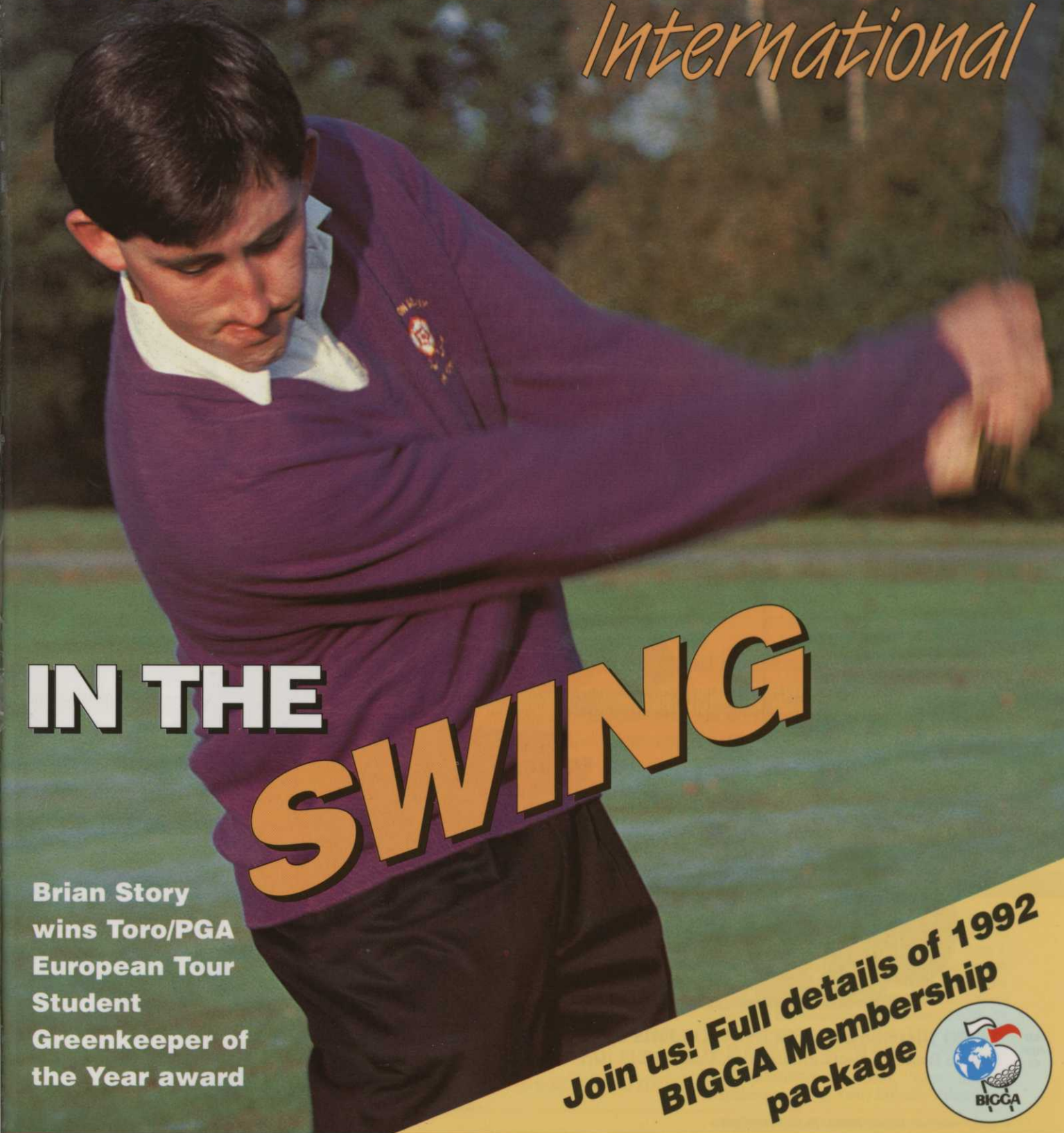


NOVEMBER 1991

GREENKEEPER

International



IN THE SWING

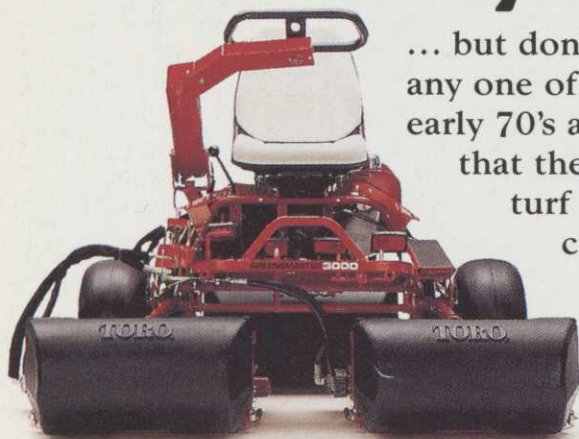
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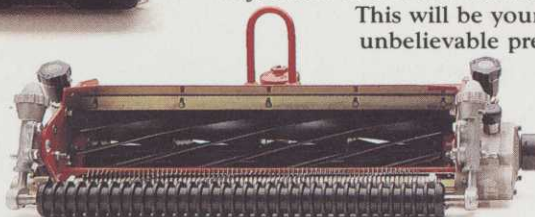
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Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

NOVEMBER 1991



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GREENKEEPER

International

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- **Members suffering temporary total disablement in excess of seven days will receive a weekly income** of £35 for a maximum of 104 weeks – options to increase benefits are available.
- **Use the Association's placement referral scheme**, to keep up to date with the employment scene.
- **Utilise BIGGA's services for expert advice on financial management** – our consultants will advise on mortgages, investments, life, household, private medical and motor insurance. Don't forget the BIGGA Personal Pension plan.
- **Take advantage of reduced delegate fees** at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference as well as regional seminars.
- BIGGA is international – all items in the membership package are available to members both in the Republic of Ireland and internationally. (International users of the legal helpline card should note that advice will relate to

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**membership package.
for all greenkeepers
and opposite Page 6**

US

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either English or Scottish law. The card can be used when the member is visiting Great Britain, both for advice and in respect of any claims arising during or from such visits.)

- All new Greenkeeper members joining in 1992 will receive an Association tie.
- BIGGA welcomes the ladies – lady members joining in the Associate category will receive a headscarf and stickpin to signify their membership in addition to the Associate membership card.
- *The legal and insurance benefits are only effective following payment of subscriptions. Any delay in payment after 1st January could cause a problem – don't take the risk!*
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**Membership
subscriptions
from
1 January 1992**

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

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

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

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

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

Those enrolling in the Associate/Company membership category will be encouraged to play a full part in the Association's affairs. Associate members will be those having a close interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. As such this category of membership will be of interest to Chairmen of Green Committees, Club Secretaries, Golf Course Architects and Constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping. Company membership is available on an individual or corporate basis and will be of interest to those employed within the fine turf industries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

A breakdown of the 1992 membership package shows the following allocations:

Personal Accident Insurance Cover	£3.75
Legal Advisory Service/ Employment Cover/Personal Injury Cover	£5.00
Membership Card	£0.45
Retainer fees (Regional Administrators/ Section Secretaries)	£3.46
Subscription refund to Regions/Sections	£5.55
	= £18.21

Each new member receives an Association tie – £4.50 or in the case of lady members a headscarf and stickpin – £4.95 and £1.10 respectively.

The balance of subscriptions is utilised to partially offset the running costs of the Association for which substantial additional income has to be sought from other sources.

Members also receive Greenkeeper International magazine – current annual subscription rate £29.00.

Together with discretionary courtesy of the golf course for greenkeeper members, the membership package represents great value for money.

In addition to practical benefits, consider the professional benefits of BIGGA membership...





■ The American lawncare specialists, O. M. Scott and Sons Ltd., US market leaders in lawncare products with over £500 million annual turnover and a market share of 43%, have entered the UK market. They have appointed Dave King as Sales Director of their new UK headquarters in Cannock, Staffs. Dave will co-ordinate

marketing strategy and be highlighting sales opportunities across the UK.

■ News from Gordon Moir tells of Willie Milton's retirement as Head Greenkeeper, Downfield GC., having been at the Club since the course was constructed in the fifties. Willie was a stalwart member of the North Scotland section, being chairman, secretary and treasurer at various times. In joining with the section in sending good wishes to Willie in his retirement, we also offer his successor, Ian Menzies, our hearty congratulations.

■ Congratulations to Mark Osborne from Longcliffe GC on his marriage to Mary Smith. Walter Cole ('Old Wrinkly') was Best Man.

■ Tony McLure of Whickham GC has won the Northern Amateur Masters title again, having captured this prestigious annual 36 hole competition by qualifying through 24 rounds of play since May. The event is open to category one players only.

■ A 31 year association comes to an end with the departure of Jim Parker from the company that bears his name. T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd was sold to the Moyes Stevens Group in May 1990, with Jim retained by the new owners as M.D. on a 12 month contract. Although this contract expired earlier in the year, Jim stayed on until the IOG Show, after which his association ended. With various ideas under consideration, Jim has no definite plans as to whether he will remain in the turf care industry, but hopes to maintain contact with his many friends in the business.

■ Whilst still at Harlech competing in The BIGGA/ICI Nationals, John Borja received news from Clive Smith that Hawthorn Hill Golf Centre had been sold to a Japanese company – Bluebird Hills UK – and although John could have stayed on, Clive wanted him to move with the Clive Smith Leisure Group. John is now in charge of construction at



Lindum Turf back Education Conference

■ The news that Geoff Hodson (right) of Lindum Turf is to once again sponsor the BIGGA National Education Conference in March has been greeted in all quarters with great enthusiasm. The highly successful 1991 Conference in York was also sponsored by Lindum Turf and with their additional support for 1992 now confirmed, we are sure the '92 conference will be an even greater success.



Pine Ridge Golf Centre, Camberley, with the title of Golf Course Development Manager. Greenkeeper International wish him well – it couldn't happen to a finer man.



■ Supaturf Products Ltd have appointed Steve Philpott as Area Sales Manager for the South-West region – essentially covering South Wales and the South West – and responsible for sales of Supaturf's range of Top Line marking systems.

■ 'God must have destined this site as a golf course'. How many times have we heard that sentiment echoed, I wonder? But in the case of the new Sedburgh course, opened last month in the very heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the claim has an absolute ring of truth.

The first (and probably the last) course to be approved in a National Park, the construction was not without detractors, notably the 'Rochdale Cowboy', Mike Harding, who lobbied parliament. All the more credit then to the farming Wilson's and Handley's for perseverance in ensuring that this stirring piece of God's acreage is now a golf course of true magnificence.

What has made this such a success can be summed up ecologically as total empathy with nature. Few trees were removed, only minimal land movement was considered necessary and – a huge blessing – the land is bone dry minutes after any downpour.

So good fortune to them and the good members of the old Sedburgh GC, who shortly transfer to the new course.



■ Think Vertidrain hire and you'll likely think Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd, with their fleet of 'Captains' and 'Majors'. Now Brian has appointed Lisa Pierson (pictured) to take charge of the maintenance division. With ground conditions having been so difficult recently, the service is more popular than ever and she should be a very busy lady.

The BIGGA recommended minimum salary/wages scale

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The art of greenkeeping, according to ROBERT TAYLOR, relies on a dedicated approach to work – and with green issues a top priority, now much more than ever before

It is estimated there are in the region of 2,100 golf courses established or being established throughout Great Britain, amounting to over 120,000 hectares of land. The terrain and vegetation classifications on which such golf courses are situated varies from heathland/moorland, parkland (predominantly broad-leaved or coniferous woodland and grasslands) through to the sand dunes and slacks of maritime or links courses.

It is also estimated that only two to three hectares of the course – ie. the putting and teeing areas – are or should be intensively managed. The fairways, excluding carry but including the greens collars, surrounds and bunkers etc., may total up to 17 hectares leaving up to 40 hectares (on an average course) which can be divided between deep rough, semi rough and the fairway carries. Indeed, the deep rough alone may occupy up to 40% of the total land, depending upon the course standard. Thus, working on the lowest figures, up to 42,000 hectares of rough is represented within the nation's golf resource.

Small wonder, therefore, that where very little time and resource is given to this land criticisms highlighting the 'selfish use' are resulting in harm to the sport, especially where planning applications for further development are submitted.

Definitions

The concept of rough and the need for its management are not always immediately understood. In the rules of golf the term 'rough' is not specifically defined but is included in 'through the green'. The latter is taken to include fairways.

Ideally the rough and the management thereof should include all the areas of the course surrounding the green, tee and fairway of each hole. Any rough management programme should consider the range of vegetation associations such as the various forms of grassland, the woodlands, copses and shelter screens, the heath (or heather dominated communities) and the water features including ponds, lakes, dykes and drainage ditches.

Ecological management of the golf course should not be thought of strictly as 'rough management'. The fairways, bunker moundings and surrounds situated on suitable nutrient poor soil types may often be included. Indeed several have been designated with the status of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and may be severely damaged by insensitive management operations. Incorrect management can lead to a fairly rapid change in the species composition and the loss of desirable herb and grass species from the sward. Such areas would form part of the overall ecological management programme.

