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Official publication of the
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

MARCH 1991



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OFFICER**
Debbie Savage



EDITOR
David White
Tel: 0323 891291 • Fax: 0323 895593

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR
Tim Moat

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER
Bill Lynch

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE
Carol Dutton

PRINTING
Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
Houghton Road, North Anston Industrial
Estate, Dinnington, South Yorkshire S31 7JJ
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax 0909 733790

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Greenkeepers Association

GREENKEEPER

International

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That was the year, that was

BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones reveals that his year of office was one where fun and frustration took equal turns. 'Not so much a job,' says Ivor, 'more a way of life.'Page 12

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Three years of evaluation at STRI has given Plant Biologist Neil Baldwin many of the answers to the problem of dry patch on UK golf greens. Find out what wetting agents are, and how to make them work efficiently on your coursePages 40, 41

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With the introduction of their new Greenkeepers Conservation Management Plane, the Nature Conservancy Council's Ian Dair explains their aims for golf course preservationPages 14 - 17

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COVER PICTURE:

An Oast House provides the perfect backdrop to the 12th green (West) at the East Sussex National

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... NOW!**

Fresh from the trauma of completing this second issue of 'Greenkeeper International', and basking in the mild feeling of comfort it affords, I was reminded of a scrap I read somewhere by a witty writer whose name I cannot recall but whose observations on journalism are engraved indelibly in my mind. "Writing a column is easy", he wrote, "All you have to do is sit at your typewriter until small drops of blood form on your forehead".



management articles, written by the people who can properly guide those who do not presume to know it all. We will sometimes feature golf courses which perhaps bear scant resemblance to many of the tired-out affairs on which some British greenkeepers are forced to toil, but in maintaining a balance we will also look long and hard at some strife-ridden courses and aim to offer practical solutions.

Preparing the first issue was a bit like that, save that the blood ran rather more freely, but with the backing of some unsung heroes we were ready on time and judging by your generous comments we seem to have been pretty well received.

We'll also hear a lot from the educators and hope that we may absorb new ideas; we'll look at thorny environmental issues or proposed legislation that may threaten our livelihood and strive always to protect and improve the well being of all greenkeepers.

In recent times however it has become fashionable to attack almost everything that BIGGA does to improve the lot of their members, and the armchair critics of this magazine, even after a single issue, are suggesting that your editor (and by implication your Association) is guilty of pro-American views and that the magazine has failed to highlight British greenkeeping issues.

There will be enjoyment in this magazine, but there will also be controversial issues honestly faced with no attempt at 'disinformation'.

I am no apologist and will not rise to their bait, least of all after just one month, for in recognising an intelligent audience I believe that whilst issues on our doorstep are important, those happening elsewhere in the world can often have a profound influence on The Way Forward - the path we earnestly seek to tread.

We are sure there will be times when you'll want to put pen to paper, spluttering in protest at statements with which you vehemently disagree.

That is what controlling a magazine is all about.

This one is YOURS and you will be addressed seriously, without condescension or pontification.

From the warmth of my office in Sussex I'm taking pleasure in watching the snow fall, delighted that this natural blanket will give some rest and protection to courses which have been thrashed so mercilessly for so long. Just keep off those toboggans!

We will publish technical turfgrass

DAVID WHITE

Dirty deeds in the public sector

Lack of supervision, bad working practices and quality reduced well below specifications are becoming increasingly prevalent as pressure on public sector spending continues to favour those who submit the lowest tender.

Transferring a weaker product into the drum of a specified grass growth retardant required by contract terms has led a Leicestershire based weed spraying contractor into trouble.

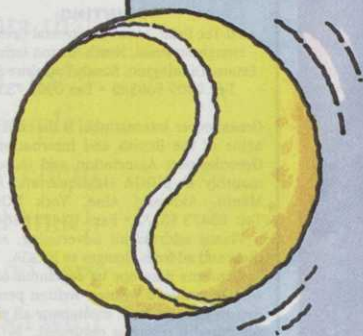
Languard Limited of Husbands Bosworth, Lutterworth, were apprehended on the side of a Yorkshire motorway and found to be in possession of a quantity of 20 litre drums labelled REGULOX K. Upon analysis the drums were found to contain a weaker strength product and not REGULOX K. Languard Limited, who were members of the National Association of Agricultural Contractors, Amenity Section, until their resignation on Feb 1st 1991, were working as sub-contractors to Tarmac in South Yorkshire at the time of the discovered abuse.

Following the incident the manufacturers of REGULOX K have been granted an injunction in the High Court of Justice preventing Languard Limited from a number of actions in relation to their product and trade mark, with costs also awarded against Languard Limited.

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Hawaii sheds grass skirt mentality...

Forget the soft Hollywood image of grass-skirted hip swinging maidens – politicians in Hawaii, America's tourist-trap capital, are proving to be as hard-nosed as any when it comes to making an easy extra buck.

Hawaii's relatively close proximity to Japan has made it a target for Japanese golf course investment and the politicians recognise a good thing when they see it. Although proposed legislation has yet to be officially passed, some Japanese developments have already given a polite bow of approval to charges to be levied on golf course developers which could bring huge returns – billions rather than millions – to Hawaii, in the euphemistically titled Community Impact fees. Sums in excess of \$200 million were agreed by just one company to get approval to build two private members clubs. If we British question the thinking behind the casual acceptance of such unseemly extravagance, remember that golf-hungry Japanese are happily paying around \$100,000 for memberships, which can then be traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, just like shares in Sony or Toyota.

... but closer to home

If the smart though ever-so-slightly fishy scheme concocted by the Hawaiian parliamentarians has you wondering what skulduggery might be cooking on our own

doorsteps; consider the following:

Such is the concern regarding so called 'sweeteners' – the practice of firms paying for such as old peoples homes, wild-life parks, village by-passes, even agreeing to double-glaze a council estate in exchange for planning permissions – that the Government is to investigate this practice, which is recognised as being completely out of hand.

Typically, it seems, a council will suggest that planning permission is forthcoming only to hedge after a firm has committed labour and materials for the project. When actually confronted, the authority might suggest a project on their own 'shopping list' and a deal is then struck. The tactic, described by one eminent planning professor as "sometimes amounting to blackmail", is a festering sore.

Green-watching as we do, we are totally in favour of the trend for turning surplus farming land into golf courses but note that Department of the Environment guidelines recently issued suggest that golf courses should not now be built on SSSI's (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) or AONB's (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

With opposition escalating to the growth of golf, certainly new golf, and with so many official sticky fingers in the honeypot, one wonders how long it will be before golf course developers are 'persuaded' to include little 'Extra's'? On the premise that nothing's for nothing in the business world, the poor old end user – the golfer – may well foot this final bill.

Agenda – The ITV programme which looks at political decisions affecting the South and South East – took on the role of campaigning for reasoned thinking with regard to new golf course applications when featuring our own John Millen recently. John appeared in his role of designer at the new Weald of Kent Golf Course and demonstrated in his inimitable fashion the thinking that has gone into this new and exciting pay and play complex. Viewers were treated to a brief lesson in the psychology of playing shots over water and shown an impressive image of John's swing – albeit without the benefit of club or ball!



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Who and what are moving on and moving in, in the greenkeeping industry



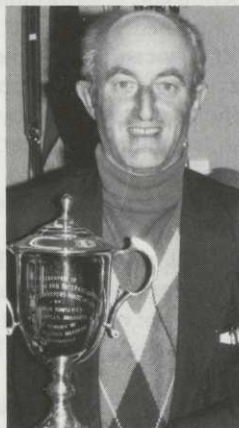
Perry, and Hillier



Two new appointments are announced by Maxwell Hart's, with Melanie Perry joining the Company as their Technical Sales Representative to cover the counties of Shropshire, Staffs, Derbyshire, Northants, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire. Her sales brief will cover Maxwell Hart's range of turf maintenance products. In a similar capacity is Mark Hillier, who will cover the South-West of England.

David Hannam, Regional Administrator for The Northern Region and for so long a stalwart member and active supporter of BIGGA, is on the move. Soon to take up his new position as Head Greenkeeper, Golf Club Du Domaine Imperial, Switzerland, his settling on the other side of the Channel will leave a gap in the Association, which may prove a tough act to follow. We wish David well and hope he'll look in on us from time to time when visiting his beloved Yorkshire.

George Hampton, one of the keenest of North Scotland's members, is leaving Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf club to take up the post of Professional to the Pitlochry Golf Club. As a keen 2 handicap amateur, George joined Burntisland Golf Club as pro/greenkeeper in '64 and remained there for 4 years before moving to a similar job at Stornoway. He remained there for 7 years before moving to Fortrose and Rosemarkie, where he has served for 16 years. Although he is leaving greenkeeping, George will remain active in BIGGA as an Associate member.



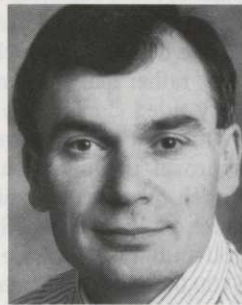
Hampton

A regular prizewinner, George was at one time forced to play off plus 3 but could still win! His greatest pride and career highlight came in '85 when he managed the Scottish Team, bringing them to a fighting second (from

17 teams) behind Ireland in the Ransomes International at St Andrews. He will be no stranger at Pitlochry, for he has assisted retiring pro Jimmy Wilson over many occasions during their popular golf week. Proof of his coaching skill can be found in his three sons, all of whom play scratch or single figure golf.

As George moves from Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, his place is being taken by first assistant George Paterson, a former top student at Elmwood College and a regular member of the Scottish North District Golf Team. We join with all Scottish members in wishing them both good fortune.

Huxleys Grass Machinery have appointed David MacKay as their Senior Development Engineer, specifically to lead a team engaged in the design and development of both new and existing models within Huxleys machinery range. David, a Chartered Engineer, has been involved in development and project engineering throughout his career.



MacKay

Denis Durnian, a likely prospect for 1991 Ryder Cup honours, has signed a sponsorship deal to represent Portal, the Donald Steel designed golf complex at Tarporley, Cheshire. Portal is the course where Mark Proctor, former Young Greenkeeper of the Year, is Course Manager. Proctor is no mean golfer himself, recently coaxing a wedge over water and into the cup at the 120 yard 13th.

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AD REF 8



■ There are two schools of thought on how best to weather an economic downturn or depression, with one battle plan suggesting digging-in and holding fire – a sort of wait and see approach. At 'Greenkeeper International' we hear both gloom and doom and confident optimism and show greater inclination toward listening to the latter. We applaud 'the bottle is still half full' mentality and our day perked-up when we learned that Jacobsen's UK sales showed a dramatic increase again in 1990. Such is their confidence that a move to a new 24,500 square feet complex at Kettering, Northants, is seen as confirmation of the Company's long term commitment and optimism in the UK market.

Speaking of the move, MD Rene Orban said, 'Our increasing sales volume and ever growing machine population in the UK meant that we had simply outgrown our Kings Lynn base'.

Jacobsen's new address is Telford Way, Kettering, NN16 8UN.



Longbottom

■ Friendly Guy Longbottom, well known to greenkeepers and those who frequent trade exhibitions as the man with the cheerful disposition, has been rewarded for the major role he has played at Rolawn Ltd, especially in developing their depot network, with a seat on The Board. He now becomes Operations Director.

■ SISIS have announced the appointment of John Burnham as their Area Representative for the Midlands. As an ex-golf professional who comes from a farming

background, John brings to the task an added edge of expertise, together with some 16 years experience in selling horticultural machinery. We're sure both old and new SISIS customers will welcome him and, who knows, he might even have a remedy for that irritating shank!

■ Robert Brewer, the talented young greenkeeper who left Stirling a year or so back to join Sunningdale, talked to 'Greenkeeper International' recently about his own career progression since his move and of how much he is enjoying the additional opportunities afforded him at this top-notch location. He also tells us that Bob Bennett, who has been commuting by air from Glasgow to manage Sunningdale, is to relinquish his post and will shortly hand over to Lawson Bingham from Old Prestwick. From one prestige location to another, Lawson will be sure to find Sunningdale to his liking, bringing with him as he does yet more of that solid, dependable Scottish know-how. And as Lawson moves south, Murray Stuart, First Assistant Old Prestwick, takes on deserved promotion as Head Greenkeeper.

■ Murcar Golf Club, that splendid links course a mere mashie shot from Royal Aberdeen and boasting equally delicious turf, has a new Head Greenkeeper in Chris Pearson. Originally from Aberdeen, Chris has been Head at Arbroath for the past three years. Also on the move in Scotland is Craig Hildersley of Turnhouse Golf Club, who will travel a scrap further south to Longniddry Golf Club as their new Head Greenkeeper. Kenny Anderson, also from Longniddry, joins in the merry-go-round by taking up a commercial appointment with Stewarts of Edinburgh.

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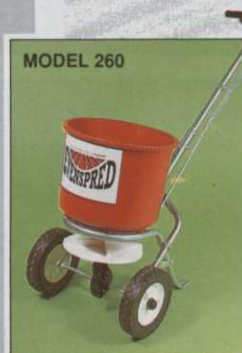
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MODEL 240



MODEL 260

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Nothing's i



Above: The full splendour of nature's panorama shown to great effect here on the green and approach — 14th West.

Right: Pretty as a picture — the 3rd green East.



Impossible

Critics said the East Sussex National golf course would be impossible to achieve and impossible to maintain.

DAVID WHITE reports on a dream which became reality



A common trait amongst certain members of the British public is to 'knock' that of which they are unaware or which threatens to dislodge long-held beliefs. Working on the premise 'don't knock it 'till you've tried it', there is evidence to suggest that hordes of doubting Thomases may choke over their prejudices as the 36 holes of East Sussex National Golf club provide visual and dramatic proof that USGA spec sand greens planted with Pennlinks bentgrass can be a huge success in Britain.

The dream that became a reality began just three years ago when Brian Turner, a successful Canadian entrepreneur and self-confessed golf addict, became enamoured with a handsome tract of Sussex countryside and fired with the idea of creating a course which would stand comparison with the best in the world, perhaps – whisper it – in time becoming a mirror image of Augusta National itself, right in the heart of rural Sussex.

Designing the courses, both the tournament inspired East with its gallery mounding and the elegant and graceful West with distant views toward the rolling South Downs suggesting shades of Bonnie Scotland, was entrusted to the inspirational Bob Cupp, former senior designer for Jack Nicklaus. The results achieved may have put Cupp in the same league as MacKenzie, Colt, or Donald Ross.

The main contract was given to the Transcontinental Golf Course Construction Company, a group with a reputation for producing fine quality work. The results are truly evident at ESN.

Ken Siems, also a Canadian, was hired by Turner to nurture and train a staff capable of maintaining both courses to tournament conditions on a daily basis. Now, after three years intensive work in which the ESN courses have been built and maintained to championship standards which many said were impossible to achieve and totally impossible to maintain, the ESN team are happy to demonstrate the results.

Ken, pictured, is no braggart, yet is justifiably proud of the praise heaped upon the maintenance team by the British Walker and Curtis Cup teams, both having used the courses for intensive pre-match practice and both attributing their success in no small part to the use of ESN's Anglo / US user friendly playing characteristics.

'There are no certain recipes for turfgrass success and the grass species and sands utilised here are but two of the ingredients in providing such quality turf. A sound management programme is an equally critical element.'

- KEN SIEMS

Quizzed on why he thought most British consultant agronomists were so adamant in insisting that Bentgrass would not grow successfully in the UK climate, Ken intimated that growing Bentgrass here required a completely different management programme, different say to that which he would use in his former Toronto location. 'I think', he said, 'that people have the mistaken belief that creeping Bentgrass – or USGA spec greens – are only managed in one way, but the intensity and frequency of growth will vary considerably depending on the climate prevalent in the geographical area in which it is grown. There are no certain recipes for turfgrass success and the grass species and sands utilised here are but two of the ingredients in providing such quality turf. A sound management programme is an equally critical

element.

It is a complicated science, with improvements in the science of turfgrass moving as quickly as in any other high-tec industry. Nobody knows it all, but flexible thinking and experimentation are the keys to success for the greenkeeper.

A small turf nursery should form part of a greenkeeper's course management programme, for it is a great idea to experiment with fertility, fungicide and disease prevention programmes and can prove useful when attempting to 'sell' an idea to a green committee. If a Club wishes to rebuild their greens using the USGA spec I would strongly recommend they authorise and encourage the building of such a nursery, using the USGA method, in order that first hand experience of the different management needed for such new greens may be studied and evaluated. It is a difficult transition to move from soil based greens to those which are sand based in one fell swoop.

'We spent many months testing and indeed rejecting many specimens before hitting upon the right sand for our type of operation. The sand/peat mix drains very quickly and consequently nutrient leeching is also very rapid. From the very start our thinking has been clear. If quality greens were going to be built then the USGA spec was – for us – the only way to go. It is our considered opinion that it is a mistake to build in any other way'.

On the vexing question of overplay, Ken takes a firm stance in stating that he sees this as the biggest single problem in the industry.

He continued, 'At ESN our target is not more than 25,000 rounds on each course. More than this and the quality will diminish. Of course the number of rounds played will vary from course to course, dependant on soil types, design and drainage. We are not above closing the course when frost is prevalent and our members not only understand our reasoning but appreciate it. They know that quality has a price'.

Reflecting on his maintenance team, Ken outlined the Club's commitment regarding training. Already Ken Barber, a head greenkeeper who came to ESN from Crowborough Beacon Golf Club, has been trained for greater

● Continued overleaf

'Commitment to excellence'

● From previous page things and is away at this moment at the Pennsylvania State University. Their plan is for at least one green staff member to attend Penn. State's Turfgrass Programme each year. An after work lecture and maintenance 'think tank' is held each week and upwards of 20 staff attend. Although this is unpaid, it reflects the overall commitment to excellence held by every single greenkeeper.

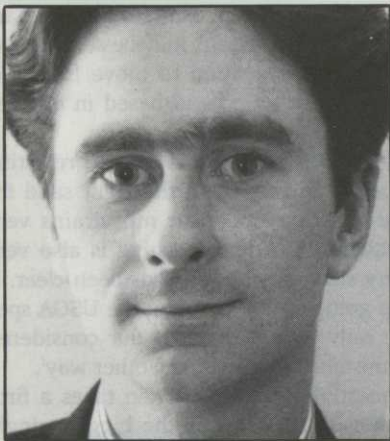
As if managing two courses and upwards of 40 staff in the peak months was not enough, Ken is also working closely with David Blackmur at Plumpton Agricultural College. Here ESN are building sand greens on Plumpton's own little course and although the concept is a new one for Blackmur he is enthusiastic about the theory and understands and endorses one vitally important fact – a good sand does not compact.

