

DECEMBER 1992

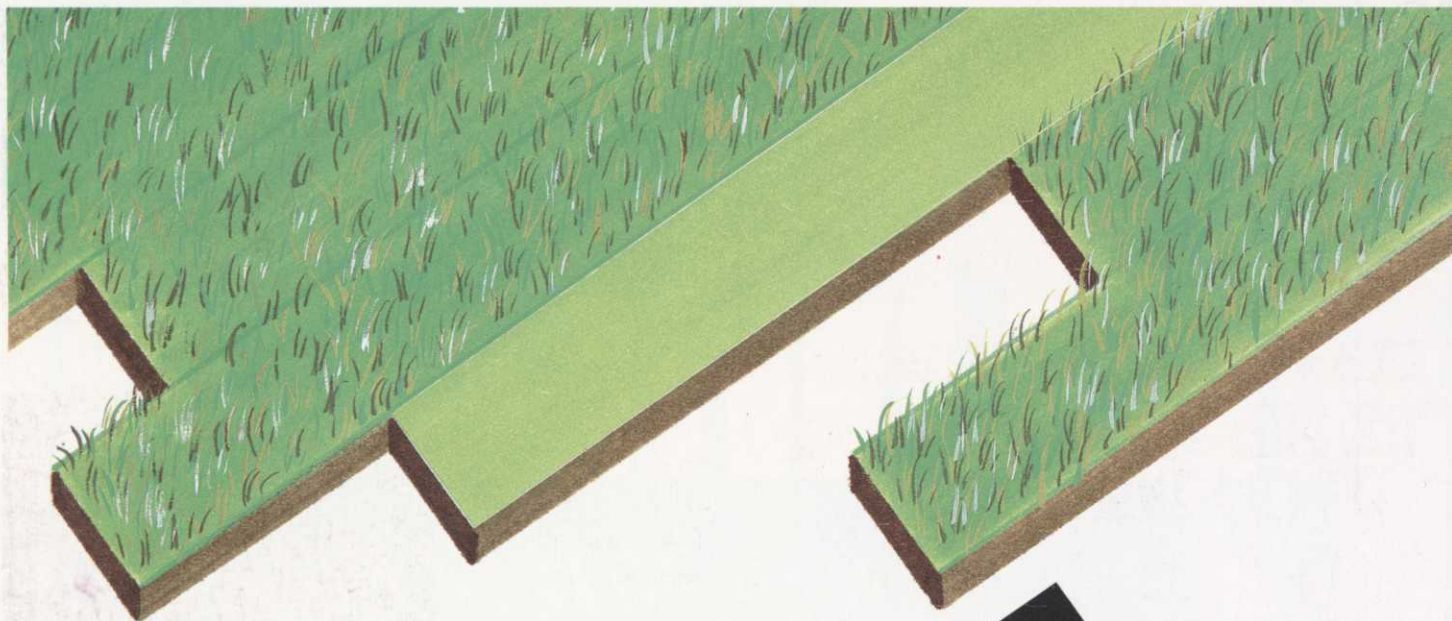
GREENKEEPER

International

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BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1993

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GL12.92

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Season's Greetings!



Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
DECEMBER 1992

GREENKEEPER

International

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We're now only weeks away from the fine turf industries' premier event and in a special, in-depth preview we look at what's on offer, why YOU should attend - and when to get there to see the VIP opening ceremony.....Pages 19-29

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COVER PICTURE:

Prince Andrew, BTME's extra special VIP guest, due to open the event of the year on January 20.



Take a closer look at what Greenkeeper

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Here's what one of our advertisers has to say about the industry's most effective magazine:

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- LANCE BASSETT, Sales Director, Allen Power Equipment

Find out more:

call Bill Lynch on 091 413 7218, Carol Dutton on 0207 570117 or BIGGA HQ on 03473 581



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme is now only weeks away. Contact Debbie Savage straight away on 03473 581 and find out how your company can still take part.

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

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Sample the Sun,

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in Anaheim and
San Diego, California, whilst attending the

GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW 1993

TRAVEL WITH BIGGA to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's prestigious annual Conference and Show next January – and while you're there, enjoy the holiday of a lifetime!

If you're ready to catch the magic, Anaheim, California, is ready for you! BIGGA has this year joined forces with Thomas Cook to transport you to 'the Magic Kingdom', with the option of a four day trip to San Diego after the GCSAA Conference – sun, sand and surf!

We have this year chosen two outstanding luxury hotels:

◆ **The Anaheim Hilton and Towers**, a superior first class hotel, is situated 50 feet from the Anaheim Convention Center and two blocks from Disneyland. Guest rooms have climate control, colour cable TV and radio. There is an outdoor heated pool and four jacuzzis, full health club with sauna, massage, tanning beds, steam room, exercise equipment and aerobics, games room, and beauty salon. There's also a vast range of entertainment and dining facilities – sample Italian, Japanese and of course Californian cuisine.

◆ **The Hyatt Islandia**, another superior first class hotel in San Diego, located on Mission Bay. Guest rooms are air-conditioned with private bath, remote-control colour cable TV, radio and phone. The Islandia Bar and Grill offers fine Mediterranean cuisine with bay views at lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. There is a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, tennis courts, sail boat rentals, windsurfing, water-skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving and parasailing and whale watching (in season!).

Details of the GCSAA programme will be available from headquarters at a later date.

◆ Package 1

25th January to 5th February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin

Atlantic – 25th January

Transfer to Anaheim Hilton

6 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-

31st January

Transfer to San Diego – 31st January

4 nights Hyatt Islandia – 31st January-

4th February

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4th February (to arrive in UK on 5th)

Cost: Twin Room £842 per person

Cost: Single Room £1,266 per person

◆ Package 2

25th January to 1st February 1993

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Atlantic – 25th January

Transfer to Anaheim Hilton

7 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-

1st February

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Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic –

1st February (to arrive in UK on 2nd)

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LETTERS

Write to the editor,
Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

■ Quite the most rewarding part of the BIGGA S.W. Region seminar at Cannington College on 3 November was the professional contribution to the proceedings by three young men, giving maiden speeches and speaking with assurance and expertise on such varying subjects. Neil Macintyre spoke on reducing the effects of winter wear on courses, Jason Hampton on educating the members in understanding the greenkeepers' problems, and Guy Woods on how he reclaimed his downland course from the vicious spiral of 'high phosphate fertilisers and an inefficient three head irrigation system', and is now well on the way to restoring it to its old quality.

All good interesting material, well thought out and spoken with conviction. We need more of this – shaming those 'professional' speakers who insult their audiences by reading out text from slides, stuff which all but the novices have learned long ago, or is frankly wrong!

At Cirencester, by far the best talks (Jon Allbutt excepted) were by senior greenkeepers. Good on you – we need more of this and less of the other!

Congratulations, Gordon Child, on a very good seminar and congratulations also to his three young men, from whom not even a memorable contribution on golf architecture by Donald Steel could steal the show.

JIM ARTHUR, B.Sc.(AGRIC).
Budleigh Salterton, E.Devon

■ I have read your magazine for some time now – in an unofficial capacity – and enjoy the many interesting articles. Rarely, it seems, it is read by those employed to look after the interests of Birmingham's municipal golf courses, judging by the widespread and long-standing frustration of those who 'pay to play' these courses. Such frustration was raised as recently as the Birmingham Alliance Public Golf Course Club's Captains Day in September and voiced again at their recent quarterly general meeting. Their reaction to an apparent non-existent greenkeeping policy should be understood

by your goodself.

Teas, greens, bunkers, fairways – without exception all suffer from the malaise of poor husbandry in varying degrees. Members at my own club, Boldmore, have endured long standing 'placing' of the ball, due to soggy fairways below water tables, our two lakes often awash with dead fish and effluent. We are told that necessary plant to clear blocked and neglected ditches cannot get on the course, due to these dreadful ground conditions. Yarrow, clover, daisies and moss all invade the course and have done so for years as the greens and tees decline – it is terrible to witness.

If any members of your Association work on these public courses I suggest they are a disgrace to the high ideals of such a professional body. Incompetence reigns alongside apathy – even simple 'swishing' of greens in now disregarded, allowing fusarium to become established, and there is clover, moss and yarrow on greens and bunker edges. The entire course is a disgrace, with real rough a mere pace from the putting surfaces – I am not joking!

The public courses in Birmingham are testimony to poor management and a lack of correct work procedures: seeding of fairways or tees – forget it! Repairs to areas worn by tractors and trailers – forget it! Consistent greens – a laugh! Grass on tees – find a place in the mud and allow for two inches of yellowing grass!

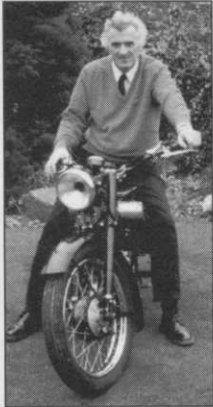
Please, through the pages of your magazine, help us to bring these courses into the spotlight.

JOHN TURNER

President, Boldmere Golf Club,
Sutton Coldfield.

• My understanding is that Birmingham City Council use outside contractors for sport and leisure management, which under CCT has the worst national failure rate of any service. With councils keen on privatisation in the vanguard, private firms won 41% of such contracts. However, according to statistics published in March, 37% went bust or were sacked, and a further 7% have had problems. There have been no in-house failures reported. – editor.

■ Peter Solski, just days after returning from a detailed first aid course staged at Aldwark Manor, was able to put his new skills to the acid test. Peter's ten year old son was found choking, face turning blue and seconds away from unconsciousness. 'You never know when such an emergency might arise', said Peter, 'but I do know that before acquiring first aid skills I would have panicked - as it was, I fell easily into action and was able to save my son from what might have been a disaster'.



■ Chigwell man, Richard Heaslip, has been appointed head greenkeeper at Epping Forest G&CC, his task to grow in and maintain the recently added 18 hole Championship course. Richard joins Epping Forest after 30 years at the very popular Hainault Forest municipal course. There he gained considerable experience maintaining the 36 holes which are estimated to take 140,000 rounds a year. In his spare time Richard's main passion is restoring old motorcycles and the pride of his collection is a 1947 Scott Flying Squirrel.