Management objectives

Ideally an initial survey of the course should be undertaken to determine both the present vegetation associations and the type of management necessary to enhance or retain



ECOLOGICAL

and the

existing character. Within the survey it may be useful to assess the history of the site with respect to possible successions or the change in vegetation and species abundance. This is often helpful in highlighting particular problems which can then be addressed.

A certain amount of expertise is required when evaluating a particular golf course site. On a heathland course, for example, it would be wrong to encourage management toward great species diversity. The development for diversity for its own sake is rarely a wise conservation goal and is certainly inappropriate on heathland. Diversity here would invariably result in the reduction of those characteristics and species of greatest importance. It is important that the appraisal be carried out by a competent ecologist experienced in the game of golf, one sympathetic to the needs and priorities of the sport.

The data and results obtained from such a site inspection should be drawn together and encompassed in a 'Plan of Action' for the course. Such a document should outline an appropriate management strategy taking into account all areas of the course and the varying habitat types present. The plan must consider the requirements of golf (the strategy and character of each hole) and the ecological needs in

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etc., has largely maintained the heath condition, though on golf courses traditional processes have ceased to such an extent that the spread of bracken, rhododendron, birch and pine scrub are all altering the character of the heathland course. The scale of the task on many courses is so substantial that a phased programme of reinstatement and restoration over several years should be considered.

It would be sensible at the outset to concentrate management in those areas of new scrub colonisation, in order to avert the need for more expensive action at a later stage. Clearance of both pine and birch is a physical process which due to past neglect may involve a large labour input. Following physical lifting, all cut material should be removed from the site to prevent any return of nutrients to the soil. Birch stumps remaining should be treated with an approved herbicide to prevent their re-growth.

Rhododendron is a very invasive component of many heathland courses and is best removed by winching (especially on sandy soils) or by cutting and chemical treatment. Cut stumps should be drilled and filled with an approved herbicide.

Bracken eradication is timing dependent, with Asulam sprayed over the young, dry fonds in mid July to mid August being possibly the most efficient technique. If applied correctly in dry conditions, allowing 36 hours between rainy spells and where wind speeds are between 1-3, underlying heather should not be adversely affected.

Heather, normally the dominant species on the heathland courses, is often sadly neglected and is therefore usually old and beyond its capacity to regenerate vegetatively, or is being outcompeted by more aggressive grass species. Management to reinstate areas where the heather has become very 'leggy' will involve cutting the sward to ground level and removing the arisings and litter. A heavy duty flail/scarification machine should be employed to remove surface debris without passing too deeply into the surface, bearing in mind that regeneration at this stage is almost entirely dependent upon the buried seed bank.

In younger swards the heather should be periodically cut to maintain the desired height, keeping the plants in the building phase of their life cycle, which in turn will encourage basal tillering and maintain a strong and dense sward. Suitable machinery to employ would be a forage harvester or a heavy-duty vertical flail with collecting hopper. In a recent series of heather trials conducted by the STRI we used an Amazone Groundkeeper, which proved to be most satisfactory.

Burning is an option, but has a fairly restricted application on the golf course. Much depends on a fast burn at an appropriate temperature, with these conditions being quite exacting and difficult to achieve. Should you consider this option it is ideally carried out in February, with the action becoming unlawful after the end of March.

Cutting management is best undertaken between November and March, preferably after seed set, but not in adverse weather conditions. Competition from productive grass species is a problem, particularly on those courses lying on dry nutrient poor sand and still recovering from the onslaught of the previous two years of drought. In such cases grass invasion should be controlled through an integrated programme of scarification and selective herbicide treatment, though it should be noted that the scarification procedure may temporarily inhibit the heather, but this should recover with the passage of time.

Conclusion

Greenkeeping in the 1990s is both an exacting science and an art. Understanding the management ground rules for putting and teeing surfaces requires a very dedicated specialism – as we progress into an era where environmental conservation is taking an overriding precedence in our societies sociology. Then the specialism of rough management will increasingly present itself to the greenkeeper, his workforce and to the Club as a whole. The STRI is now, through its research and consultancy services, heavily committed to the restoration of heathland courses and welcomes requests for advice and guidance.

● The author, Robert Taylor, is an ecologist with the Sports Turf Research Institute. He will be addressing the subjects of Environmental Considerations in New Course Design and The Ecological Management of a Golf Course as part of a series of STRI seminars, scheduled between November and February at various locations throughout the country.

LOGY greenkeeper

order to ensure the continued survival of common and scarce species present. The plan must offer a practical and workable strategy, giving due consideration to the financial and labour resources of the Club and the availability of machinery to undertake many of the operations that may be recommended. It may be that expensive machinery is required for certain operations and this may involve either hire or outright purchase.

Timing of such work is in many cases critical on a golf course, complicated perhaps by a range of other pending priorities with which the greenkeeper is faced. Also integral with the timing is the actual phasing of such works. Much will depend on the amount of work to be carried out, but splitting the work up over several years does minimise course disturbance. Similarly, working one area of the course at a time will result in less disturbance than an approach where work is scattered around the course. Phasing the work over discreet areas will indirectly have certain ecological benefits, by maintaining a series of different habitats which are all at different stages in their life cycle.

Management

It is not feasible in an article of this length to discuss in depth the management of all habitat types encountered by the greenkeeper on his course. I have therefore concentrated my efforts to exemplify the ground rules for management on just one major habitat type, that of heathlands. Future articles will discuss the ground rules for management of woodlands and grassland, as encountered on parkland and downland courses, and the very exposed coastal maritime or links courses.

Heathlands: Although heathland courses have a strong air of wilderness about them – giving a serious impression of naturalness – they are in fact totally 'man-made'. Evidence from pollen analyses suggests they were once wooded and were cleared in the Bronze age in respect of the continuing population expansions that were then occurring. Heathlands tend to be caught in an aggressive process of tree/scrub re-invasion and reversion back to original woodland condition. Constant management, ie. grazing and fodder harvesting

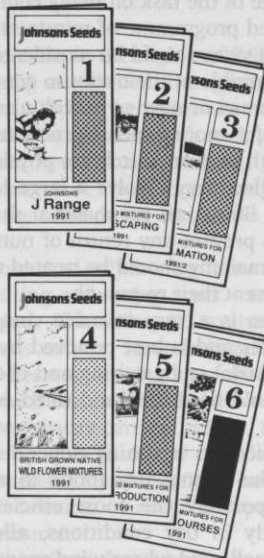
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More **RECRUITMENT** on Page 35

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Winter water shutdown

The summer has gone, the irrigation system no longer needed. Will you forget it? Probably, but you shouldn't! The system has cost valuable Club funds to install and maintain and is a vital management tool every year, dry or not so dry.

If we ignore the system now, the Club will inevitably spend more on maintenance next year. If the system is properly wintered down and checked through, such action will limit future expenditure on maintenance and it will be there waiting, fully operational when we need it next spring!

What work should we, as responsible greenkeepers, arrange to be done now and throughout the winter to ensure we start next season with a fully operational and satisfactory scheme?

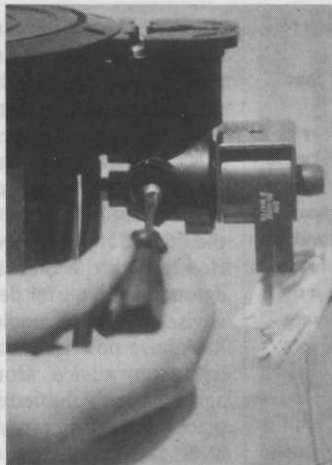
Storage facility, controller and control cable, pipeline, solenoids and sprinklers – all require attention; and the main points to look for are as follows:

Storage: If your storage is an above ground galvanised, fibreglass or polyethylene type, close off the water supply whilst making sure to drain the supply line back to a position where it will not freeze, or ensure it has been adequately lagged. Unless the tank is used as a fire fighting water supply, drain it and take the opportunity of removing any silt or debris which may have accumulated. Check the liner and waterproof seams and joints for condition. If they are in anyway suspect, make arrangements to have them attended to.

If your water supply is a river or lake, make sure you remove the suction pipe from the water. This will prevent it from freezing, possibly even being washed away, and will reduce deterioration to the suction pipe itself.

Pump station: Check that the pumphouse is safe and vandalproof for the winter. Mindless persons can often cause more damage than the worst frost or lightning strike. All types of pumps used in golf course irrigation need draining down if there is the slightest risk of frost. Pump castings do not tolerate water being frozen within them and can possibly crack.

Pumps and motors should be checked for performance and wear and the greenkeeper should request an annual check from his irrigation equipment supplier. Do this now rather than later, when every other client will be looking for urgent attention.



A typical solenoid coil which could eventually break down pulling too much current

Did the pump seem to be working as it should? Have any of your staff mentioned a drop-off in pump performance? If so, mention this to the pump engineer, as it could help him to locate the particular problem more quickly. Always isolate the electricity to the pumps, open all valves and give them a turn from time to time during the winter.

Controllers: We often forget these essential devices. First, should we switch the controller off? Some manufacturers would prefer to leave the controllers powered to ensure there is no long-term damage due to condensation etc., even if the pumphouse is heated. It may help to remove any fuses fitted to the course wiring to minimise any possible lightning damage due to winter storms. If the pumphouse itself needs attention in order to prevent rainwater finding its way to the controller and the electrics in general – do something about it now.

On course electric cable: Have the course low voltage electrics checked out by your supplier for current leakage when he carries out any other work during the winter, unless your system provides you with a status report.

Pipelines: One of the jobs we know we need to do, know we should do and often leave too late, is to open the drain valves and release the water from the pipeline system. Let as much water out as possible, then close the valves to approximately 1/4" (6mm) opening. This will prevent our rodent friends from using the drained pipe as a winter home – a favourite place for many.

Make a note of the points across the course where you have noticed

leaks during the season and plan to do something about them now, not later when the lines are drained down. If you have any doubt that the pipeline is not fully drained in places where it may be exposed, ensure it is properly lagged against frost damage.

Solenoid valves and sprinklers: If you had operational problems during the season with solenoids or sprinklers, arrange to resolve them now. Diaphragms in solenoids will eventually fatigue and require replacing, coils and coil pins can wear, with coils drawing too much current and coil pin not seating correctly. Have the coils checked by your supplier at the same time as he is checking the course wiring as this can often be a single operation.

Sprinkler seals may have become worn and be leaking. Remove the sprinkler inserts and replace the seals, checking the springs at the same time, whilst cleaning the trash filters and checking the nozzles for excessive wear. Make sure the pop-up drain holes are clear.

Hoses: If you use auxiliary hand

watering or sprinkler feed hoses, remember that they also should be drained out, coiled up and placed in a dry, preferably dark, location. You may need one during the winter and when you do it could be full of ice, hidden under grass and knotted up into the bargain.

In summary: Do not forget the system. Do the checks now and plan the repairs and maintenance through the winter. If you are planning improvements, talk to your suppliers immediately and negotiate your plans early. If you choose not to assess the state of your irrigation system as suggested, be sure to add a significant increase to your maintenance budget for 1992. You will certainly need it!

● The author, Gordon Bennington, is General Manager of the Rainbird Division of Wright Rain Limited.

● Readers should note that a two day BIGGA education workshop on irrigation will be presented at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, on January 20th and 21st 1992, presented by Robin Hume of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association.

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Flying Divots

An appreciation of what is not always appreciated

At the root of the problem

■ **Amusing perhaps**, but there was a serious side to the tale retold regarding a contractor hollow coring greens. The Club secretary wandered out to watch, picked up a couple of the 5" cores and remarked: 'my, what wonderful root growth we have here'... the cores being 5" of solid thatch! 'I didn't have the courage to tell him the truth', said the contractor, 'he's a pompous man with long-held prejudiced opinions and doesn't take kindly to having them dented with reality!'

■ **Just a load of hot air...** that's all it takes to get airborne; and so with great trepidation, both Billy Martin and your editor gathered at Wildwood recently for his winning flight after the launching of the RFE Turf Machinery Ltd golf ball shaped hot-air balloon. Sadly the weather turned sour and the launch was postponed, so we'll have to wait to report on the exploits of 'those magnificent men in their flying machines'. In the meantime, I can report that Wildwood is shaping up magnificently (with a fabulous opening hole) and that our old friend and course consultant, Jack McMillan, is generous in his praise for its magnitude and progress, with play scheduled to begin in 1993.

■ **Following the ultra-critical** and in many ways thoroughly justified comments made on the condition of the greens at Royal Birkdale, the stage whisper going the rounds is that the Club asked a 'second opinion' from none other than Arnold Palmer (or his American agronomist) to advise on possible remedial action, the too simple answer opined being 're-build to USGA spec! Whilst appreciating that action is necessary - nay essential - one cannot help

■ **I was amused to read in 'The Independent' that China have announced they invented golf - well, the remotely similar 10th century game of chiuwan - and now go one better by claiming, on the 500th anniversary eve of Columbus's first landing, to have discovered America! Next month, they discover the wheel, followed by the lawn mower and the internal combustion engine!**

question the thinking behind appointing an American, great player though he may be, to comment on conditions that are essentially British in terms of turf species, lovely sandy ground conditions and climate. Further, such action must be seen as a snub for the STRI, who have worked closely with the Club and whose agronomists have for decades been appointed by the R&A to advise on such Championship courses. I also learn that the R&A have now issued an edict advising that any Club *not* following advice from the Championship appointed agronomist to the letter will be in danger of losing their place on the Championship roster.

