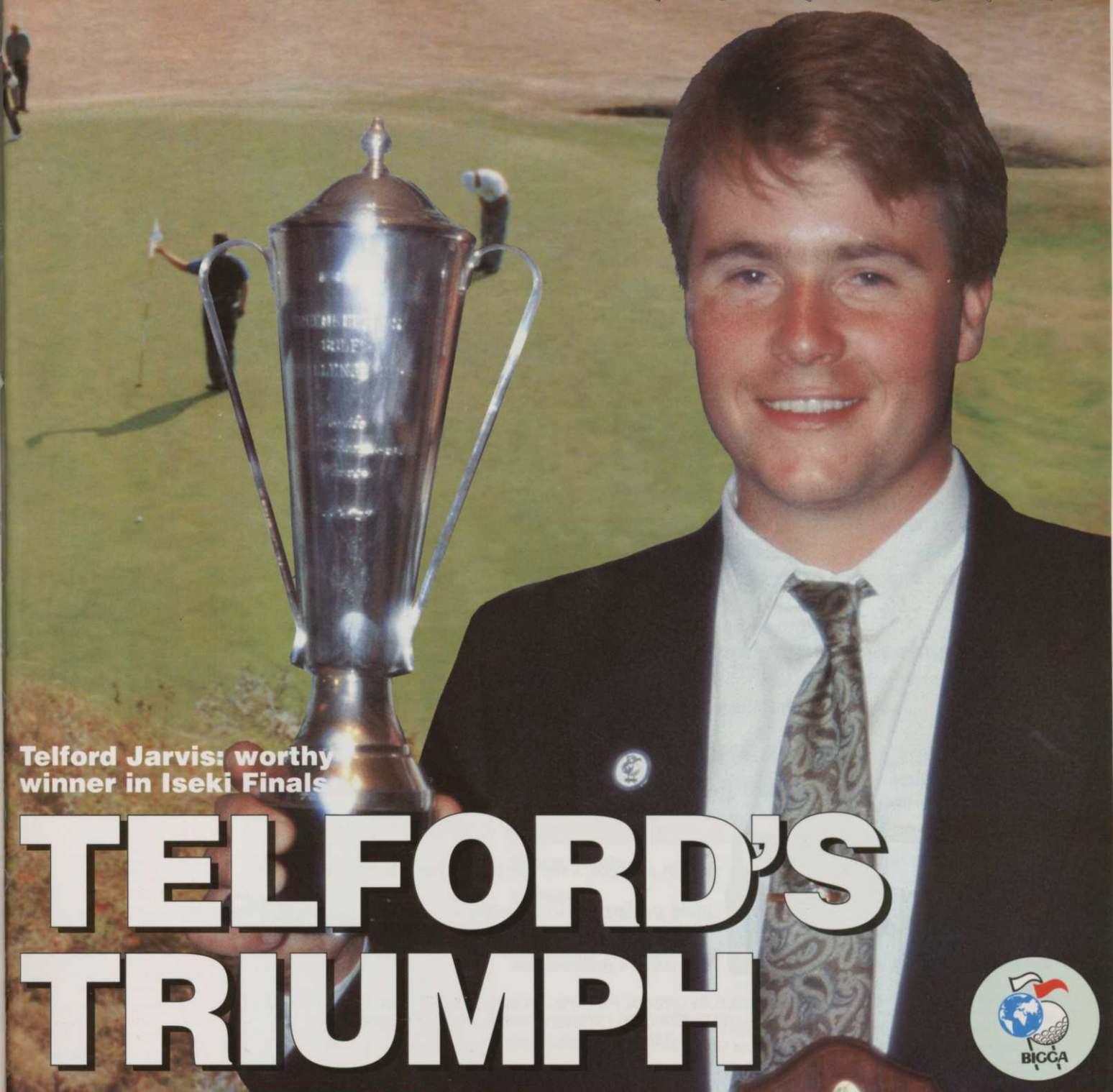


OCTOBER 1991

# GREENKEEPER

*International*

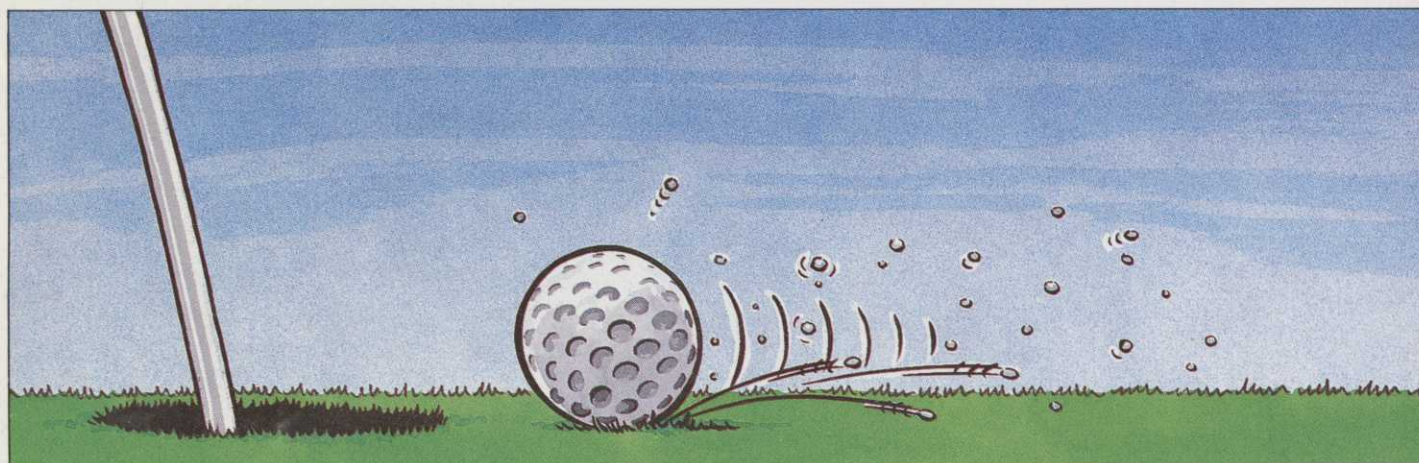
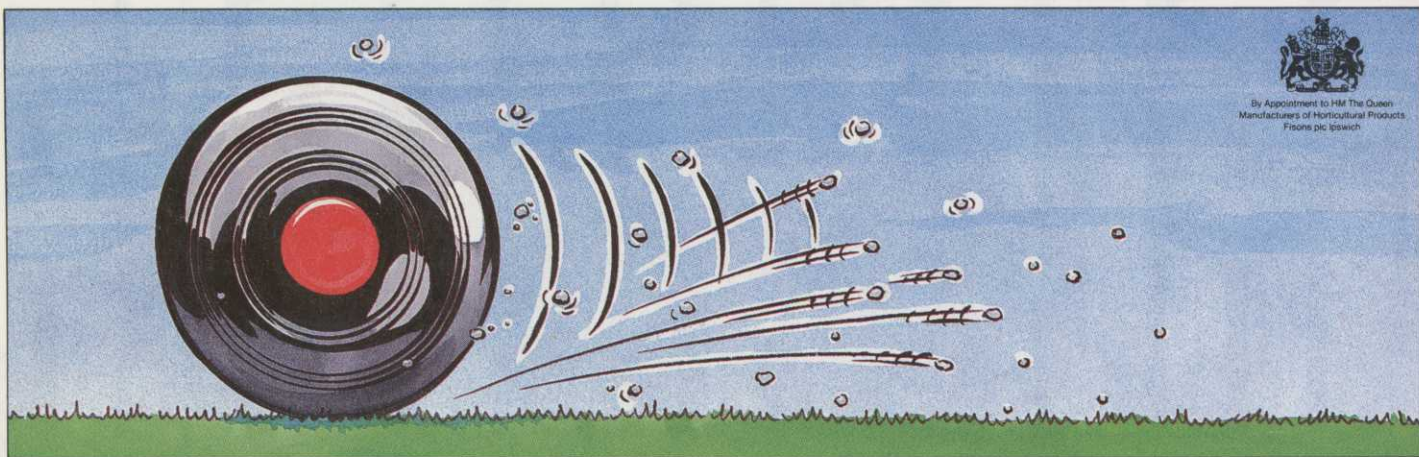


Telford Jarvis: worthy  
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Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

OCTOBER 1991



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# GREENKEEPER

## International

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### COVER PICTURE:

Telford Jarvis clutches the trophy which spells his success as winner of the Iseki Championship



## Sorry case of foot in mouth

A leading American golfer turned golf course architect is reported to have sent one of his experts to report on the building and maintenance of a course in Scotland. His report concluded 'and if you follow my instructions you will have the best greens in England'... exit red-faced to the Sassenach border!

■ **Perhaps as compensation** for not being selected to represent the USA in the Ryder Cup, big boomer John Daly is selected to join Payne Stewart, Curtis Strange and Daly's own hero, Jack Nicklaus, in the four-man Skins Game for \$540,000 on December 1st at La Quinta. Strange has won nearly half a million dollars in the past two years in these 'knock-out' events, where the winner takes the lion's share. Daly ranks number one in driving distance on the PGA Tour with a 287 yard average!

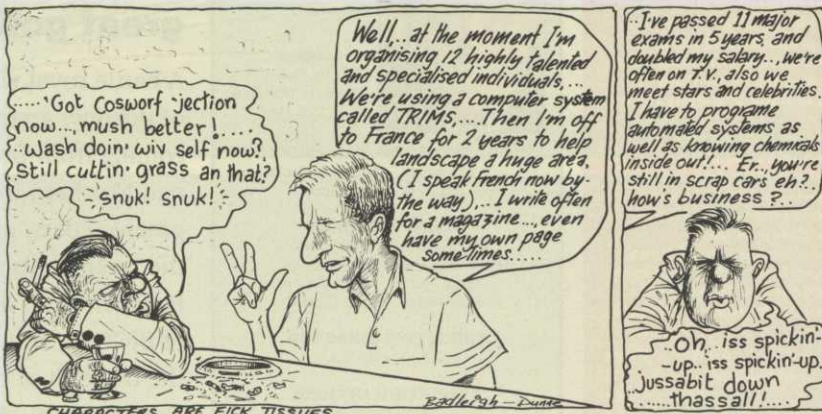
■ **Confused** by the many and varied pronunciations of the word 'Iseki', your editor sought out Iseki managing director, Mr T Shinoto, at the recent pre-IOG demo given by Lodge-way at Shuttleworth Aerodrome. Mr Shinoto assured me that to be correct one should say "EEE sek EEE". That's it. No more eye's please!

■ **What's in a name?** Tony Turner of Turner World Mowers and World Mowers Ltd is more than slightly miffed at the interlocutory injunction sought by Bomford Turner Ltd, restraining Tony Turner from using the name 'Turner World Mowers' or 'Turner' as part of his trading style in relation to the business of professional mowers.

It has been and is being made clear for obvious commercial reasons that Turner World Mowers is a new company, neither of which is in any way connected with Bomford Turner Ltd or its parent company Elswick plc. The proceedings are being strongly contested.

■ **Winner of the 'Ryder' limerick** competition, from a selection of several and including many that missed the 'Ryder' connection completely, being rhymes rather than limericks, came this from Ross Mable, a third year apprentice greenkeeper at Prestonfield Golf Club in Edinburgh:

Said Bernie 'my team for The Ryder  
Will make the Yanks eyes open wider,  
We must keep The Cup  
In order to sup  
A celebratory flagon of cider'.



■ **Tim Fell,** managing director of Tillers Turf, tells of amusement at the IOG Show, when a jack-the-lad came on stand and demanded: "ere guvnor, can you guarantee this 'ere turf?" "Certainly sir", Tim whimsically replied. "I can guarantee that if it is not watered, nurtured and fertilised, loved and cared for, it will die!" "Shouldn't 'ave said that, boss", came his mate's retort, "e's in the turf market for 'is 18 new greens!"

Norman Exley wins a runner-up 'double' with a cheeky rhyme (not a limerick) which accompanied his five entries:

Enclosed are some odes  
Which I have 'composed'  
To enter your limerick test.  
They'll not be as good  
As you think they should  
But you'll say "never mind, did his best".



■ **He called it keenness...** though Bob Lupton, The Northern section secretary, wrote with tongue in cheek to report of an incident when one of his staff, ever anxious to get working, drove a tractor and trailer through the closed doors of the machinery shed. The resultant demolition, pictured above, was worthy of steeplejack Fred Dibner himself!



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■ Playing in the Kent County Championships over 27 holes at Cherry Lodge GC (S.S.S. 75) on September 9th, 'young' Peter Biscoe won the KGU Senior Title. Peter, who works at Cray Valley GC and plays at both this course and Eltham Warren GC, has seen his handicap tumble by two shots over the past month by dint of some "out of his boots" play, his winning score at Cherry Lodge being 109.5 off a handicap of eleven.

■ Construction is well underway for the relocation of Eaton Park GC, Cheshire, on land given to the Club by the Duke of Westminster, who owned both the previous land and the new acreage as part of his Grosvenor Estate. The work is in the capable hands of Brian D Pierson Contractors Ltd.

■ Linda Bottomley, managing director of Mowing Machine Maintenance Ltd, will henceforth be known as Linda Adams, having married Karl Adams at Rotherham just a week or so ago. We join with all friends and colleagues at MMM and parent company Ransomes in wishing them joy and happiness in their life together.



■ More Ransomes news heralds the appointment of John Kerridge, Chairman and Chief Executive of Fisons, as Deputy Chairman of Ransomes plc, the parent company of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies. He has been a non-executive director of Ransomes for seven years.

■ News from Gordon Moir tells of the retirement of Willie Milton, head greenkeeper, Downfield GC, having been at Downfield since the course was constructed in the 1950s. Willie was a stalwart member of the North Scotland section, being chairman, secretary and treasurer at various times. In joining with the section in wishing him a long and happy retirement, we also offer his successor, Ian Menzies, our hearty congratulations.



■ Clive Carter, formerly with Turfand Ltd., is now nicely established in what many see as a niche tailor-made for his talents, that of UK Sales for Turfmech Machinery Ltd of Great Haywood, Staffordshire.

■ The Joint Golf Course Committee, devoted to the R&A's discussion document 'The Way Forward', has cleared another hurdle by the appointment of Nick Park as Chairman of the Technical Panel.

This group will report to the JGCC and make recommendations about the creation of standards for golf course design, construction and maintenance. Nick Park is well known for his contributions to 'The Way Forward', the series of 'Golf Monthly' articles on 'The Management of British Golf Courses' and for his part in the most recent highly acclaimed book 'Real Golf'.