■ Rolawn has re-organised its management structure, with sales and marketing roles combined under Terry Ryan, who has joined Rolawn from a career in building materials distribution. He takes up the new post of general manager (sales), replacing directors, Rachel Semlyen and Guy Longbottom. In a statement issued by Ken Dawson, founder and MD, he said, 'Both Rachel and Guy have a record of achievement and innovation with the company and have played key roles in the development of Rolawn into a nationwide and European business. I am pleased to say that in an independent capacity they very much intend to continue to be associated with the company'.

■ Mike Lincoln-Smith has been appointed as sales territory manager for Hayter Beaver in East Anglia and the London area, responsible for promoting the company's range of professional grass cutting equipment. Already a familiar face in the industry, Mike is a member of BIGGA and worked for ten years with Turner International and for the last six years with Ransomes.

■ My spies tell me that Jon Allbutt has taken up golf. The southpaw consultant lecturer was seen recently taking lessons from the pro at Aldwark Manor and is quoted as having a 'picture swing' - which picture I wonder, 'Nightmare Alley'?

■ A world first has been achieved in the construction of the newly opened Slinfold Park G&CC in West Sussex. Incorporating a members-only 18 hole course together with a pay-and-play nine hole course and driving range, Slinfold Park's nine hole course is the first to install the Netlon Advanced Turf System on all tees and greens. In addition, the superior grass establishment afforded by Netlon Advanced Turf has enabled the nine-hole public course to be opened less than a year after construction work began. The members only course, which also has Netlon Advanced Turf tees, will be completed soon.

■ One of the six winners of Barenbrug's competition to identify a number of common grass species, recently staged at the IoG show, was Mike Mercer, head greenkeeper at Southport & Ainsdale GC. Richard Aitken of Aitken's Sportsturf in North Yorkshire and Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) in Glasgow presented the prize of a magnum of champagne to Mike at the regional IoG exhibition at Haydock. Southport



Hello!...that the sheds?...to whom am I speaking?...head what? greenkeeper?...ah yes...do the gard'ning here don'cha? Listen!, this is wing-commander Blagshaw speaking from the bar...can't find anyone from the clubhouse...must be a bit of a flap on.. Anyway, there's a little chap turned up...wants to pay you chaps a visit,..... who is he?... dunno...outlandish type though...ruddy great beard, jolly face, wears big fancy wellies, and arrived driving a real flashy job!.... Says he wants to come down to the sheds and "make your wishes come true"..... Can you guess who the blighter is?...what? no, no, no, look here,.... don't upset yourself old boy, I give you my word!, it definitely is **not** another agronomist!...no, of course not!... Look here, I sit him down with a large G+T, a you come up and have a decko hm?... look here old fella, do calm down...take some long deep breaths.... get a hold of yourself man!.....hello?!

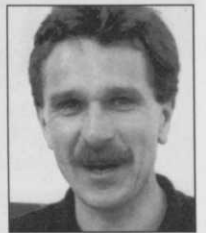
GC is a long standing customer of Aitken Sportsturf, which distributes Barenbrug's quality grass seeds throughout the North of England and Scotland.

■ The 1992 winner of the Kubota (UK) Cup for best machinery student at Lancashire College of Agriculture is 23 year old Peter John Bradburn. He is pictured receiving his prize at the colleges' annual award ceremony from Russell Mellor, Kubota's Northern Region sales manager. A student on the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, Peter received a distinction following a three year full time course at the college.

■ In a year of recession, Lloyds of Letchworth Ltd has not only introduced a new and expanded product range, they have also strengthened their sales force. The latest representative to join the company is Gwilym Thomas, whose new territory includes the south of England and Wales. His appointment finalises Lloyds' plan to have total coverage of the UK.

■ Kubota (UK) Ltd. has appointed Stephen Gooch as the new Northern Region demonstrator.

Operating from the Kubota unit at the Lancashire College of Agriculture, Stephen will work across the Northern counties demonstrating Kubota's tractor and power product ranges. Prior to joining Kubota, Stephen was a head groundsman and greenkeeper, involved in the care of cricket, rugby and football pitches, together with a bowling green, tennis courts and a golf course.



■ David Stansfield, B.Sc., senior agronomist with the STRI for some 15 years, is leaving the Institute on 31 January and will join Professional Sportsturf Design Associates to set up and run a golf-only advisory service. David is best known for his work as the consultant agronomist to the R&A Championship Committee, a task he has tackled with great professionalism over the past five Open Championships.

GREENKEEPERS

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Surely the best way to invest in the future is to invest in people. Training and education are the greatest motivating factors. A more articulate and educated workforce will inevitably lead to greater rewards and an awareness and recognition of the greenkeepers profession

The Greenkeepers Training Scheme has appointed 13 colleges in Britain and Ireland as Centres of Excellence for Golf Greenkeeper Training, at Craft Supervisory and Management levels.

Langside College
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Rutherglen, Glasgow,
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Lancashire College
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Contact Steven Miller

**Cheshire College of Agriculture
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(0904) 702121
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David Blackmur

Fund's success means two new projects in 1993

Berks, Bucks and Oxon and South Coast are the latest Sections to contribute to the Education and Development Fund. Cheques for £300 and £100 respectively confirm the trend for Regions and Sections to make contributions to a fund which has been successfully established during 1992.

Executive Director Neil Thomas commented: "I am particularly pleased to receive these contribu-



tions which show the determination at local level to support a fund with the specific purpose of

increasing and improving the educational and training opportunities available to greenkeepers."

Confirming that the fund has passed the £60,000 mark during 1992, Neil Thomas added: "The response from the industry and our members has enabled the Board of Management to proceed with two major projects during 1993. The production of a career video is much needed and will be targeted at schools and colleges to

attract new recruits and to disseminate knowledge of the profession of greenkeeping. The establishing of a Scholarship Awards Scheme will enable the Association to offer financial support to selected student during their college courses. Both initiatives are exciting and a further example of BIGGA's commitment to educational and training programmes and the furtherance of the profession."

FLYING DIVOTS

The way it used to be

*I were here afore seven this mornin'
Cuttin' the greens at first light
An' somewhere a sky lark were singin'
An' nary a member in sight!*

*In a lifetime of shovin' this mower
I must 'ave walked ten thousand mile
But I backlapped the bitch Monday evenin'
An' this mornin' she's cuttin' in style*

*You can't beat a pram-handle Certes
On dry turf rollin' along
With the bent flyin' clean to the grass-box
An' her cylinder hummin' its song.*

*There's our Dick down there on the fairway
I dunno what goes on in 'is mind
Up an' down up an' down on the Ransomes
Starin' down at 'is 'oss's behind*

*An' ol' Joe's changin' 'oles on the seventh
Then 'e'll be cuttin' the tees
Ten hours with a Lloyds Pennsylvania
By dusk 'e'll be down on 'is knees!*

*Thirty year its bin sin' I started
Ol' 'Arry were greenkeeper then
An' 'e were a right 'oly terror
Though always right fair with 'is men*

*'E started me rakin' the bunkers
When I were a lad twelve year old
An' grubbin' up weeds in all weathers
Come December by God it were cold!*

*Still the Club's paid me regular wages
An' I'd die in the mine or the mill
There must be summat about it
For me to be slavin' 'ere still.*

*For it's grand in the sun in the summer
Satisfyin', if you know what I mean
If you don't mind that toffee nosed tyrant
As calls hissself chairman o' green.*

*'E can't tell 'is grass from 'is elbow
'E can't tell a green from a tee
But 'e thinks 'e's God of this golf course
When the only God round 'ere is me.*

C D R SNAVE



BIGGA stalwarts discover they were brothers in arms



Bert Cross



Gordon Child

Two high profile BIGGA members met again at the Iseki finals and fell to reminiscing about 'the good old days'. Imagine the surprise of Bert Cross and Gordon Child when they discovered they had both joined The Kings Regiment on the same day, subsequently travelling on the same ship to the same Korean wartime destination. Gordon recalled seeing Bert stretchered off at Suez, suffering from appendicitis, though he didn't know who the invalid was! Gordon was in 'D' and Bert in 'C' Company, within a block of each other throughout the whole conflict. Recalling basic training, Bert remembered how peeved the boys were when Gordon, in the armed forces for just three weeks, was given three days leave to play cricket for Yorkshire - 'what a jammy devil' being the obvious comment!

The naked truth

Paul Worster, head greenkeeper at Minchinhampton, tells an amusing story which, though not strictly greenkeeping, is along similar lines: 'My sister runs an estate agents' office in Wiltshire. During the spring, a secluded country cottage came onto their books, the very private garden contained many rare plants and flowers. My sister, realising the potential of the garden, recommended to the executors that the garden be maintained prior to the sale, to maintain the value of the property. This was agreed and a contract placed with a local garden maintenance company.

Some weeks later, on a hot sunny day, my sister was showing a prospect over the property. Standing in a room overlooking the sheltered garden, she was running through the usual sales patter about how one could enjoy meals in total privacy, sunlight through the French doors etc., when the peace was shattered by the coughing splutter of a Flymo engine doing its best not to start, accompanied by muffled cursing. "Not to worry" she loudly cried, "that'll be a member of the expert gardening company we've employed to maintain the grounds". With that, the Flymo came into sight wielded by a youth wearing a baseball cap, sunglasses and *nothing else!* Before my sister could say anything, her client muttered something about 'sorting him out' and disappeared outside, red-faced, never to be seen again!

I expect you've already spotted the worst transgression by this Flymo swinging naturist... that's right, no steel-capped boots!

Apologies to Iain MacLeod, head greenkeeper at Tain, who in our November review of the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year candidates, was mistakenly titled *McLeod*. Sorry Iain, a large scotch on me when next we meet!