■ **Night-time golf** came to Aldwark Manor, demonstrated for the first time in the north to an invited audience, who saw the chemically illuminated golf balls struck, with various plastic covered lights of a similar nature used to aid the golfers sight.

Initially the reaction was 'well, it's been a bit of fun', but greenkeepers are reported far from happy with this import from America. The reason? We have 12 or more hours of golf during summer and everyone knows the problems of overplaying and compaction. Added to this is the problem of footprinting on delicate and perhaps frosted greens and, of course, divot replacement. Overall impression? A bit gimmicky and not for the serious golfer.



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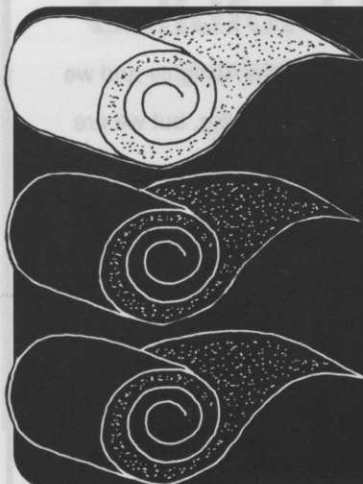
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An atmosphere to grip the heart

Almost one month on from the Ryder Cup and I'm still being quizzed by all who caught a fleeting glimpse of me on TV, squatting within feet of poor Bernhard and in direct line of that single breaking putt that slid silently right...

Was it that difficult? I imagine only the immortal Bobby Jones may have known such intense pressure in eventually winning the Impregnable Quadrilateral (The Amateur and Open Championships of both Great Britain and the USA in one glorious year – 1930). Please believe me, Bernhard Langer, having played so courageously down the stretch, was our hero.

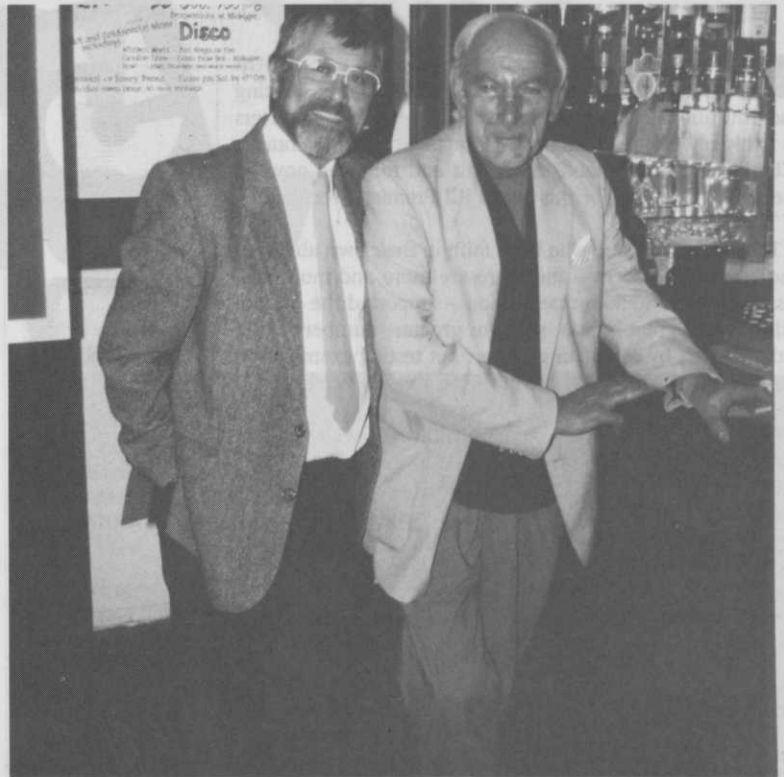
I am an emotional man, known to weep at weddings and much stirred by patriotic fervour. As a mere onlooker I could taste that pressure, easily cut it with a blunt knife, feel it tingling in every limb, for this was golf played for the glory of nations in a steaming pressure cooker. That alone is what made The Ocean a difficult course and one can only vaguely imagine how both teams agonised.

Millions of words have been written and spoken about The Ocean, though somewhat less about it being too tough; and it has been an interesting exercise to listen to those who saw the matches on TV, for almost to a man they criticise a course that I did not see. Perhaps tour professionals have become too accustomed to thrashing a driver 250 or more yards down every manicured fairway and playing short pitch shots to holding greens. Perhaps they have been spoiled by over simplicity. The Ocean that I witnessed gave nothing to such cavalier play, rather it demanded the utmost care of the finest players in the world – in every department of their armoury and including a resurrection of the ground game.

No doubt the cameras foreshortened and distorted, no doubt the commentators spoke of unkind bump or run, faster than average green speeds, fiendish pin placements and acres of sand reminiscent of a Pine Valley dropped by the shore, not to mention the niggling wee scraps of gamesmanship that were almost inevitable; but these were nothing compared to the choking band of steel round the chest atmosphere that grips the heart, a pressure prevailing from the very first tee shot to that last agonisingly cruel putt. This was what I saw at The Ocean and I left each day in awe and admiration of those who had battled upon its acres, whilst applauding Pete Dye's breathtaking and cleverly conceived jewel hugging Carolina's shores.

Great courses are not made overnight – certainly not great links courses – and ultimately the place taken by The Ocean will not be decided by golf writers or TV commentators. Rather it will come from those golfers competing for five bucks a hole from the very playable white tees at 6245 yards or red at 5327, who play it once and come back again and again for more – a blessed and beguiling touch of Scotland in South Carolina, with the added measure of sunshine.

Walking the course each day, sucking in the atmosphere and delighting in seeing so many European supporters (who, incidentally, demonstrated patriotic pride without a hint of malice and matched the good humoured Americans shot for shot and cheer for cheer), my eyes lit up when I finally found The Belfry Course Manager, Derek Ganning, B.E.M., amongst the hordes, pleased to see him looking so relaxed and making good professional use of his time in observing all the little niceties and nuances that Kiawah Island offered. I was surprised, however, to discover that far from being an invited and honoured guest, Derek had taken time from his holiday allowance and paid his own flight, car rental and hotel costs in order to attend. Lest it may have escaped the attention of the organising powers on this side



Called to the bar...
David White, left, with
ex-Ryder Cup player
Sam King

of 'the pond', Derek is the man on whose shoulders the ultimate success of the next Ryder Cup course depends!

And as the Ryder Cup matches again return to The Belfry in 1993, Derek will of course be prepared and no doubt eager to match the best that America could produce – a magnificent feast of a course which in my view is a tough act to follow – and our European players will have had time to perhaps ease the hurt they must feel at this moment. In the same vein, America should savour their triumph now and remember how tough this victory was to achieve.

Returning to these shores and sharing in my own way the burden of Europe's defeat, I was instantly cheered to meet up at long last with a man I have long admired, ex-Ryder Cup player, Sam King, now in his 81st year, as sharp as ever and possessed of a biting wit that holds one spellbound. With total recall of events that took place over 50 years ago (he was the only British player to win in the Ryder Cup of '47, beating Herman Keiser by 4 and 3), and happy to reminisce over his many Open Championships, in which he holds something of a record by never winning whilst finishing in the top ten no less than nine times, I asked him what he thought of the drama recently unfolded at Kiawah. 'It was the most exciting ever', he replied, 'and I enjoyed it far more because it was played on an exacting course with a testing breeze. The Ocean, in my opinion, was just perfect for match play. No doubt when they play at The Belfry in two years they'll be putting for birdies and eagles on every hole, but I personally like to witness 'The Ultimate Matchplay' on totally demanding courses, those where a player must think about every shot and fabricate quite a few. I'd like to see it played there again and again'.

The wisdom of age and experience was never more profound, this from a man who won the princely sum of just £40 for third place in The Open at St Andrews in 1939; and who, one sensed, would have loved to play once again for his country at Kiawah, heart pounding and all.

DAVID WHITE

And then there were

5

The strength of guidance and support given to BIGGA members by ICI Professional Products – in both sporting and educational programmes – must be seen in all quarters as richly rewarding, demonstrated first by the truly fantastic ICI sponsored National Tournament and followed now by the quality of entry for this year's ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year awards.

Those greenkeepers who have faith in their own ability to rise beyond the norm – and there are more and more professionals who think in that fashion – supported the competition with great gusto and in greater numbers than hitherto, first by completing a short but testing examination paper and following this with an essay on a pertinent greenkeeping subject.

A natural process of elimination followed, with the five chosen finalists having been inspected by experts from both BIGGA and ICI at their place of work – on the field of action, so to speak – before finally reaching the nerve wracking final hurdle. This will be an interview to be held next month before a select panel of judges at Aldwark Manor, BIGGA's national headquarters.

Quite apart from the natural kudos gained in just reaching the final stretch, one proud greenkeeper will be chosen as ICI Premier Greenkeeper and join the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in America's New Orleans, in February 1992. The runner-up will receive a weekend for two in the 'Big City', with tickets for a major golf tournament and a West End show, with third place taking a relaxing weekend for two at Aldwark Manor, including golf and theatre tickets. All wonderful prizes.

THE CANDIDATES

RICHARD BARKER

Richard is a most popular and highly visible figure at all BIGGA functions, being Chairman of the East Midlands section, a regular trophy winner at both BIGGA and Leicester County golf events and a staunch supporter of greenkeeper education. Above all, he's a supporter with a solid background, having attended both Askham Bryan College and Elmwood College for Management and Supervisory studies – finishing up Top Student at Elmwood.

He's 27, still single, and is head greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, a delightful parkland course on 150 acres with four green staff, where he's held the post for nearly four years. Quite apart from the day to day running of Kirby Muxloe, Richard has been involved in constructing three new Hawtree designed holes and has thoroughly enjoyed this exposure to another side of his career progression. He's a world traveller, taking note of the best that other countries have to offer and successfully attempting to integrate such techniques into his own course in his efforts to keep all of his members happy all of the time!

LAURENCE PITHIE

It's difficult to know where to start with Laurence, for his profile is on an all time high following his election as the first ever Master Greenkeeper this year. He was winner of the National Greenkeeper and Groundsman of The Year in '83 and '87, regional winner in '88 and holds the Course Managers Gold Diploma. He's a speaker at seminars and conferences, a student of foreign languages, and the compiler of a slide library on golf course management, culled from his many journeys to courses around the world.

Laurence, born in 1952, began as an apprentice in his native Scotland at Bruntsfield Links before moving to Mortonhall as deputy head greenkeeper, whilst following the time honoured pattern of college education at Elmwood. This was followed in '73 by a move to head greenkeeper status at Sandiway in Cheshire. His current courses, 36 holes of downland delight on a limestone plateau at Minchinhampton, have been his great challenge since 1981 and it is here that he lives with his family.



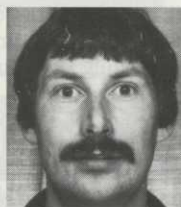
RICHARD
BARKER



LAURENCE
PITHIE



TIMOTHY
McCREADIE



DAVID
WHITAKER



ARNE van
AMERONGEN

Not content with nurturing 36 holes at Minchinhampton, he acts as a consultant for two other Clubs, plays to a handicap of 8, writes articles and has the ambition to write a full length book on course management from a practical viewpoint.

TIMOTHY McCREADIE

Tim is yet another of those greenkeepers who link fine play in the field of golfing competition – he's a grand player and was once a qualified member of the PGA – with the skills and determination to maintain absolutely first rate playing conditions on his own course. Recently at Hesketh, a qualifying course for Open Championship entry, he's been a head greenkeeper for some nine years at both Hesketh and Stourbridge, both truly bonny and challenging courses of high repute. Having worked on a variety of different courses, links, heathland and parkland, he is well versed in such diverse activities as major drainage installations and thatch eradication.

Unlike others with an eye for the glittering prize of professional golf, 37 year old Tim made the wise decision to study for his chosen career at the Reaseheath College, with the highlight coming when he was elected Top Student in his final Phase III year.

Now his sights are set on moving to a new development – one where top class specifications are written in stone and strictly followed to the letter – in order that he may combine his course maintenance skills with the empathy he has for nature conservancy and wild flower preservation. Tim lives with his family in the golfing mecca of Southport, where he collects books on greenkeeping design and maintenance.

DAVID WHITAKER

Ask 30 year old David Whitaker what his premier aim is and he will almost certainly wax lyrical on the subject of improving greenkeeper status, a subject on which he holds very firm views. He's of the opinion that this will come quicker than many believe, based on his premise that better research, education, and personal representation at both national and Club committee level is now regarded in many circles in a much more enlightened manner.

Perhaps this thinking is in line with his present position, that of course manager at the high profile and much discussed Wisley course, a new 27 hole Robert Trent Jones Jnr. design in the Surrey stockbroker belt, seeded throughout with the 'Penn' cultivar range. He's been at Wisley almost since the first sod was turned and has the huge task of 'growing-in' and subsequent maintenance of both course and grounds – a demanding responsibility.

Seemingly with a penchant for 'Penn' range grasses, David was previously responsible for an equally demanding task in Switzerland at the Pete Dye designed Golf Du Domaine Imperial, whilst also acting as a consultant to the prestigious Geneva Golf Club, all heady stuff. If all this suggests that his skills lie only with American style activities; not so, for over ten years of solid and dependable greenkeeping work in the north of England at both Baildon and Rawdon stamp him as a sound all-rounder with skills in every department.