■ It was good to see Colin Geddes at the IOG, relaxed and looking like a fresh-faced teenager, and to learn that he has returned north to his native Yorkshire from the Jack Nicklaus II/Golden Bear Inc. designed Hanbury Manor G&CC, where he has been course manager since June 1989. Literally born on a golf course (was it Moortown?) and a greenkeeper all his life, Colin has covered the whole gamut of maintenance, from early traditional to the very latest Pennecross on USGA spec. Which Club will snap him up next, I wonder?



■ The news that St Andrews Links Trust has appointed BIGGA North Scotland Section Secretary, Gordon Moir, as head greenkeeper at the Eden is heralded by all who know this likeable young man. As an apprentice attending Elmwood College, where he won the St Andrews Links Trust Award for best third year student, he went on to become head man at Fraserburgh, a position he has held for 12 years. Married, with three children, Gordon is a keen golfer playing off 4 handicap. Recently he won the Fraserburgh Matchplay Champion (1990) and was Moray Open Champion in 1987. His contribution to the section is beyond measure and he will be sorely missed. To Gordon – better known as the Sherlock Holmes of Scotland – our most sincere good wishes.

■ Playing in the qualifying round of the British Amateur Championship at Ganton, Raymond Russell, a greenkeeper at Longniddry, pulled off the shot of a lifetime. The Scottish youth international drilled a six iron 200 yards at Ganton's 494 yard ninth for an albatross two! He finished with a one under 70 to lead the field.

## A first for Ransomes

■ What better news to greet the autumn than that of Nigel Church's appointment as Ransomes' first ever Golf Sales Manager.

Nigel, a familiar figure to all who visit Ransomes for the 'grand tour', has many years of experience of the golf market and until recently headed the Ransomes Product Training Department. He's a 'grass roots' man (if he will forgive the pun), having been with the company since leaving school and has trodden the established path of sales demonstration and main dealership both at home and in Europe and the Far East before taking up his product training position.



■ Drawn at the IOG show from a barrel overflowing with would-be winners, BIGGA Chairman George Malcolm drew out just one name in thousands, the lucky greenkeeper who would fly to New Orleans to the GCSAA Conference and Show in 1992: John Atkins of Chestfield GC. As winner of this marvellous prize sponsored by Maxwell Hart, John will receive an expenses-paid trip to what is undoubtedly one of the world's most exciting venues. • Pictured, from left, George Malcolm, Neil Thomas and Maxwell Hart's Mike Ring.



## Organisational smash and grab

**V**isitors to the East of England Showground for the IOG Sports and Leisure Exhibition in early September, especially those presented with complimentary passes, must have been dumbfounded – as I was – to discover that such ‘believed to be free’ entries were valid only as a means of partially reducing the cost of the IOG’s ‘admit by catalogue only’ remit. Those unfortunates unable to prove their favourite dealer actually loved them were being charged a hefty three quid to enter, with a high majority steaming with indignation at such piracy. It was, as one impecunious greenkeeper pointedly remarked, ‘a bit like being charged to enter Marks & Spencers in order to see if you might like to buy new underwear’.

If your own experience at Peterborough leaves you with less than sweet thoughts about this organisational smash and grab, consider the plight of yours truly. My saga began in early July, when both written and telephoned requests for forward information and press facilities were brushed aside with a brusque ‘please contact later’. Despite repeated telephone pleas over several weeks running up to the show, the first day found me outside the gate sans entry pass, sans press pass, sans information. I actually dared – thoroughly wicked soul that I am – to drive to the gate and was told to turn around and get out. I drove the full ten yards forward necessary to execute a 90 degree turn and promptly had my car searched: this in full view of the security guard making such demands! I was still outside the ground and only the intervention of Techurf’s Gordon Rolfe, who lent me an exhibitors pass, prevented yet another calamitous goof: I was finally in at last!

Hightailing it to the press centre I was informed there were no press identification badges and no catalogues. Not one single writer had received a press badge and there were some pretty ugly rumblings taking place. How are we journalists to find our way around the maze, was the oft repeated question, don’t know and don’t much care seemingly the answer. I was shunted from office to office and stonewalled at every turn, a dog-eared, coffee-stained cata-

logue eventually being grudgingly produced together with a plea not to tell other journalists, otherwise ‘they’ll all want one’!

The point we were all trying to make was a simple one: a press badge is not likened to some star of kudos, rather it instantly identifies the wearer and prevents time-wasting at stands when seeking information. You’d be amazed at how quickly a sales manager will respond to such beacons and produce vital up to the minute data. With so much to see in a short time, the luxury of browsing is certainly not for the working scribe.

Perhaps the final unforgivable straw came following the presentation of the National Turfgrass Award to a deserving Peter Dury, longtime Sport and Landscape Development Officer with Notts County Council. A hundred or so people attended the ceremony, which took place near to closing time and took over a hour to complete. Imagine our surprise upon discovering we were locked in! I didn’t stop to see every last soul attempt to leave the site but the vision of men dressed in their Sunday best clambering onto upturned dustbins in order to shin over the lethal wire fencing was a sight to behold and I wish I’d had my camera, – though it was far from being funny at the time.

The 1991 IOG Show was an undoubted success and no doubt about it. But it was a success this year in spite of the IOG’s organisation, not because of it. What credit is due

must be meted out to the dedicated exhibitors who somehow manage to rise above adversity, with such resolution deserving an extra vote of praise in my books, rather than a metaphorical kick in the teeth.

We all know the IOG can do better, having seen their skills of organisation demonstrated to grand effect in the past. Together with my fellow journalists I’d like to know why it seemed to crumble apart this year, was it something we said? Perhaps the time is ripe for the IOG to look again at appointing professionals to do a professional job: the previous masterminding of such tasks by Dianne Mowat being seen as a touch of pure magic.

DAVID WHITE

*‘a bit like being  
charged to enter  
Marks &  
Spencers in  
order to see if  
you might like  
to buy new  
underwear’*

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# Seminars: from wildlife to The Way Forward

## SOUTH WEST AND WALES SEMINAR

November 6th is the date for the South West and Wales Region Seminar at Cannington College, the scene set fair for a highly entertaining and informative programme. Alan Mitchell will begin the proceedings with a paper on the wildlife found on a golf course, followed by Eric Shiel, Chairman of the Joint Golf Course Committee, who will discuss the implications of this new committee and their future plans in the light of 'The Way Forward' document.

Jim Arthur needs no introduction to Greenkeeper International readers and is sure to provide judicious words for both greenkeepers and educationalists alike, his address being followed by that of the equally renowned Jon Allbutt, who will present his research paper on 'The Safe Use of Pesticides'. Ample question time is promised and the whole event is sponsored by Modus T Systems. Call Gordon Child on 0803 844056 for further details.

## MIDLANDS SEMINAR

The 4th Annual Regional Seminar is to be held on Wednesday November 20th at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture, Moreton Morell, Warwick. Midlands members are urged to make careful note of this date and make every effort to support the venture and thus make it a huge success. Speakers include:

- Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA, on 'BIGGA - Approaching the Crossroads?'
- David Senior, Technical Development Manager of Vitax Ltd, on 'Turf Diseases'.
- Barry F Cooper, Golf Course Drainage Consultant, on 'The Surveying and Drainage of a Golf Course'.
- Graeme Francis, Sales Manager for Turf Irrigation Services Ltd., on 'Irrigation'.
- Michael Boddy, Arboricultural and Forestry Consultant for George Walker and Sons of Leicester on 'The Care and Maintenance of Trees'.

Application forms and programmes have already been sent out to all members but if for some reason you may not have received yours - or if you are a non-member interested in attending - please contact Roger Willars on 0455 283053

Sponsor acceptance to date for either insertion of trade literature in folders or the Marler-Haley display panels are: Highmeres Lawnmower Services, Tillers Turf, Trelleborg Ltd, Western Farm Implements Ltd, Better Methods Ltd and Johnsons Seeds Ltd.

## SOUTH EAST SEMINAR

The South East Region will hold their Seminar at Merrist Wood College on Wednesday November 6th, with speakers including:

- Dr David Riley, ICI Ecologist, on 'The Development of Modern Pesticides'.
- Philip Baldock, Assistant Course Manager, Hankley Common GC, on 'Practical Conservation Within Golf Courses'.

- Dr Rob McGibbon, Heathlands Wildlife Project, on 'The Importance of Golf Courses on Surrey Heathland'.
- A talk by an Ecology Consultant.
- Jack McMillan, Golf Course Management Consultant, on 'European Golf Development'.
- Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA, on 'BIGGA - Approaching The Crossroads?'

Also in attendance will be BIGGA Chairman, George Malcolm.

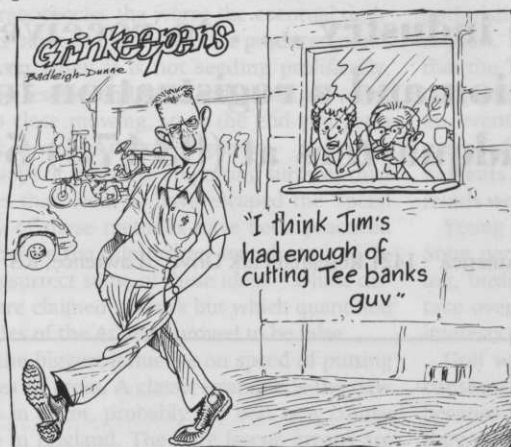
The cost of the seminar is £17.50 which includes morning coffee, conference luncheon and afternoon tea. Tickets may be obtained from Phil Baldock, The Bungalow, Hankley Common GC, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DD., or from Clive Osgood, c/o Walton Heath GC, Tadworth; Surrey.

Further detailed information may also be obtained from Norman Exley, the S E Regional Administrator (telephone: 09274 24737) or from all section secretaries.

## First meeting for Joint Golf Course Committee

The first meeting of the new Joint Golf Course Committee Greenkeeper Training and Recruitment Panel took place on September 16th in Manchester, the full panel consisting of the following elected officers:

- Bob McLaren - Past President of the Scottish Golf Union, member of the Scottish Golf Course Committee, Chairman of the Greenkeeper Training Committee, Chairman of the JGCC Greenkeeper Training and Recruitment Panel, member of the R&A Committee of Four on 'The Way Forward'.
- Ray Burniston - Secretary of The Association of Golf Club Secretaries.
- Peter Dutton - Past President of The English Golf Union, member English Golf Union Golf Course Committee.
- Joe Furlong - Golfing Union of Ireland, President of Royal Tara Golf Club, member Greenkeeper Training Committee.
- David Golding - Education Officer, BIGGA, member Greenkeeper Training Committee. Ex-working greenkeeper.
- John Harris - Chairman of Green for seven years at Hankley Common Golf Club. Contributor to The Way Forward'.
- Bruce Jamieson - Director of Agronomy, PGA European Tour. Ex working greenkeeper.
- John Millen - Ex Head Greenkeeper, Canterbury Golf Club, now developer and Golf Course Manager, Weald of Kent Golf Club. Member BIGGA Board of Management and member of BIGGA master greenkeeper Advisory Board.
- Chris Nolan - Secretary Irish Greenkeepers Association, member of Greenkeeper Training Committee.
- Neil Thomas - Executive Director, BIGGA. General Administrator to Greenkeeper Training Committee.



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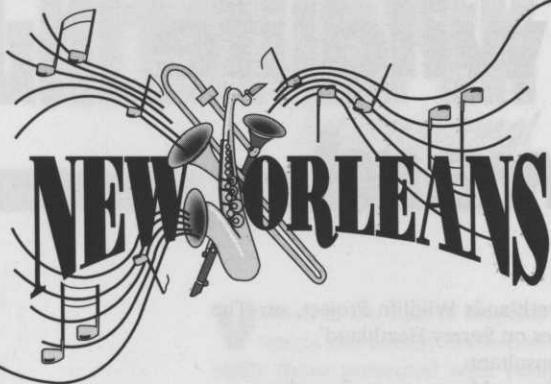
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# The quick and the dead

**F**ew fads have done more harm to our golf greens than the senseless chase after speed on putting surfaces, triggered off at the start of each year by what has become known as the 'Augusta Syndrome'.

Not even the phase of soft boggy greens as a result of often unrecognised over-watering and over-feeding a decade ago was as reprehensible, in that it was the result of bad greenkeeping and not a direct cause of a consciously applied bad policy.

The scene was set – as have so many of our greenkeeping problems – by the Professional Tour. With Stimpometers akimbo they demanded from committees and greenkeepers faster and faster greens and got them – but at what cost! Set the mowers down – and then set them down further still. Fit 'tournament' bottom blades and shave the greens – never mind the results.

Of course if the soonest you are going to see those poor suffering greens again is a full year away, (and often much longer) one can readily adopt a philosophical attitude to the inevitable aftermath.

The debacle at this year's Open may yet serve a purpose in showing players and spectators alike the rather too embarrassingly premature results of excessively close mowing, which all too often does not show until long after the television cameras have departed.

It is assumed that golfers want fast greens – though I am not too sure that this is inevitably true, as too many of today's new entrants seem to prefer soft holding greens to firm fast putting surfaces. Nevertheless the professionals certainly demand them.

Undoubtedly, shaving greens down to the bone will speed them up, but if this savage treatment is prolonged for more than a few days, let alone weeks, then the finer leaved species are the first to thin out and die. One famous Surrey golf course renowned in the 1970s for having greens which were yellow, stagnant thatchy bogs "smelling like a sewage farm", managed by a consistently sensible policy to restore a respectable proportion of the finer grasses in the next decade. Then suddenly, back they went to annual meadow grass, (no thatch because aeration was maintained), with the addition of dead dry patches instead. The reason was easy to identify but impossible to correct, because those in the driving seat wanted fast greens and the edict went out to mow at one eighth from April to October. Despite forecasts of the inevitable results, this policy was not amended.

It must be stressed beyond argument, that persistently shaving greens to one eighth will eventually kill them. There simply is not enough food production through the shaved-off leaves to keep the roots going.

The poorer the grass species the worse the eventual damage. Our old 'friend' annual meadow grass produces much slower surfaces, even when it is not seeding prolifically, than the finer leaved fescues and bents, but these are much more susceptible to close mowing, so in the end you get a double-dose, slower as well as damaged greens.

There are other ways of speeding up putting surfaces than dropping the blades that seem to have escaped the 'speed kings' notice. Many of these methods have been practiced for years, decades before the Stimpometer was dreamt of. In my view we must resurrect some of these ideas – whilst dismissing those that are claimed to work but which quantified research on both sides of the Atlantic proved to be false.

