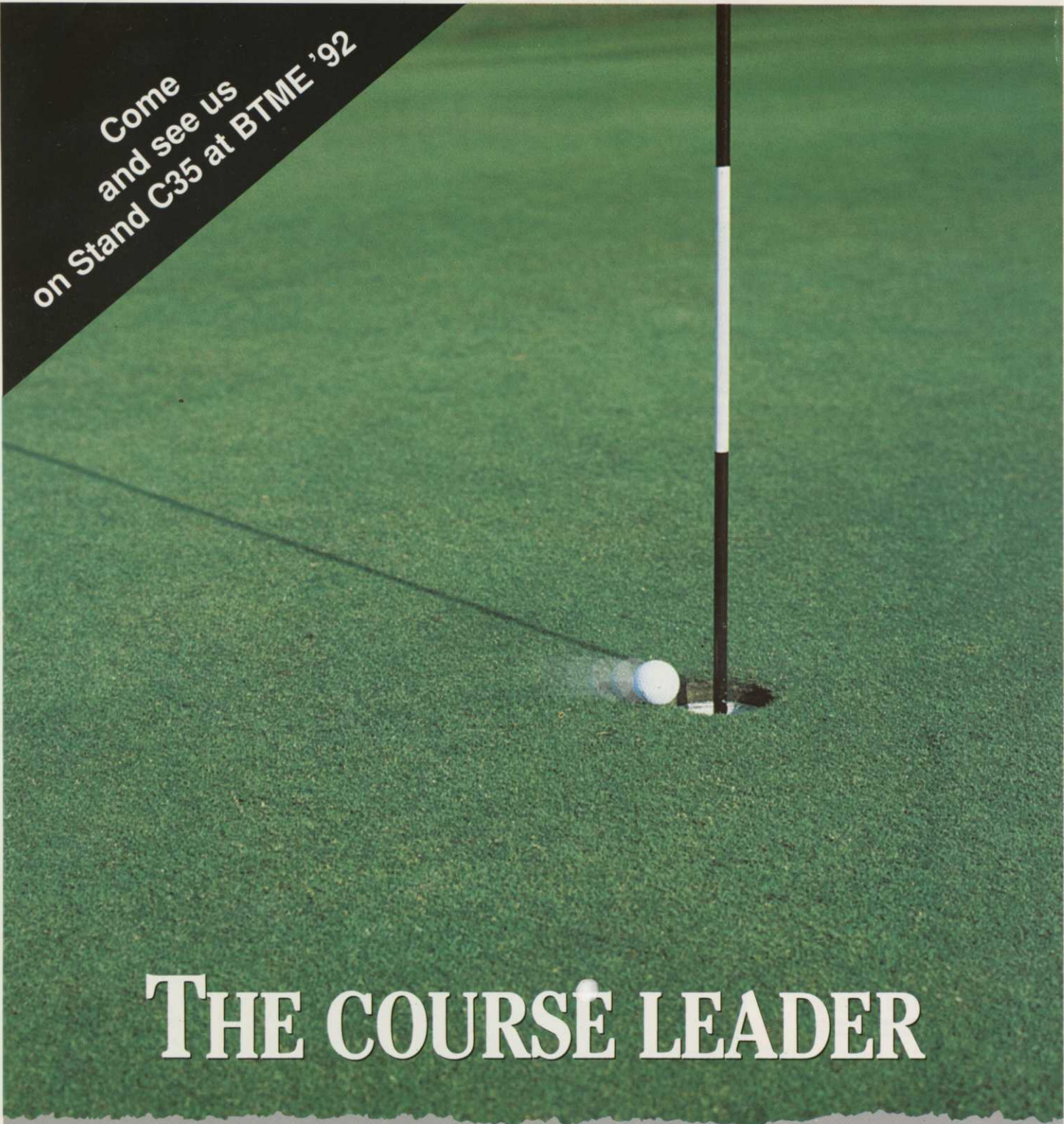
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