ARNE van AMERONGEN

With a name like Arne (as in Arnie's Army) you could hardly be surprised that this likeable young Dutchman eventually took to greenkeeping as a career, though his first sporting love is Judo and he is a past champion of the crack Dutch Marine force. What is surprising is that one hailing from the cradle of golf should work in Germany and be college trained in Britain. Arne is head greenkeeper with the British Army Golf Club in Sennelager where he trains other staff, especially on the intricacies of a computerised irrigation system. From early beginnings, training under Englishman Bill Garner, Arne moved around whilst working on both heathland and parkland courses and became involved with building both tees and greens from scratch. He's a model student under Dennis Mortram at Reaseheath in Cheshire and is well forward toward completing his Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management examinations. One of the new European breed, he is a strong contender for the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award this year and is setting his long term goals high. One idea in his mind is that he may become a course designer and act as a consultant, with an emphasis on machinery, maintenance, budgets and irrigation.

'The future of our great profession is within the grasp of all these young men with a mission...'

•TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR•

Student
**GREENKEEPER
OF THE
YEAR**

Stars of tomorrow

Elmwood College, in Scotland's golfing heartland of Fife, is noted for excellence both as a place of learning and in producing greenkeeping professionals, men who then go forward to the giddy heights of management at top sporting venues. A classic example may be seen within the PGA European Tour itself, with their Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson, an outstanding Elmwood 'old boy'.

Now the college can lay claim to yet another rising star, 23 year old Brian Story, who is the newly acclaimed Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

From a top class field of 13 selected students – hand picked as representing the very best by their respective Approved Training College tutors – Brian is the man chosen amongst his peers to represent BIGGA during the coming year, the award being a breathtaking tour of campaign that will leave him in no uncertain mind as to the wisdom of choosing greenkeeping as a career.

Consider these glittering prizes: six weeks at the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers held at the University of Massachusetts, a week at the Toro Irrigation and Technical Design Complex at Riverside; California, a further visit to the Toro Mower Division Headquarters at Minneapolis, together with practical tours of local golf and country clubs. Brian's learning curve on the American side of the Atlantic will finally end with a week-long visit to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Trade Fair in the hugely exciting city of New Orleans.

If all this isn't enough to make Brian's mind whirl, consider also the meteoric rise he has made in just a few short years at Silloth on Solway, his home course. Having made the decision to progress to the top via the education route, Brian achieved all his Greenkeeping Management learning modules with comparative ease and moved forward to take further Supervisory modules through Elmwood's highly praised Distant Learning Course.

Impressive noises in the lecture room (Brian's a regular award winner at Elmwood prize presentations) suggested equally impressive noises in the Club committee room and on the strength of his rapid learning curve, coupled with solid practical experience over several years, Brian has most recently been promoted to Working Course Manager at Silloth on Solway GC. That Silloth is a highly progressive Club with an equally progressive course manager is further endorsed by the Club's wise decision to disband their green committee in favour of a one to one discourse between Brian and the green chairman/convenor – all highly creditable.

Now Brian, a practical golf-playing greenkeeper with a touch of genius around the course, (handicap two and a 'capped' Cumbrian County player) is set on achieving Master Greenkeeper status and will attend management courses at BIGGA headquarters at every given opportunity, this in his quest for additional credits to add to his already impressive 159 total.



Though the Toro company are principal sponsors of this prestigious award, for the past two years they have been joined by the PGA European Tour, who as co-sponsors have lent substance to the winning circle by taking two runners-up as part of their own support team to selected professional tournaments. This year the lucky twosome were Scotland's Alan Morgan (nominated by Oatridge College) and Leeds' own John Waite (nominated by Askham Bryan College), and these fortunate students will soon be receiving a call to arms from the Tour's Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson. What Alan and John can anticipate is two of the most exciting weeks of their lives, working whilst learning at the sharp end of the most exhilarating sector of professional golf – The European Tour – with added opportunities to meet golf's par busting super-stars. It will be a learning experience they will never forget.

In speaking to the assembled finalists, Peter Roberts, General Manager, Toro Irrigation UK Ltd, suggested that the future of our great profession was within the grasp of all those young men with a mission – the education seekers – and that they were the stars of tomorrow. Summarising in his speech, Michael Williams, Golf Correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, opined that all greenkeepers should play golf and that golf clubs would be wise to encourage such activity. Finally he drew sound applause by stating that in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of The Year awards there were no losers – everyone being a winner by just taking part.

Prize guys:
**Toro/PGA European
Tour Student
Greenkeeper of the
Year Brian Story,
centre, flanked by
runners-up John
Waite, left and Alan
Morgan**

Canadians maintain Fulford's reputation for tense finishes

SO CLOSE!

JOHN HUNTER reports on the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament

Fulford Golf Club in York has seen some great players over the years, as the stars of the PGA European Tour have competed in the Benson & Hedges Open and Murphy's tournaments since 1971.

There have been some tense and exciting finishes as the likes of Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin, Lee Trevino, Tom Weiskopf and Ian Woosnam, to name only a handful, have tested their skills against the course.

Fulford maintained its reputation for down to the wire, moment of truth finishes in the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament, when Canada snatched victory by one point from the United States with England third, two further points away.

What a day and what a finish. Many pundits felt that United States were in with a favourite's chance of wresting the trophy for the first time, after near misses previously.

And the Americans had smiles on their faces when they went into lunch after the morning round with a one-point lead over Canada with England and Germany tied in third place, three points adrift.

That lead came after a superb finish in the morning by the American team of Ed Walsh, Roger Null and Frank Maxwell, who gathered a marvellous 14 points from the last four holes.

They had four at the 15th, three at the 16th, two at the famous 17th (the Bernhard Langer hole where the German player had to climb the huge ash tree alongside the green during the Benson & Hedges International Open in '81, after his iron shot lodged in the fork of the tree) and finally five points at the par five final hole.

Here Walsh, an 11 handicap player from Ridgewood, who had a birdie three at the 5th, put his second shot inches from the pin to tap in his third and accomplish a rare gross eagle, nett albatross.

The Canadians, twice winners of the competition – at Ipswich in 1982 and St Andrews in 1985 – had looked as though they were heading for the lead, until the tremendous spurt by the Americans.

The Canadian team of Tom Charters, a six handicap player from Weston, Bob Heron, nine handicap from Beacon Hall, Doug Meyer, five handicap from Cedarbrook and Robbie Robinson, five handicap from Hidden Lake, ably led by team manager Ken Olsvik in addition to wives and supporters, were not at all downhearted about the sudden turn of events and to prove the point gave away a few lapel badges with the Canadian maple leaf to people in the clubhouse over lunch.

England's team of Mike Hughes, five handicap from Edgbaston, David Wood, eleven handicap from Holtye and Mark Diment, fifteen from Knighton Heath backed up by team manager Ivor Scoones, who was National Chairman of BIGGA in 1990, were well placed at this stage.

Hughes had played exceptionally well with 14 points going out and 14 coming back as well. Diment scored 9 on the outward nine holes and 5 coming back. Remarkably, Wood didn't score at all, although that was often because one of his colleagues obtained the necessary points before it was his turn to putt.

There were some hard-luck stories too at this stage. Scotland, who won at Woodbridge three years ago and were keen to retain their title, had no luck at all in the morning.

Elliott Small, head greenkeeper at Tulliallan and an eight handicap player, said "We had no gross birdies and no one-



Smiles from the winning Canadian team of Heron, Olsvik (Manager), Meyer, Charters and Robinson

point or four-point holes. They were all twos and threes, which is very unusual. We seemed to be seeing borrows which weren't there and lipped a lot of holes".

At the other end of the field, Austria, who had three of the longest handicap players with marks of 25, 26 and 27, did very well to obtain 34 points when remembering that under the rules of the competition, all players had to play off a maximum of ten.

Norway also did well, considering they had earlier worries, being involved in a crash at Harwich shortly after disembarking and having to hire another car to bring them to York.

And so to the afternoon when conditions were again perfect – in stark contrast to high winds the day before and the day after the tournament. Could the United States hold on to their lead with Canada and England breathing down their necks?

It was neck and neck all the way as Frank Maxwell, who had the best round of the day, a one over par 73 in the afternoon, leading the American's challenge with 18 points, Null gathering 12 and Walsh, superb in the morning with 24 points, managing only 11 in his second round.

But the gritty Canadians were not to be denied their hat-trick as they gained 43 afternoon points to edge home by just one point from the Americans (46 and 41), as everyone held their breath.

England improved their score by one point in the afternoon (42 and 43) while Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland (who had father and son Jim and Frank Byrne in their ranks); Scotland and Wales all, coincidentally, finishing on identical 78 point marks.

A wonderful end to a wonderful day for the greenkeepers from a record 15 countries who competed, three more than the previous best.

As Robert Dodsworth, Ransomes Group Chief Executive, said at the closing banquet later: "The comradeship of the greenkeepers has been of the highest order and we are very proud to be associated with it by sponsoring the event".

Kevin Miller, captain of the host Club, told the assembly: "If you would like to come back in three years time I am sure we will be delighted to have you".

Greenkeepers from the 15 countries, who gave Mark Menell, head greenkeeper of Fulford a standing ovation as a mark of tribute to the work of himself and his staff, will certainly be looking forward to the next time, wherever the event is played in 1994, none more than Canada's Bob Heron, who has played in five of the seven events so far, missing only 1973 and 1979.

Final positions

Canada 88 points,
United States 87,
England 85,
Denmark 84,
Germany 82,
Holland 82,
Sweden 80,
Norway 80,
Northern Ireland
78, Republic of
Ireland 78,
Scotland 78,
Wales 78, Finland
74, Austria 67,
Belgium 64.

The Greenkeepers' finest hour – a record breaking 8-0 victory over their opponents in the prestigious Kubota Golf Challenge. Report and pictures by DAVID WHITE

Make no mistake about it, the Kubota Golf Challenge is a very important event indeed, the very essence of matchplay at the highest level and the ultimate culmination of a season of hardened competitive campaigning by golfing greenkeepers – a melting pot where the cream rises...

The Kubota Golf Challenge – originated in 1983 as a series of matches between selected national teams from The Golf Club Secretaries and our own Association – has developed and grown in stature and importance with the inclusion of teams culled variously from The Golf Writers Association, The Stewards Association, The English Golf Union and, for the first time, a team from The Golf Foundation. In its nine year history the handsome Japanese porcelain Kubota Trophy has been won three times by The Secretaries and an astounding six times by The Greenkeepers, though never in its history by a more convincing margin than in this latest test of man against man.

You may be sure that our sights were set on erasing the bitter taste of a mere third in the 1990 event, our 1991 eight man team comprised Richard Barker, Barry Holt, Graeme MacDonald, Stephen Sullivan, Michael Hughes, Don Major, Mark Diment and Philip Wentworth; all of whom earned selection by winning their respective classes in our National Tournament.

Such is the competitive spirit prevailing in our ranks that the team were all in full battle order for some essential last minute fine-tuning at The Belfry, notwithstanding a fulsome force eight blowing with wind-chill factor to match. Full marks especially to Steve Sullivan, who had driven 400 miles overnight from his Perthshire home to represent his profession, such enthusiasm rewarded by two great wins, both at five and four!

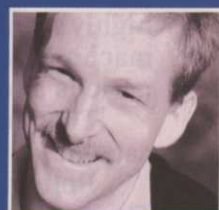
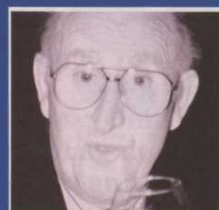
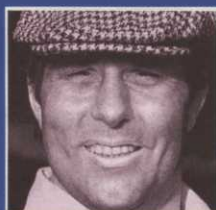
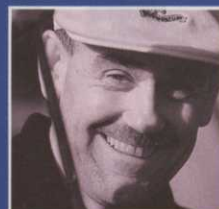
Meeting the current Kubota Trophy holders in the semi finals, our team held solid against a hand-picked group of single figure secretaries and succeeded in trouncing them, with a resounding five to two mark in our favour, one game being halved. Our two losses, which might well have gone the other way, both came at the 18th, first from a heart-stopping double break putt of twenty five feet from the magic wand of secretary Barry Vernon in taking Mike Hughes by one, the other being a ding-dong battle which went the full distance between the irascible and difficult to beat Vic Wood, secretary at Sandiways, and our old friend Don Major. No matter; for as a team we were in the final, in overdrive, and firing on all eight cylinders!

Not to be denied the gales again, we were lucky that 'the big blow' wasn't also matched with the rains currently dumping over the rest of the country, and thus we wrapped-up well against the chill of the day. Our finalist opponents were the English Golf Union, with first blood going to our stalwart of several previous Kubota finals, Richard Barker, who took scratchman and ex International Les Walker for a smooth three and two victory. The tails were up and the blood pumping as Barry Holt defeated Roy Lawford by three and one, fairly zinging as Graeme MacDonald annihilated Dick Bates by eight and six and over the moon when Stephen Sullivan crushed Malcolm Unsworth by five and four. Half way home and no defeats!