Needless to say, the biggest influence on speed of putting surface is the species of grass. A classic example is the new course at Mill Ride in Ascot, probably the best new course built in this decade in England. The pure fescue greens are

mown at heights just above a quarter inch, with Stimpometer readings – I can confirm – around nine feet. It is all too symptomatic of the great divide that separates golf on either side of the Atlantic that a visiting American golf course architect (renowned for his obsession with water features, bumps and tortuous designs) who came to see the course, took one look at the first green and said "Good heavens (or words to that effect), you've got pure fescue greens – what on earth do you want them for?" He got told!

If you doubt my word, take advantage of a limited offer to play the course (subject only to production of a handicap certificate) for the ridiculously low fee of £15 per round – (but ring 0344 886777 first) – and enjoy the luxury of a millionaires course which brilliant design, first class construction and inspired greenkeeping has created out of what had been mainly flat polo fields. But of course if you don't have pure fescue greens, it is no good talking about their advantages.

How then can we speed up greens without mowing them to destruction? Certainly regular verticutting and grooming will add 12 inches to the Stimpometer reading, though brushing has proved to have no effect. Despite traditional belief, sanding has no significant effect either, even at almost ridiculously intensive application levels, e.g. 28 light and 5 heavy sandings over two years on bent greens (University of Pennsylvania) even when combined with deep verticutting and shallow aeration.

Although rain can slow down greens (and even dew, if not switched as a normal routine), within sensible limits the drying out of greens by severely limiting irrigation did not significantly speed them up.

However, the one treatment which improved speed above all others – save shaving – albeit of a temporary nature, was rolling. This has been known for almost all this century. Who of my generation has not, years ago, seen a hand machine with a box full of sand and the blades raised taken over greens, partly to give the striped effect and partly to speed up putting surfaces. Since deep aeration is now simple, practicable and effective, any bad effects can be corrected before they show and the finer grasses survive to provide better conditions for yet another day!

However, matters will not improve until the demand is altered. That demand comes from the Tour and those who ape them and must be resisted. Greenkeepers and agronomists alike must ensure that sound greenkeeping methods designed to give 365 days a year golf prevail. With present developments, including the Tour being represented on both the Educational and Technical Panels advising the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee, I am not optimistic, especially as I am told it was at the R&A's request. In fact, any day now I expect to hear proposals that the Tour – with its 'experienced agronomists' – should take over courses from greenkeepers for six weeks before an event to ensure perfection and that this should be extended to R&A Championships as well as their own tournaments. Firm denials that this is the last thing on their minds would worry me more than silence!

Young professionals are being instructed in greenkeeping. Soon perhaps to be added will be catering and book-keeping, business management and administration so they can take over from the stewards and the secretary – all in the interests of televised golf. Or am I being unkind?

Golf was and is essentially an amateur game and only constant vigilance will stop the professional take-over, because to give them credit the pros at least know where they want to go and do not lack leadership.



**'It must be stressed beyond argument, that persistently shaving greens to one eighth will eventually kill them. There is simply not enough food production through the shaved-off leaves to keep the roots going'**



■ In reply to David White's by-line (page 22, August) on the origins of golf, I have to say that if golf is a Dutch game then I am a Dutchman, and the first *Homo erectus* that ever scampered across the savannah in a loin-cloth was the inventor of the Olympic Games.

The truth, however, is that the game of golf as we know it developed in Scotland and no Dutch historian can deny that. I would also suggest that it is quite fruitless to employ words such as 'early Dutch golf' – the Dutch game in the period referred to was called *Kolven* and while it undoubtedly contributed to the development of golf, it was not golf. In fact its closest modern relative in my opinion is croquet, and one doesn't hear too many Dutchmen singing the praises of that game.

It always amuses me that those who would belittle the Scottish contribution to golf simply let their minds sail across the water and take root in Dutch soil. Why on earth do they stop there? Were the Dutch the only people ever to put a stick to a ball in bygone days? Chimpanzees have been known to wallop a stone with a stick – are they golfers? Maybe that's why golf makes monkeys of us all. I rest my case.

MAURICE GRAY  
Aberdeen

*It was bound to happen, the sore nerve having been touched... but I am unrepentant and still claim – with proven historic records on the side of reason and truth and dispelling folklore – that the game of golf (irrespective of its foreign title of Colf – the long game – and Kolf – the short game (still played in Holland) – or even 'Goff', the original Scottish derivative taken and developed from its Dutch ancestry) originated in the Low Countries. I would never, as Mr Gray implies, belittle the Scottish contribution to the game's development but would recommend the reading of EARLY GOLF, the historic work by Steven van Hengel, a member of the R&A and a true golfing Sherlock*

*Holmes who made research his life's work. After having read his book, Mr Gray and other doubters will find it difficult to believe that golf – yes, golf – originated in Scotland. Incidentally, the game referred to by Mr Gray, correctly *Het kolven*, never existed in the 'imagined' form in which it was first described in Victorian fantasy. Summarising, golf was originally a Dutch game imported to Scotland. No longer exclusively Dutch or Scottish, it is now truly Universal. – Editor.*

■ Following the publication of your article (July pages 22-26) on the workings of the PGA European Tour, I write to further clarify some of the points made therein.

There are many courses on the European Tour that have *Poa annua* greens and even though these are less than perfect in the winter months, the Tour professionals find that well prepared *Poa annua* greens often give a very respectable putting surface during the summer. The article seemed to imply that the Tour regularly recommends the killing of *Poa annua* greens by Methyl Bromide gassing. I must stress that this is not the case. May I also stress that this method of cleansing greens by gassing can be very dangerous and should only be carried out by experts.

Finally I would like to clarify and expand upon the role of Richard Stillwell, who manages to successfully run his own independent International Turf Consultancy business whilst

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# Letters

being retained by the Tour to advise on course preparation and final presentation. Together with Roger, his eldest son, Richard has provided practical help at many Tour venues, with improvement to these courses having at times been so dramatic that this has resulted in the Tour providing long-term agronomy advice.

**BRUCE JAMIESON**

Director of Agronomy, PGA European Tour

*Quite unconsciously, Bruce confirms what many have been saying for years: that Tour players (and indeed the majority of uninformed amateur players too, who demand 'lush green grass' and are totally unable to evaluate good playing conditions when they are presented to them) are quite happy with Poa annua for summer tournaments, whilst admitting they are not very good in winter – and winter is a period which is often seven months long in Britain. – Editor.*

■ Whilst most greenkeepers are eager to make use of new techniques to produce better playing surfaces, I feel we are being discouraged by what I view as misinformation. The comments in the September issue were typical of innumerable fallacies printed on the subject of Pennncross. May I take this opportunity to counter those views of Mr Arthur by reminding him that:

- Pennncross has been grown successfully throughout Northern Europe for several years. I don't doubt Mr Arthur will have seen many poor results using Pennncross, but I can assure him from personal experience that many greenkeepers are producing excellent results on heavily used facilities open 365 days a year.

- Although the maintenance of Pennncross requires a different approach, this does not necessarily lead to a high increase in costs. Its tendency to thatch up easily can be counteracted by frequent grooming and top dressing, carried out quickly and efficiently with modern machinery.

- In my experience a healthy Pennncross sward is no more susceptible to pests and diseases than a traditional mix and mercurial fungicides are neither necessary nor desirable for disease control. Does Mr Arthur really believe that greenkeepers have an inexhaustible supply of illegal chemicals at their disposal, as his comment implies?

- Although Pennncross is unavailable in the UK at the moment, there are several varieties of creeping bent available that will produce the same results both quickly and cost effectively. These should be considered as a viable alternative by any new development wishing to produce greens of the highest standard, particularly in the warmer regions of Britain.

**DAVID WHITAKER**

Course Manager, The Wisley Golf Club, Surrey

■ I am sure the manufacturers of Blazon are pleased with the article 'A Better Way to Spray' (August), showing their product in such a favourable light. However, it was disappointing, unbalanced and missed an opportunity to deal with the whole question of spray marking in more detail.

The whole subject of mixing anything into a pesticide solution in the spray tank is subject to the Control of Pesticides Regulations. The article failed to establish if mixing marker dyes with pesticide solutions without written guidance from the manufacturer is possible.

The foam mixture in bout markers can be adjusted to

**Opinions expressed in these columns are not necessarily shared by the editor or BIGGA and the Association accepts no responsibility for them.**

**Letters to the editor are welcome on any topic related to the practice or pursuit of greenkeeping.**

**Write to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Letters should be signed.**

**We reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and good taste.**

● Apologies to Terry Adamson, winner of the special prize at the BIGGA National Tournament, who we mistakenly referred to in last month's magazine as 'Terry Anderson.'

break down at different speeds, there being no need to have 'blobs' on the course long after spraying is finished.

It is bad advice to suggest that the operator can rely on marker dye to show how poor his nozzle spray pattern is, or if a nozzle is blocked! The Code of Practice sets out in detail the procedures to ensure that the spraying job will be accurate and the calibration procedures also require careful inspection of nozzles.

Some marker dyes can have a higher hazard classification than the pesticide and from a COSHH point of view it is important to include these materials in the Risk Assessment now required before the spraying can commence.

Marker dyes are an important aid to accurate spraying, but they are not the only way. More balance please.

**JON ALLBUTT**

Biggin Hill, Kent

*Jon Allbutt is a technical consultant to the leisure and amenity industry. He is perhaps best known to greenkeepers as a technical trainer of those who apply pesticides, and in assisting with COSHH assessments.*

■ I do not agree with the content of my good friend Mr Jim Arthur's article: 'The Analysis Fallacy' (September 1991).

There is a need for chemical analyses of soils taken from golf courses, particularly golf greens. Nowadays, with large quantities of sand being incorporated with soils and organic matter in green constructions, it is vitally important that pH, phosphate and potash levels be monitored regularly in these very sandy rootzone mixes.

It is true that most of our old golf greens have very high levels of phosphate and potash present and in these cases there is no need whatsoever to apply phosphatic or potassic fertilisers.

There are a small number of cases each year where phosphate levels in greens are very low (less than 10 ppm) and here our agronomist would recommend the application of phosphatic fertilisers, however I would wish to emphasise that these are rare occasions.

On golf greens there is a continual removal of phosphate within clippings and if not replaced phosphate deficiencies can occur and a lack of vigour in grass growth can result.

I fully agree with Mr Arthur's comments concerning trace elements. A deficiency of any trace elements is extremely rare on British golf courses.

**DR PETER HAYES**

Director, Sports Turf Research Institute

*I now admit to being confused, my understanding being that application of phosphates positively encourage Poa annua in every case (see Goss et al, Washington University Trials 1975). If a green appears healthy and the grass type is ideal, even if soil analyses show levels of 10 ppm or below, does this automatically call for phosphate application? Further, if the turf is not good on a modern sand/soil green at what levels should corrective treatment be applied? I am drawn by an article by an STRI Agronomist which appeared no later than August; which states: 'it should be borne in mind that there are no exact limits for deficiencies in individual elements, whilst excesses in some, particularly available phosphate, are known to cause severe problems in the useability of turf long-term'. – Editor.*



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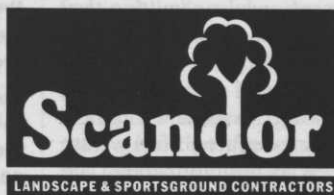
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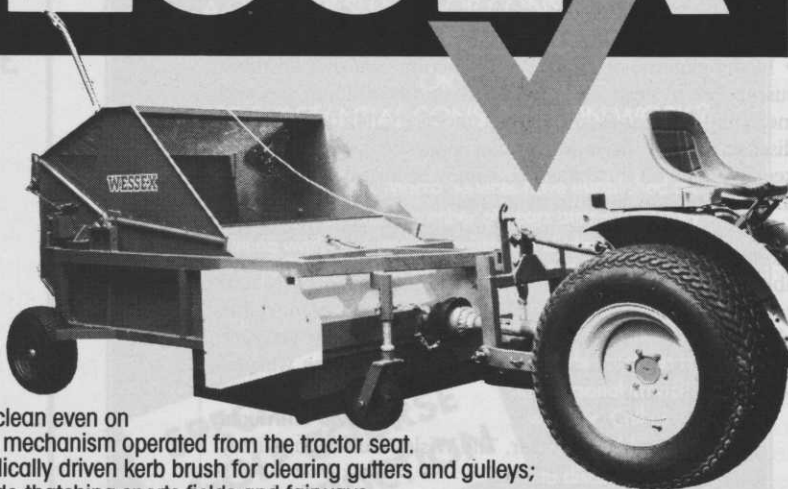
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# Who's who in BIGGA



## NORMAN EXLEY

You'll be hard pushed to attend a golf meeting, seminar or indeed any form of activity where greenkeepers gather in the south east without coming face to face with Norman Exley (or his delightful wife Linda, for that matter, who is one of only a handful of BIGGA lady members and a horticultural expert of some note). The reason is plain to see, for BIGGA and the greenkeeping cause is Norman's prime reason for living. You can't

get more dedicated than that!

It's probably true to say that greenkeeping discovered Norman rather than the other way round, for after what seemed like a lifetime of charity fund-raising for the Lifeboat Institute and getting more and more 'browned off' with the London rat-race, he read of an opportunity to attend a TOPS course at Askham Bryan College and sent off his CV.

The answer was affirmative and off he set, determined to make a career in sports turf but certainly unaware that golf would snare him, along with a certain lady who is now his wife, for Linda was also taking the TOPS road at that precise moment. A year full-time at Askham Bryan, Phases I and II of Greenkeeping Management, several seminars and a multitude of lectures later and the stage was set for Normans first job in a new career, that of greenkeeping at N. Middlesex GC, this followed a year later with a head greenkeepers job at a private Club in Kent – Woodlands Manor. It was a case of what might have been, for the lure of London – or at least what is now part of London suburbia in Northwood – called him just one year on to his present job at Northwood GC, where he has been for nine years.

Talking to Norman one quickly realises that he is London's man and although he and Martin Peters ran the old EIGGA London Section almost from the start, he did run the new BIGGA region from day one, appointed Regional Administrator in '87 as the new era first dawned.

Amongst Norman's many other attributes is a burning optimism for the future of greenkeeping, almost against himself in some ways for he is witness to some pretty awful tales of secretaries in the region who think we (BIGGA) are getting altogether too big for our boots! His own goal is to spread the gospel according to Saint BIGGA and to take a stand wherever two or three chairmen of green or secretaries are gathered together. He sees it as vitally important that standards continue to rise, that BIGGA eventually has its own greenkeeper training centre and that head greenkeepers simply must positively encourage all youngsters within the ranks to join the Association.