And on the subject of apologies, if you're thinking there are one or two less pictures than normal in this issue of Greenkeeper International - you'd be right. A package of photographs despatched to our production editor, by recorded delivery and in plenty of time for our deadline, simply never arrived. A Post Office investigation is underway but in the meantime, on behalf of Royal Mail - sorry.



Despite hoping to have his skills tested by examples of exotic new fungi or rare species of pest, the problems brought to Robert Laycock, at a recent Barenbrug Turf Clinic, were remarkable mainly in that they reinforced the dangers of cutting corners.

Laycock, well known in the industry as a top agronomist, consultant and writer, had been invited by grass seed breeder Barenbrug to join their own experts, hosting the Clinic at the IoG Show.

"The best advice I can give to anyone" said Laycock, pictured right, with Barenbrug's Michel Mulder, "is never to compromise on materials. Problems may not become apparent immediately but as sure as night follows day, they'll surface sooner or later."

Huw Parry, Bristol and Clifton GC, pictured above left, brought to Robert the problem of Anthracnose which causes grass to yellow and then die. Its high incidence in 1992 is probably due to the much wetter weather and is particularly damaging to annual meadow grass. Relieving compaction and improving surface drainage tend to overcome the problem and it's always possible that once the meadow grass has been sufficiently weakened, more desirable grasses will become prominent.

But in critical areas, such as greens, surely the better option is to avoid its introduction in the first place. Breeders such as Barenbrug, for instance, take considerable pains to exclude annual meadow grass, selecting farmers who are able to produce clean crops (grasses) and after cleaning, select lots for special amenity use.

Like all good optimists, though, Laycock found some good arising from the incidence of Anthracnose and wonders whether the disease could be harnessed as a biological control for annual meadow grass. And maybe next time he's invited to a Barenbrug Clinic he'll find the exotic strain he's looking for.

Without proper qualifications you will not get the job you want'. How often have you heard that statement? Usually the words come from one's father or a careers officer at school – in most cases the proclamation is true. At very least, a qualification will open doors to the obtaining of a job.

In my view however, to do that job properly; effectively and therefore successfully, what is required above all else is practical training – on site; on course; down to earth, common sense training in the place where you work.

Too many golf course managers fail to take the time to ensure that such in-house training is given top priority. As managers we undoubtedly suffer because of it. We do not communicate enough with our staff. We do not delegate enough and because of this we do our staff an injustice by not allowing them to learn and thus better themselves. In this article I am expressing my own views on the subject – the importance of which cannot be overstated.

Without the proper in-house training and management of staff, greenkeeping and golf course management as a profession (I firmly believe it is a profession) will not grow in the way in which every concerned greenkeeper would wish.

Some five years ago Letchworth Golf Club employed me as their course manager and gave me the opportunity to manage totally (something which I believe we should all do). Given that remit I knew from past experience that if I was to be in any way successful, training (particularly in-house) would have to be my number one priority.

The old saying 'you are only as good as your staff' is particularly true in golf course management. For those who have the opportunity to manage, I hope the following common sense approach to training may be of some assistance.

Communication

To begin, you must communicate with your employers as well as your staff. This may seem all too elementary, but in making sure they know what you are trying to achieve they will (or should) give you full backing. In most golf clubs the people you talk to will be successful businessmen and will therefore understand the importance of training.

You must also communicate with your staff – if you do not you will not succeed. Listed here are a few simple systems we use at Letchworth.

Notice board in mess room/work-

DUNCAN'S LAW



How in-house training is handled at Letchworth, by their course manager DUNCAN MCGILVRAY

shop – A listing (for all staff to see and check on a daily basis)

- visiting golf society dates and tee-off times
- all matches
- overtime sheet
- safety policy statement
- winter programme (when applicable)
- articles of interest
- insurance liability
- weekly updates on visiting societies.

Yearly planner number one

- Competition dates
- other important dates
- Bank holidays
- all matches as a cross check (even our club secretaries get it wrong sometimes).

Yearly planner number two

- All staff summer and winter holidays (decided in early January of each year)
- spring and autumn renovation dates
- educational conferences, eg. BTME at Harrogate and IoG show.

Annual staff assessments

This is where you sit down with each member of staff individually and discuss their progress as you see it. You can relate what is expected of them in the future and, of equal importance, allow them to voice their opinion of you. This may not be something we will necessarily enjoy but we must remember that we are learn-

ing as well. The staff assessment is a splendid opportunity to declare salary increases and benefits that have been earned, for in the small staff set-up that is typical of most golf club's there will invariably be some occasional friction. I have found this assessment system to be invaluable in clearing up misunderstandings. The staff welcome such a system – they gain a clear understanding on where they stand and equally are given an opportunity to question your management techniques, which I feel is important.

A major part of any training is making sure that your staff learn about themselves; their work-mates; colleagues, and other golf courses. I firmly advocate outside visits to venues such as the IoG show (all staff), BIGGA golf outings and lectures (selected staff), management courses at Aldwark and the BTME at Harrogate (selected staff). It is important that my staff have a much wider view of life than an 18 hole parkland course in North Hertfordshire. On that point, even our annual Christmas luncheon is held away from the clubhouse, thus allowing for a modest letting down of hair! All these visits are financed by the golf club. They know as well as I that the benefits gained on the golf course, in terms of working as a team and carrying out tasks with more thought and understanding, far

outweigh the modest outlay required.

Although 'in-house' is the part of training I feel most strongly about, I cannot overlook the importance the college (BIGGA approved, I hasten to add) plays in my overall thinking and strategy. I am particularly pleased to sit on a liaison committee at Oaklands College, St Albans, where greenkeeper training is discussed. This college has now recruited an ex-course manager as a full-time lecturer. Not satisfied with that progression alone, they are also attracting local practicing golf course managers to attend the college and speak to student greenkeepers. Thus, at least at Oaklands, the days are gone when a lecturer might teach students opposite views and working strategies to those held by the head greenkeeper. All this adds up to excellent training and bodes extremely well for the future.

Apart from myself, there are six staff at Letchworth, all of whom play an important part in our overall success. It is important to point out that there have been no staff changes over the past five years save for one retirement (and even he came back again!). The following thumb-nail sketches will serve to colour the picture:

Brian Allonby is my deputy course manager and has 23 years service. Brian worked under the capable direction of his father – until I came and turned everything upside down! He responded admirably and I really do not know what I would do without him.

Barney Wright is first assistant and has six years service. Barney has completed all his college studies – including fourth year management courses – mostly with distinctions. He is an ex-pro golfer and his father is a golf club secretary at another club. Barney is itching for the right golf course to come along and unfortunately we will not be able to hold him for much longer.

Paul Hufner is an assistant greenkeeper/trainee mechanic with five years service. Taken on originally as an extra pair of hands in the short term, Paul is now an extremely important member of staff. He is taking Horticultural Mechanics at Oaklands College and will be an even greater asset to the club in future years.

Gary Hyde is a tractor driver/greenkeeper with three years service. He is a great find – worked on a farm all his early life – and will work day and night if asked. He thinks life is great at Letchworth because he actually gets paid for working overtime! He can drive anything from an



Meet the team: the green staff at Letchworth

18" Paladin to a 40' Hi-Mac.

Tom Thrussell, with 15 years service (part-time/part-season), is our greenkeeper cum gardener cum stand-in tractor driver. Tom drove a tractor until his retirement in 1989 and we are pleased he chose not to retire completely. He is a mine of information on wild life, conservation and the weather. In short, he's a wonderful person to have in any team – we couldn't let him go!

Jonathan Haley is a seasonal worker with two years service. If it wasn't for Jonathan and his predecessors, none of the staff would be able to have summer holidays. He starts college in September on a full-time greenkeeping and golf course management course, also at Oaklands, and I know he will go far.

We also work closely with local schools and encourage work experience programmes as part of Education 2000 – we've seen four students through this programme and three, including Jonathan Haley, have expressed a wish to follow a career in golf course management. It proves to us that we must be doing something right.

The benefits of good in-house training are many and varied but the following are the most obvious. We have a product just like any other business: the golf course and how it is presented. If the staff are well-trained and above all happy, the course will show it.

Good in-house training encourages even the youngest and most inexperienced members of staff to speak up and gain confidence in thought, word and deed. We can learn from sixteen year olds – I know I have on more than one occasion. Confident, effective staff will ensure the efficient functioning of the course – even on those occasions when you are absent.

This reflects well on you as a manager, though unfortunately it is still not fully understood by many people.

In closing, here are some points which I believe we should all think about seriously.

- A member of staff will not work to his full potential if he is not trusted – we must explain fully the whys as well as the hows and trust them to get on with it.
- Spying on staff when they are carrying out their allotted tasks breeds contempt – you will soon find out if work is not being carried out to your satisfaction and can then take the necessary action. Watching over staff is time wasting and counter-productive.
- Your staff make the golf course what it is – 90% of your problems will come from those staff – it therefore seems to me common sense to devote at the very least 90% of your time to your staff.

It makes me smile when I see advertisements for head greenkeepers/course managers with the following demand: 'must be capable of controlling and motivating staff. The practicalities are that staff cannot simply be controlled or motivated at the wave of a wand – we as managers can only create an environment in which staff wish to motivate themselves. The stick or carrot technique only works for a very short time – and golf course management is long term.

One last point. When you last moved to take up a position as course manager, especially at a course which was in need of considerable attention, did you hear something along the lines of 'you will need to sort out the staff first'? My own experiences have suggested no fault with staff – rather a fault that could easily be traced to the (lack of) in-house training and therefore management of staff.

How you could be an 'industry assessor'

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes in greenkeeper training and education that I am sometimes staggered by the depth and intensity of it all. The Greenkeepers Training Committee beavers away with quiet efficiency and it is to the great credit of our Association, always and quite naturally at the forefront of the GTC and always looking to the main goal, that achievements in greenkeeper training are moving at such a fine pace.

Whilst the Association cannot lay claim to the nationwide introduction of NVQs and SVQs, it seems clear to me that as a body we have generated, cajoled and agitated in this sphere to an extent that bodes extremely well for our industry – we are leaving nothing to chance and the future could not be more exciting.