Summarising, Ken Siems is in awe of the fine job British greenkeepers do within the limitations of the equipment and budgets placed at their disposal. 'With what they have they do far better than their American counterparts' were his actual words.

'There is however one thing that we would all do well to remember', he concluded, 'practices change, technology races ahead and with a bit more of the **I can do it** approach, nothing is impossible – certainly not USGA spec sand greens that work!'



Developing a golf course: from



by **JONATHAN GAUNT**. The author gained his degree in Landscape Architecture at Leeds before joining Golf Landscapes Ltd as their golf course designer. His first design was the 27 hole Jack o' Legs Golf Centre at Stevenage and he is currently contracted to design 18 holes for Magnolia Park Golf Club, Bristol. He is one of a new breed of young architects and has recently formed his own consultancy practice in London.

PART ONE: Feasibility Studies

Over recent years many landowners have become increasingly attracted to the potential of selling their land for golf course development. They may not always be in a position to develop themselves, but selling land to developers with the magic words 'with planning permission for a golf course and hotel' often spells fat profits.

This however is not always wholly true, for developers are very choosy when it comes to buying a golf course site. There are a number of criteria that a site must satisfy before any decision can be made; for instance there is a world of difference between a site with full planning permission in the Norfolk Fens and a site that is just a few hundred metres from a junction of the M25. Location is so very important, for it will be the one factor above all others that will determine the success of the facility – access must be close to a major road or motorway and in addition there has to be a major conurbation within 15 or 20 minutes drive.

The wise landowner, especially one striving to be both planning seeker and developer, will want to ask many questions. How can I maximise on my available acreage? What kind of

course should be built? How can I be sure it will be successful? How much will it cost? How can I get the local environmentalists on my side? Are there enough would-be golfers who will want to play?

Quality of land is not a major problem, except when finance is severely limited, for today a golf course can be built almost anywhere – on marshland, disused gravel pits, land-fill sites, or mountain slopes. Indeed some sections have even appeared on floating pontoons in the middle of a lake! The amount of land available will determine if the course is to be 9, 18, 27 or 36 holes and this has a direct bearing upon the amount of golfers who can play at any one time – which in turn effects the profit.

The course must be able to pay for itself and above all make money, so if other profitable leisure facilities can be provided in the clubhouse or ancillary buildings this becomes less of a problem. It must never be forgotten that the overriding factor most likely to prevent development going ahead is of course finance – or the lack of it – for building a golf course is never cheap.

Landowners and developers often steam ahead with planning applications without first



Death or glory
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doing anywhere near enough research and in particular without having a feasibility study produced. Maybe in their early euphoria they are a little too keen on seeing the golf course built, but they must expect that when an application is brought before a District Council it will not reach 'committee' for at least 12 weeks, and then only if all the councillors have had an opportunity to at least read the landowners proposals.

There can be frustrating delays, perhaps caused by members of the committee being on holiday or by an applicant failing to provide enough information or simply because of bad communication.

The landowner who has the foresight to ask questions first and act later will be one who calls upon the services of a golf course or landscape architect to prepare a feasibility study, one who has experience in the preparation of such documents. The information included within the study is wide ranging in content and a number of sources are often required.

The feasibility study will identify sources of finance, a major bank possibly, or perhaps the architect will direct the

landowner towards a broker. Brokers have their own contacts of course but will expect to collect a fee for their services – sometimes as much as 2% of the borrowed amount. The study will determine where the site is in relation to the market demand, by researching population levels in the locality and taking due regard of the number of existing Golf Clubs. Equally important will be a count of the number of golfers who may care to become members, perhaps already on waiting lists, and their expected waiting period.

The Sports Council often provide help with such information and the demand level can then be made by the consultant with recommendations, for example, for the type and scale of facilities that are most suitable.

One of the most important factors within the study concerns the physical characteristics of the site. For example, it may be that only 50% of a site can be used because of extreme slopes or because the soil is so poor that a massive drainage system is required which could be prohibitively expensive to install, thus making the development an unviable

proposition.

Not only is it essential to produce a feasibility study at the outset when funds may not have been finalised but even after finances seem secure, for even some of the large and ambitious developments have come up against financial problems brought about by an uncertain economy or by insufficient planning.

Summarising, a feasibility study can save both money and worry. Making planning applications is both expensive and time consuming, especially when the whole exercise ends up being a complete waste of time. By having a study prepared at the outset a landowner will have a firm foundation upon which to establish a sound development.

He must also be prepared for other possibilities: that he may be strongly advised not to proceed at all, that he must look elsewhere for more suitable land, or indeed forget about making his fortune from golf altogether.

● Next month: When the planning application is finally approved, the real work begins...

No ordinary year

In conversation with David White, BIGGA Chairman IVOR SCOONES talks of an exceptional year in his life – when chairing Association affairs became ‘not so much a job, more a way of life!’

As my term of office draws to a close I look back on a highly charged and eventful year – certainly no ordinary one – with pride at the honour that was bestowed upon me and gratitude for the privilege of having worked with such dedicated board members. Coming into board management in the Association was no overnight affair, for I have been involved with green-keeping committees since as far back as I can remember. I was National Chairman of BGGGA back in '72, served as a section secretary for seven years and held most other offices at one time or another. I did once fancifully try to retire from committee life, but they say ‘once a committee man, always a committee man’, and I was soon dragged back – without too much pain or displeasure I might add – for it can be hugely rewarding.

I've been a greenkeeper for 31 years, 28 of them at my beloved Long Ashton and have enjoyed wonderful support from the membership. Indeed, they've shared equally in the pleasure, pride and honour that comes with my being Chairman of BIGGA. It appears the kudos rubs off on everyone – my wife, my family, my wonderfully loyal team of three green staff and my members. All have appeared to gain pleasure from my experience and though sacrifices had had to be made, especially as being chairman demands a 25 hour clock, the shared pride has made it doubly worthwhile for me.

I first learned of becoming chairman some three years ago when Jack McMillan ended his term of office. Tradition has it that the outgoing chairman names the man he considers worthy to take the vacant vice-chairman post – after a little ‘sounding out’ – with his choice then put to the board for approval. With board work taking such huge chunks of one's time, especially that of chairman, it is vital to get these soundings dealt with early on – for the year of office is such that planning must be programmed well in advance in order that the candidate, his family and his Golf Club can make the jig-saw fit together properly.

Fortune shone on me in 1989 through serving as vice-chairman alongside Paddy McCarron. His was no uneventful year either and the one sure thing that can be said about Paddy is that he would have made a marvellous politician, skilled as he is at pouring oil onto troubled waters. With every year the Association grows bigger and more ambitious, especially in the field of education, which ensures that careers in greenkeeping are better and more fulfilling for those involved. With this growth comes the revelation for board members that more and more time is demanded for official matters. If you are unaware upon joining the board, the realisation is soon thrust upon you that there is no place for the half-hearted or only slightly dedicated.

Called officially to the ‘chair’ at Egham, I was in no way under any illusion that this would be the start of a year of fun. There were rumblings – even then – with the major problem being the failure of the then magazine to serve as a proper form of communication and reflect the true voice and spirit of members.

Like any new Association, for that is what we are, we have growing pains, because we are growing at such a frightening rate. My own personal view was that we needed to slow down and consolidate. It's nice to get all these new things but unless you get them on a firm footing circumstances can change, especially on the financial side. We had done things that were complete necessities, education being our major project and priority,

but in the main the golf world was not supporting us, other than the R & A who have been and remain a most marvellous mainstay. We had to find the money and there was a degree of anguish and squealing.

George Malcolm has been my vice-chairman and we've enjoyed a good close working relationship. I guess one tends to look at situations as they arise and realise that many current things will still be ‘bubbling in the pot’ after one's term is done. I've tried to pass on my experiences and endeavoured to ensure solid continuity. Certainly the biggest task has been to attempt to keep every board member advised of all that's happening – a huge task given the continually evolving situation in relation to our magazine. Happily matters have progressed and I am delighted that these thoughts on my year in office will appear in our new magazine ‘Greenkeeper International’. The impact this magazine has already made it quite tremendous and I'm confident it will continue from strength to strength.

As a board we admit to being inspired amateurs, though by being in the deep-end we learn to become professionals PDQ. There are times when perhaps we might side against the advice offered by our Executive Director, and rather like a Golf Club committee, there is one problem that continues to beset us, namely continuity. We don't know the answer to that one, but perhaps we are not alone, since 90% of Golf Clubs have the same thorny problem.

Essentially Neil and I work closely together and he gives me a weekly report of current happenings. As chairman it is incumbent upon me to decide with Neil those things which require board attention, for clearly with so much happening if every single item was to reach the discussion table the permanent staff would be kept busy 24 hours a day just churning out relevant papers.

To redress what may appear as a picture of ‘all work and no play’, there have been many wonderful times throughout the year. At Egham, when I took over, I enjoyed a fantastic week and the atmosphere of the place

itself was quite magical. I've enjoyed visiting other sections and meeting up with old friends, I've been thrilled at The Open, and taken great delight in seeing other members enjoy themselves at our own National Tournament and at the ICI, Toro and PGA European Tour Award ceremonies.

There have been trade and industry invites, and a delightful element of wining and dining that has seen my waistline suffering along with my golf handicap!

Asked what I would like to see for the Association in an ideal world I can instantly respond by suggesting that the golf world might look to providing the finance necessary to train all greenkeepers. Training is something that industry has been doing – and paying for – for years and the time is ripe for golf to catch up. That would be a first priority, with another wish thrown in for good measure that Golf Clubs recognise they are now in the big business league and leave professional greenkeeping work to professional greenkeepers. ‘The Way Forward’ document pinpoints the inadequacies of how many Clubs are managed and yet the very essence of Golf Club committee structure continues to ensure that there are amateurs who insist on making ‘their’ mark during their term of office. Thankfully I've escaped that problem in the main, though there's always one – somewhere – who wants to change the world!



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IAN DAIR, Assistant Director with the Nature Conservancy Council, writes of the Council's aims for golf course ecological preservation, essentially as a primer to the introduction of their new Greenkeepers Conservation Management Plan...

Golf is booming. It used to be something for the privileged few (Scotland excepted). Now, millions take part in the sport and many millions more wish they could. Golf is big business and is already a major land user with the 1,800 or so courses in Great Britain covering around 100,000 hectares. If the R & A's predictions on the need for more courses are fulfilled there could be another 700 courses in England and Wales alone covering another 40,000 hectares.

If it hasn't done so already, golf has to grow up very quickly to meet this new status. It must be aware of its position in the world at large. That it is doing so, and very well, is expressed in the initiatives which the Royal and Ancient's Greenkeeping Panel have taken in issuing their two discussion documents 'The Way Forward' and 'The Demand for Golf'. 'The Way Forward' recognises in particular that 'when managing the land on which golf is played we must ensure that greenkeeping practices are beyond reproach from the rest of the community. The



Above - Sundridge Park Golf Course, Kent.
On Pages 14, 15 - Church Stretton Golf Course, Shropshire

conservation lobby grows annually in strength and a little planning now may save a lot of trouble in 10/15 years time'. My organisation, the Nature Conservancy Council, is part of the conservation lobby - the reasoned and responsible part, given that any lobby will have this part and the other (no less useful in its way) with a more than single-minded devotion to the cause. To quote again from 'The Way Forward' - 'it must therefore be in the interest of course management - and the game - to form a proper working relationship with the NCC, in order that future plans work to the benefit of both parties. And, again, to publicise the part that Golf Clubs

● Continued on Page 19

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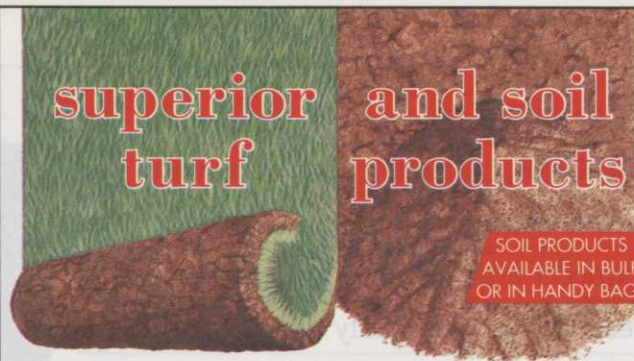
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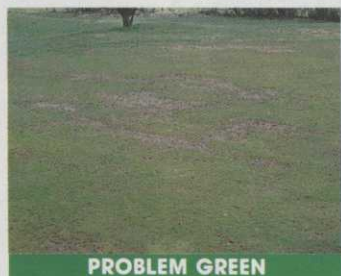
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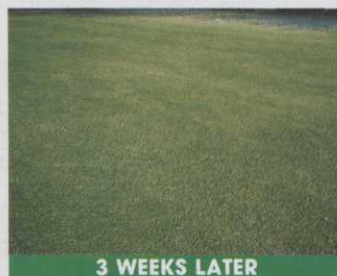
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● From Page 17

play in responsibly conserving wildlife for the benefit of the whole community'. A nature conservationist, whether reasoned or rabid, couldn't put it better.

So, what has the Nature Conservancy Council done to respond to this overture from the R & A? A lot, is the answer – but hand in glove with the R & A, the National Golf Unions and your own association, BIGGA. Our aim in so doing has been to encourage the golf world to manage its land and its activities with nature conservation, or its recreation, in mind: to assist the golf world to do this: and to achieve both these aims with a minimum call on the NCC itself since, as a Government agency, we are kept on a very tight rein by the Treasury.

How could we help the golf world to keep golf green? I happen to be the chairman of my Golf Club and Mike Schofield, the colleague who worked with me on our nature conservation and golf course project, is a keen golfer himself. So we knew that whatever we did had to

be acceptable to the golf world and to the people who control what happens on golf courses is the captain, the chairman of green and, most importantly, the greenkeepers. So we asked them what they wanted, consulted them over what we were producing and gained their support and commitment throughout. The result has been a book 'On Course Conservation – Managing Golf's Natural Heritage'. This was sponsored and fully endorsed by the R & A and launched by Michael Bonalack at the ETME Conference in Harrogate in January 1990. It was distributed free to every club in Great Britain. We are following this up with an example of a conservation management plan for your course which the greenkeeper can complete.

This is what the NCC and the golf authorities are doing. But what can you as a greenkeeper do to manage your course for conservation? Well, first of all get hold of the book from the captain or secretary. Look out for the training courses on conservation management which BIGGA conduct regularly. But, most of all, think of yourself not just as a golf greenkeeper but as a conservation manager for your course. I never cease to be impressed by the general conservation knowledge, and the specific knowledge of their own course, which comes across whenever I talk to greenkeepers. I feel confident that in looking after wildlife you are looking after the interest of the golfers who use your course, that course itself and golf in general. Michael Bonalack put this eloquently, 'In these times when so many species of plants and animals are endangered by so called progress it is good to think that golf has a tremendous opportunity to reverse this trend'.

General points for turf on the golf course

1 Management: To get greens into play in the shortest time choose turf which has been intensively maintained at a relatively low cutting height in the turf grower's nursery.

2 Disease: Should disease affect a turf containing a mixture of grasses it is likely that one of the grasses will be less susceptible and will fill in gaps created by the death of its companion grass. A single species turf (pure bent or pure fescue) cannot do this.

3 Weeds: All cultivated turf should be free of both broad-leaved weeds and weed grasses, particularly annual meadow grass.

4 Soil Type: Most new golf greens are constructed with a sand/soil rootzone mix. In terms of natural soil this most closely approximates to "loamy sand" or "sandy loam". A turf supplier should be able to provide information.

5 Samples: The best way to choose turf if you are at all unsure is to inspect the field from which your order is to come, or to obtain a representative sample as close as possible to harvest date. Any reputable turf grower will welcome the opportunity to show you his fields.

6 Price: It is expensive to produce a good quality turf. If you are offered turf at a cheap price be very wary and find out what has reduced the price. As with many products, you get what you pay for.

7 Independent Advice: There are many so-called advisers jumping on the golf course bandwagon. Use only qualified agronomists for advice.

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Search is on for the 'ideal' seed mixture...

This article is abridged from the booklet: TURF ON THE GOLF COURSE, by Robert Laycock, Rolawn Technical Director. Copies free on request to BIGGA HQ.

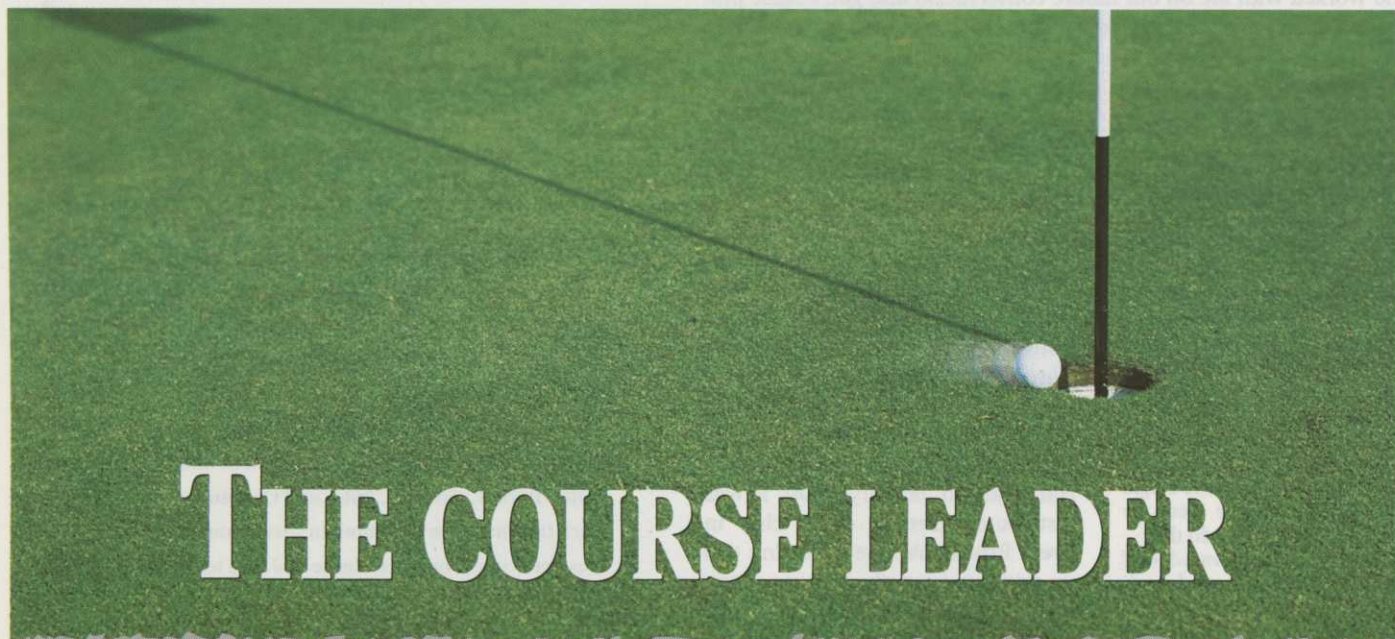
In theory, the use of seed gives the user the widest choice of species and cultivars, and it should be possible to pick and choose the best for each particular situation. In practice, however, the constructor tends to choose from the ranges of proprietary mixtures offered by the major seed houses. In devising their mixtures the seedsmen inevitably have to compromise between availability and price. Some desirable cultivars are effectively exclusive to a seedsman and so the 'ideal' seed mixture remains hypothetical. Even so, the annual STRI seed guide enables an objective comparison to be made.