You can't get away from the man's enthusiasm even if you try. Within minutes of the Iseki Championships finishing, in which he captained the SE Team whilst playing as a last minute stand-in, he's off into a reverie about Littlestone 92 and the National Tournament, his latest baby. He's already demonstrating signs of the minor nervous tension that is



Featuring two more of the Association's backroom boys, the men who help make BIGGA tick, taken from taped discussions and aided and abetted by a little persuasive nudge from the editor

often the badge of a good administrator, but with Norm you can be sure it'll be all right on the night – and the day will be pretty good too!

## HUGH PARRY

'I know you but I don't know much about you', was my opening gambit with Hugh Parry, the quiet man of Welsh greenkeeping. 'There's not much to tell' his too modest reply. But within minutes, interspersed with his tales of how others were faring, this peaceable man began to expand, warming to my prompting and expounding upon his great passion, the continuing education of greenkeepers.

A member of the Board, Hugh told of how tickled he was to be on the Education Committee, a job he'd rather hoped he'd get and how he now intended to throw himself whole-heartedly into the promotion of the great education cause.

Hugh was always a greenkeeper, starting straight from school and serving an indentured apprenticeship with a local authority. That he liked what he did is evidenced by his remaining with them until he was 28, during which time he attended Llandaff College, successfully progressing through all City and Guilds stages I-III in Greenkeeping Management and further topping up with IOG examinations. Now his sights are set on progressing through to HND status – 'I'll never stop learning' his avowed philosophy.

Moving to more recent times, Hugh, now 34, lives in Cwmbran with his wife, 15 year old daughter and 16 year old son. Both youngsters are clearly a source of great pride to him, the youngest currently taking O levels and the boy waiting eagerly for A level results before hopefully moving on to University.

From local authority golf, where perhaps his last task was building a municipal course, Hugh moved first to Blackwood Golf Club and thence to Caerphilly. Now he has his passport stamped, ready to commute the 45 minutes across the border to Bristol and Clifton as head greenkeeper, a task he looks forward to with great relish. 'They really have their act together' he opined, 'for almost as soon as the STRI and course architect Hamilton Stutt had finished preparing a report for them prior to refurbishment, they set too and completely rebuilt the greenkeeping workshops and stores, a case of first priority and one that augers well for the future'.

Hugh is fired with enthusiasm for his future at Bristol and Clifton, a task where he knows clearly why he has been hired and where the green committee have faith in his judgement and ability. Asked what he would like to change in future, he's not unlike most other greenkeepers in wanting to see the rank and file golfer award his colleagues the prestige and standing they deserve, for as he rightly points out, 'without the tender care of the greenkeeper on their course, they would have a poor patch on which to do battle'.





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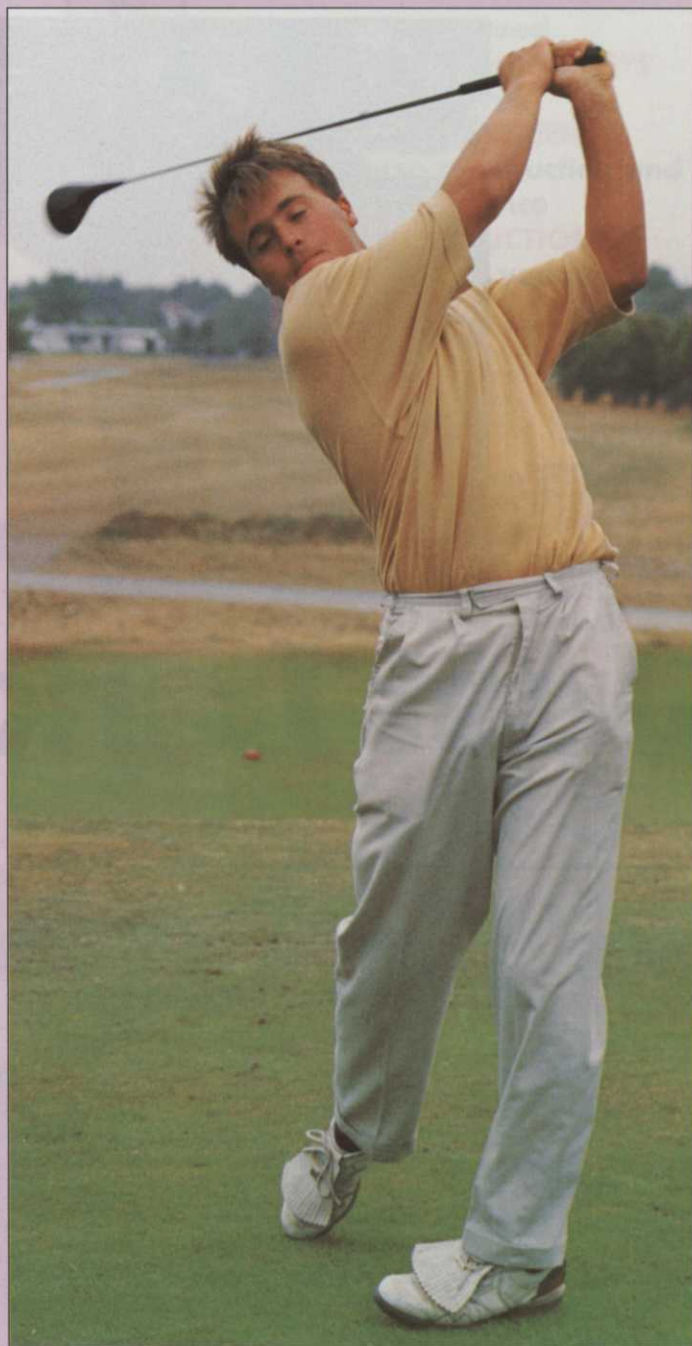




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As an observer from the sharp end of a camera lens, more often than not I'm witness to the swing rather than the result and can form an opinion of its effectiveness. At Hill-

side I saw them all: the 'classic', the 'worker', the 'mechanical', the 'never had a lesson', the 'slump', the 'b..... good thrash' and the 'dodge, it's coming my way!' It was breezy, highly entertaining stuff!

It's a tradition at Iseki that the regional team managers-cum-coaches give last minute pep talks to their teams, followed by incursions to the holes regarded as critical for further words of advice or encouragement. Thus even before the first ball was struck the sight of Gordon Child (South West & Wales) striding off, strategically followed by Elliott Small (Scotland) and Howard McCaddey (North) suggested that this was to be deadly serious, fighting for the honour of the regiment and all that...

Norman Exley (South East) and Roger Willars ➔ 16

**Above: the winner – Telford Jarvis, in a full frontal assault.**

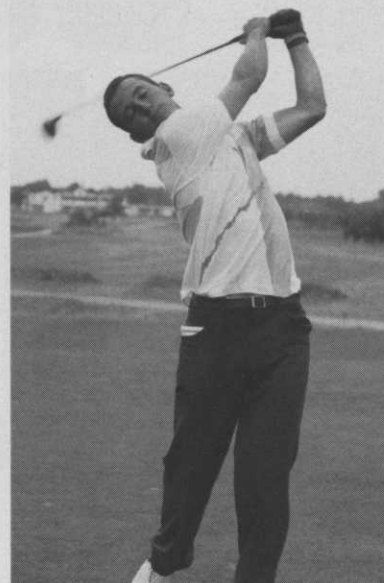
**Left: a study in perfect control and timing, from low gross winner, scratchman Kevin Peace**



A hug for our sponsor: Frank Larkin, Ireland's worthy winner of category two and an 18 handicapper "with the grin of a wee leprechaun," showed delight at his success with an impromptu hug for Iseki managing director, Mr T Shinoto



# Just Larkin about!



What did they put in the team's lemonade shandy? Above: the victorious Northern team.

Right: Paul Robinson (Northern), category one winner.

Far right: Alan Reed (Northern), category three winner

15 ➡ (Midlands) were both playing managers and could offer none of the soothing syrup, with the teams from Eire and Northern Ireland presumably having had their orders over an Old Bushmills or two the night before. What great guys they all were, bringing to the event a spirit that truly bridged all partisan action and demonstrating the wonderful camaraderie for which the Irish are noted: but then they are simply dedicated greenkeepers and not politicians.

The first ball was driven far and sure by Scotland's Kevin Peace, a pure joy to behold, and immediately one was aware that here was a man to watch closely. That he continued to strike sweet shot after sweet shot came as no surprise to the cognoscenti of golf and, as was predicted, his scratch

score of 116 for the 27 holes gave him the coveted and well deserved best gross award – both he and Elliott must have been delighted!

Folks in the Midlands have learned never to count Maurice Emery out of any serious competition and so it was that this 'oldest swinger in town' saw off all the opposition in the over 55s class, producing solid dependable play – like the man himself – to capture this class. He may be 'getting on a bit', they murmured, but just look at that supple action.

From the wisdom of elder field marshals we moved to the exuberance of youth, Martin Private from the South East suggesting that he was without visible nerve by slamming Titleist after Titleist into just the right places – look- ➡ 18





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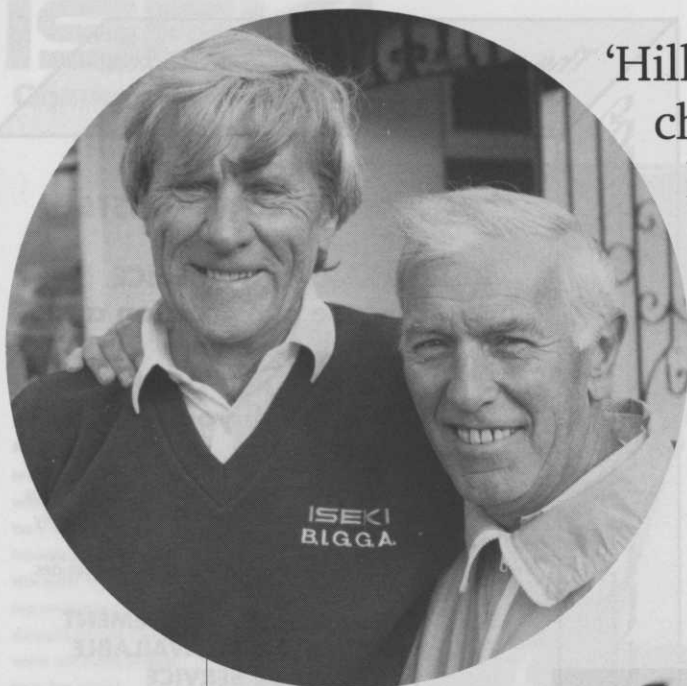
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'Hillside lived up to its reputation as a challenging test of golf and the tight lies were just perfect for this truly splendid Iseki Championship'



**Top:** All smiles from Over 55s winner Maurice Emery, with his caddy.

**1:** Craig Parkinson – Runner-up in category one.

**2:** Stephen Cram – Runner up in category two.

**3:** Martin Private – Under 21s winner.

**4:** Frank Platt – The North's 'third man'.

**5:** Peter Connett – Third in category two.

**6:** Scotland's 'mighty atom' – Hugh McLatchie.

**7:** John Robinson – Runner-up in category three.



16 ➔ ing great through the lens – to pull off a nett 114 which bagged him the under 21s class with comparative ease – this 'Private' is destined for promotion from the ranks.

Did I mention Howard McCaddey? What was it he said to his team that produced the perfect result? In the class for players of handicap 0-9, the Northern boys enjoyed a right old ding-dong, each perhaps without knowing what the other was up to, the end result being as close as the proverbial gnat's whisker, just one stroke separating class winner Paul Robison on 110.5 from Craig Parkinson on 111.5 and third placed Frank Platt on 112.5. The looks on their rugged northern faces at the presentation dinner said it all – it's all down to team work don't you know!

In the 10-18 handicap class it warmed this old hacker's heart to see Eire's Frank Larkin in action, an 18 handicapper with the grin of a wee leprechaun and a killing touch

around the greens. Frank's score of 107 was two and a half strokes better than second man Steve Cram, yet another Northern stalwart and a compact and good looking player whose action suggests better things are probable, followed by Peter Connett's nifty, workmanlike 110, a nice effort which must have temporarily boosted the morale of the South West & Wales team.

Would you believe it, yet another Northern winner presented himself for honours in the 18-24 class, this time in the shape of Alan Reed, whose swing belies that which I found hard to believe: a 24 handicap.

Creamy smooth and with a delicate touch, his score of 105 suggests that come next season he'll be moving numbers a peg or two. Four strokes separated first from second, the 109 from John Robinson of the South West & Wales team, with the mighty wee man, Scotland's Hugh McLatchie

# ISEKI

## Championship Finals

### Results

#### The Iseki Trophy and Winner on Handicap:

Telford Jarvis – 102

#### Best Gross:

Kevin Peace  
– Scotland – 116

#### Over 55s:

Maurice Emery  
– Midlands – 121.5

#### Under 21s:

Martin Private  
– South East – 114

#### Category one:

1st Paul Robison  
– Northern – 110.5

2nd Craig Parkinson  
– Northern – 111.5

3rd Frank Platt  
– Northern – 112.5

#### Category two:

1st Frank Larkin  
– Eire – 107

2nd Stephen Cram  
– Northern – 109.5

3rd Peter Connett  
– South West & Wales – 110

#### Category three:

1st Alan Reed  
– Northern – 105

2nd John Robinson  
– South West & Wales – 109

3rd Hugh McLatchie  
– Scotland – 111

#### Team prize:

1st Northern – 884 points

2nd South West & Wales – 915 points



a highly creditable third on 111.

Like any good drama, the best comes last, in this case the best being some 'out of my boots' play by the winner of the Iseki Trophy, Telford Jarvis.

Telford plays off 22, looks like a 12 and putts like a scratch man. He is, in handicap terms, a phenomenon. Of course he had to work for it, but when you drive well and putt like a demon you end up leaving your victims strewn on the fairways. Did I mention he represented the north? It almost seems superfluous and I really do want an answer from Howard. What *did* you put in the team's lemonade shandy?

Credit for slick organisation must of course go to the Iseki travelling circus, ably manned by Steve Broad and headed by Colin Gregory, graced further by the added presence of Iseki's managing director Mr T Shinoto, who presented all

the awards. It speaks volumes for such fanatical enthusiasm that those Iseki smiles remained from first dawn to the last sup from the glass – thanks to them all.

Whilst issuing accolades, none are more deserving than those given to Martin Twist and his worthy team. Martin was at pains to actually apologise for the sparse growth on Hillside's fairways, victim like most other linksland courses in this area of a prolonged drought. But as one enthusiast pointed out – when asked to describe the game of golf to non-players – he tells them it is a game played over ground separated by a green area known as a tee, aiming to another area known as a green. What is in between depends on circumstance and the ground is the same for everyone. Hillside lived up to its reputation as a challenging test of golf and the tight lies were just perfect for this truly splendid Iseki Championship.