A further great breakthrough came as Mike Hughes defeated Jack Humphries by three and two, followed minutes later with Don Major conjuring all his many golfing tal-



CHAMPIONS



ents to slip a two hole victory against Cyril Rose. Then, glory be, we had Mark Diment, having a no quarter given head to head with Ken Johnson and fairly romped home whilst revelling in his five and four victory. In most events the anchor man has a tough task, but this was not the case with 'our' Phil Wentworth, who put the lid on a perfect series with a dogs licence victory (7 & 6) over Norman Bradford. Eight matches played, eight matches won and honour restored!

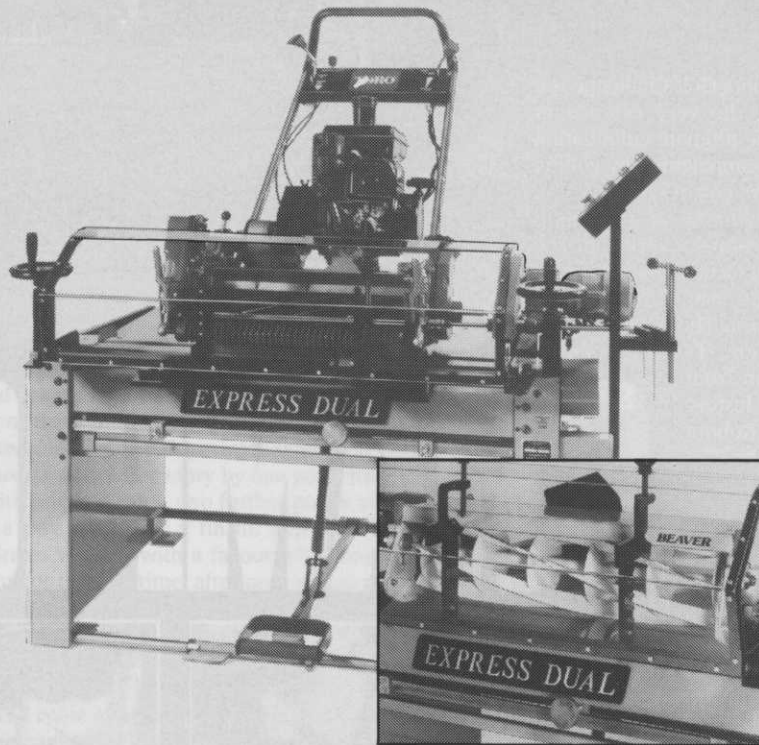
Symptomatic of both the severity and importance of these bloody battles, one must give much more than lip service to the wise choice of The Belfry itself, especially the Brabazon course with its famous nail-biting finish over the lake and its testing sixth, a narrow enough landing area sandwiched between water – which in a force eight is an examination paper of the toughest nature. The Brabazon is now so far removed from the bitch teeny bopper she once was, having blossomed into serene and gorgeous womanhood, and quite properly drew unquestioned praise from all who came in their attempt to conquer her – an outstanding example of dedication and skill by Derek Ganning and his management team. Come 1993 and the Ryder Cup, it is comforting to know that our man Derek will be ready and set to deliver the goods.

At the award ceremony given that evening, Brian Hurtley, Vice President and Director, Kubota (UK) Ltd., praised the spirit of good fellowship that prevailed, delighted in welcoming the new kids on the block – the Golf Foundation – and marvelled at the sheer skill and consistency of our glorious greenkeeping team. It was our finest hour.

From top left:
Richard Barker,
Barry Holt, Graeme
MacDonald,
Stephen Sullivan.
**Second row, from
left:** Michael
Hughes, Don Major,
Mark Diment and
Philip Wentworth

Results:
The Greenkeepers
defeated the
English Golf Union
by eight matches to
nil. In third place
were The
Secretaries, who
defeated the Golf
Foundation by five
matches to two,
with one match
halved.

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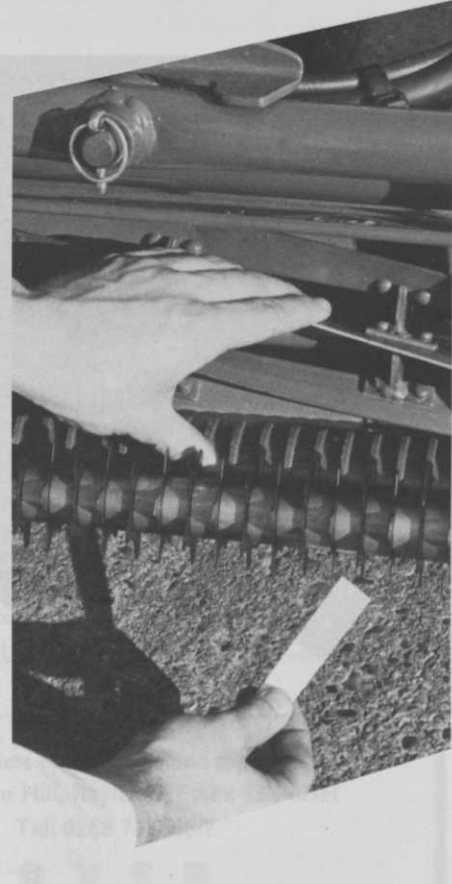
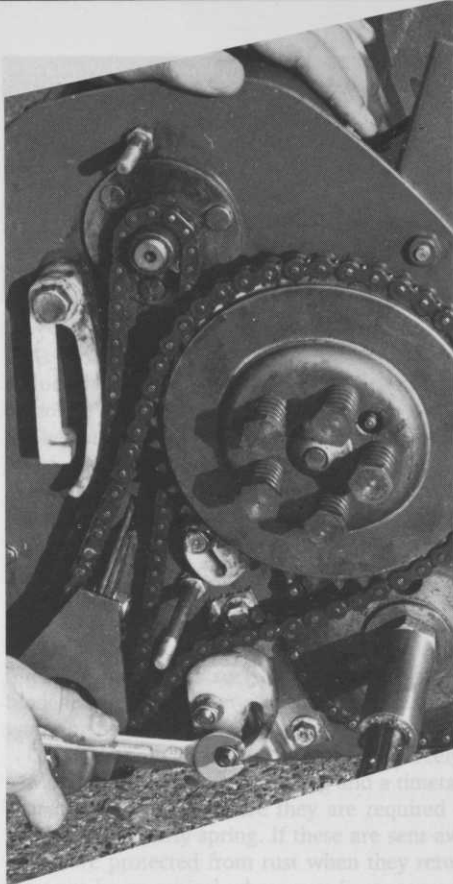
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Fixing it

How preventative care now will pay dividends later. By **Hugh Tilley**

The best reason for winter servicing is that you won't have time in the spring! But of course there are other serious reasons for looking closely at all of your machinery before you get into winter proper. One of the most important is that it gives you time to present a case (to green chairman or secretary) and obtain quotes where replacement or major overhaul is needed – and (hopefully) time to select and order. For machinery which is required throughout the winter a thorough service should maximise reliability. For machinery which will not be needed until the next growing season, maintenance should be aimed at conditioning the equipment so that it can be put back to work in spring with minimum delay or stoppages.

This autumn and winter work usually includes a number of different elements and priorities, such as cleaning and inspection, routine servicing, preventative maintenance, repair and overhaul, and storage.

Cleaning and inspection

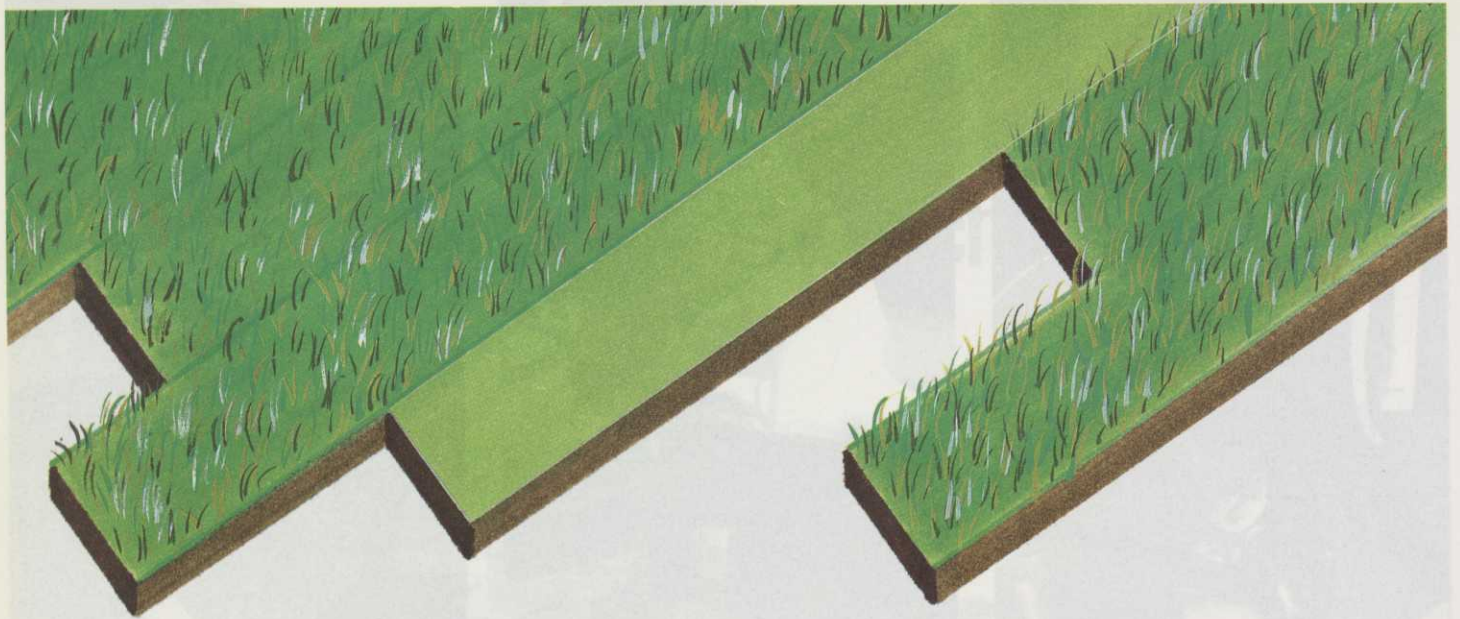
A thorough clean must be first priority and ideally this should be carried out with eyes open and a notepad in hand (or chalk on wall etc.) so that 'work to do' can be written down – lest you forget. Start cleaning by removing the bulk of caked-on grass, mud and the like with a knife, scraper or

stiff brush – a putty knife or masonry paintbrush are ideal. Remove guards and clean behind them, cut away any long grass or string left around shafts, empty bins, lockers and any recesses in the cab. Having done the 'rough' it is usually easier to complete the clean with a hose or pressure washer. Oily deposits are best removed with hot detergent or a special cleaner such as Gunk – obtainable from motor accessory shops. Note any oil leaks before washing for later repair.

Routine servicing

If you need to change oils, drain while still hot as this gives fastest draining with minimum sediment left behind. Fresh oil will provide the best protection when full strength inhibitors are included and the engine should be run briefly to circulate these mineral properties. Check all oils not just for level but also for contamination, particularly with water, for water in fuel or hydraulic oil can have expensive consequences. Fill diesel tanks to the brim, for this really does minimise condensation in the tank. Make sure that you have winter grade diesel fuel – it has an anti-waxing additive to prevent freezing.

Petrol engines will probably need new plugs – but make sure that you fit the right length and gap. Check or replace leads; for cracked insulation – often unseen – causes



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'Mowers will need resharpening and a timetable should be set for this so that it is done well before they are required'

19 → many irritating non-starting problems. Clean or replace all filters – they are a cheap protection.

As most engines are liquid cooled, this means checking the coolant (which is usually a 25%-30% anti-freeze solution) and as this includes corrosive inhibitors, it is better than leaving the machinery empty.

Checking the level is easy, though checking the efficiency of the mix is more difficult and needs either a hydrometer (preferred) or testing by syphoning some off into a plastic bottle, inserting a steel nail and leaving in the freezer. If the nail goes rusty, and/or the liquid freezes, then you had better be quick and renew your anti-freeze!

Grease or oil all lubrication points, which should remove any water impelled into bearings etc while washing. Beware, however, of sealed bearings, for over enthusiastic application may push the seal out.

This treatment will protect them during the damp days of winter. Sliding and shiny parts such as coring tines, cutting cylinders and bottom blades will benefit from a smear of grease, or better still a coating of a de-watering or rust protection oil.

Check that all adjustments are working freely.

Mowers will need resharpening and a timetable should be set for this so that it is done well before they are required – we don't yet know if we shall have an early spring. If these are sent away, ensure that the cutting edges are protected from rust when they return. Flails and rotary blades may not be as critical where rust is concerned, but will still benefit from being sharp.

Such sharpening is a simple DIY task which requires patience if the blade is not to be 'blued' and ruined – the old fashioned whetstone is safer.