Given time, seed can give a first class surface. It does not introduce any undesired soil types to the course and is by far the cheapest method. Unfortunately in the

British climate, seed is significantly slower than turf.

The use of turf speeds up the establishment time of greens – the most crucial part of the course – and it is here that turfing is becoming the conventional way of quickly obtaining an established putting surface.

Good cultivated turf is purpose-grown from different seed mixtures by suppliers who have an established reputation and should be mature, uniformly cut, weed-free and available year round. Choosing the most appropriate is the key to success. From a practical view there is less risk involved in creating a new green from turf, for seeded greens are notoriously subject to adverse weather conditions and weed invasion. Indeed there are many who in going for the immediate saving which seed



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brings have found that they have had to pay for seed and turf as well, together with suffering delays.

Turf for Golf Greens

By far the most common grass to spoil the uniformity of the green is annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). This weed grass has a faster growth speed than most other grasses and, if present in conditions which suit it, may take over the whole green. It is susceptible to diseases and has poor colour in drought and winter.

Fescue/Bent Turf

'As an ideal surface on which to play year round golf, fescue / bent turf cannot be surpassed'. - The Way Forward - published by the R & A Greenkeeping Panel, 1989.

The normal turf used on North European golf greens consists of fine-leaved fescues (Chewings and/or slender creeping red fescue) and browntop bent and is the surface recommended by the R & A and the STRI.

The traditional seed mixture for greens turf is 80% Chewings fescue: 20% browntop bent, which should yield a turf containing a good balance of these species. The ideal green should contain both fescue and bent but the proportions will depend on prevailing site and management conditions.

Current high levels of play, coupled with inadequate green drainage, have led many fescue / bent greens to deteriorate to the extent that they now consist mainly of *Poa annua* with some bent. Good construction and management will avoid this happening, but if not cared for the fescue is the first to go.

When buying fescue / bent turf look for an assurance from the supplier that their turf is free from *Poa*.

Cumberland or Sea-Washed Turf

Harvested mainly from the Solway Firth sea marshes, sea-washed turf consists mainly of native fine-leaved fescues with little, if any, bentgrass and the soil is silty. The fine particle size of this soil inhibits drainage and may lead to compaction and surface water retention. As well as badly drained greens, this in turn leads to *Poa* invasion once out of the salty environment. It is virtually impossible to keep this turf pure on an inland course.


Pure Fescue Cultivated Turf

This is a recent version of sea-washed turf. Using seeds of cultivars of fine-leaved fescues, it can be grown on soils other than those of estuaries. Pure fescue turf is very fine-leaved and can look impressive to the uninitiated on first inspection.

Pure Bent Turf

In the USA and on American influenced courses in Europe, creeping bentgrass (usually Pennncross), is the accepted grass for golf greens. Its use in this country is controversial. It is usually established from seed though a very small amount is being grown for turf. Creeping bentgrass greens need a different management approach from conventional fescue/bent greens because they spread by the production of above-ground stolon (creeping stems). This essentially means more frequent verticutting than on fescue/bent turf.

'As an ideal surface on which to play year round golf, fescue / bent turf cannot be surpassed'.
- The Way Forward,
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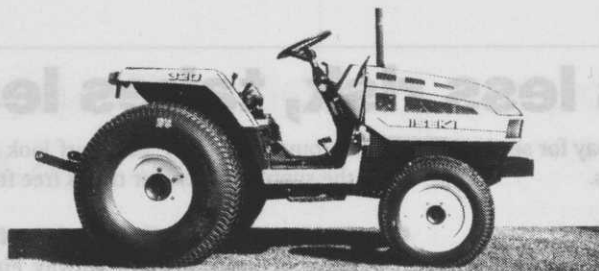


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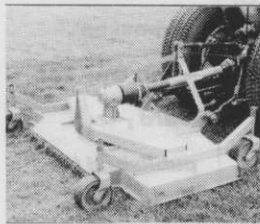


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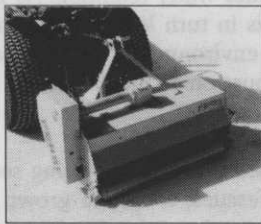
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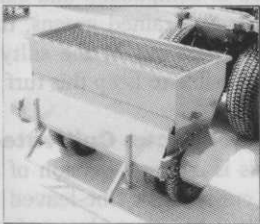
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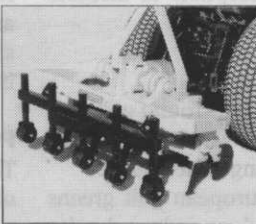
ROTARY MOWER



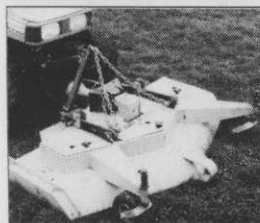
FLAIL MOWER



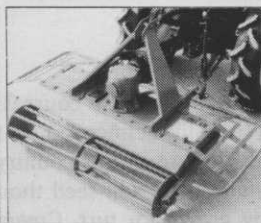
MULTISPREAD



VIBRAMASTER



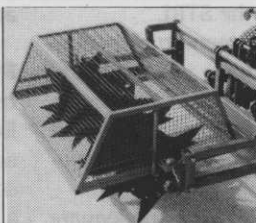
FRONT MOWER



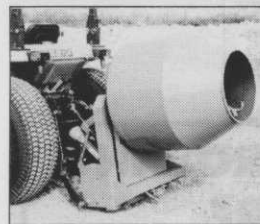
ROTARY HARROW



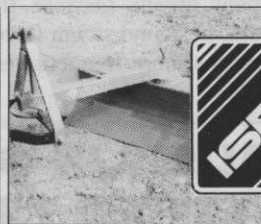
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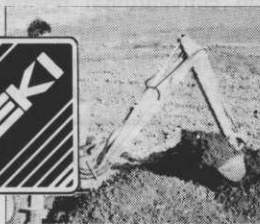
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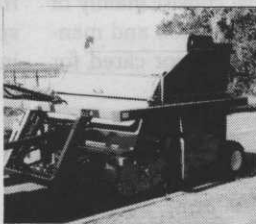
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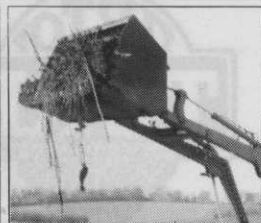
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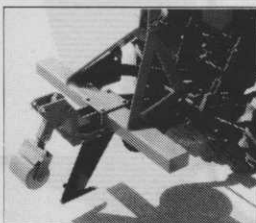
TIPPING TRAILER



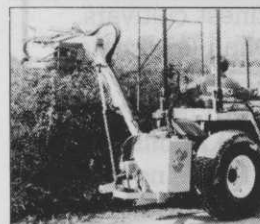
FRONT LOADER



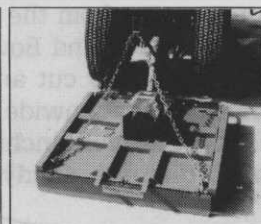
ROTARY CULTIVATOR



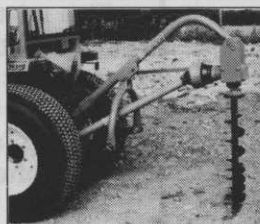
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There are machines for the builder and landscaper, machines for councils and local authorities, a range for golf course and sportsground maintenance, all because Iseki know what you need, to make the most of your tractor.

Iseki attachments, because no matter what make you've got, we've got more of a range, for more of your jobs – no wonder Iseki are the driving force for professional grounds care, horticulture and landscaping.

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Letters

To the Editor

I write to ask if you can provide me with information on head green-keeping positions in the USA.

Currently I am a deputy head greenkeeper at Brookmans Park, a position I've held for the past 14 months, previously having held the post of assistant greenkeeper at Finchley for 5 years. I play golf and have a handicap of 14.

I attended a City and Guilds College course for 3 years and passed all the examinations I took, I've been a member of both EIGGA and BIGGA over seven years and recently became a committee member of the London section.

The idea of moving to the USA as a head greenkeeper is one that appeals and when I travel on holiday to Florida in September I plan to take along my CV and references.

I would be most grateful for any advice you can offer.

BARRY MOGGRIDGE
Brookmans Park Golf Club.

● **Barry's letter is typical of many such requests received, and the information I can offer is regrettably not encouraging. Obtaining the necessary 'green card', the permit essential to enable a person to take up employment in the USA, is very difficult indeed. Restrictions are such that a prospective employer/sponsor must prove to US officials that a position cannot be filled by an American citizen. As a good example, a Japanese chef might obtain entry to prepare food for an exclusively Japanese restaurant if no Japanese/American resident can be found, but his sponsor must prove that all other sources have been explored and found wanting. Such is the competition amongst US college educated graduates for work in the American turfgrass industry that few, if any, foreign nationals are ever considered.**

To Neil Thomas

On behalf of the Executive Committee of The Golf Society of Great Britain I am pleased to address this letter to your Association, along with an accompanying cheque for £250.00

The Golf Society is pursuing its aim of supporting amateur golf and in this pursuit the Executive Committee were mindful that the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is a comparatively new body and one which is most deserving of all possible help and encouragement.

The Golf Society of Great Britain wishes your Association well and trusts that this contribution may help in some small way.

E J DRUMMOND
Secretary, GSGB

● **The Golf Society of Great Britain, founded in 1955 by the late Sir Aynsley Bridgland of Princes Golf Club, aims to promote goodwill and further the interests of amateur golf. It is non-profit making and donates large sums to golf's governing bodies towards international match expenses.**

To Neil Thomas

I write to thank you and your staff for organising such a marvellous programme of events at Harrogate in January. The time spent in the presence of Jim Beard, his turfgrass manual and 850 slides, was a major learning experience and not to be missed. I hope we can book him for a follow-up workshop.

The seminars got off to a flying start with Bobbie Gee, who I'm sure made us all take a retrospective look at ourselves. The follow-up also provided many interesting and varied presentations and my only regret was in seeing the theatre so sparsely attended, especially as our overseas speakers had travelled against advice due to the Gulf War.

I am sure that as word spreads on the quality of these events numbers will increase, and I urge every delegate to broadcast the fact and recommend to every member and club official the importance of attending.

May I also congratulate BIGGA on producing such a vastly improved magazine in such a short space of time. The contents easily lived up to the glossy cover - long may it continue.

DAVID J WOOD
Holtye Golf Club

Dates announced for Iseki-BIGGA Golf Championships

The 1991 ISEKI Championships are underway, with the following section and regional competition dates scheduled:

SCOTTISH REGION

East	Baberton Golf Club	April 9th
West	Lenzie Golf Club	April 18th
Central	Burntisland Golf Club	April 23rd
Ayrshire	Irving Bogside Golf Club	May 20th
North	Nairn West Golf Club	May 16th

SCOTTISH REGIONAL FINAL
FRASERBURGH GOLF CLUB, MAY 28TH

NORTHERN REGION

Sheffield	Coxmoor Golf Club	April 3rd
Cleveland	Middlesbrough Municipal	April 24th
Northern	Wetherby Golf Club	April 24th
North East	Bamburgh Castle Golf Club	April 25th
North West	Saddleworth Golf Club	May 15th

NORTHERN REGIONAL FINAL
KESWICK GOLF CLUB, JUNE 19TH

MIDLAND SECTION

Midland	Kings Norton Golf Club	April 8th
Mid Anglia	Northampton County Golf Club	April 17th
East of England	Blankney Golf Club	May 13th
East Midlands	Kibworth Golf Club	May 16th
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	Goring and Streetley	May 22nd

MIDLAND REGIONAL FINAL
BELTON PARK GOLF CLUB, JUNE 24TH

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Coast	Royal Winchester Golf Club	December 5th
Devon and Cornwall	East Devon Golf Club	March 14th
South Wales	Wenvoe Castle Golf Club	April 11th
South West	Bristol and Clifton Golf Club	April 25th
North Wales	Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club	May 23rd

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES FINAL
TREDEGAR PARK, JULY 27TH

SOUTH EAST REGION

Surrey	Richmond Golf Club	April 11th
East Anglia	Channels Golf Club	April 16th
Sussex	Neville Golf Club	April 17th
London	Hadley Wood Golf Club	April 22nd
Kent	Sittingbourne Golf Club	May 14th

SOUTH EAST FINAL
HAM MANOR GOLF CLUB, JULY 3RD

IRELAND

Northern	Portstewart Golf Club	May 21st
Southern	Forrest Little Golf Club	May 23rd

The Grand Final of the Iseki Tournament will be held at Hillside Golf Club on Thursday September 12th, 1991.

■ **The 120th Open Championship will be held at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport from July 18th - 21st 1991, with Head Greenkeeper Tom O'Brien in control of the course preparation.**

Members wishing to be considered for the BIGGA Green-keeping Support Team should forward their names and addresses to Headquarters as soon as possible.

Preference will be given to those who are available for a period which begins on Wednesday afternoon on July 17th and finishes on Sunday evening, July 21st.

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Subscriptions to BIGGA - how much to pay

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 1991

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper.....	£40.00
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£37.00
* First Assistant/Assistant Greenkeeper	£34.00
20 Years of Age or Under	£22.00
Associate/Company	£40.00 (includes 1 year's subscription to 'Greenkeeper International')
Associate	£18.00 (without magazine)
Corporate	£500.00 maximum

With the exception of Associate members paying £18 all members as part of their membership packages will receive 'Greenkeeper International' magazine monthly. All new members will receive an Association tie.

Lady members joining the £18 Associate category will receive a headscarf and stickpin as part of their membership package.

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

INTERNATIONAL

All Greenkeeping Staff	£48.00
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* 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.

NEW FOR 1991

THE BIGGA PERSONAL PENSION PLAN

BIGGA is pleased to announce that with immediate effect, the minimum premium for the BIGGA Personal Pension Plan is reduced to only £15 per month for all greenkeepers. So now you can take full advantage of the tremendous benefits that the plan offers for a lower monthly outlay.

NEW

THE BIGGA MORTGAGE SERVICE

BIGGA is pleased to announce a new service for all members, which will make it easier for greenkeepers to secure the best mortgage offer when they are either buying a new house or refinancing the purchase of their existing property. The Association is well aware of the exceptional demands placed upon its members because of the nature of their work. Greenkeepers do not always have the time to explore all the mortgage possibilities available.

NOW is the time to find out more. Please complete the form below and post to:
Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

- Tick box
1. I will soon be/am in the process of buying a house. Please send me details of the new BIGGA Mortgage Service.....
 2. I already pay for a mortgage on my house, but I wish to know if any better mortgage arrangements are available to me.....
 3. I am/am not in a Golf Club Pension Scheme. Please send me details of the new 1991 BIGGA Pension Plan

Name

Golf Club and Job Title

Home Address

Post Code

Tel. No. (Work)..... (Home)



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Howard Evans Financial Services is an appointed representative of Standard Life and is a special financial advisor to BIGGA. Pensions, Investments, Savings, Life Assurance, Mortgages, Commercial Loans, Tax Planning, Health Care and Financial Management.

With the agreement of the greenkeeper I arranged to meet his staff individually. As a small team it is important that we know each other. Prior to the meeting the secretary had allowed me to look at their personnel files, so I knew a little about their skills and length of service. However for the benefit of us all as a group it was important that they could put a face to the new name and that I knew each of them individually. But more than that I needed to know about them as people, their family details, pastimes and hobbies as well as how they saw their job, their working relationships with each other and their aspirations for the future.

Like most interviews it is important to set the scene before a discussion becomes productive. After we had introduced ourselves I gave a brief explanation for the meeting, advised that I would be taking notes which would be treated as confidential and which they could see if they wished. I went on to explain that I needed to record their thoughts and ideas for me to understand who was doing what on the course before I could make a contribution to their cause.

Each meeting went well, they spoke freely, particularly at the end when I gave them a chance to ask me questions. The meetings were a good investment for future working relationships for we now nod to each other on the course and what is most pleasing, they speak with interest when we discuss course matters.

As a result of these meetings I knew the green staff and had a vague idea of their regular maintenance work commitments together with current course developments, also I had seen their machinery workshop and mess room. Even after such a short time I felt sure that I could use some of my long learned skills to make a contribution to their activity, together with the greenkeeper I identified several worthwhile projects.

On a lighter note we identified the more outspoken club members who masquerade as amateur greenkeepers. I pointed out that I was honour bound to read their sometimes extensive recommendations and listen to their advice which often included a good dose of 'Weed and Feed'. However I reminded the greenkeeper of the club rule that no member other than the captain and myself should give order to members of the green staff. While members may wish to pass the time of day and ask about his family or the course, he should not feel pressurised to change course practices to match the aspirations of individual members: We agreed that if this happened he should remind the member that a greenkeeper uses his skill to interpret the general policies of the committee. Therefore a member should direct his suggestion to a committee member or write to the secretary, who would be required to take such a letter to the management committee. Without realising it we had just made our first decision in what was to be a list of Duties and Responsibilities.

Duties and responsibilities

Prior to accepting the job of chairman of green my thoughts had been directed to the duties and responsibilities of the job. Nothing was written down. It seemed that in common with most clubs you picked it up as you went along. While we should never condone an inflexible bureaucracy, I always find that the discipline of an agreed set of rules is necessary if each team member is to make a full contribution to the team effort. Otherwise a laissez-faire attitude pervades the group with members doing what they think is required rather than what is actually required. While this arrangement may be acceptable for a short time, practice has proved that most workers need to know the parameters of both their



short and long term responsibilities.

In an ideal world each worker would have a Job Description which included every aspect of his employment. Most firms are loath to issue these as they may be considered restrictive. Employers tend to fear that if the description is less than complete they may be forced to negotiate additional pay for existing duties. However many of the more enlightened companies have within their Personnel Departments, Job Descriptions which they use as an aid during job selection interviews.