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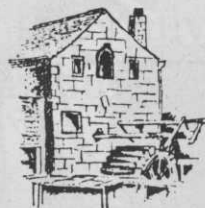
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# Autumn



## Turf maintenance

Nurturing Harry Colt's Sussex Gem – the experiences and technique of Ham Manor's Course Manager, George Barr. Report and photographs by DAVID WHITE



Unlike the professional golfers of the Sussex PGA, who vote their choice of 'Best Golf Greens Of The Year' on the somewhat emotive stand of putting condition on just one given day of play, the greenkeepers in this fair county are much less likely to give a 'thumbs up' to any course, certainly not to any greens, without due consideration of the many and varied imponderables. Talking to them, one name crops up again and again and is held in very high esteem: George Barr of Ham Manor Golf Club, the beautiful parkland course at Littlehampton that epitomises Harry Colt's design brilliance.

George is a transplanted Scot, and like many of his countrymen brings to his job of course management the skills culled from a greenkeeping career that began immediately after leaving school, when as a fine player and self-confessed golf addict he saw his future in the art of golf course maintenance. He began his training at Skelmorlie Golf Club, studied relentlessly at college and learned from masters of his craft, eventually moving to Greenock for two years before being persuaded to return again to Skelmorlie, this time as head greenkeeper. He remained there a further two happy years before the prospect of management at the Renfrew Club, a championship course on the banks of The

Clyde, lured him away. He remained course manager at Renfrew for about eight years, enjoying the challenge and the great golf to be found in these parts, before moving to Colt's sweet Sussex masterpiece early in 1988.

The beginning of autumn at Ham Manor heralds a gradual rather than drastic change, beginning with a very gentle raising of cutting height from 1/8th to 3/16th over a period of three weeks, done in a subtle way that ensures member satisfaction – always a prime consideration in George's mind.

In early October a hollow coring programme takes place using a GA30 with two inch centres, covering the ground just once before harvested with a proprietary core harvester, the whole twenty greens (18+ putting and bowling greens) cored and cleared in about eight hours! This is followed by overseeding, the seed being a straight highland bent which George has found best for his course, old fashioned though it may seem in some circles. "We've always had great results with highland", he said, "and I can only speak from personal experience. Highland gives a fine putting surface that suits our purpose perfectly, the putting surfaces speaking for themselves". He was quick to point out that overseeding was not always an annual event, such decision being ➔ 23



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## 'Pure sand dressing, though frowned upon in some official circles, has undoubtedly proved its worth at Ham Manor'

21 ➔ taken only after carefully considering the current state of play and how autumn may turn out, there being no point in wasting seed if the surfaces appear highly satisfactory. Seed once applied is then brushed in vigorously, even though the seeder has covered the surfaces, this followed with an application of soil conditioner, again brushed in before top dressing with pure sand.

The sand used is a medium to coarse sand, specially selected for zero calcification so that pH is not a problem – lightly dressed at first, brushed again and followed again over a period with light applications until the core holes are filled. George's predecessors at The Manor had used various heavy peat based top dressings and these have left a globulous mass layer of undecomposed peat and spent mushroom compost, a legacy from the sixties which must be penetrated. Pure sand dressing, though frowned upon in some official circles, has undoubtedly proved its worth at Ham Manor.

Once this first programme is complete, a settling in period of 3-4 weeks is followed by a further hollow tining, the members having been primed to anticipate somewhat disrupting autumn work and aware that it is to their benefit that the course is 'nestling down' so to speak, in readiness for a return to excellent putting surfaces in early April. George pointed out that in Scotland such a programme may well start somewhat earlier, adding that in the more mild climate of the south, some greenkeepers have considerable difficulties in persuading their green committee of the necessity for autumnal programmes. "It's hard to believe, but there are some Clubs that still take Society bookings in late October and beyond. Our policy is to advise any visitors that if they choose to come after our work begins then they



must expect to find some changes and take it as they find it".

Asked if Societies were a pain, George was happy to point out this was not his experience, the Club policy being a wise one in that only about 25 days a year were given over to such groups, their visits therefore being most welcome.

Turning again to the programme, the pattern changes slightly for 1991 in that it has been some three years since the greens were last Vertidraind and this will be carried out again in the last week of October, to two inch centres and going to a depth of 8-10 inches. Fairways are not Vertidraind very often, the Club being fortunate in owning a Spiker which has 12 inch tines fitted which can get right down to the hilt. In the autumn they look to slit the fairways in two directions, slitting about 8 or 10 times over a period of two to three months or so. This action is regarded as a major contributory factor in rapidly recovering from the drought of 89, the considerable slitting carried out in ➔ 25

**Note the adjacent housing, a radical move in the 1930s, the course built in order to generate interest in the Ham Manor Estate**



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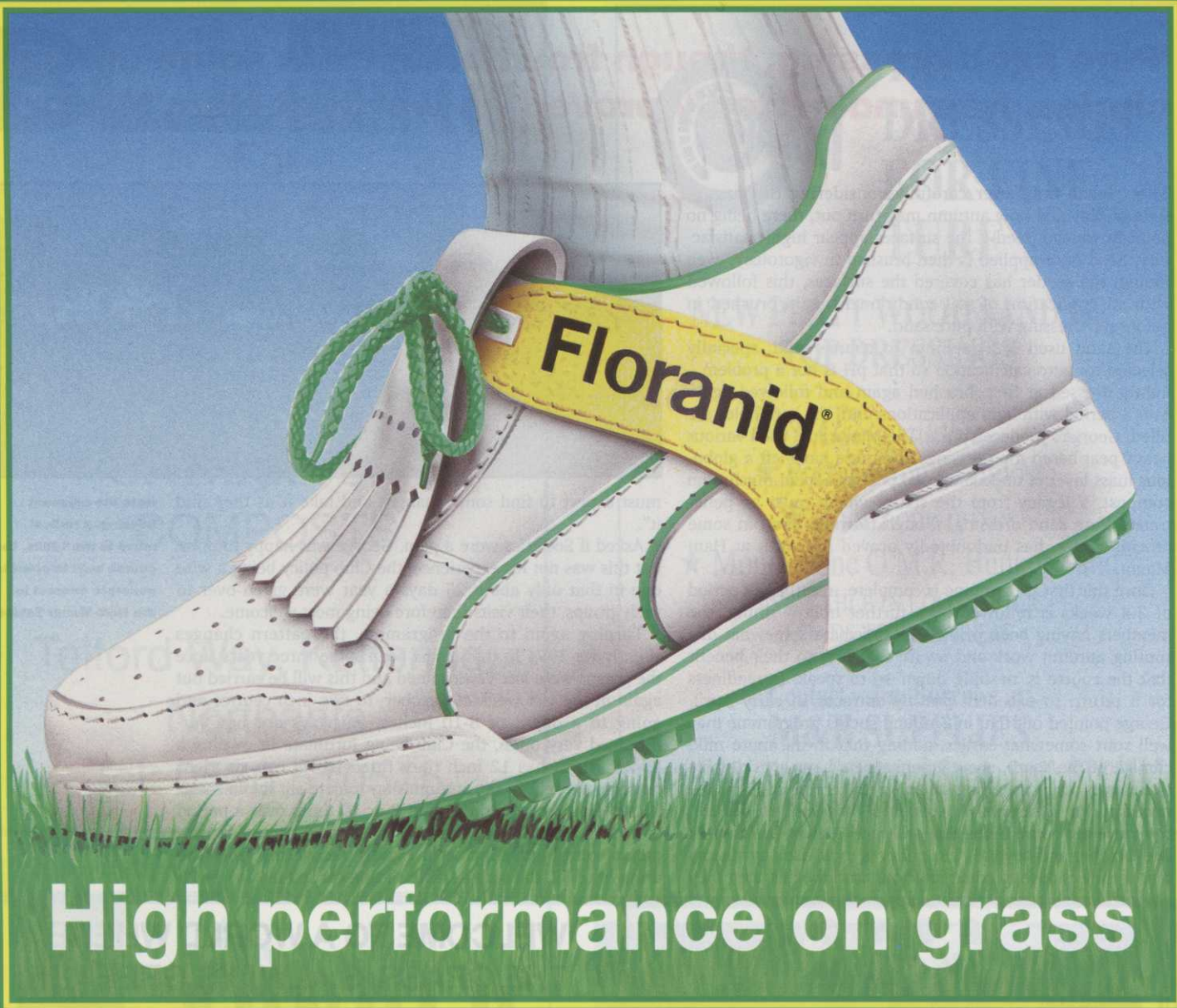


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## 'The sparing application of water can be just enough to take the sting out of a ball'

23 ➡ the winter of '89 and spring of '90 making a marked difference to fairway quality.

Two other processes feature, first the spraying of an organic farmyard manure mixture on every fairway, to encourage the finer grasses into activity and to give the fairways a stimulus which doesn't induce upper growth, in other words to get vigorous root activity again and to get the balance right in the soils, to get the roots to go down the slits that have been made. Following the drought two applications were made in autumn and winter, with retake of indigenous species being, in George's own words, "incredible, with a large amount of fescues moving back in again. What we recovered in autumn 1990 we kept and maintained in '91, the sward standing up well to the dry spells". It is now written into the Club programme that this process be applied every year.

Additionally, with worm-casts being a constant problem, more especially in past years, the Club now have it written that a selective worm-killer be applied annually, though at first with the restrictions of chlordane usage the chosen application didn't prove too effective, it being necessary to build up a level with repeated treatments. The committee had the problems of wiping out all worms by non-selective methods explained and once the importance of maintaining the soil ecosystem by retaining the non-casting varieties of earthworm was understood, the process, seen now to be working successfully, was rubber-stamped.

The members have always had a decided preference for fast greens and these are achieved in the spring and held throughout the season by the unhurried and gradual lowering of cutting height to a point where a speed of between 9 and 10 feet is maintained, without subjecting the sward to any stressful over zealous shaving. George is an advocate of the Stimpmeter and uses it regularly, not essentially to measure speed but to ensure total consistency on all greens. He's also enthusiastic about turf ironing, having experimented with the Australian machine which with just one movement gave a 12 inch rise in speed, increasing again by 6 inches with a second movement and found to be still appreciably faster the following day.

Just prior to the drought of '89 a new irrigation system was installed, cleverly designed in consultation with George to include not only tees and greens but green approaches too. As a golfer of some merit George had longed for the opportunity to include this feature, where the sparing application of water can be just enough to take the sting out of a ball on approach. He sees no merit in a well struck ball landing just short and scooting over a speedy green to unwarranted trouble. On the subject of water application he's a 'minimal' man, aiming always to strike a happy balance. "They keep saying irrigation is a very exact science", he ➡ 27

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25 → stated, "though no one has yet come up with a true and tried formula. You can programme watering for two minutes at night and whilst in your bed an east wind can blow for seven hours and you wake up wondering where all the water went".

Wind is always a problem in coastal Sussex and though Ham Manor is three miles from the shore the salt air carries and can scorch off conifer trees found on the back nine in winter. "We try to explain that we should swing away from such species", he said, "but everyone seems to want quick results".

The seven man team at Ham Manor is complemented by deputy head greenkeeper, Alastair Cale, – "a superb, totally efficient man of the sort that every course manager needs," – two youngsters who are currently training at Plumpton College, grand stalwarts Paul Coombe and Ken Johnson and a wonderful old timer – 69 year old Arthur Garner – who has been with the Club seemingly forever and who lovingly nurtures all the beautiful gardens.

Mechanical repairs and upkeep are in the capable hands of Alastair and George and they are fortunate in working with a fine range of up to date machinery, including an up to date grinding machine. Nothing seems left to chance in the modern maintenance buildings and all logical presentations for necessary new equipment are looked at sympathetically, the Club secretary and George enjoying a one on one relationship which extends quite naturally to George's attendance at all relevant course management committee meetings.

For extra measure this autumn a completely new green is to be built at the 18th, the existing one having dropped considerably over the years. Though not a new experience for George, who rebuilt several greens at Renfrew, the team are all wildly enthusiastic at the opportunity of building a USGA spec construction from scratch, the correct mix samples now being analysed at Grass Technology International laboratories, again the professional aim being to reach perfection. As a final aside George made the valid point that nothing would induce him to 'interfere' with Colt's original 1936 architectural concepts, believing that Harry himself would be the first to approve the move to create a split level green that will stand the test of putting excellence for perhaps a century or more.

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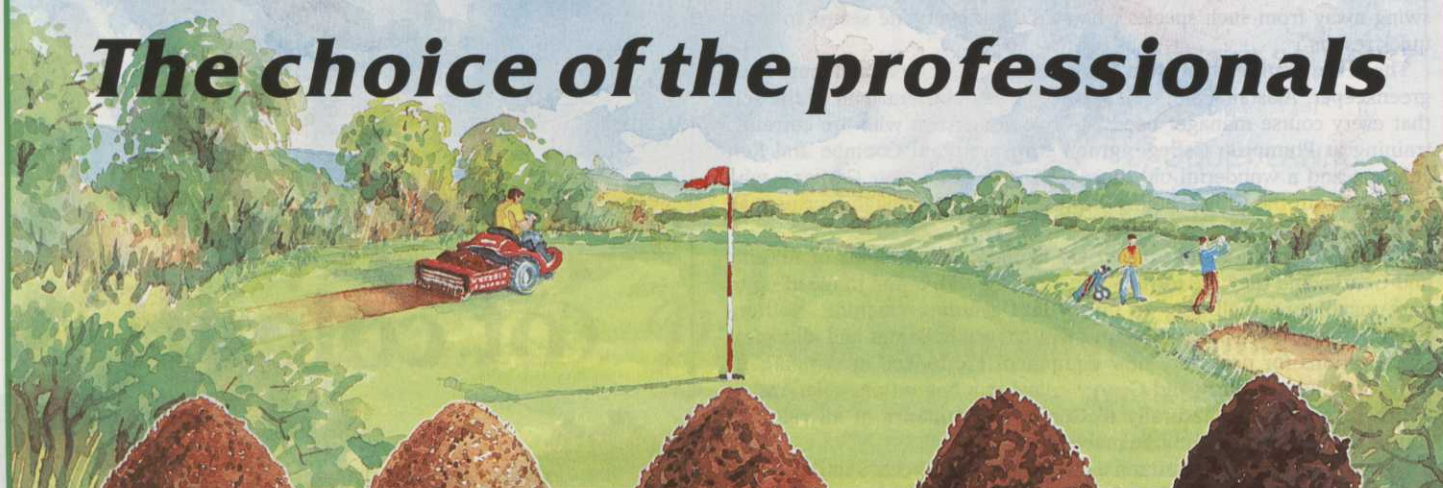
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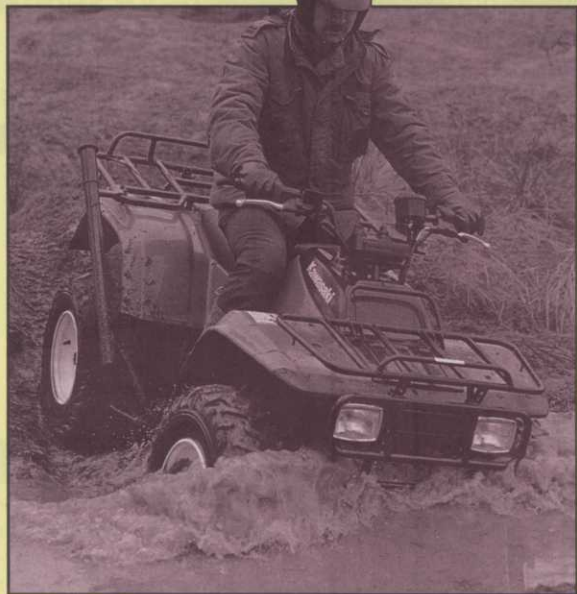
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■ If you feel like splashing out, Kawasaki are offering zero per cent financing on selected ATVs (including the exciting 4WD 300 C model) over a 12 month period. Telephone: 0908 664615.