Preventative maintenance

This is 'model advice' seldom acted upon, but if carried out diligently can really save time and breakdowns when you are most busy. The secret is to look for wear – wear on belts, in bearings, on chain and sprockets, on hoses and anywhere else that takes the rub. Loosen each belt and → 23

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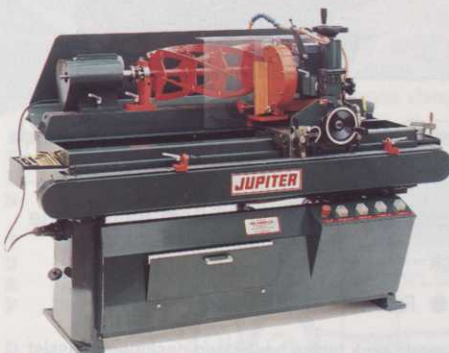
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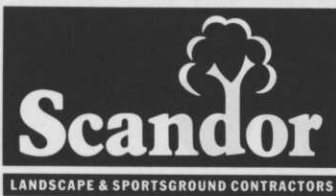
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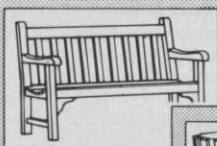
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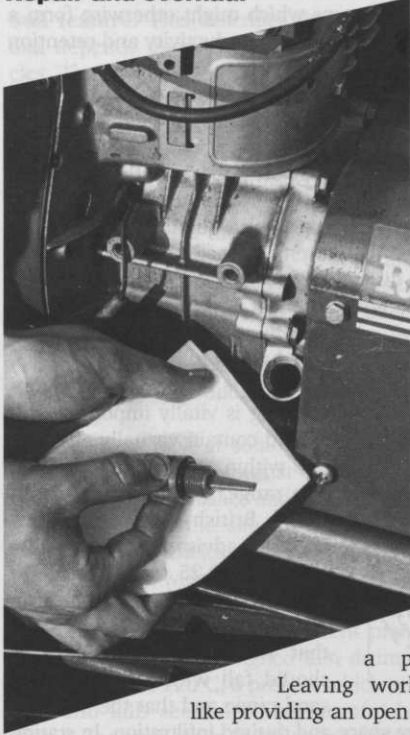
'Getting an estimate in writing can save later dispute. Leaving work open-ended is like writing an open cheque'

21 ➔ chain and check the bearings. Rollers chains should have every link free, every roller present and minimum lateral 'bend'. If replacement is fairly quick and easy – as with chains and belts – it may be sufficient to put the new part into stock ready for the fateful day. Bearings should always be replaced if they are the least bit suspect as they deteriorate rapidly and can be difficult to change in a hurry without special pullers.

Hoses are liable to 'go' with little warning and inspection for chafing, severe kinks, missing fastenings or damaged unions will help pre-empt future problems and perhaps an embarrassing leak on a green. Guards are another 'problem area' which are ideal candidates for a little preventative maintenance – get replacements for those little rubber toggles. The Health and Safety Executive are getting less tolerant about guards not in place.

Most of these tasks can be carried out at convenient times, though it is all too easy to leave them until you 'get around to it' and when it is cold and miserable you don't often get 'a round tuit' before the grass starts growing under your feet. The simplest reminder is chalking a list of jobs to do upon the wall.

Repair and overhaul



Major jobs, or those which you won't get around to, may have to be sent to the supplier. Getting an estimate of the work and its cost – in writing – can save later dispute. As argument can get quite acrimonious it helps to record (in a duplicate book) what has to be done before a machine goes off, attaching the top copy to the machine in a plastic envelope.

Leaving work open-ended is like providing an open cheque: of course

your dealer is honest, but were your orders unambiguous or did you just say 'service'? When it comes to radical overhauls it may be better to buy new and it is possible, given time, to strike some good deals – especially if the dealer has time to take your old machine in, prepare it for resale and find a market.

Nevertheless there are many Clubs that have the manpower skills and facilities to undertake major work. For them the first problem may be to obtain all the parts, and in this era of de-stocking and minimum stock levels this may take time. Even quite long-established dealers are finding parts supply more difficult. Getting parcels by TNT or Overnite adds to the cost – so allow time.

Where parts are removed pending repair ensure they are stored safely in a box, or perhaps still in place with nuts finger tight – this way you won't forget where they belong or how they fit.

Storage

For longer term storage it will pay to undertake a little extra work such as removing belts and chains, inhibiting all shiny parts – including the engine – removing battery and blocking-up off the wheels. Belts are best stored in a Hessian sack hung up in a dry, airy place, chains are ideally stored in a tin of oil or oiled in a plastic bag, though second best is to spray them with chain lubricant and keep in place. Aerosols of de-watering/rust inhibitor are available, but a jar and old paint brush is much cheaper and often more effective – just try and spray the edges of a mowing cylinder! With small engines pay attention to the valves, for stuck valves and rust on the seatings will prevent the machine from starting. It may be possible to spray or trickle inhibitor or oil through the plug hole. Being self-charging, batteries prefer regular use, but if they cannot be used elsewhere, just re-charge and smear the terminals with Vaseline, which unlike oil or grease conducts electricity.

Some still prefer to keep a machine mobile and run it at regular intervals – say monthly. If so, keep tyres slightly above pressure rather than blocking up. Petrol loses its aromatics with storage, so it is best to empty the carburettor. If the empty tank is steel, a swill round with oil should inhibit rust.



● Photographs courtesy of Ransomes

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Insist on maintainable quality in your top dressing, says PETER JEFFORD. Find the product you like – and stick with it

The first consideration a greenkeeper should have in mind when obtaining top-dressings is consistency of quality. He should retain that consideration! There is no benefit derived in applying layers of different types of top-dressings and given that a suitable and effective dressing has been located – one which by experimentation has been found eminently suitable for his course – the same dressing of the same quality should be used year in, year out. This will then provide a consistent growing profile for roots on greens which might otherwise form a pan layering, which in turn will influence the conductivity and retention of water, soil aeration and rooting.

In an ideal world the wise greenkeeper will attempt to use the same supplier, one who can guarantee a consistent and repeatable product each time and deliver it promptly. In addition, I would advocate the application of top-dressing on a little but often basis, rather than the almost traditional large bulk applications in spring and autumn. This little and often procedure will help the dressing to be incorporated more quickly into the soil and reduce the aforementioned soil layering, with the added benefit of minimum disruption to play – an important consideration. I should add that my advocacy of little and often is now

becoming very much more a trend and is to be applauded.

The type of sand used in top-dressing is vitally important and should contain virtually all particles within an 0.125 and 0.5mm size range, this being the traditional British system. Increasingly, advisors are now specifying 0.25 to 0.75mm size range, though the main criteria for the reader to remember is that the majority of particles should fall within the medium sand range and that the mix provides the correct balance of pore space and desired infiltration. In stating that, it should also be noted that whilst particle size and range are vital, one should be aware that sands differ also in shape, mineralogy, colour and lime content and these are additional factors which will influence the quality of the product. Some sands are excellent for top-dressings whilst others are quite simply useful only for mixing with cement.

Top-dressings and rootzones should therefore comprise a high proportion of sand in the mix, as this will assist with the control of aeration, infiltration, percolation and water retention. The next consideration is the very soil used in the mix itself, a point of major importance. Whilst sand in the UK is still plentiful, suitable good quality topsoils are less readily available and care must be exercised in ensuring that soil from building sites is not used, for in most cases this will have been completely destroyed by heavy machinery. The best topsoils for top-dressings and rootzones are those with a very low silt and clay content, whilst retaining the correct particle size distribution and the appropriate pH.

One of the most important factors, often overlooked, is the organic matter content of the soil. Normally, most greens contain too much



ed up for the ball

organic matter, with greenkeepers spending much time and energy in attempting to reduce it. If you start by applying a top-dressing with a high organic matter – say above 5% – you will immediately begin to overdose the organic content in your greens and thus defeat one of your principle aims, that of controlling thatch build-up. As a general rule of thumb, around 1% – 2% would normally be an acceptable level in a golf green top-dressing. Thinking along these lines, do you know the organic matter of your current top-dressing? Natural soil is largely made up of four parts:

Mineral matter: This is formed by weathering of rocks and parent materials.

Organic matter: This is mainly humus, which arises from dead vegetation and supports the living population of micro organisms within the soil.

Soil moisture: This is essential for plant growth.

Soil air: Adequate aeration of the soil is necessary for optimum root growth and retention of soil micro organisms. Plants should have an acceptable level of each of the above.

Now let us turn to terms used to describe some soil properties:

Soil texture: This describes the physical behaviour of soil and depends upon the proportion of different sized particles. Thus soil with a high clay content would be classified simply as a clay soil.

Soil structure: This refers to the manner in which the particles are organised. Damage to soil structure is usually caused by heavy mechanical equipment used in construction, or by other forms of traffic movement.

Pore space: This is the space between the solid particles of soil. Pore space is available to both air and water, with large pores being air filled and small pores usually water filled.

Summarising at this stage, the reader should remember that the least desirable components for golf course top-dressing and rootzones are high clay or silt, these materials being especially prone to compaction and high moisture retention.

Now let us look at some of the procedures used in the processing of top-dressings at our quarry.

The separator washes and grades the sand, all vegetation is removed and the sand is then graded into coarse or medium/fine particles. This is now ready for further screening and mixing with topsoil.

Following screening, the soil is placed in a hopper feed and conveyed to a heat treatment plant, where it passes through a specially designed kiln drum set at a controlled temperature of 120°C, a process which removes excess moisture and kills seedlings and harmful bacteria. This completed, the next stage is to immediately mix soil with sand while it is still hot. This material is then ready for its final stage, being fed into a further screen which enables both further mixing and removal of particles over 2mm.

The top-dressing is now ready for final delivery but as a final check, random samples are taken for analysis in our laboratory where particle size, moisture content, pH and organic matter are all examined to ensure consistency of quality. If the reader is unsure of any of the areas discussed, he should request an up to date analysis sheet, produced by an agronomist or soil scientist, one who is ideally independent of the supplier.

Fairway dressing

It may be of more than passing interest for greenkeepers to look at top-dressing fairways. Whilst this may not have great significance for many courses, such applications can provide a method for improving problem fairway areas and it should be noted that in the USA this is now an accepted



and successful programme. When considering such action, it may not always be necessary to dress with a sand/soil mix, for in some instances a sand only application will prove beneficial, depending on the problem presented and the solution sought. If, for example, drying out is a problem, a sand/soil mix with a little peat would be recommended, whilst if ball plugging on fairways is an annoyance a high sand content would be preferable.

The benefits of dressing fairways include tighter turf, easier mowing when wet and improved drainage and/or moisture retention. Fairway top-dressing may provide just the solution to problem areas and is a cost-effective way of improving conditions in just the same way as on greens, the target again being density, uniformity, smoothness, firmness and resilience. A high sward density is vital to hold a ball in the ideal striking position, a thin turf being undesirable because of the 'nestling down' of a golf ball.

Construction rootzone

Over the past few years the demand for rootzone material on new course construction has increased dramatically, with its selection critical to long-term good performance of the putting surface. For those involved or about to embark down this route, a few words of advice.

In the first instance I would underline the importance of making an on-site visit to the supplier/quarry to inspect rootzone material prior to delivery. Checks should be made on consistency of particle size, organic matter content, pH, water content/air porosity/total porosity, bulk density and hydraulic conductivity. If these terms are foreign to you, take along your agronomist, architect, site engineer or clerk of works. Once satisfied, ensure that the self same mix will be readily available and stick with both mix and supplier. Make regular random on-site checks upon delivery.

Final summary suggests the following: Find the top-dressing right for your course and stick with it. Cultivate greater awareness by demanding more technical information. Ensure the supplier has sufficient reserves to maintain supplies for many years to come and insist on total, maintainable quality.

The author, Peter Jefford, is currently embarked on a countrywide whistle-stop BIGGA lecture tour, expounding upon the complex subject of top-dressings. He is Managing Director of Rufford Top-Dress Supplies Ltd.



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■ If you are a 'computerised greenkeeper' the new easy-to-use Datagem computer software, launched by Rhone-Poulenc at IOG, will be of special value. The package is filled with beneficial features to assist the pesticide user, simplifying calibration of knapsack, power sprayers and granular applicators whilst calculating precise product and water levels and quantities per fill. A detailed advisory/legal section on all aspects of legislation to pesticide use in the UK is included, as is information on pests and diseases and conversion tables (metric to imperial and vice-versa). Information entered is automatically stored and all sections can be printed-out. Datagem operates on all IBM compatible computers and is available with full instructions. Price is £286. Tel: 0277 261414.

■ Allett Mowers have chosen two Kubota GH series OHV petrol engines to power their new commercial mower – the Buffalo. Kubota's GH120 3.7 hp petrol engine is fitted to the Buffalo 20" whilst the 24" and 27" machines have the 5.5 hp GH 170. Mechanical decompression is standard on both engines, giving a 40% lighter pull tension than conventional side valve units and a reduction in vibration of 10%. Tel. Kubota: 08421 4500 or Allett: 0536 68950.

■ Hayter Beaver's recently launched computer-linked direct spares ordering system has created great interest from both dealers and professional users. After seeing the

system demonstrated at IOG, more dealers have signed on and the company now have 30 outlets nationwide committed to using the new database. The idea is a simple one: Spares needed are keyed in, the viewdata screen displays the availability and the dealer can place an order there and then. Details: 0279 723444.

■ Lely (UK) Ltd have introduced a new 24 hour TORO 'unit-down' express parts delivery service from their stores at St Neots, Cambs. If a part is not in stock in the UK a trans-Atlantic air service from the USA is available at no extra charge. Such flown parts will be delivered to the final location within 72 hours. Tel: 0480 76971.