Bearing that in mind, most general managers recognise the need for both managerial and supervisory staff to be fully aware of their duties and responsibilities. To this end they produce a printed list which may be quite specific in some of the 'must attain' sections such as output targets and budgets and rather vague in the 'should be aware of sections where a general knowledge of a subject is considered sufficient.

Quite early on in our working relationship the greenkeeper discussed this problem with me. He confirmed that there were no written rules for either of us to work to. He went on to point out that he could be more positive in his decisions if he was sure that he was operating within the rules of the management committee. I agreed to help and decided to extend the rules to cover the chairman of green. Within a few weeks I had drafted an outline for both of us.

As they were being written it became obvious that we both had responsibilities under the same heading. We agreed that generally my job was to interpret the policies of the management committee and that his job was to ensure that those interpretations were completed in the most effective manner. By the end of the year and after many refinements we each had a list of Duties and Responsibilities that we were both quite happy with. The headings included:

- CommitteesPolicies and their interpretation
 - Major Fixtures.....Their identification together with any special course requirements
 - Club competitionsCourse requirements
 - Condition of the CourseGeneral and specific
 - Course workUse of safe working methods, development of good working practices
 - Work recordingRecording of work done on the course
 - Plant and equipmentRegisters, Maintenance and security
 - Golf course legislationPresent and proposed
 - Personnel records.....Ensure they are up to date and correct
 - Finance.....Set and control of budgets
- Next month: work recording.

Those outspoken club members who masquerade as amateur greenkeepers

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREEN

Part 2 Meeting the staff



Alan Smith, pictured left, Course Tutor at Elmwood College, explains by use of a string diagram the best route through a golf course. Looking on are greenkeepers who attended Elmwood for one week to complete their Distance Learning Supervisory Greenkeeping Course.

The course consists of four National Certificate Modules delivered as a series of packages, sent to greenkeepers as they progress at their own pace. This course, which has proved most popular and attracted 40 greenkeepers from Europe, is to receive extra support staff to meet rising demand.

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Course 'trains golf pro's to become course managers'

As this issue was about to close the news reached us that a press release had been issued by Merrist Wood College regarding an HND in Golf Course Studies – approved by BTEC and supported officially by the PGA and the PGA European Tour – which is to begin in September. As so often happens in these matters, the National Press took hold of the meatier end of the bone and made great play of the fact that the course was as much tailor-made for those aspiring to be golf course designers or course managers as for young tyro's with an eye on Faldo and the glittering prize.

Knowing that David Golding had been in discussion with Merrist Wood over the proposed course and had expressed official concern over both the timing and wording of the press release, our fears were that greenkeepers, upon reading that the HND ... 'could lead students to careers as tournament professionals, clubs professionals, teaching or club repair specialists, tournament officials, golf centre managers, marketing specialists, *course managers, golf course designers* and many others... would view the course as training golf pro's to infiltrate their profession and become Golf Course Managers.

In a subsequent BBC radio interview, George Shiels, Vice Principal at Merrist Wood, and Course Tutor John May were quick to point out, perhaps prompted by the somewhat sensational banner headlines which had appeared, that the course was aimed specifically at aspiring pro golfers or established PGA pro's who sought extra management skills and that the Course Manager and Golf Course Designer aspect would more properly be dealt with in a further proposed HND course specifically aimed at Greenkeeping. They also went on to explain that in the first year of the course – open to golfers with a handicap of five or less and who have studied at least two 'A' levels and passed one – candidates will concentrate on playing skills, the second year will be spent seconded to a club pro and only in the third year would the options aforementioned be offered, i.e. Course Design or Course Management, along with numerous others more akin to the player.

We shall keep you posted as the plot continues to unfold.

Good reading always shows...

While there is no substitute for good practical experience, further knowledge of a chosen subject can be accelerated very rapidly indeed by reading specialist publications – books, papers and lecture transcripts – on turf management and the art and science of greenkeeping. As a fine example 'Golf Course Construction, Turf Establishment and Cultural Practices' by James Beard contains a veritable wealth of knowledge. Though the list given below is by no means complete it will provide both students and mature greenkeepers with a solid core basis upon which a personal working library may be established.

Suggestions for reading:
Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turf Grasses (Smith Jackson & Woolhouse)

Amenity Landscape Management (edited by Ralph Cobham)

Some Essays on Golf Course Architecture (Dr A Mackenzie)

Turf Nutrition '88 (National Turfgrass Council)

Turfgrass Manual (John Shildrick)

Technical Terms in Turf Culture (Dr Peter Hayes)

Sands for Sport Turf Construction (S W Baker)

On Course Conservation (Nature Conservancy Council)

The Way Forward (Royal and Ancient Golf club)

Real Golf (Eddie and Nick Park)

Turfgrass: Science and Culture (J B Beard)

Turfgrass Science (A A Hanson and F K Juska)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. David Blackmur, Plumpton College, Ditching Road, near Lewes, East Sussex

Tel: Plumpton (0273) 890454, ext. 33

The Nature and Properties of Soils

(Nyle C Brady)

Grasses (C E Hubbard)**Trees on Golf Courses** (J D Gilchrist)**Code of Practice for the Agricultural and Commercial Horticultural Use of Pesticides** (MAFF Publication)**Code of Practice for the Use of Approved Pesticides in****Amenity Areas** (NTC and NAAC)**STRI Journals****Turf Managers Handbook** (W H Daniel and R P Freebor)**Fertilizers in Turf Culture** (STRI)**Intermediate Botany** (J F Brimble)**Principles and Practice of Supervisory Management** (John Munro Fraser)**The Social Psychology of Industry** (J A C Brown)**Turfgrass Diseases** (Neil A Baldwin)**Turf Management for Golf Courses** (J B Beard)**Turfgrass Science and Management** (Robert D Emmons)**Turf Culture - A Complete Manual for the Groundsman** (Frank Hope)**The Royal and Ancient** (Pat Ward-Thomas)**Golf Course and Grounds: Irrigation and Drainage** (Jarret)**Golf Course Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance** (F W Hawtree)**Soil Management: 4th Edition** (B Davies ETAL)**A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Ireland** (A Mitchell)**Manual of Trees and Shrubs** (Hilliers)

Your chance for Diploma, Certificate in 'Turf Irrigation'

At the Annual General Meeting of the British Turf and Landscapes Irrigation Association just before Christmas, thirteen was a number of good omen.

On that occasion, Diplomas were distributed to the thirteen who had successfully completed the first Diploma course run by the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Myerscough in response to a BTLIA request. Course planning began about three years ago, and the first of four one-week Units was held in February 1989. Another Unit was held later in 1989, and two more during 1990.

Details have just been announced by the College and the BTLIA for the next Diploma Course and for the Certificate which will be obtainable by those who successfully complete the first two Units.

The full Diploma will continue to involve four Units each of one week's duration delivered over two years. It is designed to provide skills in irrigation design, installation and maintenance. Holders of the Diploma are recognised by the industry and the BTLIA as fully trained and skilled practitioners. The Diploma will thus meet the need, recognised for some time by the BTLIA, for a professional qualification for its member companies and other involved in irrigation. The BTLIA collaborates closely with the College to ensure that the award of the Diploma requires a standard of up-to-date practical knowledge and skill that will put the holders and their companies in the forefront of the industry in Europe, and will support the aim of the BTLIA to foster the highest standards in turfgrass and landscape irrigation.

A Certificate in Turf Irrigation will be awarded to those who successfully complete the first two of the four Units and do not proceed to the Diploma. This is designed to meet the needs of users of irrigation systems such as greenkeepers and groundsman. The two Units will enable them to operate and maintain irrigation systems and make the best use of any particular installation.

The Course content is as follows:

Unit 1: Agronomy Turfgrass botany; water in the soil; water requirements for turf and the calculation of irrigation need; pests and diseases associated with irrigation. Water sources, quality and reliability of water supply.

Unit 2: Basic design of irrigation systems Landscape irrigation, water storage tanks, sprinkler types, calculation of precipitation rates and run times, sprinkler spacing, sprinkler selection, solenoid valves, controller types, pipe work and fittings, pump types, valves and pump controls, basic electricity, winterising and

servicing, fault finding. Basic design principles.

Unit 3: Intermediate design Configuration and advanced types of sprinklers, sprinkler selection, control systems and schedule of time calculations, selection of controllers, calculation of schedule of flow, static and working pressures, frictional loss calculations, mains layout, pump performance, selection and operation, filters, selection of electric motors, cable types and sizing, types of reservoirs, pump house construction, pump control systems, laying and joining pipes, water hammer, health and safety, contract management and insurance. Intermediate design work.

Unit 4: Advanced design Irrigation design for sports facilities, golf courses and complex landscape sites. A major design exercise is included.

The complete course will run over four separate weeks at the College. Units 1 and 4 will normally be delivered around Easter, and Units 2 and 3 just before Christmas. Programme for 1991-2 is:

Unit 1, 8-12 April 1991

Units 2 and 3, 9-13 December 1991

Units 1 and 4, April 1992: dates to be notified

Units 2 and 3, December 1992: dates to be notified

The Course hours are 9 am to 7 pm from Monday to Thursday, and 9 am to 3 pm on Friday. College accommodation will normally be available for Course participants, as Units will be held out of term, and this will obviously be advantageous in view of the evening sessions and the regular project work.

The fee for Unit 1 in April 1991 is £220.00 (plus VAT) for the Unit itself, including daytime refreshments and lunch, and £120.00 (plus VAT) for accommodation, including bed and breakfast and evening meals, making a total of £340.00 (plus VAT).

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the College or the Secretary of the BTLIA:

Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, PRESTON, Lancashire, PR3 0RY. Tel: 0995 40611, Fax: 0995 40842; Secretary, BTLIA, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ. Tel: 0535 273188.

Greenkeepers seeking to qualify for the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate should be aware that 8 credits per unit will apply to the BTLIA Irrigation Course outlined above. Those taking the Diploma will receive 32 credits (4 weeks x 8), and for the Certificate 16 credits (2 weeks x 8) will be awarded.



All set for Education Conference

'The Golf Course - from Conception to Completion' is the subject that Geoff Hodson, (pictured) of Lindum Turf and his Associates have chosen to expound upon at York, this but one of a multitude of lecture titles that form the basis of the mammoth three day BIGGA Conference to be staged on March 22nd-24th.

Much has already been written about this event, probably the most important in the BIGGA educational calendar, for the Association has the knack of bringing to the rostrum with amazing regularity those who can entertain as well as teach - a rare breed.

Thus as Geoff and other speakers put the little finishing touches of preparation to their presentations, we take this opportunity to remind you that there are still a few places available. Give Samantha Fiint a call now on 03473 581.

Geoff is the power behind Lindum Turf and with his Associates - the joint sponsors with BIGGA of a wonderful weekend of seriousness without stuffiness.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on
**Thursday 25 April
1991 at 2.30pm**
in The Royal York Hotel, York
immediately adjacent to the
Railway Station

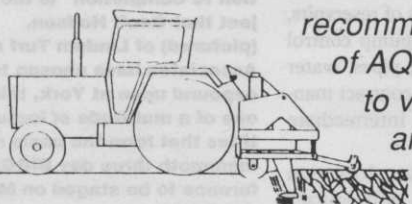
**Membership cards
must be produced**

- NEIL THOMAS
Executive Director

Tackling heavy

Grass doesn't grow on busy streets, least of all where golf's infantry patrol and armoured divisions proliferate. However, until every green chairman in the land 'bites the bullet' and imposes a total trolley ban in winter the problem will escalate. STUART ORMONDROYD offers advice which may help to alleviate the damage. His timely comments suggest re-routing is a partial answer, prevention better than cure...

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3. CONSTRUCTION/ALTERATION

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TRAFFIC

In recent times there has been a significant upsurge in course usage which, in the last two years, has even spread to the more isolated country and island golf courses in remote parts of Ireland and Scotland. The increase in the volume of traffic is largely due to organised parties and visitors as well as additional competitions and an increase in membership playing more often, especially during the winter. Whilst swelling the Club's coffers is very welcome, the net result for the head greenkeeper is one of year-round wear and the associated erosion this brings.

The implementation of routine renovation work to promote recovery on worn areas should be an integral part of the management programme, but the primary aim must always be prevention before cure. Allied to this point is the often overlooked aspect of educating golfers to the objectives of wear control through communication. This can take the form of a monthly newsletter, pinning up information on the members notice board, inserting a leaflet with the subscription renewal as well as talks given by the head greenkeeper and members of the committee. Indeed, the general membership should be encouraged to understand the importance of any reasoning behind management carried out on the course, eg. observing re-routing markers. In this way, golfers are much more likely to abide by the instructions rather than flaunt them.

For those involved in new products it is vital that consideration be given to spreading wear during the design stage before construction starts. On the one hand course layout must incorporate feature and a degree of difficulty, but allowance must be made for alternative entrance and exit points from tee to fairway, fairway to green and green to tee and that they are made as wide as possible. Smooth contouring of surround banking will prevent scalping and providing sufficient area of putting surface for pin positions will enable wear to be spread over a greater area. With a similar aim in mind, banking, tree and bunker placement should not be excessive. In addition, an appropriate depth of a free draining growing medium for tees and greens is essential, bearing in mind compaction and turf wear are closely linked together.

Turning to practical management, an ongoing programme is vital in reducing the effects of turf wear, especially in respect of a package of aeration treatments to relieve compaction and improve drainage. Consequently, routine maintenance must be geared to favouring the deeper rooting, finer grasses, namely fescue and bent, which, in an open, free draining soil, will clearly be better adapted to withstand foot traffic, machinery and trolleys than stress susceptible annual meadow grass growing in a compacted, ill draining medium. Turf damage on green surrounds can also be reduced by confining tractor mounted equipment, primarily mowing, to fairways, mowing instead with a ride-on Triple Mower. Developing larger aprons is another aspect that will help here as well as keeping trolleys away from green perimeters.

Any greenkeeper will tell you that golfers invariably take the shortest possi-

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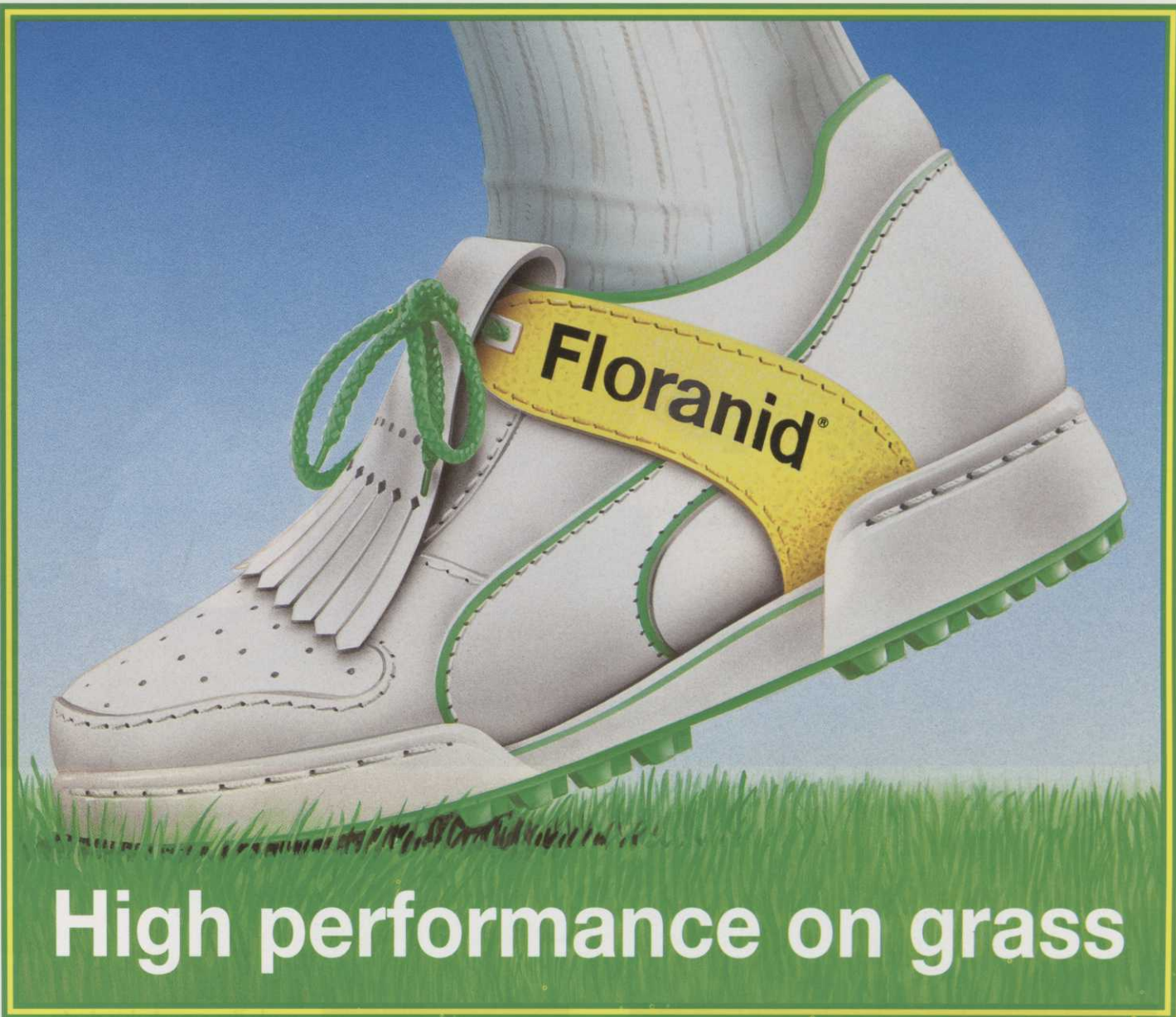
'Golfers invariably take the shortest possible route to their next shot and therefore tactics have to be adopted to ensure alternative paths are taken...'

ble route to their next shot and therefore tactics have to be adopted to ensure alternative paths are taken. One the more worn sections in the winter, this involves re-routing using hoops, ropes and white lines backed up by clear, strategically placed signs. There will always be a few golfers who ignore such markers and would only be stopped by an electric fence, but for the majority, this is where education can be so valuable in achieving the desired aims.

To restore a complete grass cover for the next competition season, this involves a full renovation programme, principally involving forms of deep aeration, turfing/seeding and localised application of fertilizer as required. On heavily worn areas such as bottle-necks, the introduction of purpose-built paths can be considered, but only as a last resort when other aspects of management have been tried. Remember that there are problems associated with paths such as finding a suitable material, the general aesthetics and the transference of wear to the end of the path.