Already we have seen the commissioning of a new Training Manual, and this has been widely acclaimed by all sectors of the greenkeeping industry as a huge step in the right direction – there is still work to be done, however, and we will not rest on our laurels – we plan to move ever forward and upward.

One such plan which gives cause for rejoicing is the proposal to form a network of assessors and assessment centres throughout the country. Such assessors will be recruited from our own membership and give us the unique opportunity, subject to approval by the GTC, to police our own activities.

You just need to indicate your willingness to take part

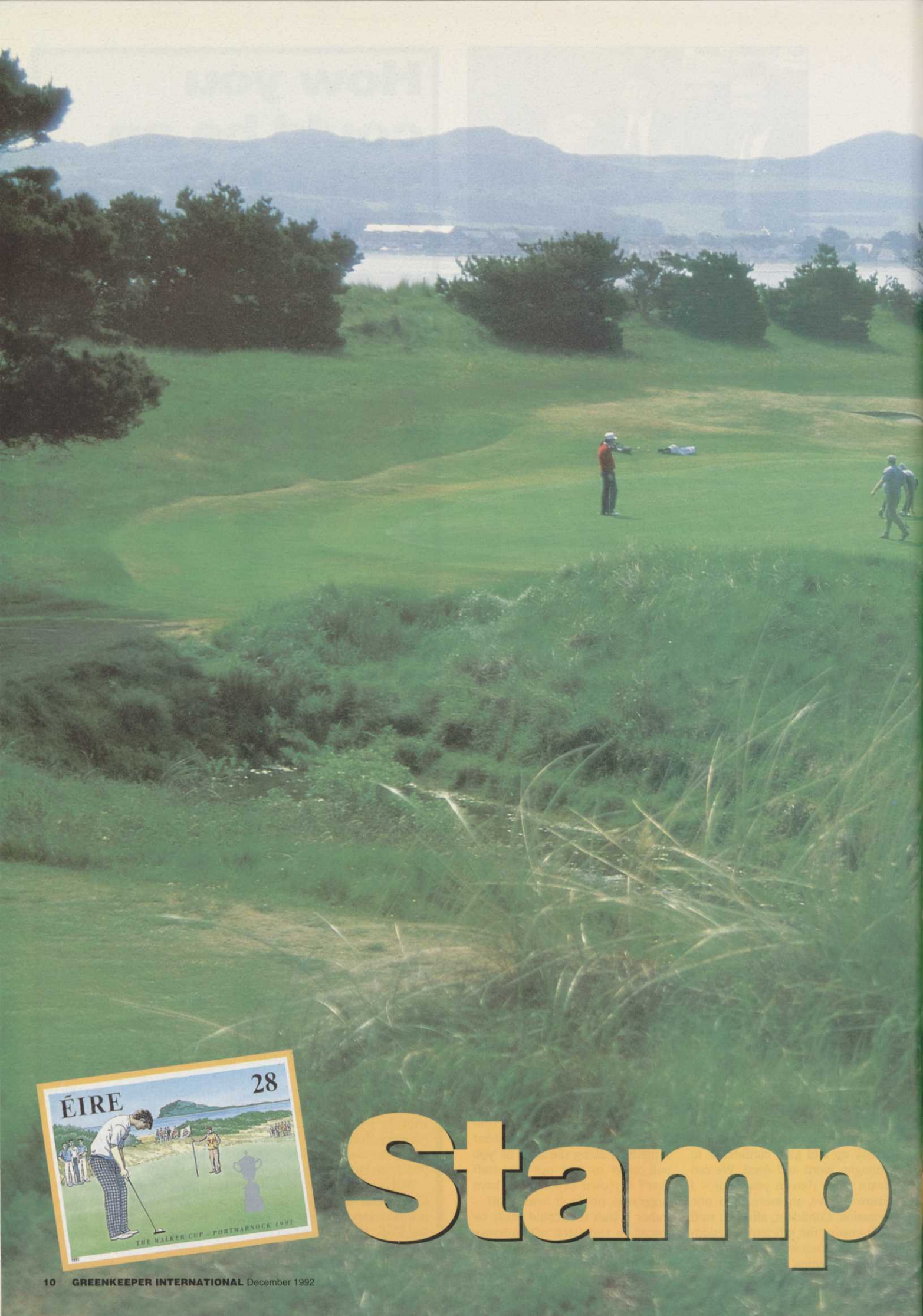
What this means in reality is that course managers and head greenkeepers who would like to be considered for training as 'Industry Assessors' and 'Regional Verifiers' need do no more than indicate their willingness. What qualifications will they need? Well, for a start, assessors will need credibility within their area or county, so candidates must be well established, front runners in their industry. Verifiers must be keenly interested in greenkeeper training and be aware of the principles of NVQs or SVQs. Of course, both assessors and verifiers must have sufficient spare time to work within the proposed structure and assessors must have the support of their own club, which would be used as a location to carry out assessments. Above all, they must be willing to receive appropriate training to become assessors or verifiers.

How much time will be necessary? Estimates suggest that the rewarding task of verifier would command roughly the same amount of time as that of a section secretary, perhaps less if more people join in the good work. For assessors, perhaps somewhat less time is necessary, though this again will be dependent upon how many head greenkeepers or course managers are recruited.

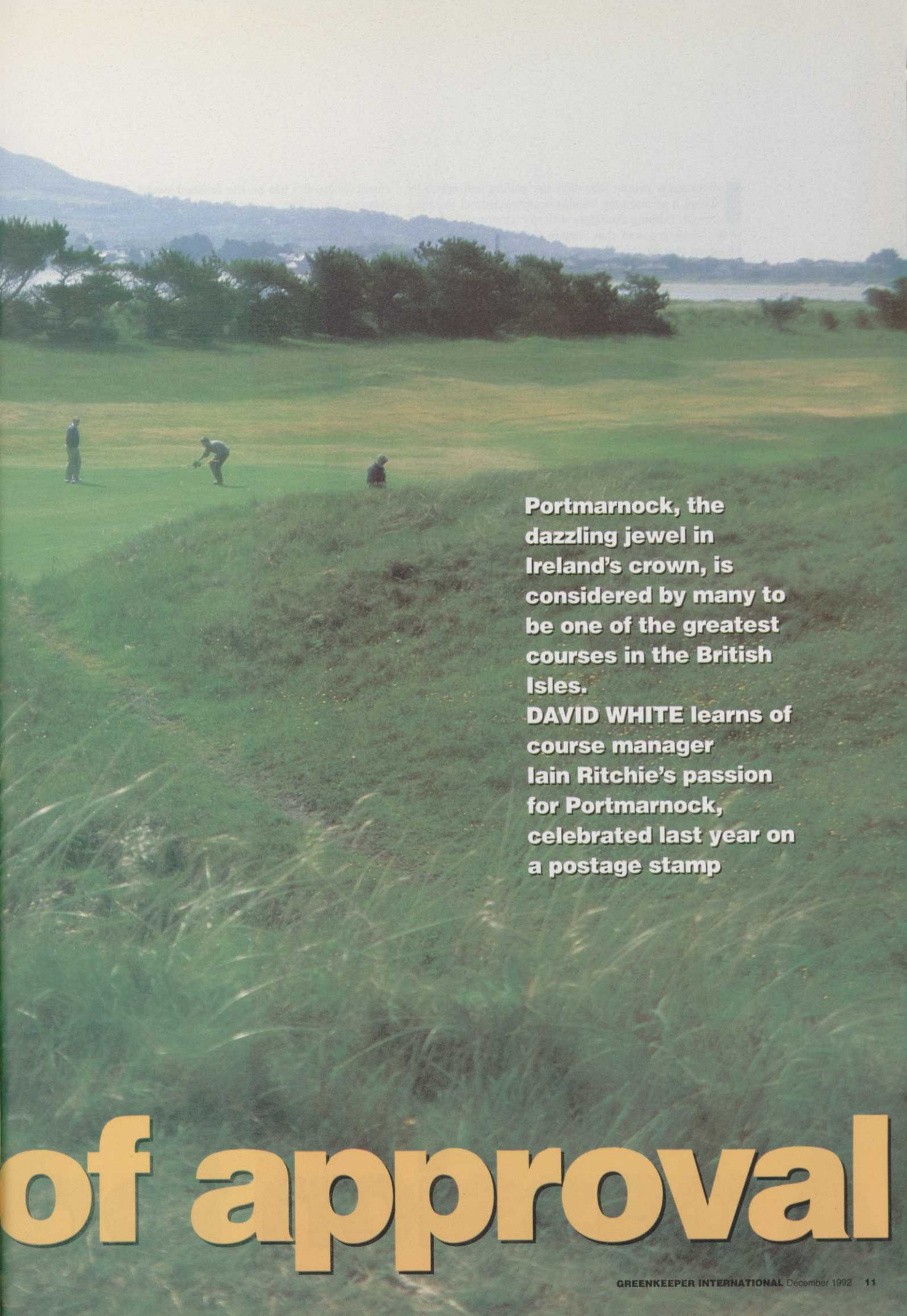
Industry assessors will become very important people, working in unison with training colleges and linked and working in liaison with regional verifiers, who in turn will liaise with the GTC. Assessors and verifiers will have their out of pocket expenses paid by the GTC.

Why is this so important for the Association? Simply that NVQs are about industries setting their own standards in accordance with the lead body for their industry, which for greenkeeping is Amenity Horticulture. By having our own trained people monitoring our own standards, we can control our own destiny, and thus raise our own already high standards.

Will you give some thought to becoming an assessor or verifier? Start by asking at regional or section level for more information, or talk to our own education expert, David Golding. His GTC number, lest it is not already indelibly printed on your mind, is 03473-640. Ring him now!



Stamp



Portmarnock, the dazzling jewel in Ireland's crown, is considered by many to be one of the greatest courses in the British Isles.