■ The STRI have published their annual 'Turfgrass Seed 1992', useful to all purchasers of amenity grass seed. The booklet provides independent guidance on the suitability of different grasses and grass cultivars for use on all amenity turf situations. All the names listed on their merit list should be available for sale in 1992. Price £1.40 including post from STRI, Bingley, W Yorks BD16 1AU.

■ A delighted Andy Hardie told me at IOG that Gem Professional are the first manufacturers of fertilisers and turf dressings to be awarded the BS 5750 certificate for quality assurance. "We can now proudly say we are first for quality", he chuckled. Telephone: 0254 393321 for the full story.

■ Maxicrop Int. have added a new, quick acting 'green-up' product to their range of seaweed extracts. Containing 6% iron, Maxicrop No 6 Seagreen will give a much more intense greening of sports turf than ever before. Details from Sonia Pyne, telephone: 0536 204254.

■ With interest in advancing putting speed and pace by rolling turf taking the greenkeeping world once again by storm, SISIS have introduced an innovative new machine, the Auto-Trugreen. The ride-on unit has split rollers - one on each side - both driven by a hydraulic motor axle from a 5hp vertical-shaft petrol engine. Further details, telephone: 0625 503030.

■ Complete Weed Control have announced the opening of their 21st regional office, to be known as London North Central. The new office (081-508 5600) is responsible for an area bounded by the Old Kent Road to the south, A5 to the west, the M25 to the north and stretching almost to the M11 to the East. The region will be operated by George

Carfoot. In addition, we are told by Monsanto that CWC will distribute Roundup "A", an amenity labelled glyphosate product, under agreement with the manufacturers. Details, telephone: 0608 644044.

■ As a result of demands made at last year's IOG, Fisons have launched two wholly organic fine turf fertilisers: Greenmaster Organic 1 and Greenmaster Organic 2. These two seasonal fertilisers perform to the demands set by good inorganic equivalents, yet are formulated using 100% organic ingredients. They are resistant to scorch, offer a balanced, long lasting feed and spread easily with mechanical spreader. Brochure available, telephone: 0473 830492.

■ Rolawn Turf Growers announced at IOG that their turf is now available cut in 25-30 square yard rolls, at no extra cost. They say it's possible to lay these big rolls with very simple equipment, which they intend to supply to customers if required. Telephone: 0904 608661.



■ In 1971 Sandyhills GC in Glasgow was the first to buy a Toro Greensmaster. That machine, pictured, having given 20 years of sterling service, was traded-in recently for a new Toro Greensmaster 3000D. Interestingly, the trade-in value

was almost exactly the same as the original purchase price back in '71!

■ Greenfix Ltd have extended the distribution rights of the well known seed company, Inter Seeds Ltd, to market its range of biodegradable erosion control and plant establishment systems. This new agreement allows Inter Seeds to promote the full range, including pre-seeded and non-seeded erosion control products, mulching mats and spats, as well as new products for late '91 and '92. Telephone: 0242 573202.

■ Ransomes have announced that their 1991/92 Multi-mower will be powered by the Kubota GH250 OHV petrol engine. The addition of this unit means, with only one exception, that the company now fit Kubota petrol and diesel engines to all their products. Details from Kubota Engine Division, telephone: 084 421 4500, or Ransomes, telephone: 0473 270000.



■ Nomix-Chipman has launched a new broad-spectrum total weed control herbicide. Marketed as "Dash", glufosinate-ammonium will control annual and perennial grasses and broad-leaved species. It will also kill troublesome weeds such as bracken and field horse-tail. "Dash" is the first new active ingredient aimed at the amenity sector since the FEPA legislation was introduced six years ago, and is expected to make major in-roads into the total weed control market. Telephone: 0272 574574.

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An aircraft change will be required in Chicago of everyone on the outward journey with those returning from New Orleans again needing to change at Chicago.

Customs and immigration checks will take place at Chicago.

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inclusive cost: £835

### PACKAGE 4

7 nights Quality Inn - twin  
inclusive cost: £679

### PACKAGE 5

6 nights Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 4 nights on tour in Florida - single  
inclusive cost: £1,321

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6 nights Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, 4 nights on tour in Florida - twin  
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6 nights Quality Inn, 4 nights on tour in Florida - single  
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### PACKAGE 8

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The above prices include all travel, transfers and tours where indicated.

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The visit is priced at an exchange rate of \$1.70 and prices may be reduced or increased if the change in the exchange rate exceeds 3%. Should this mean paying more than 10% in the flight price, there will be an option to cancel with a full refund of all money paid except for any premium paid for flight insurance and amendment charges.

Exercise of the right to cancel in those circumstances must be within seven days from the issue date of the surcharge invoice.

# Go with BIGGA to the GCSAA Conference and Show in NEW ORLEANS

**12-19 February, 1992**

It's a holiday and learning experience rolled into one - AND it's the trip of the year and maybe the holiday of a lifetime!

As with this year's trip to Las Vegas, BIGGA will be joining with the IOG to visit the 1992 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in New Orleans, which will be held from 10-17 February.

The trip will include an optional extension to Florida taking in the Everglades National Park, Key West and Fort Lauderdale for four days sightseeing and relaxation before returning home direct from Miami.

With a world class convention centre plus a rich heritage and countless cultural attractions, New Orleans will be an ideal venue for this prestigious event.

Two hotels are available - the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza situated about three blocks from the Convention Centre and the Quality Inn situated on Maison St Charles, a 20 minute walk to the centre and French quarter. Both hotels have all the usual facilities and are of the standard expected from four star hotels in America. Included in the itinerary is a three hour tour of the city on the Thursday morning which will enable the

group to gain a feel for the area. Flights will be with American Airlines departing from London Heathrow, with an optional supplement from Manchester.

Those joining the extension will depart New Orleans on 18 February for Miami where mini buses will be waiting to pick-up the party and will be used to transport the party during the four days. Arrival is anticipated by lunchtime at the Comfort Suite Hotel at Deerfield Beach, just north of Fort Lauderdale, giving an afternoon of relaxation before continuing the following morning via the Everglades (boat tour included) and the 49 bridges to the most south easterly point in the USA, Key West, for the last three nights. In addition to the good beaches, a number of places are available to visit, including the world's second largest coral reef.

At the end of three days in Key West, the party returns to Miami for a non-stop flight to London, which departs early evening.

Please complete and return the booking form - this can be photocopied or the details can be written on a plain sheet of paper if you don't wish to cut up your magazine.

## BOOKING FORM • GCSAA Conference and Show, New Orleans

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1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....

Employer ..... Occupation .....

	No. of persons		No. of persons
Package 1	£999	Package 5	£1,321
Package 2	£754	Package 6	£949
Package 3	£835	Package 7	£1,196
Package 4	£679	Package 8	£874

I shall/shall not\* require Insurance (\*delete as applicable)

7 day ..... £33.00 10 days (inc. 4 day extension) ..... £39.50

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Deadline for deposit 8 November 1991. Final payment by 6 December 1991.

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE	Cancellation Charge
Period Before Departure Date	as a % of Total Holiday Cost
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Under certain circumstances, cancellation charges are covered by the comprehensive travel insurance policy. As cover is provided by the insurance company from the date of purchase of the policy, insurance premiums are not refundable and are excluded from the total holiday price for the purpose of calculating cancellation charges.	

# WORMS

In the 1960s, when the writer first became involved in golf course agronomy work, worm control was no problem whatsoever. Where worm casting was a problem, the routine solution was to apply either lead arsenate or chlordane – the former usually effectively controlling worms for five to ten years, the latter often solving the problem for up to five years, its persistency depending largely on soil type. Very effective wormkillers – long term in their action – were therefore freely available and widely used. The fly in the ointment as far as this complacent situation was concerned was, of course, the question of health and environmental damage. Persistent worm poisons such as those mentioned above are unfortunately toxic to greenkeepers, golfers – indeed most of God's creatures – and ecological and welfare considerations have hence led to a ban in recent years.

Lead arsenate was banned years ago and chlordane usage is now severely restricted – the ban on the latter chemical becoming total at the end of 1992. In a more environmentally conscious age this is all to the good, but it does raise the question of how troublesome worm casting can be controlled on the course in the absence of the more effective chemical methods.

Short-term control can of course still be achieved using less dangerous methods, ie. Sevin (also called Carbaryl) or thiophanate-methyl/Gamma HCH mixes, but these are short term in their action compared to the traditional toxins mentioned previously. Even these may be under threat from even tighter pesticide regulation (there is a total ban on worm control already in effect in some EEC countries), so it is quite possible in the future that we will have to rely on cultural methods to keep golf course worm populations down to acceptable levels.

Some background knowledge can be useful in order to understand such an approach more fully. There are about 25 species of earthworm which may be active in turfgrass in the UK. Only three species, however, produce surface casts and it is the casts alone which are objected to as far as course management is concerned. There may be up to 1 million earthworms per hectare of sportsturf and these have a very significant effect on the soil ecosystem and play an important role in the decomposition process and in modifying soil structure. Apart from the surface casting habit of a restricted number of species, earthworms are beneficial. Their tunnels alleviate soil compaction and provide beneficial aeration. Worms also secrete mucus to stabilise their burrow linings, thus aggregating soil particles and improving structure. Indeed, it is true to say that where earthworm populations have been eliminated by chemical means, it is more necessary to carry out mechanical aeration to compensate for the lack of earthworm activity.

The eating habits of earthworms are also beneficial to turfgrass in that they eat living and dead plant material and also small soil fauna. Hence they are significant in breaking down thatch and fibre and by breaking up organic matter they make soil nutrients available for plant growth. Indeed, it is only their indigestible waste material ejected on the surface as a cast which is a disadvantage in the golf course situation.

We object to casts because they are unsightly, because they interfere with the run of the ball on the green and



because they cause muddy conditions – sealing the surface and thus reducing surface drainage. These objections do not of course apply to earthworm species which live in the turf but do not cast on the surface – if we have to use chemicals at all then ideally these should kill casting species and leave the harmless non-casting species unaffected. Chemicals like lead arsenate, chlordane and Carbaryl probably kill all earthworm species, whilst evidence is mixed regarding the selectivity of other possible chemical wormkiller.

Earthworms are not active during frosty weather, when they burrow more deeply, or during drought when they similarly become dormant. It is in mild moist weather, usually during spring and autumn, that they are most active, although effective irrigation does also increase their activity. Sandy links courses are not as prone to infestation as heavy soil parkland courses – earthworms preferring moisture retentive soils where there is a higher percentage of organic matter.

Since worms feed readily on thatch they can be discouraged by eliminating sub-surface thatch layers, which are an undesirable feature on most sports turf surfaces from other points of view as well. It is also true that allowing clippings to fly encourages earthworms as these provide them with a constant source of nutriment – gang mowing is the equivalent of a fast-food joint in earthworm terms! From this point of view it would be an advantage to box off clippings from all playing surfaces on a golf course, though whether this is a practical possibility is another matter entirely. However, boxing off clippings should be the rule on greens and tees and excessively organic top dressings (again providing worms with a food supply) should be avoided.

Fortunately worms do not like acidic conditions, probably because soil acids irritate sensitive skins. This is most useful as far as fine turf cultivation is concerned as acidic ➔ 33

**'Apart from the surface casting habit of a restricted number of species, earthworms are beneficial. Their tunnels alleviate soil compaction and provide beneficial aeration'**



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# Just where is all our WATER?

**T**hey're telling us the water problems won't go away, the water companies and the NRA now fearing that much of our fair land could face yet another year – the fourth – of water shortages (and resulting restrictions) following yet another exceptionally dry spell over the past two months.

Lest you think this is no concern of yours, consider the facts: ground water levels are extremely low in places and still diminishing. Six and a half million households are affected by hosepipe bans, East Anglian farmers banned from using irrigation sprays.

Worst still, the rainfall for August in England and Wales was only 32% of the average when taken long-term and according to the Met. Office the rainfall for the first 19 days of September was a miserable 1% of this long-term average.

It doesn't need me to tell the greenkeeper that a short-term lack of water doesn't pose a great threat, nor a threat of shortage. What this latest spell does, however, is create the nail in the coffin after something approaching four years of below average rainfall, which first began as long ago as winter 1988.

We all remember the summer of '89, though no doubt many wish they could forget it, and the spark of hope that the winter of '89 brought when slightly more than average rain fell, followed by the all-time dry spell that stretched throughout all of last year.

Follow this with the dry year so far (forget the wee wet spell of June, it barely touched the surface and did no more than give the *Poa annua* a quick fix) and we have a long, patchy drought which now affects most if not all of the south and east of England, though Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were much less affected. The main sufferers clearly are the south-east and East Anglia, already reeling from hosepipe bans and tougher restrictions set to be imposed.

Gardeners and car wash freaks were hit by hosepipe bans, which reduced the demand somewhat, though underlying short-fall remains a serious problem. River flows are said to be only about 50% of the annual average, reservoir levels in the south west and a large chunk of Wessex are decidedly sickly and in the Southern, Anglian and Thames Water Authority areas the ground water levels are falling and approaching all-time record lows.