■ Lloyds of Letchworth have announced the appointment of Devon Garden Machinery to represent them in Cornwall, Devon and parts of Somerset. The Torquay-based DGM was established eight years ago by Alan and Jeannette Dommett, employs two reps to care for the Club side; and recognising the importance of after-sales service, the operation is backed by a seven-strong service team and full spares back-up. Lloyds themselves have probably been knocking back the 'champers' recently, their MD, Glenn Bray, having celebrating 30 years of service since joining the company as a youth straight from school. What a record! Tel: 0462

683031. Pictured: Derek Haley, Lloyds Sales Director, top, with Alan Dommett.

■ Seamac Agricultural Ltd, suppliers of the well known 'Greentec' range and other foliar stimulants for amenity use, has been acquired by WBC Technology Ltd and will in future be based at WBC's H.Q. in Saffron Walden, Essex. Seamac's merchant customers will continue to be fully supported and the Seamac brand will benefit from a new development programme. Tel: 0799 30146.

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COMING UP

The Greenkeeper International guide to forthcoming events

November 6th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Seminar – Cannington College.

November 6th: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Merrist Wood College.

November 12th: STRI Scottish Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Hags Castle GC, Glasgow.

November 13th-14th: Scotsturf IOG exhibition – Ingleston, Edinburgh.

November 19th-21st: Golf International 2000 Exhibition, Sandown Park.

November 20th: BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College of Agriculture.

November 27th: ILAM Southern Region Seminar – Sparsholt College.

December 10th: STRI South of England Seminar – As November 12th – Hatfield Lodge, Hertfordshire.

January 14th: STRI North of England Seminar – As November 12th – Askham Bryan College, York.

January 20th-24th: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition & Seminar, Harrogate.

February 4th: STRI Ireland Seminar – As November 12th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

February 11th: STRI Wales Seminar – As November 12th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

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

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

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

Send entries for this column to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL or fax 0323 895593.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTH WALES

May I first say one thing – we do exist! Our second Autumn Tournament was held at Porthmadog GC on October 1st, and under quite difficult conditions too, though we did at least stay dry. I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying what a great time was had by all, especially me, as I won a bottle of scotch!

Thanks must go to everyone involved, especially Terry Adamson for all his hard work behind the scenes, and to our sponsors: Gem Professional, Sisis, Richard Campey, Mommersteeg, Fraser Turf, Major Owen, Ritefeed and Walker Engineering. Without these good folk, and of course Porthmadog GC and Gareth (Bronco), we would be the poorer and we are most grateful. We also enjoyed a bit of good fun, with our dinner interrupted by the splendid intrusion of helicopter rides, courtesy of Ritefeed!

RESULTS: 1st Mark Proctor 83-10=73 (on countback) 2nd Jason Moody 79-6=73. 3rd Roger Kerry 77-4=73. Guest Alex Clegg 93-22=71. Booby: John Osman 115 nett – yes, nett!

Our first AGM was held following the prize-giving and sadly Pat McAteer resigned as secretary, due to an ever increasing workload. Norman Pearce remains as chairman and David Proctor as treasurer, with yours truly now having taken the post of secretary. Final dates and venues for winter lectures will be available soon and I would ask you to note my numbers for any enquiries or information you may have: Mark Proctor: (home) 0829 733060 (work) 0829 732251.

We will be holding a Christmas golf day at Portal on December 11th, tee-off between 10-11.30 am, with cost at £12 for members, £14 for others.

This will include coffee and biscuits on arrival and an evening meal. Enquiries for this event to Terry Adamson on 0978 852908, and do remember that places are limited so early booking is advisable. Please no later than December 1st, and please do your best to support this event, even though it may not be the best time of the year.

Finally my thanks to all who made the Autumn Tournament a success by just turning out – 55 was an excellent number and we must strive to keep numbers up.

MARK PROCTOR

SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition, as follows:

Date: Wednesday December 4th

Venue: Royal Winchester GC.

Format: 18 hole Stableford.

Tee off: from 12.30 onwards.

Fee: £13.00

Closing Date: November 25th.

All applications with correct fee to Joe Burdett, 40 Church St. FONTWELL MAGNA, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 ONY. Tel: 0747

811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Machinery for sponsoring this competition.

Following the above, at 4pm will be The Section AGM. A member of the BIGGA Board of Management from our region will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

The section committee must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and a proposer and seconder. Resolutions and Agenda items are also invited – please submit before November 25th.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the Christmas Dinner, which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £11.60 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk – by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd, on 'Top Dressings, Applications and Materials' – has been arranged at Came Down GC, Dorchester, on Wednesday January 15th, starting at 2pm. This will be the second year that a presentation has been arranged at Came Down and your support will be most appreciated. Refreshments will be supplied by Ruffords at 3pm. For further information call Stephen Hall, Head Greenkeeper, Came Down GC, at the course on 0305 820289.

BOB DENNIS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

It is with great relief that I can at last report BB&O have won a golf match! We took on the Mid-Anglia section in a titanic struggle at the superb Berkhamsted course and came away with three wins and two halves, the nearest to defeat coming from our answer to Calcavecchia, myself and Dave Goodchild, going from 3 up with 5 to play to a shaky halved match! The match was played in excellent spirit and we look forward to a return in '92. Thanks especially to Gerald Bruce and his staff at Berkhamsted and to our Captain, Dave Childs.

May I also offer apologies to Mid-Anglia and the Club for any misunderstanding in play format, which may have meant that our presentation was not all it might have been.

Apart from the Mid-Anglia match, our events calendar has been quiet – for the better perhaps – for we have almost a congestion of fixtures coming up. Topping the list is the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath combined with the AGM. We are out to beat the 1990 turnout of 75 and will be especially pleased to welcome candidates for committee – come on, join the merry band! Entry forms should be with you by now, but if these are missing from your desk, call Bob Woodward on 0628 664512.

May I remind you all to attend the regional seminar at Warwick College on Nov 20th. Don't miss this seminar – it will surely be a

huge success.

News filtering through reveals none other than our illustrious editor, David White, as guest speaker for the Gentlemen's Dinner in March '92. Those who enjoy fermented brew – David included – will appreciate that a minibus can be made available to pick up and drop revellers, but this will only be available if you want it. Ring Bob or speak to committee members at the AGM. Finally, good wishes to Dave Childs and his family, who leave for N.Z. in early December for six weeks. We shall probably need a translator when he returns to committee!

RAY CLARK

EAST MIDLANDS

The results of the Autumn Tournament, played on September 19th at Rushcliffe GC on a grand course in sparkling condition (thanks to Phil Bett and the Club) are as follows:

Winner: Ian Marshall 70-3=67. Class results (all nett) Handicap 1-9, Phil Reffin 68, Richard Barker 75, Paul Sewell 76. Handicap 11-18, Phil Jennings 68, Paul Malia 70, Graham Arnold 73. Handicap 19+ Anthony Bindley 69, Mark Bindley 71, Mike Billings 77. Trade/Associate, Joe Barsby 64, Len Atewell, 68 (green chairman). Longest drive – 645 yards! Dave Leatherhead. Hole in one – Dave Bagshaw. Dave is head greenkeeper at Stanton On The Wolds and if you want a drink on him, call in!

Forthcoming events not to miss include the Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, on November 20th, the Section AGM at Lingdale GC on November 25th and a Christmas Bring and Win at Birstall GC on December 18th.

GORDON MITCHELL

EAST OF ENGLAND

The Rigby Taylor Trophy was played for recently at Sleaford GC, a warm welcome being extended to us by the Sleaford committee representatives – Club captain, Brian Harris and green chairman, Ted Lake. Ted is a retired businessman and a tireless unpaid worker on the course, having always shown a keen interest in our affairs. The Rigby Taylor rep. was Stewart Jeffs of the East of England area.

The torrid summer has been a difficult time in this area for those courses built on sand, but John Scotney has done a great job at Sleaford, especially on his greens and other areas where he has been permitted to apply water.

The winner was Paul Cole, who is a newcomer to us as a golfer. His handicap was reduced by six shots between his entry and the

AROUND THE GREEN

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competition and I am sure we shall hear more from this fine player. David Hornsey tied with Paul on 39 points but lost out on back nine countback. Also-rans were D Wells, C Macdonald, G Dolan and R Owens. Guest prizes went to Mick Key and Ted Lake.

A tasty meal was provided in the clubhouse, followed by presentation of prizes by the captain, who is having a sabbatical year from his usual duties as club secretary. In his speech, Mr Harris outlined how he saw BIGGA as an essential part of the Club set-up, with everyone working as a team.

Christopher Squires, who was assistant head at Belton Woods has moved up to head greenkeeper status at Rutland County G&CC, a new development where seed has just been sown. Congratulations Chris., may the job go well!

COLIN SWINGLER

SOUTH WEST

It was a pleasure to return to Salisbury and South Wilts for the annual 'crunch' match against the South Coast last month. Despite a thunderstorm (which just missed us) and a spell of heavy rain (which didn't), the blend of ten new holes and eight old ones made for an extremely interesting and enjoyable afternoons' golf. It really is "hats off" to the architect and constructors, who have made the very best of the available ground.

The S.W. captain, David Everett, was so confident of the result that he didn't bother to bring the trophy and was left to sweat it out as the very last game came down the wire, resulted in our favour to give a halved match – Phew!

Many thanks to this Wiltshire Club for once again giving us not only the courtesy of the course but also making us feel so welcome. Thanks also to the steward for an excellent meal and to Kerran and his staff for preparing the course.

The Winter Lecture Programme will be announced next month, but in the meantime I'll look forward to seeing you all at Shirehampton Park for the Veals Lawnmowers Christmas Tournament.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH WEST

Our Autumn Tournament over 27 holes of medal play was held on Sept. 19th at my own home course of Whickham GC. On this occasion it was a case of George Atkinson thanking me and my staff for the excellent condition of the course, also the committee for granting us courtesy and to Rose and Bob for a superb meal – it was all good stuff!



Jimmy Richardson:
First Division winner
of the Greenlay Cup

Thanks extend beyond us mere locals to the following sponsors: Ryton Gravel Co., Shorts of Whitburn, Maxwell Hart, Sisis, Stewarts of Edinburgh, Thompson Quarries, STS and Karsway and to Jim Crombie of Whickham GC. Also a special thanks to Peter Little of Dixons of Hexham for providing a barbecue as prize for nearest the pin on the 13th. also to local Clubs: Whitley Bay, Alnmouth, Northumberland, Wearside, Prudhoe, Stocksfield, Consett, Arcott Hall, Newcastle United. Finally, thanks to our chairman for BIGGA North East, Richard Crane.

Results: Winner and low gross – Tony McLure (Whickham GC) 69+33=102.

Nett and winner of Ransomes Cup- Glen Baxter (South Shields GC., hcp 15) 69+32.5=101.5. First division and winner of the Greenlay Cup – Jimmy Richardson (Whickham GC, hcp 6) 68+35= 103. Second + division and winner of Fewsters Cup – Brian Hughes (Whickham GC, hcp 24) 66+36=102. Other scores: M Simpkin (Parklands GC) 104. C Parkinson (Tyneside GC) 104.5. I Patterson (Gosforth GC) 105. R Bell (Slayley GC) 105. K Monaghan (Gosforth GC) 105. Thirty five players took part and the weather was excellent, which made us Whickhamites well pleased, along with our scintillating play and a demonstration in 'local knowledge makes good' – Howay the lads!

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AROUND THE GREEN

details direct (we normally send details only to head greenkeepers in order to reduce administration costs), please call me on 0288 353438 and I'll see to it.

RICHARD WHYMAN

AYRSHIRE

An excellent turn-out of members enjoyed a grand day of golf at our Autumn Meeting over Ayrshire's answer to Augusta National - Largs Kellburn! Head greenkeeper Chick White certainly did his best to produce the same conditions and sincere thanks must be expressed to him and his staff, together with the caterers for some delicious food and Club members for giving us their course to enjoy. Results: Scratch - Gary Bryden (Turnberry) 69. Handicap - First class, 1st Charlie White (Largs) 71-2=69. 2nd Robert Johnstone (Ardeer) 72-1=71. 3rd Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 75-4=71. Second class, 1st Sid Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-14=73. 2nd Ian Campbell (Belleisle) 91-17=74. 3rd Jim Devlin (Seafield) 86-12=74. Texas Scramble, Brian Finlayson, Ian Robertson, David Carson = 59.6. Trade - Derek Duthie (Aitkens).

As this was the Club's centenary year we presented Club captain Pat Innes with a plaque as a memento of our visit.

Only movement to report is that of Gordon Heron taking over the reins at the new B? Castle course, which is just over the hill from Turnberry. Gordon had a baptism by fire for within moments of accepting the job he found that vandals had spent a busy night digging up new saplings and planting them on the 18th green. Hopefully this won't happen too often as they could be difficult to cut down to three sixteenths! Good luck anyway, Gordon.

I'm just back from an enjoyable trip to Southern Ireland, where I met up with those exiled Scots, David McIndoe at Killarney and 'King Billy' Semple at Trallee. Over a few pints of the 'black stuff', Davie told of the changes made for the Irish Open - which were most impressive - and of the pro's playing from the ladies tee! Billy is now well on top of the problems created by American building of a golf course on this side of the Atlantic, seemingly with scant regard or understanding of the vastly different varietal conditions. For those not familiar with the south of Ireland, make a visit - it's well worth it.

