

■ 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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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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