If a Golf Club has the advantage of an extra hole or existing design allows, the sequence of holes can be changed during the winter and hence alter traffic route patterns. In addition, careful pin placement

● Continued on Page 34



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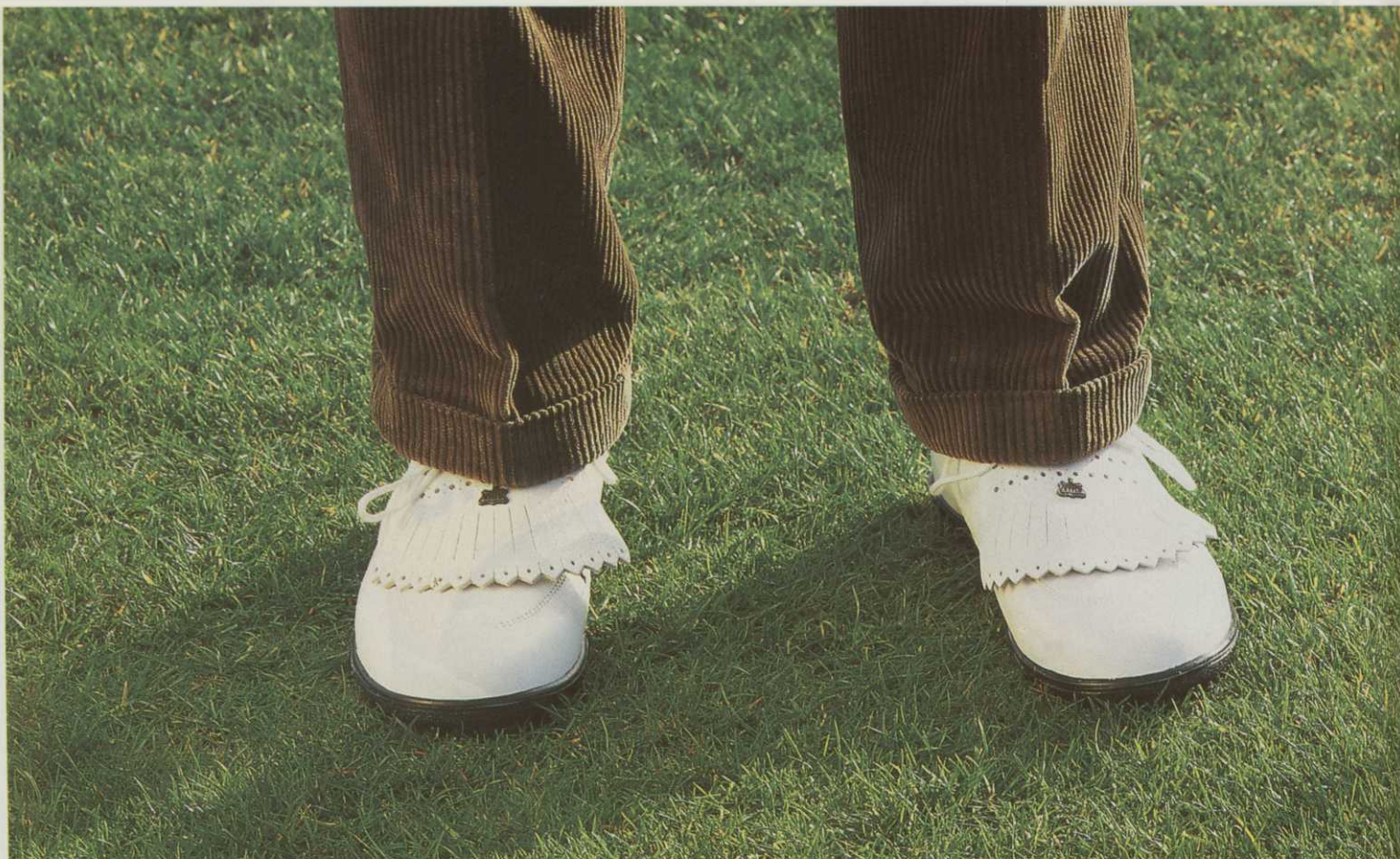
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PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED



● From Page 30

using the higher features and margins in winter has a dramatic effect on spreading wear, not only over the whole putting surface but also influencing entrance and exit routes.

Where space allows, the provision of alternative tees off line and in front of existing areas has distinct advantages, proving invaluable for resting and renovating the well worn summer routes from green to tee and tee to fairway. In a similar way, skillful siting of winter tees

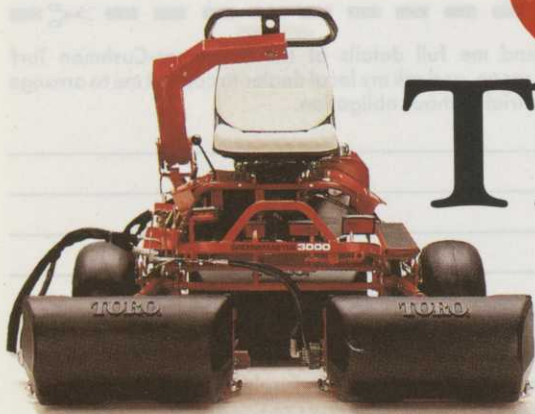
With the obvious pathway re-turfed, a simple roped detour offers no great hardship

can bring alternative fairway landing zones into play. Where space for alternative teeing ground is not available, look to be extending and re-leveling existing tees which will help to spread wear by providing extra area and, when associated with an increase in width, allow for additional lateral movement of tee markers. Where a path is mown out from the tee through the carry to the fairway, it is good policy to change the line during the winter months and thereby, alternate traffic flow.

With increasing levels of play during the winter period and little frost and snow over the last three years, there is an increasing chance of a significant degree of damage occurring through the autumn to spring period. With limited grass growth recovery capacity due to the weather and ground conditions and the curtailing of routing maintenance work, it is important that winter play is strictly controlled, especially on the greens. During adverse weather conditions, primarily frost, there can be a requirement for temporary greens, even taking into account the aim of playing on the putting surfaces for as long as possible throughout the year. However, temporary greens are never popular with members, but if golfers accept that as winter golf is normally less competitive and there is only slight inconvenience caused when playing to temporary greens of a satisfactory standard, then putting surfaces on the main greens can be preserved for the competition season, when they are expected to be at their best. The key to winning over golfers is to prepare separate, good quality, temporary greens (say 100-200 square metres) well in advance and some distance away from the main putting surfaces.

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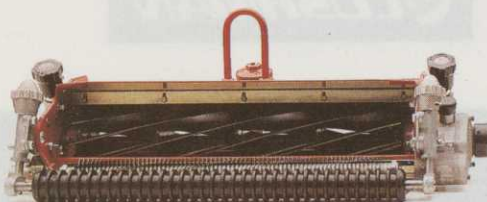
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This another course of action which be instrumental in changing the pattern of wear.

One bone of contention that comes up every winter is the question of trolley use. The change from narrow to wide-wheel trolleys did help to relieve the extent of turf damage to a degree, although with the increase in volume of traffic and the proliferation of heavier, powered trolleys, the problems of wear are now increasing again, notably under wet surface conditions in the late autumn and through the winter months. The main drawback to trolleys is that they are usually confined to the same traffic routes. Re-routing can overcome some of the difficulty, yet golfers should be encouraged to carry their clubs during the winter months. Using a reduced number of clubs in a 'pencil' golf bag without the attendant suitcase of accessories that the larger bag affords should be practicable for the vast majority of golfers without significantly diminishing the enjoyment of the game. By this means, members and visitors will be able to circumvent obstacles with less difficulty and traverse the putting surfaces and adopt a much wider range of traffic routes. Indeed, a ban on trolleys would prove most effective through the winter months, say December to March, when the surfaces are most vulnerable.

Extremes in weather patterns, mild winters and increased levels of play as well as the introduction of heavier trolleys have all contributed to the increase of traffic on the vast majority of golf courses. This has led to worn turf surfaces and compacted soils and so it is vital that all head greenkeepers adopt an ongoing pol-

'The change from narrow to wide-wheel trolleys did help to relieve the extent of turf damage to a degree, although with the increase in volume of traffic and the proliferation of heavier, powered trolleys, the problems of wear are now increasing again...'



icy of spreading wear and maintaining good soil conditions and grass composition. Preventative aspects are also very important, eg. initial design. Establishing co-operation and channels of communication between committees, golfers and green staff is also vital, so that the objectives behind decisions taken and work completed are appreciated by the general membership and hence, increase the chances of co-operation. This aspect will be particularly important in the immediate future as the implication of increased usage is greater wear and tear.

● **Stuart Ormondroyd is an Advisory Agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute.**

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Spring: in the air and on the greens

The two courses of The Berkshire were built on 460 acres of open heathland in 1928, the architectural creation of W H Fowler, Harry Colt and Tom Simpson. Since that time there have been few alterations save those made by nature, with this shown as an abundance of trees lining the fairways and surrounding the majority of tees and greens. These are mostly Pine, Silver Birch and Sweet Chestnut, 90% of which are nature's own planting.

These may make the courses look attractive but bring problems such as loss of heather, lack of air-flow around greens and tees and the creation of shade. In addition there are many roots which have encroached upon the course.

In this part of the county the season for visiting parties begins in March and lasts until mid November. We are still mowing greens three times a week in November and cut greens, tees and surrounds weekly until January.

Air-flow restriction around greens means that with mild weather we suffer from fusarium patch. This makes me very careful about top dressing, for if they are smothered and a disease attack occurs the scars may still be visible well into May.

It is worth remembering that soil temperatures begin dropping in September and can remain low, certainly until February or even March. Grass is no different from other plant life and has its dormant period. This period comes – yes, you've guessed it – right at the start of spring.

Golfers have no consideration for soil temperatures and think that as spring begins the grass should begin to grow. They do not understand the thinking behind our programme and often a visitor, when confronted by a working party, will ask 'do you have to do that today, can't it wait until tomorrow'? How nice it would be if golfers had a dormant period to coincide with nature!

Having made my excuses, how do we tackle our spring programme? My answer is with great care. It could be disastrous to

force growth and patience must be the watchword, together with gentle assistance given to nature's own development.

Greens aeration is still the most important task, but only if ground and weather conditions permit. Deep slitting 6" – 8" until March and light verti-cutting instead of mowing is important, as is sweeping by hand with birch brooms.

We still have thatch, some greens worse than others, with this attributed mainly to poor drainage. Our main tasks are to scarify, hollow tine and brush a top dressing of 80% sand 20% soil before overseeding with fescue and bent, brushing at this time of year by hand. No further deep aeration is done until a further month has passed other than occasional 3" slits.

Our programme starts early in March with the hope that our greens will be in good order by May first when the Berkshire Trophy, a prestigious 72 hole amateur event over two days, takes place. My heart goes out to any greenkeeper who stages a professional tournament at this time of the year.

March also sees the start of priming the automatic watering system. I like to be fully operational by mid March so that any faults can be put right, for I have found that it can take two months for major faults to be rectified, indeed before someone even comes to take a look!

By April the greens need just a little reminder that they should be waking up and over the past years I have treated mine with 2 oz per sq yard of lawn sand. Confident that the watering system is O.K. I will at no time let my greens dry out for the last thing they need is stress. I am of the opinion that a little moisture now can save a lot of heartache and I water by hand, avoiding flooding.

May is the time I think of applying fertiliser – 8% organic – and just before application I like to spike to make sure some of it reaches the soil. A fortnight later, just like magic, the sward starts to grow and fill in. Thereafter it's a cut every day, verticutting and grooming. I ask myself, 'is it the fertiliser?' but am sure that although the rising temperature is making the fertiliser react as it should, the real secret lies in the work carried out in autumn and early spring.

I treat my tees in a similar fashion to greens but fairways demand different treatment. Two dry summers has left them far from their best and being heathland we have the problem of an overlay of organic matter, due mainly to lack of aeration over the years. My order of the day is aerate, aerate and, when I think I've done it enough, aerate again. At the moment we are spooning, which is a form of hollow tine. This year we plan to overseed and apply a pre-seed fertiliser. The task order is aerate, light harrow, light scarify, sweep, fertilise, seed after two weeks, spray with seaweed, sit back and watch it grow! Weather permitting these tasks will be complete before March ends.

Another problem we have suffered is that of chafer grubs and leatherjackets. Some areas are soft as the grubs have disturbed the soil below the surface. We plan to put a Cambridge roller over them for, believe it or not, we stand a better chance of killing chafer grubs by the roller weight than by use of pesticides. Of course, this cannot start until the grubs surface from hibernation. Whatever the spring programme you may use I wish you all perfect weather conditions and good greenkeeping.



When 'Greenkeeper International' asked Bob Moreton, (pictured), Head Greenkeeper at The Berkshire, to write about his individual Spring Turf Maintenance Programme, we were surprised to learn that in Bob's eight year reign, despite the luxury of having 36 holes, both Red and Blue courses have remained in constant year round play. Never closed (save for snow) and never having temporary greens imposed on its members, The Berkshire, it seems, thrives on hard work. Bob Moreton's spring programme is therefore one where, given good fortune, the ravages of winter and voracious play may once again be restored

FAIRWAY THATCH! THE PROBLEM

- SOFT SPONGY TURF
- POOR ROOT DEVELOPMENT
- MOSS INVASION
- LARGE DIVOTS



- POOR SURFACE DRAINAGE
- LOW DISEASE RESISTANCE
- POOR UTILISATION OF CHEMICALS
- INSECT INFESTATION

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The thatch layer acts as a sponge holding water and impeding surface drainage. Nothing works more economically than scarifying to aerate the surface to encourage healthy root growth giving a stronger, more durable turf and stimulating the finer grasses – fescue and bent.

DIVOTS

A thatchy, soft, spongy turf is associated with large divots. Removal of this thatch produces a firmer surface producing smaller divots.

CHEMICAL UTILISATION

Many pesticide and fertiliser applications are rendered only partially effective due to the organic layer made up of thatch. Chemical applications can be reduced, or even cut out completely once the thatch has been removed, stimulating the natural ability of the turf to fight off infection.

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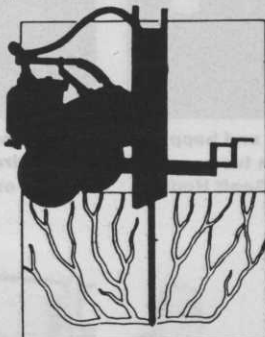
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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION 1991 THE PICTURES

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Educational Seminar Programme is now history, leaving behind it a warm glow of happy memories. Just as history has a habit of repeating itself, so also did this latest event repeat and visibly improve upon previous shows with the luxury of warm, carpeted exhibition halls packed with displays of all that is new and important within the industry. With a positive plethora of workshops, seminars and lectures, those who attended left with a genuine feeling that the British Greenkeeping Industry is alive and well, and seen to be thriving in Yorkshire.

If you were there, you'll know what we mean, and if you missed it... be sure you make it next year!

Pictured are members of the industry, who were presented with special awards in recognition of their continued support for the Association



Richard Bishop, Ransomes Ltd, (right) receives congratulations from BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones



Taking pleasure from the moment, the ICI Professional team, wreathed in smiles. BIGGA Vice-Chairman George Malcolm is pictured right.



Peter Jefford (right), the powerhouse behind Rufford Top Dress Supplies, is one of BIGGA's most loyal supporters



Lindum Turf have enjoyed long and happy links with BIGGA. Pictured with Ivor Scoones are Stephen Fell and Geoff Hodson



Colin Gregory (right), Isek's ebullient Sales Director, was in fine form throughout the exhibition



The Kubota sales team look especially pleased to receive their award



Joint Managing Director of SISIS, Roger Hargreaves, was delighted to receive the award from BIGGA chairman Ivor Scoones



Favourably impressed with the Show, Gary Smith and Carl Crome of Maxwell Hart were equally impressed with their award

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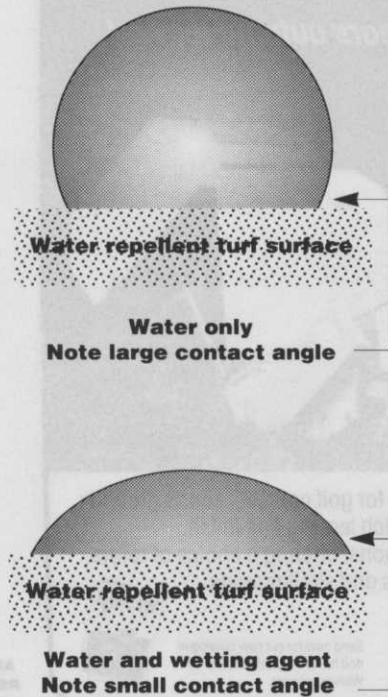
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Wet, Wet, Wetter



Most greenkeepers are familiar with dry patch, a water-repellent turf condition which may develop on golf greens throughout the UK. Research work being conducted at the STRI has been aimed initially at defining the nature of dry patch and investigating the previously implicated causes of this turf condition. A recent survey of over 90 golf courses across the UK has shown the problem to be equally prominent on heathland, links and parkland courses. This appears to conflict with reports obtained from America and Australia, which have shown that water-repellency occurs most commonly on coarse textured sandy soils, as opposed to the fine textured loam or clay soils. Laboratory studies on soil taken from areas of golf greens showing symptoms of dry patch and adjacent unaffected areas have shown that the severity of dry patch in the UK is at least equal to if not greater than that recorded elsewhere in the world to date. Chemical and physical analyses have been completed on soils taken from both dry patch and unaffected areas of golf greens. However, the results obtained have shown no significant differences between the two samples with regard to macro or micronutrient levels, or particle size distribution.

In conjunction with the STRI, recent work at Liverpool Polytechnic using the electron microscope has identified a greater presence of sand grain/organic matter aggregates and fungal hyphae in soil taken from areas of golf greens affected by dry patch, compared with adjacent unaffected areas. The well documented presence of an organic coating on sand grains taken from dry patch soils needs further research to be confirmed in samples from the UK.

The separation and identification of compounds extracted from dry patch and unaffected areas, including humic and fulvic acids, is also being undertaken at Liverpool. Preliminary studies have shown distinct differences between the two soil types but the interaction is to further identify both the native and origin of these compounds.

Other work has indicated that although factors such as thatch, compaction and surface hardness may contribute to the severity of dry patch, they are not important enough problems on the greens studied with the project, for any one to be implicated as the sole underlying cause.

The primary aim of research during 1991 and 1992 is to elucidate the role of fungi in the development of dry patch in UK golf greens. It is envisaged that this work would involve a detailed microbiological investigation into the fungal flora

of golf greens.