In the severe drought of '76 the levels recorded in Kent aquifers were then at an all-time low, though this year's levels have surpassed even those and are giving great cause for concern over re-charge.

In pure layman terms, the NRA authorities are saying that if and when the rains come it will be several weeks – or months – before the water gets to a point of actually percolating into the aquifers and being stored, the dry spell creating such dry hard pan surfaces that millions of gallons will be simply soaked up by the rain.

Writing this on September 18th, the forecast for most of England reads doom laden for the greenkeeper – continuing dry!

**DAVID WHITE**



# WORMS

31 → soil conditions also favour the desirable bent and fescue grasses. By maintaining the correct degree of soil acidity we can therefore kill two birds with one stone as far as this is concerned.

Modifying soil acidity levels is indeed one of the most hopeful lines of approach as far as limiting future worm populations is concerned. In future situations where casting is causing problems and where effective chemicals are prohibited, there remains the possibility that we can discourage worms to an acceptable degree by enhancing soil acidity. Of course this process can be carried too far – if we reduced the soil pH to 3.0, for example, then there would be virtually no natural earthworm activity.

Unfortunately, even the fine turfgrasses would then tend to suffer from such a heavy degree of acidity and the resultant turf would be weak, prone to moss invasion and witness the appearance of bare patches. A compromise could be reached, however, where sufficient acidity was present to have a markedly discouraging effect on the worm whilst at the same time allowing sufficient grass growth. At the present time one tends to see more worm activity on parkland fairways than elsewhere and it should certainly be possible

**'Effective chemicals may well be banned but we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels'**

to treat such fairways with acidic materials without detriment to the playing quality – indeed it is perfectly possible that playing quality could be enhanced by such treatments. The chemical which most readily springs to mind in the context of soil acidity is sulphate of iron and this chemical is already playing a not insignificant role in reducing earthworm populations on golf greens. In the future, if chemical toxins are banned, sulphate of iron may be increasingly used for worm discouragement purposes, even on fairways. A rather more drastic treatment of a similar kind would be to use sulphur itself and such treatment is already occasionally carried out where fairway soils are too alkaline. It should however be stressed that sulphur requires careful handling: a trial plot involving applications of several rates per square metre must be laid down on an individual fairway and the effects assessed over a 12 month period before definite recommendations can be made on a more widescale use of the chemical.

In summary, earthworm control is more difficult now than in the past, due to the increasingly responsible attitude taken by public opinion towards environmental matters. Effective chemicals may well be banned but there is every possibility that we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels by other means which are not ecologically unacceptable.

■ Roger Evans BSc is an Advisory Agronomist with The Sports Turf Research Institute.

# Taking STOCK

THE  
OTHER  
SIDE  
OF THE  
GREEN

## Part 6

**A** major requirement for a chairman of green is detailed knowledge of the machinery and tools owned by the Club and subsequently used on the course. Having discussed this matter with other green chairmen, it seems that it is handled in several different ways.

Some have little knowledge of machinery and rely entirely on the greenkeeper. Most others realise that the knowledge must be shared. Whilst the greenkeeper and chairman of green have a direct responsibility for each item the secretary also requires detailed cost information to arrange for effective and adequate insurance cover.

A proven method of bringing all relevant information together is to produce a two part register. Part One for plant and equipment and Part Two for tools. When complete the register can become an integral part of the Club records and an essential for annual stocktaking.

### Plant and equipment

First an individual form is required for each item. To record the relevant details, columns will need to include type of machine, manufacturer, model, serial number, year of purchase, cost when new, replacement value, condition, purpose of use, date and originator. Whilst some details may be taken from the manufacturers supplied data the original cost may require a visit to the office archives. Replacement values may also be a little more difficult to obtain and will almost certainly require help from a local supplier who is aware of current prices.

Selected information for each item can be progressed to a second or master list which will allow the value columns to be totalled. This second list can best be prepared by sorting individual forms according to type of machine, eg: tractor, PTO driven, tractor mounted, ride-on, pedestrian, carried and ride-in.

### Tools

For tools a single alphabetical list is sufficient and should include column headings for quantity, type of tool and replacement value.

A greenkeeper directly involved in the project will have an excellent opportunity to discuss the merits of each item as it is recorded, an example being at my own Club when we found one machine that was almost medieval, another without safety guards and several tools – including a ladder – which were dangerous and needed replacing.

A usual response to the completed project is

one of surprise at the amount of capital invested, the age of some machines and particularly the replacement value. It can prove to be an ideal aid for those required to make recommendations for machine replacement.

Soon after completing the register we suffered a break-in. Together with several hand tools we lost a pedestrian scarifying machine.

The investigating officer was most impressed when we produced our register enabling us to supply details of the machine. However his eyes glazed over when we tried to describe the machine to him, especially as he was concerned that during investigations he may see the machine but not recognise it from our description. At that moment we realised that our register was incomplete and a photograph would have saved a thousand words.

As a result of our loss and acting upon the recommendations of the investigating officer we received a later visit from the crime prevention officer. He warned that if we were thought of as being a 'soft touch' thieves would likely return with a shopping list. He went on to advise that our machines were highly desirable and would be easily disposed of by crooks. He suggested that we:

- Paint the name of the Club on each machine.
- Mark the handle of each tool with the same paint.
- Fit security grills to all windows.
- Install a floodlight with infra-red sensor to illuminate the area in case thieves made a repeat visit.
- Extend the clubhouse burglar alarm to include the workshops and vehicle storage sheds.
- Ensure that workshops are locked when unattended.
- Display notices to would-be thieves that every item was colour-coded and that all buildings were protected with sophisticated burglar alarms.

Our experience has served to remind us that we cannot scrimp on security and that the opportunity for both impulsive and premeditated theft must be reduced to a minimum. If this means the installation of expensive security systems, then so be it. Unfortunately it will most likely result in an increased membership subscription and/or reduction in the annual machinery replacement fund.

■ Readers may care to know that whilst a computer package cannot yet physically paint tools and equipment in the manner described, the TRIMS programme, specifically designed for greenkeepers, is available to record all the essential data outlined above.



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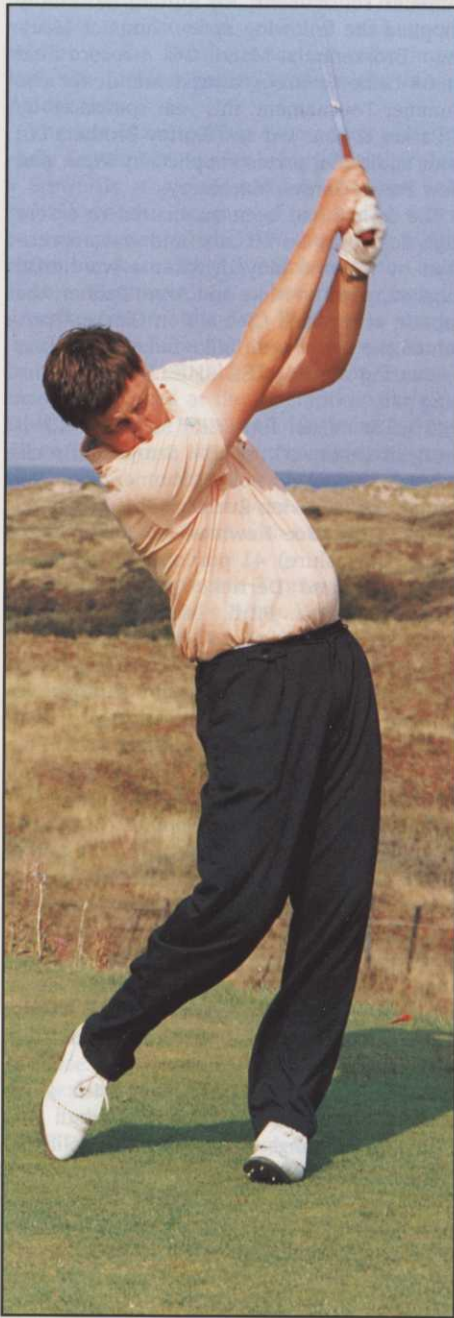
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# AROUND THE GREEN

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions



### NORTH SCOTLAND

The section enjoyed a grand day at Peterhead GC on September 5th, thanks to the generosity of the Club council and their captain, Mr Ken Bennions, who kindly presented the prizes. The course was in excellent condition and a credit to Hugh McLatchie and his staff. Additionally, Peterhead was actually warm (well, almost!) for the first time this year and this was reflected in excellent scores. From the host Club Kevin Peace won the scratch prize with a level par score of 70, whilst in class one George Paterson scored 72-2=70. Class two

was won by Bob Hardie of Strathpeffer with a 76-7=69 and in the third class Wilson Morrison won the McLean Cup for best nett score, a highly creditable 63 off a handicap of 21. Allan Grant of Fraserburgh won the Vets with a nett 71, also retaining the M&M Products Trophy for the best nett score in the Veteran Section over both Spring and Autumn meetings. Barrie Cameron was best apprentice with a nett 69, whilst Alan Eastell of Barclay, Ross and Hutchison won the Trade Shield. The nett 67 of Kevin Peace (pictured left), added to his 74 from the Spring Outing enabled him to win the Meldrum Memorial Shield by one shot from Wilson Morrison.

Following prize presentation, Ken Bennions, Captain of Peterhead GC., made the draw for our lottery. Those lucky enough to have drawn a player in the World Matchplay Championship will be notified before the Match begins so that they may watch the progress with added interest.

On that score, the committee are most grateful to all members who sold tickets, thus making the event our most successful yet.

This year our AGM will be held at Letham Grange on November 26th, the tee having been reserved from 11am to 12.50. This will allow 48 players to compete and will be on a first come, first served basis. Letters with full details will be sent prior to the event.

As most of you know, I have left Fraserburgh GC to take up the post of Head Greenkeeper, The Eden Course, St Andrews. Although I shall remain a member of the North Scotland section it is my intention to stand down as secretary at the AGM and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the help given to me during my term of office.

GORDON MOIR

### SURREY

On a glorious afternoon at Sunningdale GC we were lucky enough to play our annual McMillan Tankard over the Old Course, an honour not afforded to many.

The first prize went to D Worsfold who came in with 39 points – that off a single figure handicap! Second was 'that man' Yorston again, who scored 35, with Ken Harding also on 35 taking third after a count-back. The trade prize was won by M Luker of Parkers with 30 points.

I must thank everyone who helped make the fixture a success, particularly Ron Jobson, who as always acted as starter before returning to help with the preparation of food etc. Also to Bernard Wall who helped with the unglamorous task of clearing up afterwards. Finally, thanks to the Sunningdale Artisans Captain, Bob Reynolds, who manned the bar for us.

Our trade friends again did us proud with raffle prizes, for which we are most grateful. Please show your appreciation of their support, for without their help our events would lack that certain something.

Finally, please don't forget the seminar at Merrist Wood on November 6th, tickets being available from either committee members or myself (telephone 025 125 4287.) Any news item will always be welcomed, so this is a 'phone number to remember.

PHIL BALDOCK

### KENT

Even though you should all be receiving a newsletter shortly, I can give you a few dates for your diaries. As last year, the Turkey Trot will be held at Ashford on December 12th commencing at 11am, followed in the evening by our AGM.

The 1992 Spring Tournament will be held at Darenth Valley on May 6th with the Autumn Tournament planned for Mid Kent with a provisional date of October 13th pencilled in. For those with a 1993 diary, Langley Park will see our Autumn Tournament on September 15th and we are making overtures to Royal Cinque Ports to host the Spring Tournament.

It is now a fact of life, with demand as it is, that those booking meetings and society events must of necessity look far into the future. May I also add that as we tend to rely on the goodwill of our hosts in requesting courtesy of the course for golf – paying only for food and prizes – our choice has to be made with considerable tact and the full co-operation of the Club concerned. We do not have, or wish to have, a free hand to pick the supposed top courses in the county at the drop of a hat. I am sure that the likes of Royal St Georges would feel that a regular imposition both rude and arrogant on our part. We must also remember that with our 30 or so members playing a course for the day we are keeping a similar number of paying customers off and it could be argued that we are depriving our hosts of a potential income of around £1200+ for the day. All the more reason to treat our hosts with the utmost courtesy and respect.

Even though our Summer Meeting was abandoned there have still been some good golfing performances to report. First, congratulations to Willie McConville on a fine winning performance in the Sta-Brite day at Mid Kent. In the Iseki Regional final and moving to the final stage were Alan Sheppard with a 3rd place and gross 76 in category one, together with Phil Hurst, winner with a nett 71 in category three. Due to further misunderstandings at this regional stage and other incidents, it has been decided the region will adopt the existing R&A handicap system. Please ➔ 36



# AROUND THE GREEN

The pipe system

35 ➔ remember that according to rule 6-2b players MUST play off their lowest allotted handicap or risk disqualification.

Also highlighted at a regional level and noted in Roger Glazier's letter (August) was the inexcusable and fraudulent practice of loaning or hiring BIGGA membership cards to golfing friends to enable them to play courses with courtesy.

This practice is not tolerated in any area and Clubs and secretaries have been encouraged to double check the identity of card holders. Any offenders will be dealt with in the severest fashion.

At all times we must respect the rules and etiquette of our Association and golf itself.

As I started in a forward planning manner this may be a good time to remind you that next year we will be hosting the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament at Littlestone and in 1993 The Open returns to Royal St Georges – so start practicing that bunker raking now!

PAUL COPSEY

## NORTHERN

Summer draws slowly to a close with time to think about the pleasures of raking leaves or pushing hollow tine cores into rows.

But before that consider our Invitation Day, which was held on a boiling hot day at York Strensall GC., perhaps, dare I suggest it, too hot for our members and guests. The course was in lovely order though and thanks must go to Chris Martin and his staff.

Also a special thanks to our friends at Yorkshire Mowers, especially Tony Dodson, who gathered together a superb prize table and to the host Club for their hospitality and the kind words of encouragement for BIGGA, delivered by the green chairman in his speech. His words may have been forthcoming as a result of his winning the premier prize – along with his head greenkeeper Chris Martin!