DAVID WHITE learns of course manager **Iain Ritchie's** passion for Portmarnock, celebrated last year on a postage stamp

of approval

meet many people who envy the golfing journalist's lot, seeing it as one long holiday roaming around the countryside, rubbing shoulders with the famous and the well-to-do, visiting places that remain for most a mere dream. Mistaken though this may be, I would be the first to admit, on occasions, that I would not change places with any man on earth.

One such recent occasion provided me with the good fortune to visit Ireland, oft described as an Emerald Isle that might have been created just for golf. Forgetting for a moment the rift that separates Northern Ireland from Eire (and, incidentally, one that is traversed by the love for golf that epitomises both nations), I came eventually to a course which many consider one of the greatest in the British Isles, some would say the greatest, the glorious links of Portmarnock.

If you envy this writer, let me turn the tables by suggesting that you should reserve some envy for the keeper of the links at Portmarnock, the Scot, Iain Ritchie. Not that Iain has an easy job, far from it, but he does manage 27 holes of God's Kingdom which, in my opinion, represent the jewel in Eire's crown – a positive bonus. Portmarnock boasts a gorgeous location, with water on three sides, the Hill of Howth to the south, to the east a line of sandhills marking the strand and ocean, beyond the clubhouse westward a sheltered arm of the sea. It is blessed also with an abundance of fascinating bird life and rare flora of quite exquisite beauty. Proof that Portmarnock is a grand place to work may be gathered by the record of a previous incumbent, John Temple, who served the club from 1939 until his death in 1974, 35 years in total.

Born in Aberdeen in 1960, Iain Ritchie took to golf at an early age and was soon a very proficient player indeed. His love for the game took him straight into the business and he joined the golf course construction company, Souter's of Stirling, as an apprentice. Iain's wisdom in gaining expertise in construction cannot be overstated, for in seven years of building golf courses he met and befriended many different greenkeepers, exchanging ideas and ideologies, ever conscious of the huge importance to playing quality that proper drainage, green construction specifications and manage-

ment husbandry has on the finished sward. The experience was to stand him in good stead, whilst bringing about a close and understanding relationship with the consultant agronomist for Portmarnock, Eddie Connaughton of Sports Technology International, whose passion is equal to Iain's whenever Portmarnock is mentioned.

During these construction years Iain also attended Elmwood College, the seat of learning for so many fine course managers, sailing through Scotec Phases II and III with distinctions and credits before embarking on a fourth year in Turf Management. It is indicative of Iain's enthusiasm for education that one of his key apprentices at Portmarnock, Alan Walsh, is encouraged to follow the 'Elmwood Trail'.

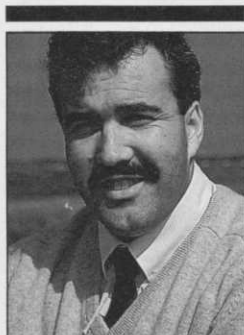
Backtracking somewhat, I learned that Iain took the advice of John Souter to enter the maintenance side of golf, 'a good business to be in', as John put it, and as Iain now acknowledges 'one hell of a good piece of advice'. Hearing that Elliott Small was looking for an assistant, Iain fired off a letter and though Elliott's job was taken, a discussion between Elliott and Bobby Fleming at Dullatur resulted in Iain becoming Bobby's assistant, a post he was to enjoy for some two years.

Time and opportunity marched on, and Iain moved to Ladybank, a delicious heathland course in Fife, first as assistant head greenkeeper and, within one year, promoted to head greenkeeper as reward for his skills and dedication. Listening to Iain speak of Ladybank, the

feeling he has for this course shines through: 'I loved that golf course', he told me, and one is left in no doubt that here is a man whose career is also his passion, for the same light shines in his eyes when talking of his latest love – Portmarnock.

Five years at Ladybank came to an end in 1990 when Iain was lured by the prospect of 'championship' golf management – the Carrolls Irish Open has been staged regularly at Portmarnock – and, for the first time ever on Irish soil, the Walker Cup was to be staged there in 1991, heady stuff indeed. The move to Dublin Bay was not taken lightly, however, for Iain and his wife Yvonne, together with their two young daughters, had never seen Ireland, let alone lived there, and they were to spend several days in Dublin weighing the pro's and con's – the pro's won and they now enjoy a pleasant lifestyle in nearby Malahide.

Iain was fortunate in knowing Eddie Connaughton through his Souter's connection; his opinion valued: 'It's right for you and you are right for them', Eddie declared, 'Ireland's not unlike Scotland but just a wee bit more laid-back, you'll love it'. The job secured, Iain was fortunate again in having the retiring head greenkeeper, Tommy Clark, remain with him through the first few months of his appointment as course manager.



Iain Ritchie:
a feeling for his course



A passion for

We talked about a typical annual programme, Iain of the opinion that Portmarnock's sandy soil suggested a regime not dissimilar to that carried out at Ladybank. 'Come the winds, the course can dry very rapidly and dry patch has been a problem over the last year', he told me, 'and though we apply wetting agents, I haven't yet found a magic cure-all'. Similarly, fairy rings have found their way onto the links, though these are responding to treatment, as is the fusarium that seemed to invade the whole of Ireland in '91, following the mild winter.

In the spring, greens are hollow tined using 2" centres with half-inch tines, relieving compaction an essential task following heavy winter traffic. Many members at Portmarnock (1000 strong, all-male) are also members at other inland courses and they tend to gravitate toward the links in winter. Taking the winter of '91 as an example, Portmarnock experienced only three frosts, all superficial and dispersed by mid-morning. It's as busy as any course might be and this contributes in part to the compaction problem. The pattern of scarifying, hollow coring and top dressing (using local dune sand) is one of little but often.

Come March or April, the greens and tees receive a stimulant feed, a 12: 0: 6 organic seaweed based mix that works well in Eire's higher spring temperatures – often some three or four degrees warmer than in Scotland – and this gets them started sooner. They'll receive about three feeds a year, changing from 12: 0: 6 to 8: 0: 0, plus a monthly spray cover of Seamac or, occasionally, Seamac + N, seaweed applications that Iain find most effective. Back end of the season he also applies sulphate of iron, essentially to prevent disease outbreak.

The emphasis at Portmarnock is on producing first rate playing surfaces, Iain of the opinion that he can control the *Poa annua* content to around 40/50% without resorting to drastic starvation methods that would leave little putting surface at all. His greens are roughly 50/50, with bent grass predominant over fescue and competing vigorously against the *Poa annua*. To keep such surfaces in fine order, Iain's regime is to verticut each week, hand cutting on Monday and Tuesday, Triplex cutting mid-week with verticutters and groomers fitted to the Jacobsen, handcutting again until the week-end, when the same triplex regime is repeated (without verticutter) on Saturday and Sunday. Levels are set to 3/16" for regular play, 1/4" over winter, 1/8" for premier events such as the Walker Cup. In Iain's two years the greens have only been Vertidraind once, though tees and fairways have an annual 'going over', the effect well worthwhile.

For the Walker Cup there was no problem in producing great surfaces on the greens, but if the wind failed to materialise the course was wide open for attack. A player could, in Iain's words, 'hit the ball anywhere and have some sort of lie to strike the ball'. A dry summer had left the fairways sparse and at the end of 1990 an overseeding programme was deemed necessary. Three tons of fescue/bent mixture was drill applied quite late in October – sensibly waiting for rain. Fortunately a wet and mild winter gave a near 90% seed strike from the highly successful programme, which utilised a Unidrill, covered by the added insurance of a pre-seeding fertiliser – 'when you spend that sort of money you leave

nothing to chance'. During the run-up to the Walker Cup, an R&A event, the agronomist David Stansfield was another regular visitor and both he and Eddie Connaughton could be seen striding the fairways. 'The reports from both were without controversy and surprisingly similar, indicating that their ideas were never far apart'.

As the course manager, Iain liaises with the secretary, with reports produced regularly by Eddie Connaughton and Iain on management regimes. Iain's report to committee is essentially a mixture of what has been done by the nine strong staff (plus John Kane, a mechanic who 'does a fantastic job'), the problems that have been found, how they've been tackled, and any plans afoot for the next three months. It's a good, workable system that leaves Iain with a comparative free rein – the right to properly manage, so to speak.

There are few courses that dare boast better all round surfaces than Portmarnock, and fewer still that can lay claim to immortalisation on postage stamps. In 1975 the Killarney course appeared on 6p and 9p Eire stamps, and in 1991 Portmarnock was singled out for this great honour, an illustration of their 15th green struck on a 28p stamp to commemorate the Walker Cup. This was a proud time indeed for all Portmarnock members, with none prouder than their highly talented course manager, Iain Ritchie.

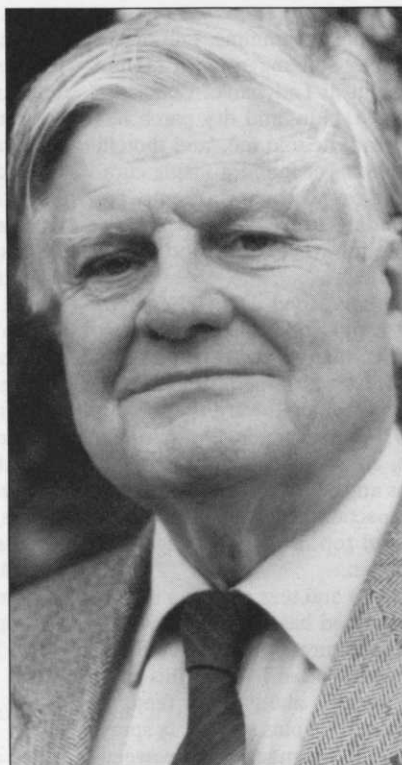
Major machinery in the Portmarnock stable

- 1 x Ransomes 3500
- 1 x Ransomes Motor 180
- 2 x Ransomes 171
- 4 x Ransomes Super Certes
- 4 x Ransomes Auto Certes
- 3 x Ransomes Marquis
- 1 x Jacobsen Greens King
- 1 x Steam Cleaner
- 1 x Supreme Auto Leader Grinder
- 3 x Ford Tractors (various)
- 1 x Kubota 1750 Tractor
- 1 x Iseki 530 Tractor
- 2 x Major Toppers
- 1 x Royer Power Screen
- 1 x Coremaster
- 1 x Three gang units
- 3 x Trailers (various)
- 1 x Vertidrain
- 1 x Shredder
- 1 x Unidrill seeder
- 1 x McConnell Back Actor

Portmarnock

JIM ARTHUR considers the greenkeeper's power to close courses and suggests ways of

A Winter's Tale



carpets. In other cases, where there is no will to change, there will be no change.