When combined with results from direct observation and analytical biochemical techniques, the role of fungi in dry patch may be determined. Once the cause (s) of the phenomenon have been elucidated a structural control programme can be developed. Until then alleviation of the symptoms shown in dry patch affected turf can be effected by several methods, including the application of wetting agents, which has almost become standard greenkeeping practice in recent years. However, despite their widespread acceptance in greenkeeping management, their potential benefits when used to their maximum effect are often poorly understood.

What are wetting agents?

Wetting agents, or surfactants as they are sometimes known, are chemicals which improve the wetting properties of water when it is applied to the turf. Golf greens affected by dry patch are extremely water-repellent, i.e. difficult to wet, as can be seen by the turf plugs in Figure 1. If a running hose is placed on the turf surface (Figure 2) plain water is not able to penetrate into the turf surface (i.e. it "beads" up), due to the water-repellent (hydrophobic) nature of the dry patch condition. The application of a wetting agent will assist the penetration of water into turf affected by dry patch.

What wetting agents are available in the UK?

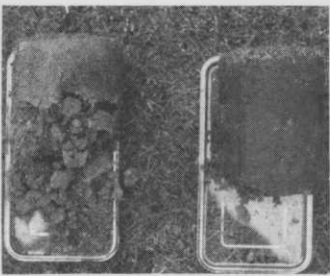
Currently, the greenkeeper is presented with a range of wetting agents which have manufacturers recommendations for use on fine turf. Synperonic NDB, a mild industrial detergent, has been used for many years. Several wetting agents such as Aqua-Gro and Hydro-wet were developed in the USA and have seen widespread usage in the UK. Wetta-soil, recently marketed in the UK, was developed in Australia and New Zealand, where dry patch is a major problem. Turfex is an all-British product specifically developed for use in the UK fine turf situations. Last year saw the introduction of several new wetting agents such as Organiflo, Zorbit and Agriland soil wetter. Thus, there are many different products to choose from when considering a wetting agent application.

How do wetting agents work?

They work in two ways; by reducing surface tension and direct effects on water repellent substances in the soil. The first commonly used

Neil Baldwin, Plant Pathologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute has been evaluating wetting agents over the last 3 years in both laboratory tests and field trials at STRI.

Catherine York is currently researching the biology and control of dry patch of UK golf greens, financed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. In this article they describe some of their research findings and explain what wetting agents are, how they work and how to make the most effective use of them in greenkeeping practice.



Normal turf (right) compared to dry patch. Note darker colour due to moisture and deep rooting in normal core and dryness, crumbling structure and poor rooting in dry patch core

wetting agent was Teepol, a mild detergent which aided water penetration by reducing surface tension. The use of Teepol was replaced by Synperonic NDB which also worked primarily by reducing surface tension as illustrated opposite.

Thus, if a wetting agent is used a smaller contact angle of the droplet on the turf surface is formed and consequently the applied water spreads over a greater surface area thereby wetting more turf. It is likely that most of the new wetting agents listed above also have this effect on surface tension to a greater or lesser degree. This effect on surface tension will enable water to rewet turf affected by dry patch and thus alleviate the symptoms which may be

evident. However, it is only by residual effects that the wetting agent may have in the soil, when it has penetrated the turf surface that the water-repellent tendency of dry patch areas may be overcome. Several wetting agents have been tested in this respect. Wetta-soil has been researched in Australia and New Zealand and has shown to be residual in the turf, as it binds to organic materials and will withstand successive wetting and drying cycles. Aqua-Gro has been similarly tested in the USA and is similarly absorbed onto soil particles. Turfex has been tested at STRI and, once it has rapidly entered the soil profile, it may bind to organic materials responsible for the dry patch condition. During subsequent irrigation the water-attractive condition created will be maintained. At present it is unclear whether the surface tension effect or the soil absorption effect is the predominant mode of action of wetting agents when applied to golf greens. Research at STRI is currently attempting to identify the primary cause of dry patch in the UK. If water-repellent substances of fungal origin identified as in similar studies in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, then soil absorption is likely to be important. However, initial results from STRI research have indicated that dry patch in certain instances may be caused by physical factors such as high spots, compaction due to foot traffic or thatch, in which case increased water infiltration through a reduction in surface tension is likely to be of primary importance.

Possible adverse effects of wetting agents application

The use of Teepol has now long been discontinued. This anionic material (anionic means its molecules have a strong negative electrical charge) was implicated as having long-term adverse effects on soil structure. Modern wetting agents are non-ionic (ie no electrical charge), do not affect soil structure and may therefore be used. It is of concern that many individual detergents and cleaning fluids are currently being offered to greenkeepers for use on their greens. Their use is ill advised and is not to be recommended under any circumstances.

Wetting agent application programmes

Research at STRI and elsewhere has been combined with greenkeeper experience to develop a series of recommendations for wetting agent application. Broadly, these recommendations may be summarised below:

- (1) If dry patch is a persistent problem, wetting agent applications should commence at the beginning of the growing season (say March/April) when the turf is still generally moist and dry patch is often not apparent. Whatever product is chosen it is essential to treat at this early season stage.
- (2) Wetting agents are most effective when combined with aeration using slit, solid or chisel tines to aid turf surface penetration.
- (3) Subsequent wetting agent application will then largely depend on how severe dry patch has been in previous years and prevalent weather conditions. On a typical golf course with moderate to severe dry patch, routine applications April - October at 4-6 week intervals, but more frequent in periods of drought, may be appropriate if combined with spot treating (see below).
- (4) As dry patch is often extremely localised on golf greens then spot treatment of isolated dry patches by hand is often the most effective method of wetting agent application. A solution of wetting agent may be applied using a watering can and the solution forced into the turf surface using a hose with a rose attachment. Alternatively hose-end dilutions are now available for use with Hydro-wet and Aqua-Gro which have seen widespread usage as they facilitate rapid and efficient spot treatments to be made.
- (5) With all wetting agent applications it is essential to water in the treatment immediately after application to prevent the possibility of scorch developing. This is most easily achieved by a short period of automatic irrigation or applying them during rainfall.

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AD REF 304

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON AND CORNWALL

As is usual in these section missives, it falls upon the scribe to offer thanks to the head greenkeeper of the club at which our meetings are held. This normally takes the form of congratulatory applause for the condition of the course and the splendid putting surfaces prepared for our pleasure and delight. Thus I must congratulate Mike Pike for what we all secretly know was his splendid effort at Elford Leigh Golf and Country Club on January 30th. It was only a covering of 'that white stuff' which prevented us from actually seeing the fruits of his labours, and our proposed Devon v Cornwall games from continuing, as the snow gathering golf ball got bigger and bigger and bigger ...

At the January meeting we were entertained by a lecturer from Cannington College who presented a seminar of the City and Guilds Phase III Management Course. This included a thoroughly enlightening 'generating a team performance' presentation.

It was, I promise you, guaranteed to generate enthusiasm for the City and Guilds Course and you could do worse that investigate the possibilities of entering such a worthwhile educational path.

Our day was sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery, Stanley West, AvonCrop, PJ Flegg, Monro, Greenlands, Fisons and LSF Groundcare, to whom we offer sincere thanks.

A few dates / memory joggers are: March 14th - East Devon Golf Club (ISEKI Qualifier), April 10th - Launceston Golf Club (Guest day) and May 1st - Westurf.

I hope to see you at them all.

RICHARD WHYMAN

EAST OF ENGLAND

In bringing our 1990 calendar to a close it would be remiss of me not to report on our last two competitions.

The Lamb Trophy was held at Middleton Golf Club, Kings Lynn, where winner David Salisbury played well to nett a creditable 69. Hard on David's heels with gross 75's were Charlie Macdonald and Richard Owens, all representing excellent play on this tricky new course.

On to Ely City for the Rigby Taylor Trophy. Our winner on this tight and very green course was Daniel Wells from Burghley Park. Daniel is a new BIGGA member and has just joined the ranks of greenkeeping. In second place was Gerry Healey from Girton Golf Club, Cambridge.

Our final fixture was a visit to the new Belton Woods Golf and Leisure complex, with its 45 golf holes and 150 bedroom hotel.

This was our best turn-out so far with 40 or more members and a green chairman, all eager to see this new and exciting project on the edge of Grantham.

We were shown around the course by head greenkeeper Paul Gale and his assistant Chris Squires, both of whom gave us an enlightening insight into the problems that can arise when taking over from the architects and contractors. Our grateful thanks to you gentlemen.

From here we moved to Belton Park Golf Club where our AGM was held and here again we were encouraged by fine member support. Our Chairman, Graeme Patrick, highlighted our year's past activities and thanked especially our sponsors for their support, together with those past captains and committees from the many Golf Clubs who have welcomed us so warmly - giving us courtesy of their respective courses.

COLIN SWINGLER

SURREY

There is precious little news coming to me at the moment, and I can't include that which I don't have! In this issue, therefore, I'll tell you a little about the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, which I was fortunate enough to attend in January. I spent the first two days at the James Beard Education Workshop and learnt not only about turfgrass science, but also how far we have to go to reach American standards in research and development. This isn't a jibe at STRI, more an acknowledgement of the funding of sportsturf research in the USA. I also looked at the machine and accessory stands in the exhibition halls, all of which seemed pretty busy, and was impressed with some of the new equipment coming onto the market. These would have our forefathers thinking we have an easy time of it and though this obviously isn't true, the advances in technology have certainly improved our chances of keeping pace with the pressures placed upon us at our place of work these days.

Next I attended a lecture given by the dynamic Bobbie Gee. Bobbie is an American lady who lectures on Personal Image and Presentation and demonstrates how such an image can give a desired result. Most of what she said was pure common sense and made me wonder why I hadn't thought of it myself! Her main message was 'think how you want others to perceive you, then set about creating and setting standards by which this can be achieved'. This is so true for the greenkeeping profession that her words should be hung in a prominent place in every workshop in the land.

Surrey's own Clive Osgood gave an excellent presentation on

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'The Preparation and Fine Tuning of Walton Heath For Major Events', such as the Ryder Cup, European Open etc. Having witnessed the hassle and damage sustained it's a wonder any of the chaps who have major events on their courses have any hair left!

Harrogate also saw the launch of our new magazine - 'Greenkeeper International' - which is excellent and which thankfully is now our own publication. David White has returned as editor and doesn't live too far from us so maybe, if he can tear himself away from his word processor, we'll see him at a Surrey event or two throughout the year. (You can be sure of it - Ed).

All in all Harrogate was an excellent week thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. I would like to congratulate all those involved in organising the event - an arduous task no doubt - but one achieved very successfully.

Finally, if you have contributions for the magazine please call me on 025 125 4287.

PHIL BALDOCK

NORTH WEST

I have just returned from an excellent day spent at BTME in Harrogate and must express my pleasure at being able to walk comfortably around well staged displays of machinery on carpeted floors. What a change from facing the elements, up to your knees in mud in a semi-ploughed field! Members of the trade were all so helpful in answering enquiries and how nice it was to be able to arrange machinery demonstrations at our own convenience. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers on the professional manner in which the whole exhibition was staged and I can only hope the attendance figures did the exhibition justice.

Howard McAddey, the North-West Treasurer for many years, has now taken on the role of Northern Regional Administrator and will relinquish his treasury post to Brian Moss at the February committee meeting. Howard has done sterling work for the section since he joined the committee some 13 years ago and we thank him and wish him well in this new post.

My 'hot' news line for magazine items is 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

MID ANGLIA

Our first lecture of 1991 began with a well attended presentation given by Mark Hunt of Sierra UK Ltd. Although not present myself I am reliably informed by chairman John Wells that the whole affair was very well received. Mr Hunt's talk was most informative and we thank him and Sierra for everything - including the delicious refreshments! I need hardly add how indebted we are to Beadlow Manor for once again allowing us to use their clubhouse and facilities.

Forthcoming events: March 20th, Beadlow Manor at 2.00 pm, a lecture by a representative of Lodgeway Tractors on 'Tractor Tyres, Selection and Maintenance'. April 17th is the 27 hole ISEKI qualifying event at Northampton County Golf Club. The fee is £16.50 and entries should be sent to Ken Bunting by April 1st. We will be running the Fourball Matchplay competition again this year, with entries again to Ken Bunting by April 17th. Ken's phone number is 044 284 3359, or in his absence you may call me on 0272 835984.

A reminder of this year's Mid Anglia Section officers:

Chairman: John Wells
Vice-Chairman: Paul Lockett
Secretary: Geoff Smith
Match Secretary: Ken Bunting
Treasurer: Les Wakerall

Paul Lockett and Geoff Smith will be regional representatives.

Finally, any member who has topical news or views, and would like them included in this column, please let me have them - preferably in writing - by the 15th of the month.

GEOFF SMITH

MIDLANDS

Edgbaston Golf Club was the venue for our recent AGM, which was attended by 22 members. Many interesting points were discussed and a good meeting was enjoyed by all. Those elected to office were:

President: Reg Pugh
Chairman: Alan Kite
Vice-Chairman: Mike Hughes

AROUND THE GREEN

Secretary: Dean Cleaver

Treasurer: Peter Richmond

Committee: Steve Wood and Peter Woodward

January saw the retirement after 28 years of W Pye, Head Greenkeeper, Lillishall Golf Club. He had been a member of our Association for over 20 years and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

February 13th gave us a rare opportunity to meet David Golding, BIGGA's Education Officer, when he attended Walsall Golf Club to address us on the progress made by the Association. As you might imagine, this was an ideal opportunity for us to quiz him and numerous questions were fired at him, which he answered in his humorous and affable manner. Thank you David.

March 11th will see Mark Hunt, from Sierra UK Ltd, lecture on the use of slow release fertilisers and their application on a variety of different golf course areas. This will be held at Telford Golf and Country Club.

DEAN CLEAVER

WEST SCOTLAND

The section held their Annual Dinner at Sloans in Glasgow recently, with special thanks reserved specially for our two stalwart guest speakers, both of whom were called upon at short notice. These were Douglas McClaren of the Scottish Golf Union and John Watson. If we reserve thanks for the above named speakers we feel that Alistair Connell deserved a medal, for he chaired the whole highly successful evening with a mere half-hour's warning before we sat down to eat!

The section AGM was held courtesy of Renfrew Golf Club and it was pleasing to see a rise in attendance when comparing previous figures. The section has suffered the loss of three prominent committee members over the past year and this curtailed the organising of certain events. Now it is felt that with our new structure and the election of our new committee things will almost certainly begin again in earnest in the West Section.

Cecil George, the Section Chairman and Course Manager at Lenzie Golf Club, has kindly offered the services of his Club at Lenzie on April 25th and will also use Lenzie as the location for the ISEKI Qualifier. Do please try and make these a success and make the turn-out a bumper one.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for the coming golf season and offer personal congratulations to Stuart Taylor on his appointment as Course Manager to the Glasgow Golf Club.

Cecil has written especially to inform us about the ROBERT BELL MORRISON MCKILLOP MEMORIAL TROPHY, which was presented recently to the West section by Bob's daughter, Iris Cannon. This fine silver trophy is to be played for at our Autumn Tournament each year and was won for the first time by Ian Wilson of Vale of Leven Golf Club. In accepting the trophy in memory of Bob Mckillop, Cecil recalled what a fine and good friend and fellow Bob had been. He was a member of the Scottish Greenkeepers Association from the First World War and showed great interest in the new Association right up until his death at the age of 97. In thanking Iris for her generosity, Cecil assured her that her father's memory will forever be perpetuated wherever greenkeepers gather.

GORDON KERR



Ian Wilson, winner of the Robert McKillop Memorial Trophy

● Around the Green continues overleaf

AROUND THE GREEN

pensions, planning etc. Nairn Golf Club have only recently completed the building of a new £700,000 clubhouse and are scheduled to stage the Vagliano Trophy, the bi-annual game between the Ladies of Great Britain and Europe, later this year.

GORDON MOIR

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Two events worthy of reporting are those held at Frilford Heath, the first being the Rigby Taylor Fourball Matchplay, which was won by Simon Edwards and Murray Long. In second place were Ray Clarke and Bob Woodward with Dave Childs and Nick Allen a deserving third. Also at Frilford, the Annual Turkey Trot was won by Philip Plater, whose 81 - 10 gave him a 71 best nett for the CMW Trophy and a turkey. The best gross score was John Teixeira's 78, which rewarded him with the John Deere Cup. Longest drive for the Toro prize - everyone's ambition is to drive a country mile - was recorded by Simon Robinson and the award given by County Mowers for nearest to the pin was taken by John Bevan. For these fine days we thank Rigby Taylor and especially Roger Bowles for his hard work in making the Matchplay so enjoyable, and on both occasions our heartfelt thanks to David Heads and Jaques Kaynhams, Head Greenkeeper and Secretary respectively at Frilford Heath, for doing what they both do best - produce good playing conditions and splendid clubhouse facilities. Thanks also to our sponsors: John Deere, Toro, CMW, County Mowers, Sta-Brite, Gem Fertilisers, Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart - and my apologies if I've missed any!

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the fine job that Ray Clark and Bob Woodward have done in producing the newsletter and to thank also our retiring Chairman, Bill Patterson, for all his sterling work.

Members should have fixtures lists, but as a reminder our first golf event, The Spring Tournament over 36 holes, will be at Goring and Streetley on May 22nd. In April a list of committee members will be published together with a full programme of events for 1991. Let's make this a year of growth and prosperity, where support is seen to come from all section members.

NORMAN FENWICK

NORTH SCOTLAND

A programme of events for 1991 is still in the final stages of preparation, with a couple of events still awaiting confirmation and, hopefully, the announcement of sponsorship. Other plans include the probability of a half-day conference in Aberdeen and another in Inverness, both in conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College, sometime in mid March. The subject will be Grass Identification under Working Conditions. When dates are confirmed details will appear in the local press.

Again with the Scottish Agricultural College we hope to hold one or two spraying courses at the end of 1991. Those interested in attending should contact me and I will arrange venues and times. Of great importance in these matters is a firm commitment, so please give this your best shot.

Our Spring Outing will be at Nairn West Golf Club on May 16th. As our guest at Nairn we shall have Howard Evans, pensions adviser to BIGGA, who will give a short talk and be available for personal discussions on such things as life assurance,

SHEFFIELD

Our AGM in December was preceded by an interesting talk given by Mark Hunt from Sierra, together with a slide presentation. This was followed by the election of officers, in which

A K Arnold remains as Section President and Ron Graham takes on the new post as Chairman, replacing Barry Lax who has retired from this position. Barry has spent the last 20 years on the section committee, eight of which have been spent as secretary and the past two as chairman. This fine record cannot go by without recording our thanks for all of Barry's hard work. Other officers re-elected were Tony Renshaw (Secretary), Barry Heaney (Competition Secretary), Derek Neve, Paul Unwin and Eric Palmer. New officers elected were John Lax and myself.