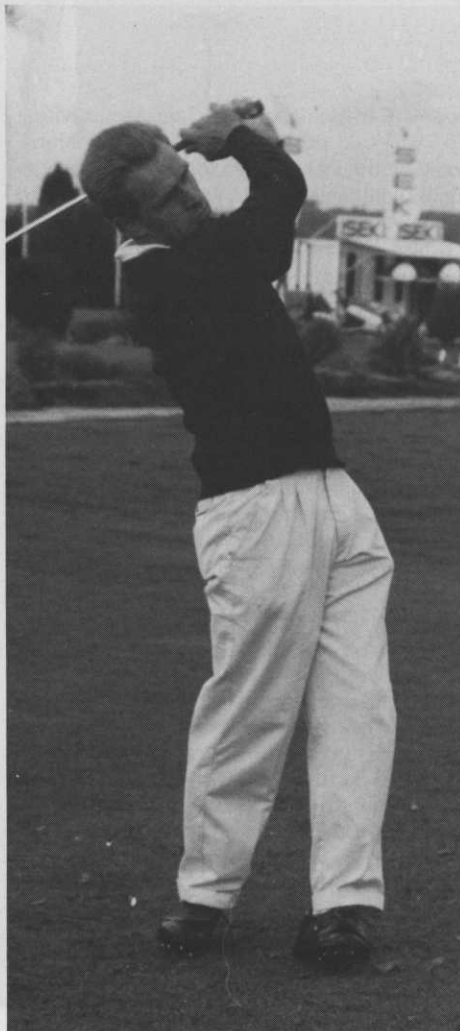
I write this before the Roses Match so cannot with certainty announce that we have again retained the Trophy!

On a more serious note I must report that long-standing member and employee of Bradford GC., Ralph Smith, has been ill recently. I'm sure all his many friends will join with me in wishing him a speedy return to good health and the hope that he will soon be back in action. His very able assistant, David Thackray, has been doing an admirable job in deputising for Ralph, a task made more difficult in this, the Club's centenary year.

The structure of election of officers has been reviewed by the present committee and will work as follows: nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee must be submitted to the Secretary ONE MONTH prior to the AGM in December.

Members present at the AGM will then vote for a committee of eight from nominations received. The Chairman will then be elected from within the new committee.

BOB LUPTON



## SUSSEX

As August drew to a close 20 or so stalwart golfers gathered at Eastbourne Downs GC to battle in the last of the Sussex Summer meetings, competing for handsome crystal donated by sponsors Maxwell Hart Ltd. Perhaps the first observation must be how disappointing it is for both organisers and sponsors that only a handful of members – and these almost always the same faces – attend these heavily subsidised events, this from a section boasting a membership of 100+. The loss is shared not only by the section itself, whose honorary workers often despair at such apathy, but certainly by those who choose not to support such events, missing the opportunity to enjoy both good golf and a worthwhile exchange of ideas and opinions.

The event itself was a grand opportunity for Les Shrubbs (pictured), better known nationally as the Iseki winner of 1989, to reassert his mark on the Sussex opposition and his score of 35 points was just sufficient for him to take first place (his first win in 1990) from Eastbourne Downs head greenkeeper Les Teague, who demonstrated local knowledge on such 'mountain goat' country, where ball placement is paramount. Third, and

enjoying a welcome break from the arduous task of bringing in the new and as yet unplayed West Hove course, was the solid and dependable left-hander, Roland Hughes. Following a sturdy meal and some light-hearted 'joshing' of Les Teague (whisper 'rubber tee-mat' in his ear and you'll understand what I mean) the event closed with all present vowing to meet again for the Christmas Turkey Trot.

DAVID WHITE

## SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to take part in the Summer Tournament, Joe Burdett has kindly supplied the following notes: Summer Meeting – Brockenhurst Manor GC. A record field of 64 came to Brockenhurst Manor for the Summer Tournament, this year sponsored by T Parker & Sons Ltd and Roffey Brothers Ltd with additional prizes supplied by Vitax and New Forest Garden Machinery.

The course had been manicured to a very high degree by Ed McCabe and was appreciated by all who played. After a wonderful meal supplied by Mike and Anne Palmer, the captain of the host Club – Don Clarke – presented the prizes with Mike Luker of Parkers presenting the PARKER SHIELD to the winning pair.

RESULTS: THE PARKER SHIELD, Chris Sturgess (Andover) and Bill Sturgess (Brockenhurst Manor) 43 points. Runners Up, Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett (The Army) 42 points. Third, Joe Newman and Bob Woodward (Downshire) 41 points. Fourth, Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park) 41 points. Fifth, Terry Patchin and Diana Bryon (Hockley) 39 points.

The section's first Winter Lecture will be on Wednesday November 13th at Alresford GC at 8pm. Our speaker is the Alresford PGA Professional, Malcolm Scott. Malcolm will be giving an illustrated talk on enlarging an existing course from 12 to 18 holes, an exercise currently undertaken with Malcolm, head greenkeeper Mark Scott, and the green staff all involved in the detailed planning, design and construction for this private members Club. The construction of additional holes at any existing course can cause problems and many of you will have been involved in similar exercises. Malcolm's talk will be an opportunity to learn how one Club have carried out this challenge.

Please support this meeting with your attendance, you will not be disappointed.

Further meetings arranged are as follows: Wednesday Dec. 4th: Section AGM/Christmas Dinner 4pm at Royal Winchester GC. Wednesday Jan 15th: Peter Jefford on Top Dressings 2pm at Came Down GC. Wednesday Jan 5th: David White – editor of our magazine – on The Masters + Magazine Open Forum 7pm Alresford GC. Wednesday March 5th: Ken Barber, East Sussex National on Golf Course Maintenance 7pm Alresford GC.

BOB DENNIS

## NORTH WEST

It started in 1455 and the history books state that it finished in 1485 at the 'Battle of Bosworth Field'. What was it? The Battle of the Roses! Those crusty historians should now be rewriting history, for the battle continues to this day – on an annual basis.

The battle – on a much more friendly basis



– is held between the North West section (Lancs) and the Northern section (Yorks), with this year the battle taking place at Crosland Heath GC on August 22nd. A nicer battlefield could not be chosen, for head greenkeeper Philip Haigh and his staff produced a course second to none, with not a blade of grass out of place and putting surfaces that were in perfect condition – a veritable gem with surprises at every hole and well worth a visit.

The result was a halved match, after a cliff hanging final game produced a result on the 18th green. Our thanks to Crosland Heath GC for their hospitality and to Patissons for their valuable sponsorship, coupled with good wishes to the Northern section, who must have the luckiest golfing team in the whole Association.

The last of our golfing events took place in early September, results being: Greenkeepers v Stewards, a win for us of 6 to 1 with one halved match. Pressure of work and other reasons prevented the NW mustering a full team, but fortunately 3 members of the host Club – Birchwood GC – became 'honorary' greenkeepers for the day. Birchwood was in sparkling condition and proved once again to be a great test of golf. The Autumn Tournament was played at the magnificent Shrigley Hall GC, Brian Moss and his team having given the course some extra treatment and producing a touch of magic coupled with tough conditions that were reflected in the course favouring those with handicap strokes to spare.

**RESULTS:** Aggregate Trophy: John Pearson. Best Gross: Dave Berry. Vets: Bert Cross. Best nett: Trevor Davies. Others: (all nett) 2nd: Ernie Stewart, 3rd: John Pearson. 4th: Peter Cross. 5th: Neil Woolfrey. 6th Frank Platt.

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday October 24th at Bury GC starting at 7pm. Peter Jefford, Managing Director of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd will open the evening with a talk on the use of top dressings, followed by the AGM. Please make every effort to attend, bringing those ideas for winter lectures with you.

BERT CROSS

## BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

Greetings greenkeepers and a big 'thank-you' to those who turned out for our games night at Wexham Park GC. An enjoyable evening was had by all and our congratulations to Geoff Butler of Ellesborough GC who was victor in the pool competition. Unfortunately for Geoff he beat his head greenkeeper Dave Childs in the final, thus not only winning the sweep money but a free ticket to rake bunkers for the next month!

The darts board was monopolised by the Temple GC contingent for most of the night, the final including a titanic struggle between Martin and Serena Gunn and won with a bullseye from Martin to finish the deciding leg. In skittles the dominating force came from Ellesborough and Whiteleaf and one is left questioning what dietary wonders go into their meals – a high proportion of raw meat, I don't doubt? The section thanks Roy Kates for organisation and Wexham Park for provision of excellent facilities.

Congratulations to Barry Holt of Burford GC on winning the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament. In winning both the premier award

# AROUND THE GREEN

and several other trophies this leaves him in a predicament, for as section handicap secretary he may need to look at his own handicap (rule 19 and all that) and we will look with interest at the end result.

A few reminders now on golfing matters, first that our Autumn Tournament is scheduled for November 5th at The Berkshire (look out for fireworks) and an unmissable opportunity to play one of our premier courses. If you have not yet received a form contact Bob Woodward on 0628 664512. Next is the Turkey Trot, combined this year with our AGM, to be held at Frilford Heath in mid December. I hope to see a similar good turnout as last year and details will be sent in mid November, so no panic necessary yet!

Last but not least, the match against BB&O Club secretaries is scheduled for the end of October and there may be need of late replacements – if interested call Dave Childs on 0296 624068.

In finalising this epistle I'm happy to report a healthy 30% growth in membership for 1991 and hope that many more of you will join in our programme of events.

RAY CLARK

## MID ANGLIA

There is little news to report this month so I will use the opportunity to broadcast dates for upcoming meetings: October 30th, Autumn Tournament – Woburn G & CC. November 20th, Regional Seminar – Morton Morell College, Warwickshire. November 27th, 2pm at Beadlow Manor Hotel G&CC, a lecture on Top Dressing Materials by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. This will be followed by the section AGM. December 5th, Christmas Texas Scramble at South Bedfordshire GC.

GEOFF SMITH

## EAST SCOTLAND

Another season is almost at an end with many sharing my view that it is good to see the back of it! The season started with a dry spring and cold easterly winds, followed by a very wet summer and finishing with one of the driest August's on record. This of course did nothing to deter the golfers, who were out in their usual force.

The section had a good year with all events being well attended. The golf outings to Babberton and Haddington were over-subscribed but this was good to see. The first Committee Match for the Holt Trophy was a great success, being sponsored by Frew & Co. and our next event will be the Autumn Tournament at

Peebles GC followed by the W.Woods memorial on October 3rd at Swanston. The grand match East Scotland V North West is also in October – sponsored by Stewart & Co. at Goswick. the highlight of the year – The AGM and the Annual Dance will both be held in November, so there are still a number of events left for you to attend. May I also remind you that dance tickets are already on sale and moving fast. With a limit of 100 you are urged to reserve places now and avoid disappointment.

Two of our senior members are retiring soon: Jimmy Paton from Turnhouse and George Stavert from Peebles. The section wishes them well and a long and happy retirement and though this news will reach you in October, they will both have received a presentation from the section.

The committee have spent a great deal of time organising this year's winter lectures and it is hoped that their time and effort will be rewarded by good attendances.

Graham Wood, Dunbar GC, will be the East Scotland representative at the Ransomes International at Fulford GC in early October and we send to both him and the Scottish team our sincere good wishes.

It has been noted that a slight fall in membership has taken place over the year. Some of this is due to the movement of greenkeepers to other areas, the rest almost certainly due to non payment of subscriptions. I feel this section can do a lot better, for there is no doubt that BIGGA is working, so may I encourage you all to urge fellow workers to join the cause. There are undoubted advantages to be gained from membership and, like any professional association, more can be achieved with greater numbers.

Congratulations to all at Peebles on their progression from municipal to private status, which can only be beneficial to the green staff. Other Clubs soon to be privatised are Lauder, The Glen and Haddington. ➔ 46





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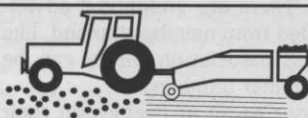
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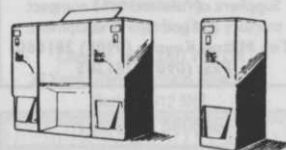
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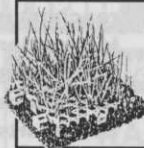
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## RECRUITMENT

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**Mr. Peter McEvoy at Hintlesham Hall.**



**Hintlesham Hall Ltd., Hintlesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3NS**  
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Apply in writing with full CV to:

**Mrs S Morris**  
**Secretary, Royston Golf Club,**  
**Baldock Road, Royston,**  
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## RECRUITMENT

## Kingswood

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB LTD.



## KINGSWOOD GOLF CLUB

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## WALLASEY GOLF CLUB

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The ability to motivate staff and operate within a planned budget is essential along with an eye for attention and detail.

Salary, negotiable according to qualifications and experience, will not be a limiting factor and accommodation may be available.

Applications in writing with a full CV, should be sent to:

**Mr J A Sword, Secretary/Manager,  
Wallasey Golf Club, Bayswater Road, Wallasey,  
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1890

## THE GREENOCK GOLF CLUB

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Applications should be in writing and include  
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**The Secretary  
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## GLASGOW GOLF CLUB HEAD GREENKEEPER - GAILES

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**Written applications including a full CV to:  
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Applications in writing, enclosing CV and references to:

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## RECRUITMENT

### LEASOWE GOLF COURSE

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will have experience of modern greenkeeping techniques as applicable to a links course.

The abilities to motivate staff and operate within a planned budget are essential, along with an eye for attention to detail.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Leasowe Golf Club, Leasowe Road,  
Moreton, Wirral L46 3RD**

### GOLF CLUB VERBIER

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

to take charge of our recently constructed 18 hole course situated in the Swiss Alps. (Altitude 1700m)

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Applicants should be fully qualified with experience in all aspects of Greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery.

Knowledge of the French language would be an advantage.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**Mr M Nicollier, Golf Club Verbier, 1936 Verbier, Valais,  
Switzerland**

## AROUND THE GREEN

37 ➔ My telephone has been very quiet recently. What's wrong? Has no-one any complaints? Is the section running too smoothly? If I don't get information from you I cannot report upon it, so please keep the information coming in – no matter how insignificant – I shall be glad to hear from you.

WILLIE BLAIR

### MIDLANDS

The delightful Edgbaston GC was the scene of our Autumn Tournament on August 20th, played in perfect weather on a course honed to perfection by Mike Hughes and his staff. Tony Cheese won the gross award with Steve Wood winning the nett prize. Our thanks to all concerned.

The team to play East Midlands in the Rigby Taylor sponsored meeting on October 31st is: T Evans (Captain), S Wood, T Cheese, P Loffman, M Hughes, J Hooper, P Holdham, D Wood, H Middlebrooke and R Hayhurst.

Our Matchplay Singles have reached a crucial stage with the semi's being played as follows: T Evans v T Cutler and M Hughes v P Loffman.

In the Rigby Taylor sponsored Greensomes Knockout the semi's will be played as follows: S Wood and T Jesson v T Stonebridge and D Brazier. T Cheese and M Hughes v J Wood and R Thomas.

The section send greetings to Peter Marnoch on the occasion of his retirement following 27 years at Coventry Hearsall GC. We wish him long life and happiness.

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