Clearly, there must be a lot of give and take. Not all of us are blessed with all-weather, free-draining links or heathland greens – and not all such favoured environments have good bent/fescue greens anyway! The culprit is, of course, annual meadow grass, which often became dominant as a result of the demand for nice green greens in the 1970s. Getting rid of annual meadow grass is easier said than done, but it can always be reduced. While it is easier to stop it getting into new greens in the first place, there are nevertheless countless cases where greens built many years ago without special under-drainage and on heavy clay soils are dom-

inantly *Agrostis* (bent) with, admittedly, some annual meadow grass but not enough to affect all year round excellence. It has been said that greenkeeping is a constant fight against annual meadow grass and one which we never quite win. But we can all attempt to improve. I have little patience with those who regard annual meadow grass with affection or even tolerance. One listens to talks about how this or that greenkeeper manages *Poa annua* successfully. The best are implementing a programme which, if carried out conscientiously and intensively, will in the long if not the short term reduce this wretched weed grass and swing greens to *Agrostis* – and often they do not realise this. Sadly too, the problem is aggravated by poor grass identification. I read with incredulity a report from an inexperienced adviser to a club I had advised for many years, that their greens were some of the best annual meadow grass greens he had seen – they were in fact at a conservative estimate about 75% *Agrostis* and the best all-year-round surfaces for miles around!

What then is the answer? It must of course depend on individual cases. Some greens, even on newly built courses, are so badly constructed that the essential free drainage which makes an improvement programme feasible could only be achieved by rebuilding. The first step must be intensive, deep, regular and frequent aeration all year round. This first rule of greenkeeping is so often not observed because members do not like to see the slits. 'Can't you leave the greens alone for

There is perhaps no more contentious point in the whole of golf – from the viewpoint of both players and course managers alike – than that of temporary greens. There can really be no rules to cover all situations, but we can at least agree that any greenkeeper worth his salt wants to keep his members – and visitors – on full greens for as many of the days of the year that severe frost and snow cover permit. The gap between desire and performance is sometimes wider than it needs to be.

A first step towards achieving this standard must be the education of the golfer – and the second the education of the greenkeeper. We have all met the character whose attitude is best expressed by the remark 'If we could only get rid of yon golfers altogether we would always have the course in perfect order'.

There is a world of difference between the situation where members turn up on a bright sunny frosty morning to discover the course closed, albeit temporarily, and that which was often the norm on many inland courses 20 years ago, when it was the rule rather than the exception for temporary greens to come into play from October until Easter. Often such greens were well prepared in advance – more often they were just a bit of fairway, preferably not on the actual approach to the green, mown out a week before the switch!

Part of the problem was the thatchy, soft, soggy annual meadow grass greens, which today are much rarer but in those days of

feed and water were the rule.

I well remember one Surrey downland course where there were two sets of temporary greens. The full greens were inches deep in thatch, dominated by *Poa annua* and literally unplayable in winter – the members liked soft lush holding greens in summer. On a set day in early autumn, the club came off full greens, for the next seven months, on to really excellent fescue-dominated greens of about 350 sq yds maintained all summer and even top dressed as well as regularly mown with the main greens. These greens were much better than the full greens – and much preferred by members, who however still failed to make the necessary mental connection. So proud were all concerned of these temporary greens that at the first sign of frost, play was switched to temporary temporary greens just cut out of the downland turf, on the other side of the green. And that is true! A few years, under a new head man, of intensive aeration, controlled irrigation and limited fertiliser treatment produced such an improvement in the full greens that they were playable most of the winter – and then we had a change of green committee and greenkeeper and with it a reversal to the bad old ways.

There can be no slick answers to this vexed question. In some cases the old greens have been mismanaged for so long that not even eternal optimists who share my views can improve them sufficiently to produce tolerable winter conditions without complete rebuilding of the greens on stone drainage

avoiding a golf club's 'winter of discontent'

five minutes' is the parrot cry, to which the only answer is 'Certainly, provided you keep off them'.

I am the first to admit that there are cases where one must come off the greens on to temporaries and not just for frost, though severe damage can be done by play on greens when the surface is thawing out and the soil an inch below frozen solid – when roots are sheared off and the damage lasts well into the growing season – just because a selfish few demand to play full greens under obviously unsuitable conditions.

There must be understanding and discipline. There is only one man who can and must close the course, if only because he has the knowledge and is first there in the morning, and he, of course, is the head greenkeeper. Equally, he must not abuse his powers and will want to keep his course open to the limit, if only as a matter of pride.

What really saddens me is an increasing tendency to say that we must learn to live with annual meadow grass. I can quote course after course on heavy clays – from Essex to the Welsh marches, from central Scotland to Wealden clays – where erstwhile bogs have been so improved that the *Agrostis*-dominant greens are often the best in the area, despite their poor history. Equally, I despair when I am told, as I was recently, of one Scottish inland course which I advised for many years, before I retired, where the head greenkeeper was as convinced as he was hard working and skilful and we as a team converted thatchy bogs to good bent greens, which 'under new management' have gone straight back to bogs and they are on 'temporaries' permanently from 1st October. All so avoidable and such a waste of our efforts and enthusiasms.

If you must have temporaries then I suppose it is sensible to prepare them well in

advance, but it is my experience that if you have such good temporaries, they will be used! Where it is at all feasible, I advise using a 10" hole cutter and sinking a hole cup in the base to one side of the approach – it is just as good a test of winter putting really!

There are many other dodges to keep players on full greens – such as pin placements nearest the next tee and rescinding Rule 34.3 about attending the flag under non-competitive winter play, to cutting two holes (one closed with a sorbo-rubber plug) so that the flag can be moved to spread wear when new holes could not be cut, but that is another story, and, I am the first to agree, these are not invariably applicable.

'The need for better winter conditions is increasing every year'

If switching to temporary greens arouses wrath, this is nothing to that caused by going onto tee mats. Clearly there will be circumstances where mats are unavoidable as a last resort, but even then much can be done by thoughtful construction and the use of pulverised bark paths to avoid the area all around being turned into a quagmire. There have also been successful results with movable (on wheels!) tee mats to reduce such traffic wear. The secret to keeping golfers on full tees over the winter is, of course, to have more teeing space. This is often easier said than done, especially on older courses on a restricted area, or where tees are tight up against boundaries.

Sadly, on many such courses, only recently

has there been any serious attempt to increase teeing space from the level which was just adequate 30 years ago, when there was in any case much less winter play.

On heavy land, especially, new tees should be constructed just as greens are, on under-drained and blinded stone carpets, with a free draining root zone, (which of course to save costs can be shallower than for greens (as we are not sinking hole cups in tees!). Such tees will naturally need irrigation, as they will be drought susceptible, if only to aid recovery after winter wear.

With new courses we talk of a minimum of 400m² for teeing space, as a matter of course. Tees, incidentally, should not be rectangular: round-ended tees are more natural looking and easier to mow with triplex mowers. The pro's and con's of single large tees, compared with several smaller ones could keep us going all night, but a major factor must be traffic to and from tees. If main tees and specially built winter tees are well separated (where this is possible), then the risk of thoughtless players walking over a tee out of play (whether the full tee rested in winter or the winter tee being renovated in spring) will be minimised.

I am fully aware that it is much easier to recommend than to put the recommendations into practice, but the need for better winter conditions is increasing each year with more winter play – certainly vastly more than even ten years ago. If we accept the need and agree the methods, then results will follow but many factors such as course layout, soil type, even budgets may limit the implementation. Above all we need education of golfers to accept temporary closures as unavoidable or where play in such circumstance would leave a lasting legacy. It is, in my view, up to greenkeepers to get such points over – and not to abuse the powers given to close courses when the need arises.



Testing, testing

MICHAEL BIRD
on the steps to take to
calculate spring
fertiliser requirements

Assessing and satisfying the spring fertiliser requirements of fine turf are probably the two most difficult tasks faced by the greenkeeper. Soil type and structure, climate, moisture levels and existing soil nutrients all play a significant part when determining the present and future needs of the turf. The influences of just one or all of these factors can greatly affect the requirement for and availability of the essential nutrients required for plant growth. There are more than a dozen different chemical elements in the soil which are utilised by growing turf. The most important are those which are needed in greatest quantity: nitrogen; potassium; phosphorus; calcium; magnesium and sulphur.

However, it is vital that trace elements such as iron, manganese, zinc and boron are not overlooked as all are vital during the numerous stages in growth. Nutrient non-availability and losses occur for a variety of reasons. Although formed within the soil, plant-available nitrogen, for example, is not retained naturally and is leached out quickly by drainage water. It can also be lost through gaseous release.

Potassium is held naturally by clay soils but not by those containing a high level of sand. Phosphorus becomes increasingly insoluble – and less readily available – the more acid or alkaline the soil becomes. It is therefore most readily available under neutral conditions.