The committee has decided to scrap the idea of petrol subsidy for members travelling together in a shared car to Harrogate, this replaced in favour of hiring a coach to Peterborough for the IOG Show in September. Twenty five people will be the minimum to make this viable so please indicate your interest at an early date.

The 1990 Christmas competition, which was cancelled, is unlikely to be re-scheduled and therefore those who paid at Sicklingholme will have payment carried over toward the Spring Tournament; the date of which is still to be confirmed. Dates for your diary are July 17th, Annual Tournament at Brough Golf Club. Finally, belated congratulations to John Lax, from all friends in the Sheffield section, on becoming the 1990 ISEKI Champion.

IAN COLLETT

EAST SCOTLAND

Good news announced is that the Willie Wood Memorial Tournament will be sponsored. Gillies and Henderson, known to us all, have taken over the Jacobsen Sales Department for the East and have kindly offered to sponsor this popular tournament by way of prize donations each year. Our thanks go to Harry Bond and Allan Ronaldson for this kind gesture.

Let's you may have missed it - the next meeting on schedule is the visit to the Whisky Bond on March 20th - cheers!

The Spring Outing and ISEKI Qualifier will be at Baberton Golf Club on April 9th. Entry forms will be sent in good time.

We were sorry to hear that Jimmy Neilson was injured in a car accident in late November though can report that he is doing fine and is now back in action. The same cannot be said of his car, and we know that Jimmy will miss the old steed - which he worshipped. There are some who believe that Jimmy kept it because it knew it's own way home - and he had no time to train another!

We should be aware that subs were due on Jan 1st, so if you haven't paid, DO IT NOW. The first list of 'paid-up' members will soon be in my hands and only those marked paid will receive invites to golf outings etc.

WILLIE BLAIR

● Around the Green continues on Page 60

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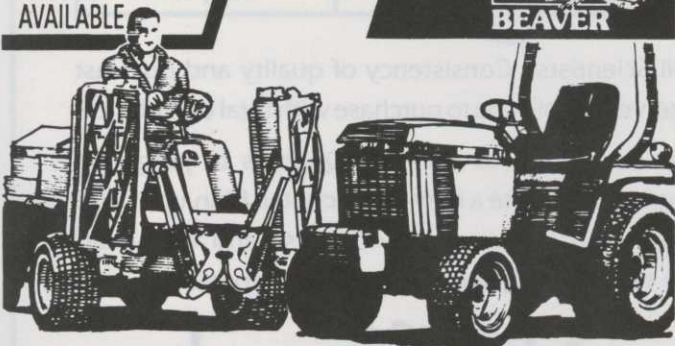
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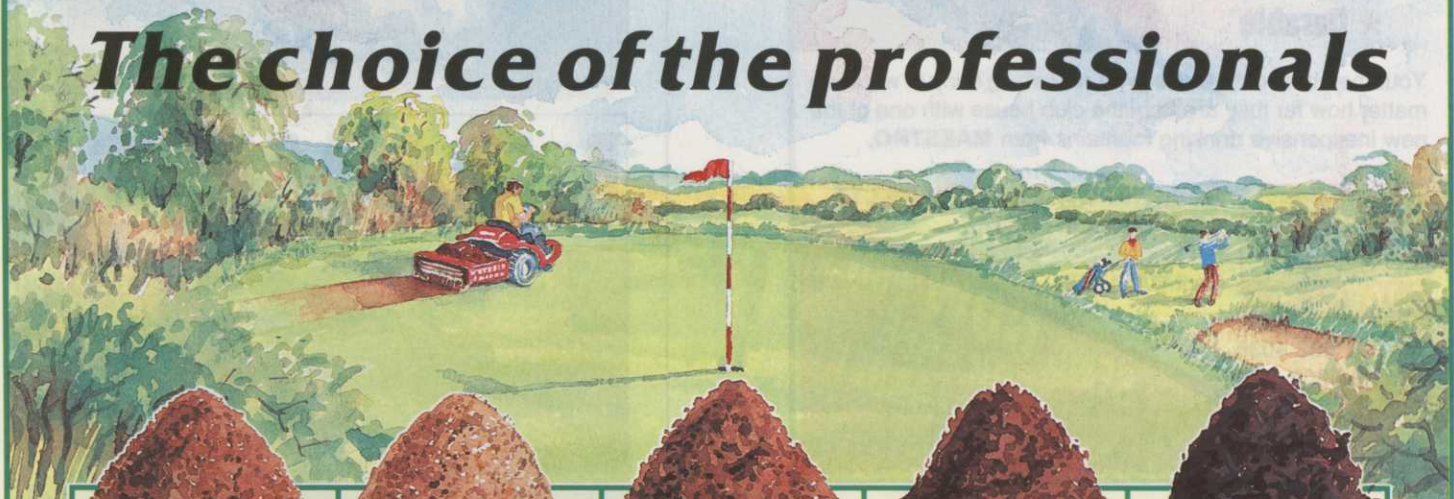
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You are invited to visit our Quarries to judge for yourselves. Quite a number of course Managers and Agronomists have already done so and we would like to think they were just a little impressed.

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Acton Grange Quarry, Birchwood lane, Moore, Warrington, WA4 6XE

Also at: Nucks Wood Quarry, Wiggins Lane, Rufford, Nr Southport, Lancashire, L40 1UJ. **Head Office: 061-747 4333**

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TRADE TOPICS

■ Westurf '91 – or to give it its full and more correct title WESTURF Turfcare Trade Exhibition – looks set to create new records on May 1st with larger numbers of local traders and internationally known manufacturers booking increased space at this 'county fair' favourite, organised so enthusiastically and so well by the South West and Wales Region of BIGGA, under the inspired direction of Gordon Child.



Gordon Child

Gordon seems to have got the equation absolutely right, for whilst costs are well within acceptable bounds for the trade to exhibit professionally and painlessly, the visiting greenkeeper will find the freedom of inspection enhanced by the delightful surroundings of Long Ashton Golf Club, a spot just a few minutes away from the motorway and easy to find. Parking is free and very easy and the whole thing promises to be a great day out.

Some space IS still available and a call NOW to Gordon will confirm. His number is 0803 844056.



Fast turf laying: Big Roll

■ Yorkshire's Inturf Limited are co-operating with Surrey based Lawn Tech Limited in the development of a revolutionary BIG ROLL turf laying system.

The key to the system's success lies in a semi-automatic turf laying machine – the first of its kind in the world – which has been designed and patented by Lawn Tech specifically to handle giant turf rolls measuring up to 30 square yards per roll. The machine is capable of laying large areas of turf very fast – one man can lay up to 500 sq. yards in an hour.

■ The ever increasing capability of the SISIS Varicore to provide alternative means of aerating all types of sportsturf surfaces has been broadened further by the recent addition to the range of tines available for this model. SISIS have introduced a 5" slitting tine for maintenance aeration to supplement the 5" hollow and solid tines already widely used.

This means that the operator can select a required depth down to 5%" rather than the maximum of 4" previously possible.

■ The AQUACELL irrigation system, literally a polypropylene blanket of individual calls which allows water to penetrate on dry areas by over 30 times that possible using conventional methods, is proving to be a great boon in promoting seed germination and protecting a treated worn area from unwelcome traffic. Conceived, designed and developed by a greenkeeper for greenkeepers, the system – which from a distance looks rather like a kingsize airbed – makes claim to use less water and increase the efficiency and economy of wetting agents, together with minimum evaporation loss and water run-off. Highly recommended before aeration, this simple though ingenious idea is producing results that are most impressive indeed.

**Fred Hawtree, in
reminiscent mood when
recalling a lecture
delivered by him some
years ago, insists that
those same lessons
stand good today and
offers wise counsel to
those involved in golf
course design and
construction in 1991**



Straight from the Hawtree's mouth

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the Northern Section's one-day conference on conservation in 1978 will doubtless recall one paper in particular. No need to remind you who gave it but it may be sensible to repeat some of its forecasts.

"There are certainly a number of projects which are initiated by a group of enthusiasts who want the best of what they can afford and, provided they engage a competent designer, they will get it. Most of the economics the designer makes will be due to conservation factors because the less he disturbs, the less he is spending. Then there are farmers and landowners who see a golf club as alternative income. Here also, I think we are relatively safe because there will not be a lot of money to splash about and a competent golf course architect will produce a plan which will ensure that the golf course provides all the tradi-

tional requirements without requiring an astronomical budget.

The real danger comes from the financial groups, the long-term investors, the big developers, the hotel builders, the diversifiers. Very naturally they wish to make sure that their venture is successful. They only know one way of doing this – engage a big name to sign the plans, whether or not he has prepared them himself.

All good stuff, I modestly suggest. And there is more. *“The big name player has spent most of his life on the practice ground and has probably not had much time to study the finer points of landscaping. He imposes an overall requirement on his underlings that every hole should be memorable, the total length 7,000 yards plus, there must be lakes at every hole, at least ten acres of sand, and all green surfaces should roll like the ocean”. After clinching the job, “He will appear twice more to provide an opportunity for the golfing press to be briefed on progress and the vast sums that are being spent.*

That is all very well in a big country but it is not right for us. The number of so-called prestige developments that we can take is strictly limited”.

It gets better and better.

In the case of the Loch Lomond development, I believe, the last big name visit was early in October when 15 holes were constructed. The Press were flown there in a chartered aeroplane. Two months later the whole shebang, still with 15 holes, was up for sale.

‘The big name player has spent most of his life on the practice ground and has probably not had much time to study the finer points of landscaping’

(Thanks to John Hopkins in the Sunday Times for this information.)

The same source also mentioned the problems of the East Sussex “National”. By the way how many Nationals can you have? The Belfry is described on sign-posts in the immediate district as “National Golf Centre”. But at Uckfield, the scheme was only budgeted for £32.5 million instead of yon bonny bank’s £52 million. So there is no clubhouse yet.

Well, let us all hope it will come right in the end for both of them. What bothers me is the knock-on effect. If potential developers get the wrong idea, resistance to new courses will grow, and waiting lists will stay waiting just when they should be disappearing.

“Planning authorities will become suspicious of new golf courses if they have seen or heard how others have turned landscape inside out...”

“The community spirit on which many golf courses thrive will disappear. Nobody will be able to afford to play on them because the constructional costs and maintenance costs on top with upwards of 40 green staff can only lead to prohibitive fees”.

That is why it is heartening to see the English Golf Union setting up an advisory section on development. There’s nobody better than an amateur golfer to explain the attractions of golf and a golf course – even a simple one. The next move has got to be a classical revival. Fortunately this is also the economic route to success.

“Conservation is here to stay and its proponents



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will not get any quieter as population, money and other pollutants increase. Both golf courses architects and greenkeepers had better listen to these strident voices and have an answer ready. The answer for architects is certainly not standing the whole site on its head. A traditional golf course will fit into the natural pattern and suit both site and golfer best of all. The bizarre productions of recent years come from the need for publicity, instant fame, and instant fortune. They also make them impossible to maintain except in a bizarre, immaculate artificial fashion, the sort of style which public parks used to demonstrate but, happily, do so no longer".

It has all been said before, especially in these pages. Let us hope it will not be necessary to say it three times.

Landscaping, drainage and construction
- company profiles

Maxel Golf

Maxel Golf understand only too well the difficulties of achieving mutually satisfying planning permission between client and local authority, having successfully completed months of detailed negotiations with the Yorkshire Dales National Parks in order to achieve permission for the first ever Dales golf course in the village of Sedburgh.

This beautiful valley is owned by the farming Handleys and Wilsons who, with diversification in mind, are

'The bizarre productions of recent years come from the need for publicity, instant fame, and fortune. They also make them impossible to maintain'

about to embark upon a project which will test everyone involved in caring for the natural environment.

Terry Redding, M.D. of Maxel Golf, felt specialist help was required and has invited David Bellamy Associates and their team of environmental experts to work with Maxel on the formulation of 'green' codes of practice for clients.

S A Lacey Ltd

Building a lake on your golf course? From initial advice on suitability of terrain, S A Lacey Ltd undertakes all aspects of design and construction of lakes. "Our aim is to create a feature that will blend into the surrounding landscape to enhance any course's desirability", affirms Simon Lacey.

Professional consultancy on recommended liners, boreholes, bank edging, weirs, sluices, monks, valves, etc as well as the supply of additional extras such as bridges, fountains and water plants are all part of an increasingly popular service.

Alteration of existing lakes is most recently exemplified on a North London course and the construction of three new lakes with puddled clay liners is currently in progress at Brands Hatch in Kent.

OCM Associates Ltd

Seasoned European tour player and former Jersey Open Champion John Morgan has turned his hand to golf course construction.

The ex-Royal Liverpool pro has become a director of OCM Associates Ltd, a Dumfries-based company, and

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AD REF 262



Tour player, John Morgan, who has joined OCM Associates as their design consultant

will work as their design consultant.

Morgan is already involved in projects to build courses in Dumfries and Scarborough and has plans to move further afield.

The new challenge will not involve Morgan moving from his West Kirby, Liverpool home but it will affect his playing schedule. "I'll be playing on the European tour again but I will limit my appearances as course construction work develops", he says.

Agripower Limited Sportsturf

Based in both Buckinghamshire and Staffordshire, Agripower are able to offer a comprehensive nationwide service in the construction, drainage and maintenance of Golf Courses. In addition, they are now able to offer well boring for water supply and drainage soakaways. As members of the

LDCA Sportsturf Section, their customers have the reassurance and backing provided by the Association for quality workmanship. The Company's comprehensive range of specialist equipment, from bulk earth moving machines to stone pickers, enable them to offer a complete service from construction through to final cultivation, green construction and irrigation installation.

MRM Sandow Limited

MRM Sandow Limited are currently working on numerous projects throughout the UK; these being

taken from concept through all stages of planning, design, contract administration and project management. Their Resident Ecologist fully assesses all sites and full consideration is taken of the findings so that a scheme is developed that is beneficial to both the golfer and the environment.

The Company blends modern CAD techniques with individual design to produce developments complying with the brief and within budget. In short, the company has the expertise and experience to carry out all types of projects.

For further information contact Richard Hird on 0222 223284.

Macro Services

Macro Services have established an excellent reputation over a number of years. The company commenced operation in 1983, concentrating on hard and soft landscaping. However, it wasn't long before Pete Maddocks, the driving force behind Macro Services, and more than 20 years a golfer, moved into golf course construction work. It all started with the extending and rebuilding of a tee. Many more tees and greens construction followed, as well as extensive drainage work. As a result of the attention to detail paid to the work and the very personal service, recommendations followed, particularly by Romsey GC and recently major repair work was undertaken at Hockley GC... very successfully! Macro Services are noted for their 'value for money' approach. Get in touch with Pete Maddocks to find out why.

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Our experience is derived from over 16 years within the golfing industry and project managing golf course construction in Germany, Greece, Portugal and the UK.

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HEAD GREENKEEPER – NORWAY

Interest in golf in Norway has greatly increased during the last five years and many new courses are under construction or in the planning stage. Droebak Golf Course is due for completion in June this year and is expected to be ready for use in summer 1992. The course is situated in a very popular and picturesque area 25 miles south of Oslo on the east side of the Oslofjord.

We require a person for the position of Head Greenkeeper starting in May/June. She/he should have had several years golf course experience (ideally with the establishment of a new course), should be practical, versatile and good with machinery.

Accommodation available. Salary £18,000 pa.

It is our wish to build Droebak Golf Club into one of the best in Scandinavia and we are looking for a head greenkeeper to help us achieve this aim.

Please apply in writing to: **C. N. Smith, Shernet, Main Road, Thornham, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 3LZ.**



Adare Manor

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT

Adare Manor golf course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Snr., is currently under construction and is due to open for play in June 1992.

Applications are now invited for the post of greens superintendent. Applicants should have experience with new course grow-in as well as bentgrass cultivars. Position available March/April 1991. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Send CV in full confidence to:

Mr. Robert Horan

Director of Golf Development, Adare Manor, Adare, Co. Limerick, Ireland.

GOLF COURSE MANAGER

required for

TULLYBANNOCHER GOLF COURSE COMRIE PERTHSHIRE SCOTLAND

Construction of this course, set amongst some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, will commence in March 1991. It will be built to the highest specifications and the successful candidate will be part of the construction team.

Only fully qualified greenkeepers, experienced in modern construction methods and maintenance will be considered.

During construction they will control the maintenance, appoint their greenkeeping team, purchase machinery, draw up budgets and be part of the ongoing management team.

An excellent salary will be negotiable plus pension. A company vehicle will be provided.

Written applications only and CV, marked private and confidential, to:

**Mr John Souter
The Monument Golf Club Limited
9 Grinnan Road
Braco
Perthshire FK15 9RF**

FARNHAM GOLF CLUB

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should hold relevant certificates in turf culture and have practical experience in the use of modern machinery, irrigation systems and intensive turf management. No accommodation.

Conditions of service in line with BIGGA recommendations.

Send complete CV to:

Mr J Prevalin, Secretary, Farnham Golf Club, Sands, near Farnham, Surrey GU10 1PX.

Telephone: (02518) 2109



Burhill Golf Centres Limited

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for

THORBURY GOLF CENTRE, near BRISTOL

Applications are invited for the above position where a 36 hole 'Pay and Play' complex is under construction and due to open in Summer 1992.

The successful applicant will be fully qualified and have at least 8 years' experience in green-keeping and be able to demonstrate that he/she has the necessary ability to maintain the courses to the high standard already set at our other Centres.

An attractive salary will be negotiated, together with other benefits.

An application form may be obtained on request from:

A. J. Acres
Burhill Golf Centres Ltd
The Club House
Walton-on-Thames
Surrey KT12 4BL
Tel: 0932 227345

GOLF D'APREMONT

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER
in FRANCE

For their 18 hole course designed by John Jacobs, construction of which will be finished in June 1991. The course is approximately 50km north of Paris and only 25km from Charles De Gaulle airport.

The successful applicant will be fully experienced in all aspects of modern course management, including knowledge of new equipment and irrigation systems for greens, tees and fairways.

The ability to motivate and manage a staff of around ten people will be essential.

Salary negotiable.

Applications with full CV to:
Masumi Futamata
Golf D'Apremont
60 300 Apremont
France

The
HOWARD SWAN
 Practice

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to take charge of the new 27 hole complex at BRIDLINGTON BAY, EAST YORKSHIRE during the final stages of construction and establishment maintenance, scheduled for opening in Spring 1993.