DUNCAN GRAY

WEST SCOTLAND

The West section, as reported in the August issue, continues from strength to strength, with the Autumn Tournament at Cowal attended by some 40 members and guests. Sorry weather could not dampen the spirit of those who strapped on their golfing gear and took to the Cowal course and it was a great pleasure for us all to meet Tom Hindmarsh, who put in a tremendous effort to present his course in sparkling order. Tom comes from a long line of greenkeepers stretching back to his grandfather Archie (who was greenkeeper at Airdrie), who will no doubt be remembered by older members with affection. The invitation to play Cowal was particularly enjoyable coming in their centenary year, with Club captain Keating commented at the prize-giving on the grand turn-out of greenkeepers and extended an open welcome to return to see Cowal in better weather. The day ended in usual high jollification at the Club, with certain members almost left on the ferry ➤ 38

MIDLANDS

A reminder first: The Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell on November 20th. Details appeared in October edition of Greenkeeper International and you should have received application forms. Can't find it? Want to attend? Ring me!

Steve Wood and Tony Jesson have done it again, reaching the final of the Rigby Taylor Greensomes and are scheduled to meet 1990 winners, Rhys Thomas and John Wood. Hope you have a successful day lads.

Please remember entries close on November 15th for the Christmas Tournament, scheduled to be played at Stratford on Avon GC on December 10th. This is a bring-and-win event and you are asked to bring a prize with a value of at least £5.00.

Our AGM will be held at Edgbaston GC on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend this important occasion, remembering that it's your section and your views really do matter.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

As the year draws to a close the North West committee are in the process of drawing up a programme of events for 1992, which will likely include a monthly lecture, a seminar in March and golf events galore throughout the year. On reflection, 1991 has been a busy year in our section with involvement in The Open at Royal Birkdale and the Iseki finals at Hillside, quite apart from the busy normal programme. The Iseki final ended on a sweet note with the Northern region winning the team event and virtually sweeping the board on prizes - congrats to them all!

I must again raise the issue of members not paying their subscriptions. I have received many enquiries from greenkeepers in the N.W. who thought that their Club automatically paid their subs, but who as individuals were aggrieved at not receiving Greenkeeper International. Let me set the record straight: Greenkeeper members are invoiced individually each year - NOT their Club employers. If your Club has agreed to pay your subscription, you must hand the invoice to your Club secretary. Following payment you will then receive a membership card and regular copies of the magazine.

One final point: Once you have received your programme of events - be they lectures, seminars or golfing days - do your level best to support the events, thus making the hard work of your committee worthwhile. Any queries or points of interest, please contact me on 051 724 5412

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN

Let me begin by offering commiserations to our colleagues in the North West who (again, I'm afraid) lost to the Northern section in our annual match at Crosland Heath. The actual

result was a draw, but we retained the trophy as holders from 1990. Well done lads! Grateful thanks to Patissons for their continued sponsorship, Crossland Heath for courtesy of the course and especially Phillip Haigh and his team for a superb course in excellent order.

Our section also did well in the 1991 Iseki at Hillside, with the Northern region winning the team prize and Telford Jarvis (Scarcroft's very own champion, and ours too) taking the premier trophy. Well done Tel!

You should all have received details of our winter lecture programme and should this not be the case, or if your address has changed, call me. All our lectures are held at West Bowling GC commencing at 7.30pm with the following scheduled: November 6th - Chairmans Forum. December 4th - Ruffords on Top Dressing. January 15th - Munro on Spraying and CDA's. February 11th - Quiz and Social evening with IOG colleagues at Headingley Cricket Club - 7.30pm.

Also on December 11th - Winter golf at South Leeds GC - names and deposits to myself or Mel Guy (0532 523739) please.

Our last winter event will be a trip to Lloyds of Letchworth, with places being limited and filled on a first come first served basis. Likely cost will be around £10-£15.

The Northern section will again be heavily committed at BTME in Harrogate during January 22nd-24th. If anyone can spare an hour or two for stewarding, please let me know.

The section AGM will be held at South Leeds GC., following the above mentioned Winter golf on December 11th, starting at 7pm. This year there will be a change in committee election procedure, with all nominations for president, secretary, treasurer or committee to be sent to the secretary - that's me, Bob Lupton - one month prior to the AGM.

Local news now, with the good news being that Richard Sharrock of Keighley GC has gone into partnership with EFG of Halifax. We wish him every success in this venture. The not-so-good news is that long-standing committee member Colin Garnett of Garforth was taken ill whilst on holiday recently. I understand he is on the way to recovery and I'm sure you will echo my wishes for his speedy return to good health.

BOB LUPTON

DEVON & CORNWALL

The venue for the Christmas Meeting this year is the ever popular Okehampton GC., though with ever increasing numbers, your committee has decided that a limit of 80 must be placed on this event. This suggests that it is wise to return your entry form to me as soon as possible and certainly NOT after the closing date!

On the day itself, let's see some different pairings from normal for the A.M. Greensomes competition, this to help new members feel more at home and become an integral part of our happy section.

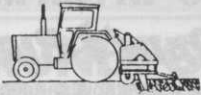
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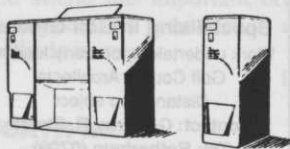
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COURSE MANAGER

South of England

For over 15 years Country Club Hotels have successfully operated quality golf courses and country clubs alongside first class hotels.

We are now seeking an experienced Course Manager to play a key management role at one of our hotels in the South of England. Within the overall brief of maintaining and improving our reputation for the highest quality golf, you will have responsibility for a dedicated team of experienced staff and control of a maintenance budget.

You must have a thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices, wide experience of equipment, machinery and irrigation systems and have good leadership qualities.

In return, you can expect a competitive salary, pension scheme, meals on duty and other benefits associated with working for a major hotel group. To apply, please call Sarah Gaver on 0582 422022 for an application form or send a cv to Country Club Hotels, Whitbread House, Park Street West, Luton, Beds LU1 3BG.

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An opportunity has arisen for an energetic person to join a team of Sportsturf Suppliers and Consultants. The successful applicant must have a Sportsturf or Horticultural background and have previous experience in selling to Golf Clubs, Parks and Recreation Departments and Landscapers. A location within Central Scotland would be desirable.

This position attracts a salary plus commission, along with a car and usual company benefits.

Please write including CV to:

Duncan McNab, McNab Sports Supplies/M&M Turf Products, The Muirs, KINROSS KY13 7AU

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require a

QUALIFIED 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For established course celebrating its centenary in 1994.

Experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
The Secretary, Lansdown Golf Club, Bath BA1 9BT.

Closing date: 30th November 1991

Golf-Club Augsburg e.V.

GREENKEEPER

required

For 18 hole 30 years old prestigious course located in Bavaria, west of Munich.

Applications are invited from experienced Greenkeepers with a sound knowledge of course management, modern greenkeeping methods and course machinery.

Salary negotiable.

We will help to find accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

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Head Greenkeeper

New Appointment

Negotiable Package, South Wales

Established in 1931, Glynneath Golf Club sits in a superb National Park setting at the Southern entrance to the Brecon Beacons. The course has grown from 9 to 18 holes over the last 10 years and until now has been maintained by two full-time staff with part-time support. Our President Mr. Max Boyce has been a driving force behind massive improvements and the Club is the venue for the prestigious Max Boyce Classic. We now need an experienced Greenkeeper to take a key role in our continuing development. With at least 5 years relevant experience and ideally with formal qualification, you will be able to show a significant success record in golf course maintenance preferably where sizeable change has been involved. Although you will have sound supervisory experience you will have a hands on approach towards getting things done and you will be well used to the broad flexibility needed in this type of position. We are ready to negotiate a suitable package to attract you to this beautiful area where the quality of life is high, house prices relatively low and coastal/city amenities are close at hand.

Applications, giving full career details, to, Mr. R.M. Ellis, Secretary, Glynneath Golf Club, 'Briony', Ystradfellte Road, Pontneathvaughan, West Glamorgan.

HANKLEY COMMON GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management. A thorough knowledge of machinery and maintenance is essential, together with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

An attractive package which includes accommodation is negotiable depending upon experience.

Applications in writing to include full CV to the Secretary. Hankley Common Golf Club, Tilford Road, Tilford Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DD



ERSKINE GOLF CLUB HEAD GREENKEEPER

A Head Greenkeeper is required for this prestigious 18 hole parkland course situated on the banks of the River Clyde, 15 miles west of Glasgow.

The successful applicant will hold relevant qualifications and be able to demonstrate an excellent track record in modern course management and maintenance techniques. The ability to communicate effectively and direct staff efficiently is essential, as is experience in dealing with suppliers and budget control.

A popular and busy course, the highest standards are expected and in reflection of this, an excellent salary and benefits package is on offer.

Applications enclosing a full CV should be sent to:

**The Secretary
c/o Renfield Recruitment,
180 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2UE**



EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

This 90 year old Surrey parkland course requires an experienced greenkeeper to join the team under Stewart McMillan, the Course Manager.

Applicants should be City & Guilds qualified or equivalent, have a sound knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods, including maintenance of machinery and irrigation systems.

The successful applicant should be capable of leading a team, after initial guidance from the Course Manager.

Salary negotiable, accommodation available for single person.

Please write, enclosing details of career to date, to:
**The Course Manager, Letherhead Golf Club,
Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0DP**

THE WIRRAL LADIES GOLF CLUB LTD.

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

For Eighteen Hole Heathland Course

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of course machinery and maintenance.

Must be prepared to work with, motivate and control staff.

No accommodation. Salary negotiable.

Applications including full CV and present salary to:

**The Secretary, Wirral Ladies Golf Club Ltd.,
93 Bidston Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 6TS**

Situation Vacant

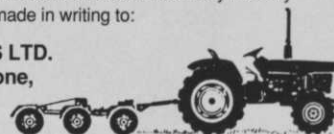
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71-79 Loose Road, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 7DQ.
Tel: (0622) 678944**



STRANDHILL GOLF CLUB, SLIGO, IRELAND

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Strandhill is an 18 hole links built in beautiful surroundings in the west of Ireland.

Applications are invited from Head Greenkeepers and Assistant Greenkeepers for this position. Salary negotiable. Accommodation may be provided.

Applications should be received in writing on or before Friday 29th November 1991 and include a full CV.

To: Course Manager, Strandhill Golf Club, Sligo, Ireland

Donnington Valley Golf Club HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for this recently extended 18 hole course, situated just north of Newbury, within easy reach of the M4.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, and experience in golf course construction would be an advantage.

No accommodation. Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Manager,
Donnington Valley Golf Club, Old Oxford Road,
Donnington, Newbury, Berks RG16 9AG.**

GOLFCLUB BAD SALZUFLEN (Germany)

requires a

GREENKEEPER

Our golf club is one of the most beautiful and well groomed 18 hole clubs in Westphalia. The new greenkeeper will work in a team with four colleagues and be in personal charge of the greens. Pay commensurate with this responsible position. Knowledge of the German language is a must. Please write, enclosing references along with recent photo, directly to the secretary office of the:

**Golf and Country Club Bad Salzuflen
Am Schwaghof
4902 Bad Salzuflen, Germany.
Telephone 05222 10773 or 05223 6930**

Your application will be treated in strict confidence.



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**Kate Synott, Director of Human Resources,
Hanbury Manor, Thundridge, near Ware, Herts SG12 0SD**



HIGHWOODS GOLF CLUB LIMITED

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 and irrigation systems.

Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing to the Secretary enclosing CV.

**Highwoods Golf Club Limited
Ellerslie Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4LJ**

THE NORTH WALES GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The club is situated one mile from Llandudno town centre and is an 18 hole links course founded in 1894. 6,132 yards, S.S.S. 69.

Applications are invited from experienced greenkeepers who have the appropriate qualifications and can demonstrate a sound knowledge of course maintenance and good organisational and management skills.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr G D Harwood (Club Secretary)
The North Wales Golf Club
72 Bryniau Road, West Shore, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2DZ**

WISE UP



The time's come to make a firm commitment to your future. Complete and return the Pre-Registration Card in this issue and confirm YOUR intention to attend the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

The 1992 BTME will be the most comprehensive event of its kind, giving you the opportunity to discover the full potential and diversity of greenkeeping and the fine turf industries.

Review the entire range of services and machinery from leading industry names.

National and international exhibitors, plus a wide selection of smaller but no less significant companies, promise to make the 1992 BTME the best you've seen.

And don't miss the Educational Seminar Programme. Top names, important topics and valuable information you just can't miss.

Save time and money – pre-register TODAY!

As you can see from the Exhibitor List a lot of wise owls have long since confirmed they'll be flying into Harrogate in January. If you haven't – don't panic, there are still a few nesting places left. Just wing your way to a phone and call DEBBIE SAVAGE on 03473 581

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Fairfield Turf
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Huxleys Grass Machinery
I/C Distributors
ICI Professional Products
Inturf Ltd
Iselit UK Ltd
Jacobsen
Johnsons Seeds
Kubota (UK) Ltd
Lawn Technology
Lely UK Ltd
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Lloyds & Co Letchworth
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Rufford Top-Dress Supplies Ltd
Sierra UK Ltd
SISIS Equipment
Sports Turf Research Institute
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