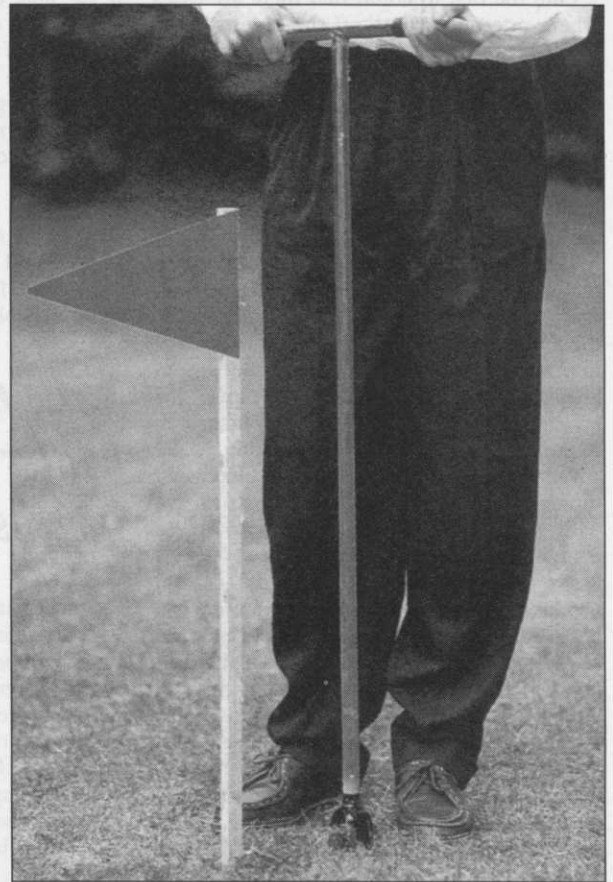
Although heavier soils are able to retain nutrients due to particle and ionic bonding, the increased level of moisture present can limit the microbial activity which helps to naturally recycle soil nutrients. Such factors also effect the availability of other soil nutrients to the point where, not so many years ago, assessing plant requirements in the spring was left primarily to experience and previous management practices.

Only when the season was well advanced, with its longer daylight hours and higher soil temperatures, could the turf professional then assess whether the initial treatments had had their desired effect. But guess-work should be playing an ever-decreasing role, stresses Dave Lawson, soil chemist with the STRI: 'Soil chemical analysis should be carried out well ahead of the spring', he says. 'In most rootzones, only phosphate and potassium nutrients will require analysis. However, testing for magnesium, copper, zinc and manganese will also be beneficial in extremely sandy conditions'.

Mr Lawson points out that there are no completely reliable tests at present for the level of plant-available nitrogen in outdoor soils due to the variable rates at which organic matter is mineralised. Established methods such as growth rate and grass colour are still important, therefore, to establish soil nitrogen levels and requirements. Because of the large number of factors affecting plant growth and nutrient availability at any time of the year, increasing use is being made of slow release fertilisers to ensure a ready and continuous source of nitrogen available to the plant as and when it is needed.

Their low solubility and reduced leaching characteristics means that application does not have to be restricted to periods of active growth. Indeed, many products can be applied safely and cost-effectively from December onwards, and even earlier, so that during periods of milder weather, sufficient nitrogen is available for plant growth and greening without risk of disease. Furthermore, the required nutrient is then present in the soil to encourage and sustain vigorous plant growth when conditions are suitable in the spring.

Slow release fertilisers can be had in straight 'N' or compound form to suit the turf's needs, as determined by soil chemical analysis. Dave Lawson recommends that soil pH



To ensure representative results, soil samples should be taken at several locations across the area to be tested, marking each sampling point prior to using the soil auger

should be tested at the same time as its nutrient status due to the effect that different fertilisers can have on a soil's acidity or alkalinity. Both the chemical analysis and pH of the soil can be assessed using hand-held test kits, taking care to ensure that a representative sample is taken from the area under examination. In the case of soil testing for phosphorus, potassium, magnesium or levels of micro-nutrients such as iron, manganese or copper, Mr Lawson recommends that random samples be taken to a depth of 10cm. All samples taken should then be mixed well together to form one sample for testing. The same advice applies when measuring pH levels.

Using the results, decisions can be taken with regard to the amounts of phosphate or potash needed by the plant, applied either before the growing season together with a slow-release nitrogen or as part of the spring dressing programme, applied in granular form. Mr Lawson comments that the soil test for magnesium and trace elements can often reveal relatively low levels in the rootzone. 'Visible symptoms of deficiency are not normally seen in turf grass, even on sand-only rootzones', he points out. 'However, if the soil test reveals low concentrations, then it is important that remedial treatment is carried out.'

Soil pH levels have a major bearing on the grass species grown. More acidic conditions increasingly limit the availability of nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, potassium and magnesium to the plant. As a result, many grasses will not

flourish or even survive. Similarly, many trace elements, as well as phosphorus, become less available to the plant as soil alkalinity increases. Therefore, the majority of grasses are selected and grown for their tolerance to the prevailing conditions, although soil pH can be adjusted over the years using top dressings of the required pH, enabling different grasses to be established to suit prevailing conditions and course requirements.

Changes of a more immediate and less lasting effect to soil pH can be made also through different fertiliser applications. An ammonium sulphate-based nitrogen fertiliser can, for example, be used to reduce the alkalinity of a soil to better support red fescue and browntop bent grasses, noted for their hardiness and ground covering abilities. Care must be taken both with application rates and evenness of spread to avoid scorch. Washing-in by rain or artificial watering is also recommended for optimum results. Top dressings of a neutral pH value are normally used to reduce soil acidity. However, where there is serious acidification, lime can be applied in the form of ground limestone or chalk, although great care should be taken on established turf to avoid over-application which can lead rapidly to disease problems. Ideally, treatment should be made before the growing season to allow rain to wash the dressing into the soil. Also, Mr Lawson commends a laboratory soil lime test to establish the precise application rate required. Apart from the nature and structure of the soil, the grass species and the level of nutrients already present, the removal or return of grass clippings can play a significant role in assessing the turf's fertiliser requirements.

Dry leaf material contains approximately 3% nitrogen, 2% potassium and 0.3% phosphorus. On longer, rougher parts of the course, adequate nutrients can be returned to the soil by leaving the grass clippings, allowing them to degrade naturally. However, where clippings are boxed off, close attention must be given to ensure that the nutrient reserves removed in the grass box are returned through the annual fertiliser programme.

Most experts agree that the application of large quantities of potash and phosphates prior to or during periods of rapid growth are wasteful. Testing has shown soils on many golf courses have accumulated high levels of phosphates, and lower levels of potassium, due to over-applications in the past and the inability of the plant to absorb them, irrespective of whether the turf in question was mown with the grass box on or off. This situation still exists today, making regular soil testing an absolute must on all courses. The type of fertiliser chosen and the form in which it applied will depend very much on the results of a soil analysis and the experience and eye of the greenkeeper.

Demand and expectations from golfers for surfaces all-year round has highlighted the importance of fertiliser applications being made with care, accuracy and close regard to the needs of the turf. The use of slow release fertilisers, dependent on suitable moisture or temperature levels (both, in some cases) means that applications need not be restricted solely to times of active growth. However, there can still be a need to boost the application rate, particularly to help the grass recover from winter wear or to give a greening-up ahead of an important tournament.

Long-term benefits have also been reported from the early application of root and shoot growth stimulants in the form of liquid organic fertilisers containing seaweed extract or farm slurry, together with added trace elements and micro-nutrients. These factors all underline the importance of measuring the level of nutrients within the turf so that accurate

and cost-effective supplementary treatments can be made. The margin for error is substantial when one considers the wide range of major nutrient application rates that may be necessary each year on golf greens, tees and fairways.

According to Dave Lawson in his essential publication 'Fertilisers for Turf' published by the STRI*, a traditional golf green or tee may require between 8 and 20gm² of nitrogen, up to 20gm² of phosphate and between 6 and 15gm² of potassium during the year, with 25% additional N for a sand-constructed green. A similar range of NP&K will be needed on tees, again depending on soil analysis, and between 8 and 12gm² of nitrogen on parts of fairways which come under heavy wear, often applied in two or three dressings. On these areas, slow release fertilisers have proved particularly useful. If fairway clippings are boxed, a full re-assessment of requirements will have to be made with the help of a soil test. 'And greenkeepers should not forget that selection of the appropriate fertiliser is not the end of the matter', comments Mr Lawson. 'It still has to be applied accurately and evenly. So, the winter period must be used to check over the machine for wear or damage prior to the spring. Also, it is vital that the spreader is calibrated to give the required output with the fertilisers being used, due to the large variations in flow characteristics shown by different products'.

Calibration is carried out by setting the spreader according to the manufacturer's recommendations and then driving through a line of one metre square trays at normal working speed. The fertiliser collected is weighed and compared with the required output in grams per square metre. Any machine adjustments can then be made and the calibration re-checked before going to work.

■ The writer, Michael Bird, based this feature on discussions and correspondence exchanged with David Lawson, Soil Chemist, STRI.

* 'Fertilisers for Turf', by D M Lawson, is published by the STRI, Bingley, W Yorkshire BD16 1AU. It costs £4.50 including postage.