Those interested send full details to:
Telfords Farm
Willingale
Ongar
Essex CM5 0QF



CORHAMPTON GOLF CLUB
 invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery. The ability to lead and motivate staff is essential.

Accommodation is not available.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing to the Secretary enclosing CV.

Corhampton Golf Club
Sheeps Pond Lane
Droxford
Southampton
Hants. SO3 1QZ

RECRUITMENT

Great Barr Golf Club require a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants should be fully qualified to include a thorough knowledge in the use and maintenance of modern greenkeeping machinery, and have the ability to organise and motivate staff.

Accommodation available • Salary negotiable.

Applications with full CV to:
**The Secretary, Great Barr Golf Club, Chapel Lane,
Birmingham B43 7BA**

A qualified working **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

is required by
PINNER HILL GOLF CLUB
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To lead a team of 5 to further improve the standard and presentation of this challenging hilly parkland 18 hole course which held the Middlesex County Championships last year.

A knowledge of clay soils a distinct advantage.
rent free detached accommodation available.

Salary dependent on experience.

**Reply in writing with CV to:
Club Secretary, Pinner Hill Golf Club, Pinner Hill,
Middlesex HA5 3YA**

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Salary up to £17,655 per annum**

We are looking for someone with sound technical and practical experience in Golf Course management to join our team of motivated professionals.

If you feel you can fill this important post, write for further details to:

**The Bursar, Oaklands College,
Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA**



KNOWLE GOLF CLUB require a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**



Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and use and maintenance of modern machinery. A knowledge of irrigation systems would be an advantage.

Ability to organise and motivate a small staff essential.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Knowle Golf Club, Fairway, Brislington,
Bristol BS4 5DF.**

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Romsey Golf Club

Nursling, Southampton

requires

A DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be experienced in all aspects of Greenkeeping, preferably qualified, with a knowledge of modern golf course machinery, and a member of BIGGA. Salary based on experience and qualification. Opportunity for overtime.

No accommodation available.

Replies in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Romsey Golf Club Ltd, Nursling,
Southampton, Hants S01 9XW**



EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

required for quality course

Club willing to assist right applicant to
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Written applications, giving age and previous experience, to:

Secretary/Manager,

Scarcroft Golf Club, Syke Lane, Scarcroft, Leeds LS14 3BQ



Tandridge Golf Club

requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should possess relevant qualifications and have several years experience of intensive turf management, automatic watering systems, and the use and maintenance of modern golf course machinery.

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED

Please reply to: **The Secretary, Tandridge Golf Club,
Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NQ**

*Country Club des Olleries
Golf de Sologne*



FRANCE

GOLF de SOLOGNE

require a
GREENKEEPER (single)
at earliest possible moment.

A private club, with no Committees, 15 miles south of Orleans, 90 miles from Paris, requires a fully qualified Greenkeeper, experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and machinery/equipment maintenance.

Driving licence required – knowledge of French not essential.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience. Accommodation available in the vicinity.

Interviews will take place in London in March.

Applications, with CV and telephone number, to Mrs Françoise Green, Director, 21 Avenue Mozart, 75016 Paris, France, telephone 010-33-1-45 27 60 97.



**Wilmslow
golf club
1889-1989**

THE WILMSLOW GOLF CLUB
invites applications for the position of
COURSE MANAGER

This is a new appointment with full responsibility for the management of an 18-hole championship course delightfully situated in Cheshire.

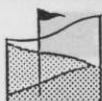
Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and turf culture.

A practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern turf machinery and the ability to control and motivate staff are essential.

Starting salary is negotiable in excess of BIGGA rates – substantially above for ideal suitability – plus contributory pension scheme. Accommodation is not available but relocation help will be given in a suitable case.

Applications in writing with full CV should be sent to:

The Captain, The Wilmslow Golf Club,
Great Warford, Mobberley,
Cheshire WA16 6AY.



John Jacobs
Golf Associates Limited

REQUIRE

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

For a new prestigious 18-hole John Jacobs designed golf course at Denham, Buckinghamshire, opening in June, 1992.

The course has a combination of conventional and Pennstate grasses and will be maintained to the highest standards under the control of a Course Manager.

Purpose built greenkeeping facilities will provide an excellent working environment and a salary above BIGGA recommended rates will be paid to successful applicants.

Applicants should be qualified to City and Guilds, Golf Greenkeeping Grades I & II, and have a minimum of two years experience.

Applications, which will be treated in the strictest confidence, and must include full personal and career details together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be made in writing to:-

JOHN JACOBS GOLF ASSOCIATES LIMITED,
68A HIGH STREET,
WALKERN,
STEVENAGE,
HERTS SG2 7PG.

Tel: 0438 861 438
Fax: 0438 861 788

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and dedicated person.

Job description/salary will be sent following applications in writing with details of experience and training to:

Edward Day MBE, Manager UK, Eberle Golf, Doves Barn, Brightling, East Sussex TN32 5HD

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For new 9 Hole Parkland Course

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons aged 20-35 years.

An ability to motivate and manage staff is essential. Salary: negotiable.

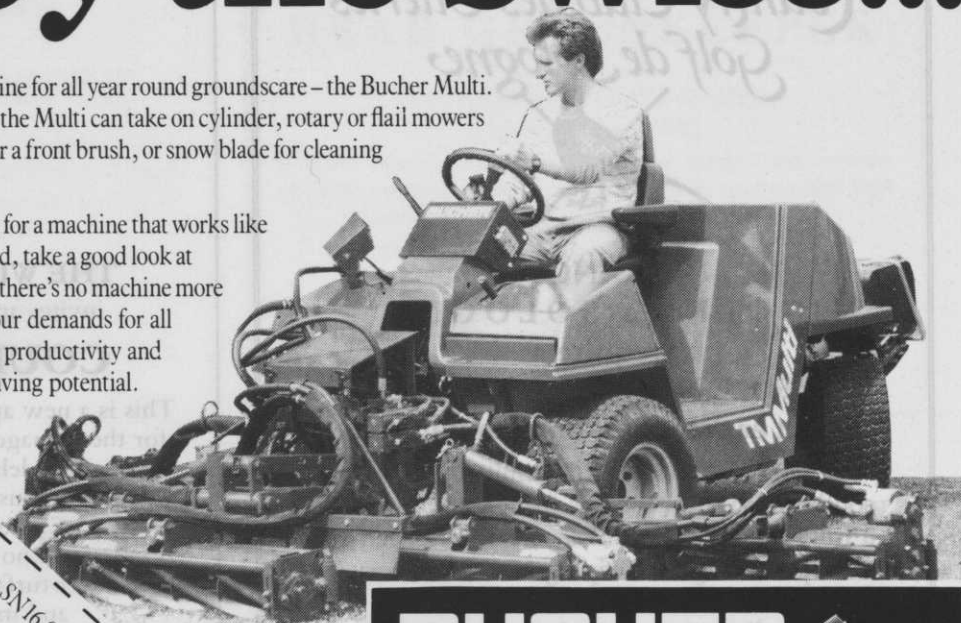


Please apply in writing to:
Paul Harley – Head Greenkeeper, Leatherhead Golf Centre, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BT

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Now there's a new multi purpose machine for all year round grounds care – the Bucher Multi. Built by the Swiss for all round adaptability, the Multi can take on cylinder, rotary or flail mowers for fast productive cutting in summer, or a front brush, or snow blade for cleaning up in winter.

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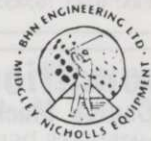
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AROUND THE GREEN

● From Page 44

NORTHERN ENGLAND

Just returned from the BIGGA show in Harrogate and I was pleased to see so many of our members there. Everyone agreed that the show and the seminars were an outstanding success.

Many thanks to all section members for their time and help on the door and at the seminars, it was very much appreciated.

Our winter lectures continue. The last was a general discussion evening when a good turnout made it a success. On the panel was Chairman Philip Taylor, Alan Gamble, Education Officer, David Golding, BIGGA Vice-Chairman, George Malcolm, BIGGA Pension Adviser, Howard Evans and myself.

The next lectures will be on Wednesday 6 March at Cleckheaton Golf Club at 2.30 pm by Chaplins on aeration equipment, and they have kindly agreed to provide us with some tea.

Iseki and EFG will provide speakers on Wednesday, 20th March at 2.30 pm at West Bowling Golf Club and show us their range of equipment. They also will provide us with a bite to eat.

Please remember that golf club dress rules will apply on these occasions, so no working clothes please.

It must be nearly Spring as I am now able to inform you of our golf programme for the year, which is as follows:

SPRING TOURNAMENT – Wetherby Golf Club, Wednesday 24 April. This is a qualifier for the Iseki finals and is limited to 40 only I am afraid and because of the restricted numbers it has been decided that this one is for greenkeeping members only.

PRESIDENTS DAY – Lightcliffe Golf Club, Tuesday, 11 June. This is also restricted to 40. Please contact Bill Mountain at Mountains to book for this one, not me.

INVITATION DAY – York Golf Club, Thursday, 1st August. Again restricted to 40.

AUTUMN TOURNAMENT - Barforth Golf Club, Tuesday, 1st October

As you see Golf Clubs are limiting the number of players so it is important to book early and all bookings must be accompanied by a £10 deposit for each event (cheques made payable to BIGGA). Bookings are made on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Last, but not least, is the Section's annual dinner dance date, which is Friday, 22nd March at 7.30 pm at Baildon Rugby Club (off Jenny Lane). Last year's event was well supported and I hope this year will be the same, especially as we are trying something a little different. We are having a Gourmet Buffet, provided by BBC TV's Masterchef, so a treat is in store. This will be followed by a disco. Tickets are priced at £10 per head. Please contact me to book and please remember this is open to members and guests.

BOB LUPTON

SCOTTISH REGION

1990 was a very busy year in Scotland, fairly successful too. Membership wise we had a good percentage increase, keeping up the gradual build up of the Association. Financially it was a

successful year, no small thanks to all our generous Patrons who supported us, and hopefully who we also supported during 1990.

In March the Region Conference was very successful. Nine speakers on a large variety of subjects kept the full house well entertained.

At Turnhouse Golf Club in April the annual match Greenkeepers v Golf Club Secretaries, saw the greenkeepers reclaim the trophy in a very exciting match, the result hingeing on the last game of the day. The Iseki regional final held at Cawder Golf Club in May was a splendid day on a very tough course.

In June the Scottish National Championship, held at Moray Golf Club, was another great day over another very tough course. Young Kevin Thomson from the club was a proud lad that day on winning the Championship. On to July and The Open at St Andrews, where the Scottish Committee was responsible for a smooth bunker raking operation. It can be a long and tiring day but what a way to watch the world's greatest golfers, walking a few yards behind them with unobstructed views while all those poor punters are stuck behind the ropes!

The BIGGA National Tournament was held at Ganton in August. I believe there were only two Scottish members there, Gordon Moir from the North and Duncan Gray from Ayrshire. I'm sure they enjoyed it as much as I did the year before.

In September a team of nine greenkeepers from the Region travelled to Moortown to play in the Iseki finals and they did us proud. They came second in the team tournament bringing back a cheque for £250 to be used for educational purposes in the Region. Team Captain John Flint, North Section, won the Veteran's prize and Jim Ellis, Central Section, the under 21's prize.

In November it was Scotsturf and the chance to see old friends and new equipment, the BIGGA stand was very busy and if only half the applications for membership taken away are returned our membership in 1991 will carry on the steady growth of the last two years.

Section wise, membership numbers are obviously up but some sections are struggling to encourage members to support their activities. The East Section, after having a rough time a few years ago, must be congratulated on the excellent support they are receiving for their events and their committee must be pleased with their hard work; keep up the good work lads. Unfortunately on the other side of the country what used to be the best supported and most active section, the West, are going through a sticky spell and now is the time for their members to rally round and support their committee in 1991.

Scottish Region dates for 1991:

Conference at Elmwood, Monday 10th March, Elmwood College, Cupar; Iseki Regional Final, Tuesday 28th May, Fraserburgh Golf club; Scottish National Tournament, Tuesday 25th June, Alloa Golf Club.

ELLIOTT SMALL

SOUTH COAST

Most winter lectures, as members will know, are held at Alresford Golf Club. However, to encourage participation for those members in the West of the Section an extra lecture was held in January at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester.

The speaker was Mark Hunt of Sierra UK who gave an excel-

● Continued on Page 62

4

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AROUND THE GREEN

lent talk on Plant Nutrition, Shrub Planting and Tree Maintenance.

Over 30 members were in attendance which delighted Section Chairman Ken Lodge and Committee Organiser Paul Drodge. However, special thanks must go to Stephen Fell, Head Greenkeeper at Came Down who rallied the troops in that part of the Section to make the afternoon meeting such a success.

Sierra UK kindly provided refreshments and Ken ended the session by giving members present an update on the affairs of the Section.

Following the December Stableford Competition, the following members will represent the Section in the ISEKI Regional Tournament on 27th June at Tredegar Park Golf Club, Gwent:

E McCabe, J Newman, P Summers, L Anderson, M Blake, J Llewellyn, P Marsh,

T Neighbour, J Norris, S Phillips, M Wheeler-Osman and S White.

Reserves are M Webb, B Port and A Archer.

The full list of Section Tournaments for 1991 are:

Spring Tournament, Blackmoor Golf Club Wednesday 29th May; Summer Tournament, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club Thursday 1st August; Autumn Tournament, Hockley Golf Club Tuesday 15th October. (This is a revised date from that published in the Section Programme card.); December Turkey Trot, Winchester Golf Club Wednesday, 4th December. All enquiries to play in our Tournaments to be directed to Joe Burdett, 948 Castle Lane East, BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6SP, Tel: 0202 483017.

BOB DENNIS

SOUTH WEST

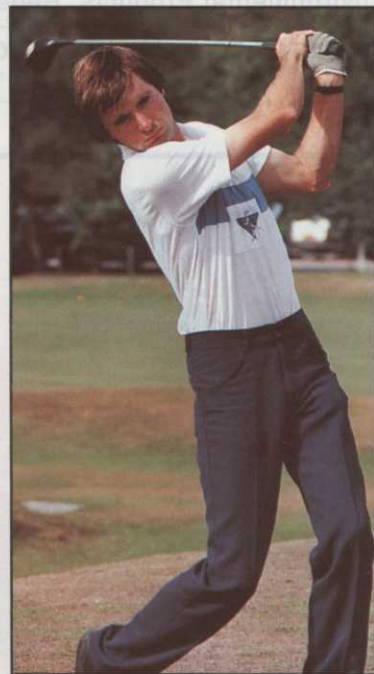
A bright crisp sunny morning awaited us at the Mendip Golf Club for our 1990 Christmas Tournament with the day appearing deceptive when viewed from the car and clubhouse. On arrival at the first tee however it was obvious that a howling gale and ground frozen solid were both likely to present problems.

The sub-zero temperatures were more than compensated for by the warm hospitality given us by this expanding Club which nestles in the hills above the City of Wells and the course, despite the frozen conditions, was in excellent condition and a true credit to Richard Flower and his staff.

The results of this Veals Lawnmowers sponsored event were: 1st Peter Connett (Lyme Regis) 35 points, 2nd Paul Worster (Lillybrook) 32 points, 3rd Jock Millar (Burnham) 29 points and 4th John Kane (Clevedon) 29 points.

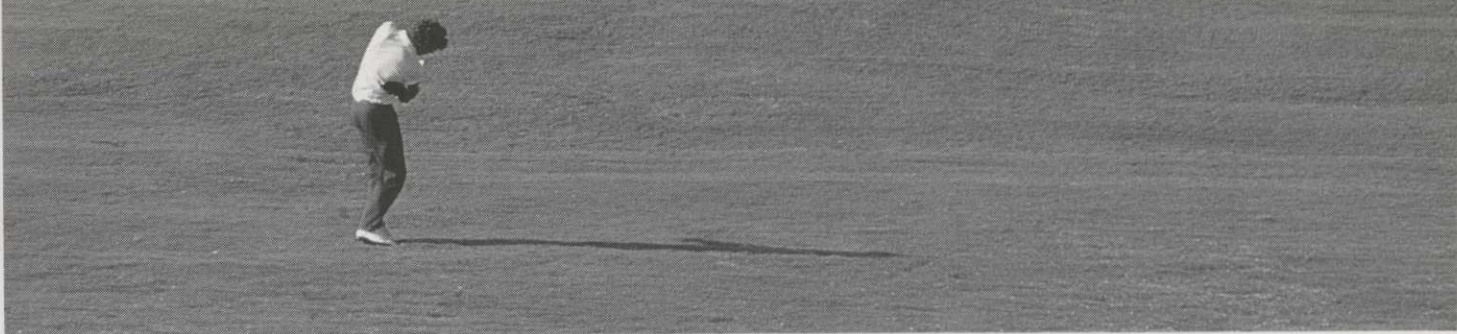
Prizes were gratefully received from Veals, Monro, Avoncrop, Vitax, T H Whites, Ransomes and SISIS. Special thanks go to Peter Hampton, who not only provided a prize but purchased wine for us all. Also worthy of praise were Peter Cox and Robin Williams who were 'plucked' from the gathering to run the raffle and collect the entry fees. We South West-erners are never short of praise for a good meal and acknowledge the good folks at Mendip who did us proud - thank you again.

Forthcoming events are: April 25th, ISEKI Qualifier at Bristol and Avon, May 29th, July 23th, Greensomes at Westonbirt, Summer meeting at Filton, October 3rd, South West versus Wales at St Pierre, and December 11th our Christmas meeting at Shirehampton Park. Regional events include Westurf at Long Ashton on May 1st, ISEKI Regional Final at Tredegar Park on June 27th and the Cannington College Seminar on November 6th.



Paul Worster was again among the prizewinners at Mendip Golf Club

PAUL WORSTER



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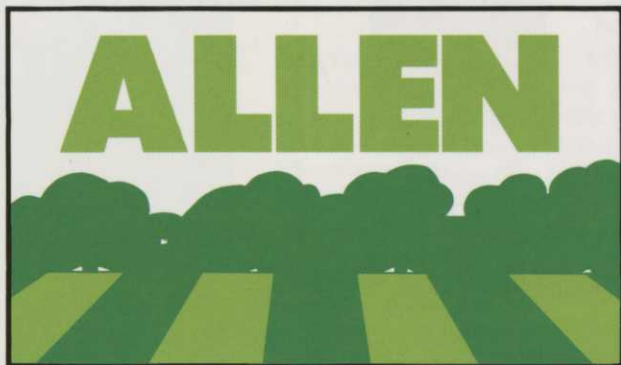
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