

# Drainage: a vital role to play

An awareness of the increased demand for improved standards of sportsturf surfaces is one that rings especially true for golf courses. Players rightly expect better surfaces as standards of play improve. Increasingly these expectations grow higher and golfers want facilities year round, not just in the summer months. For financial reasons golf course owners also want to increase the intensity of use and extend the season and it is not surprising that much of the £100 million spent each year on maintaining Britain's courses is devoted to the improvement of playing conditions.

Against this background drainage obviously has a vital role to play, for efficient drainage is an essential in maintaining a good playing surface.

Loss of use due to waterlogging or turf damage can result in a games backlog, dissatisfied players and even serious financial losses, whereas an efficient drainage scheme will eliminate waterlogging, reduce compaction, allow easier maintenance and more flexible management of valuable resources. This in turn will result in improved soil structure, fewer weeds, better sward and more economical use of fertilisers.

The Land Drainage Contractors Association (LDCA) recognises the need to promote and maintain high standards in drainage and regards as equally important that professional design and expert installation are essentials to successful drainage schemes.

## LDCA SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SECTION

The specialised nature and requirements of golf course drainage and the need to use experienced contractors with the necessary special equipment caused the LDCA to form a Sportsturf Drainage Section some 3 years ago. Membership of the Section identifies contractors who are experienced in sportsturf work, employ experienced staff, operate appropriate equipment and use BSI materials installed to the high standards laid down in the Association's 'Guidelines for Sportsturf Drainage Installation'.

These guidelines have been compiled by the LDCA to assist those involved in specifying, designing, installing and maintaining drainage works for amenity use.

Members of the Section undertake to supply and use materials to the recommended standards and to maintain the standards of workmanship contained in the Guidelines.

The LDCA is a trade association whose members include drainage contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of drainage machinery, pipes and other products.

In March the LDCA Sportsturf Drainage Section is holding a seminar at Ascot Racecourse to present aspects of design, machinery and materials for sportsturf drainage with accounts of costs and benefits from user case studies.

Attendance by invitation, together with details of

## DRAINAGE PROBLEMS?

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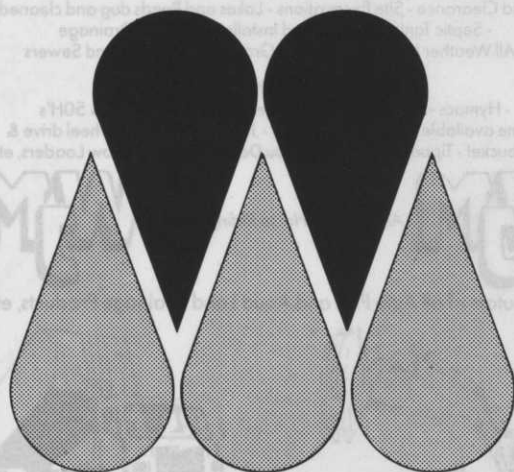
We have a wealth of practical experience in working with a wide range of clients, in all forms of land use, including sporting, amenity, agricultural, public works, general construction and civil engineering.

We have particular expertise in solving the complex problems often associated with sports grounds, golf courses, bowling greens, parks, gardens etc. and have a proven track record at some of the leading sporting venues in the Country.

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the Association, may be obtained from: Land Drainage Contractors Association, N.A.C., Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwicks. CV8 2LG.  
Tel: 0203 - 696683.

#### WELBOURNE SPORTSGROUNDS LTD

As members of both BALI and LDCA, Welbourne are well equipped to undertake all forms of design, construction, drainage and maintenance associated with golf courses. Their team have the latest technology, together with expertise gathered over some 25 years, to handle any drainage problem associated with poor soil or compaction and can design and install systems to the very highest standards with minimum disruption to existing playing surfaces.

#### M J ABBOTT LTD

Michael Abbott, himself an expert in this field with over 20 years experience, has gathered a team of trained personnel to undertake planning, design and construction of sportsturf drainage schemes, together with experts in the use of laser-controlled Hoes trenching machines. Their wide-ranging services include drainage installation at construction stage or in existing playing conditions, utilising trenchers with automatic collection of spoils.

Sand grooving, gravel moling and verti-draining are also offered.

#### PIPEWISE

Pipewise has given specialist service in plastics for 10 years, supplying the construction industry with systems for water supply and drainage. Their comprehensive range lends itself as an indispensable service to both existing golf courses for improvements and for new course construction. Getting water to the course is seen as only half the problem, with quick, effective drainage of surplus water from greens and fairways also essential. Pipewise are major bulk stockists of plastic drainage systems widely used in course construction, and cover the whole of Southern England, from the Midlands down, from depots in Bristol and Dorchester.

#### CAMBS DRAINAGE CO

Recognising that the construction of good greens forms a major portion of the cost of building a course, The 'Cambridge' green is a carefully calculated scientific design utilising specialised equipment to create high quality greens at less than half the price of orthodox methods. Hydraulic Continuity is a key factor in the Cambridge technique. The sand based surface is linked to a sand matrix which in turn is part of the drainage system. Although the surface is sand based, the deeper root zone is essentially soil, giving a putting surface with the best of both worlds - good playing character and strong, healthy, easily maintained turf.

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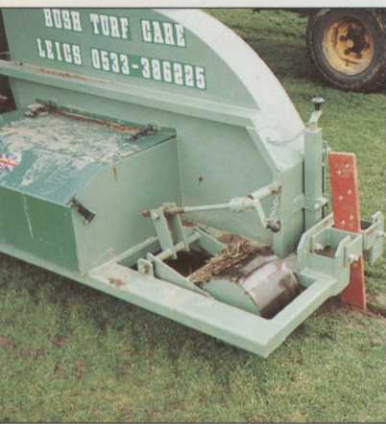
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### W. J. MEDHURST & CO (CONTRACTS) LTD.

Founded in 1970, Medhurst's make a speciality of sportsturf drainage for golf courses, carrying out works for local authorities and the private sector. Their Plant Hire division has both large and mini excavators available and they are distributors of Auto Plas and Aqualand drainage products. Most recently they completed the drainage and earth moving work at the new nine hole course situated on 50 acres at Addlestone, nr Chertsey, for Activity Enterprises; and anticipate further activity on land drainage for two new courses proposed in the Surrey area. As mem-

bers of LDCA they proudly claim a complete service covering not only golf course work but also the installation of septic tanks, ground works, roads, sewers and all-weather horse arenas.

### MEIKLEM LAND DRAINAGE

Meiklem have a proven record in specialist drainage spanning more than 24 years. M.D., John Meiklem, is aware of no simple answer to drainage problems and recognises that each project needs individual assessment if the most efficient and cost-effective solution is to be implemented. Recently, Meiklem's acted as main contractors for improvements on the New and Jubilee Courses at St Andrews.

A drainage system designed to lower the water table by some 2 metres was installed, with a 5 metre deep pump chamber, 2 submersible pumps and over 2000 metres of graded piping to carry over 3/4 million gallons of water per day to an existing reservoir. This water may then be used for irrigation or pumped to sea through existing pipes and outfall. The work was done with both courses still in play.

The Company is also acting as main contractor for the under drainage scheme on the new St Andrews Strathyrum course, where 90 acres of the course is networked with a deep drainage system through a sand base 2 metres thick. The piping used had to be filter wrapped to prevent sand blockage.

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