

# 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.