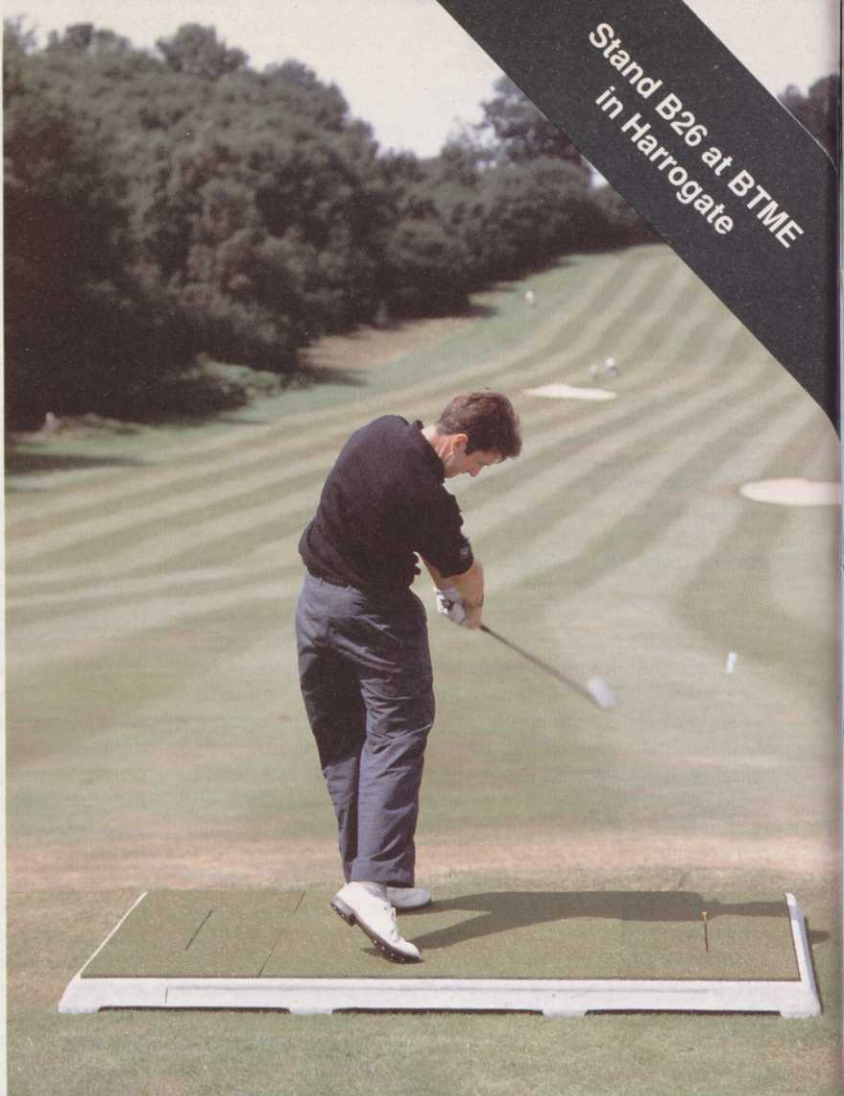
Because of the varying flow and spread characteristics of different fertilisers, pre-calibration of a spreader with the material to be spread is essential for accurate and cost-effective results

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The countdown has begun



LOOK OUT for what promises to be the best BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition so far, at the Harrogate Conference Centre, January 20-22, 1993.

The Duke of York will officially open this, the fine turf industries' premier event during the morning of Wednesday, January 20. BIGGA president Viscount Whitelaw will also be there - as will Association officials, members, greenkeepers, the trade and everybody with an interest in golf course maintenance.

You can't afford to miss the 1993 BTME. A world class exhibition, a sparkling educational seminar programme and now even Royal recognition. Complete and return the post-paid card in this issue to confirm your place, and we'll see you there. Meanwhile, this special preview gives an introduction to the show people will be talking about for months to come...

Preview

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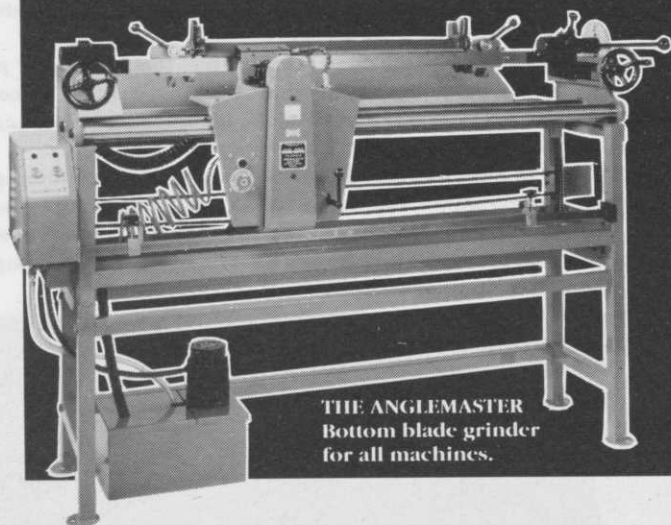
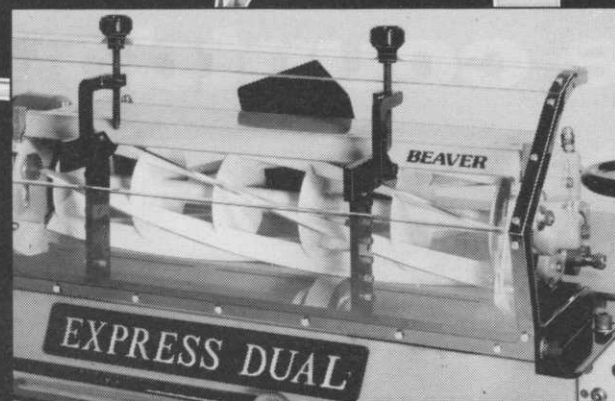
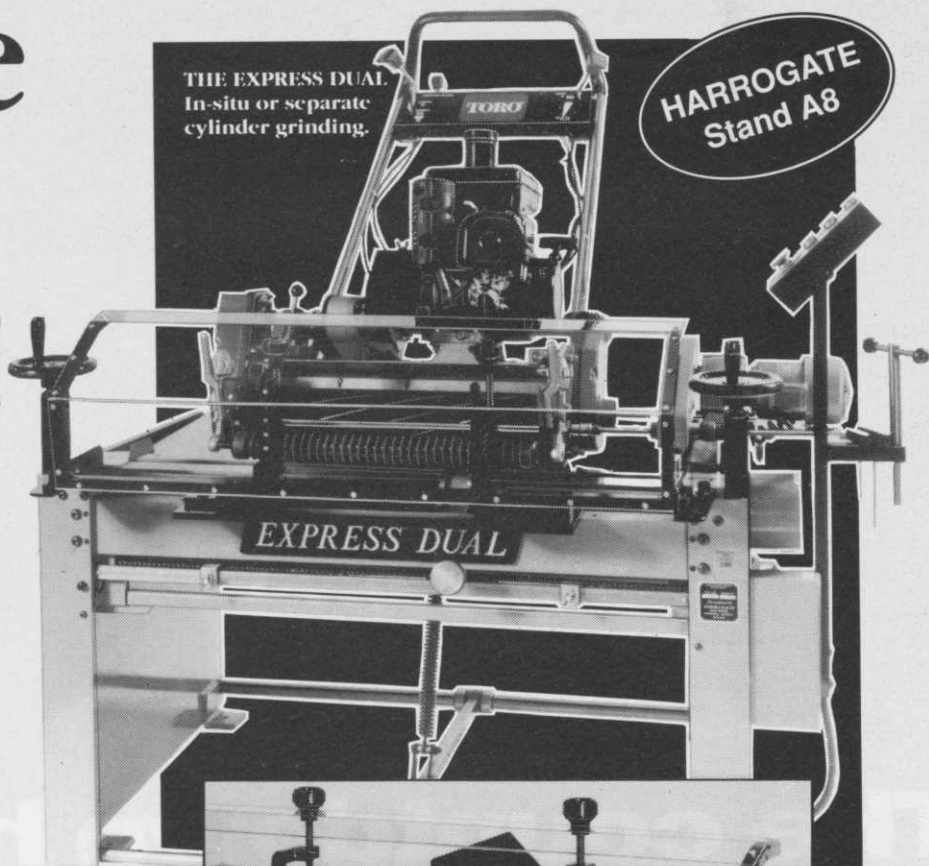
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Time and the place of BTME's VIP opening ceremony



Prince Andrew will arrive at the Harrogate Exhibition Centre at 10.15am on the first day of the show, Wednesday January 20. The opening ceremony, which will also be attended by BIGGA president, Viscount Whitelaw, will take place at 10.30am.

Following presentation of the awards, the Prince will tour the Exhibition and is expected to depart Harrogate at 12.30pm.



Looking ahead

Don't miss this one

JOHN WILSON, editor and publisher of 'The Golf Club Secretary', describes his first visit to the BTME last January, and explains why he is convinced that golf club secretaries and green committee chairmen can learn much from being at Harrogate next month.

I arrived in Harrogate on a frosty morning last January, on the third day of the 1992 BTME, just in time to attend the official opening ceremony of the Trade Show, performed in his usual urbane and charming manner by Viscount Whitelaw, President, BIGGA.

I was impressed at once by the array of colourful blazers on view on the stage and by the number of awards which were given to companies that had supported BIGGA in the past year. The final presentation was of BIGGA's first Master Greenkeeper Certificate to Laurence Pithie, then course manager at Minchinhampton. He was also presented with a very smart blazer which he donned immediately, as if he had just won the US Masters!

This exhibition was far larger than I expected, filling three halls of the Harrogate Exhibition Centre. There were over 80 stands to visit, each containing something of interest to those responsible for the management of golf courses and other fine turf areas. Ford, Kubota, Iseki and other manufacturing companies demonstrated their latest machinery and Huxley's were rightly proud of their all-season turf maintenance vehicle, designed to compete strongly with the well-known Cushman range.

There was much else to see, though, apart from the array of red, green, yellow and orange machinery. Ranges of fertilisers, grass seeds, grinding machinery for mower blades, and course equipment, all were there - all so easy to see at close range, with technical experts skilled at imparting their knowledge and making things easy to understand. The Patisson display included a pedestrian-operated golf ball collector,

one of which is apparently used by a grandmother to collect hundreds if not thousands of balls daily on a driving range.

Several exhibits were new to me, but perhaps not to the more knowledgeable visitor. I was impressed by the Nikken Knapsack brush cutter where the 2-stroke 1.9hp motor is carried on the back of the operator, leaving him free to operate the various cutting and lopping attachments available. I also learned how turf can be reinforced using, for example, the Netlon rootzone system or Fibreturf's mixture of sand and artificial fibres. More basic for pathways were plastic pavers from Golpa.

'The BTME is much more than just a trade exhibition'

Two microcomputer programmes were also being demonstrated. The Datachem system is designed to assist those involved in applying chemicals to turfgrass and other areas by helping to identify weeds, pests and diseases and then calculating the amount and type of chemical needed to rectify the problem. The Trims software, marketed through BIGGA, enables the head greenkeeper to maintain a complete record of all work carried out on the course.

The BTME is, however, much more than just a trade exhibition. The very full week begins with a choice of four two-day workshops, and last January these intensive, practical sessions covered green construction methods and materials (led by two amusing experts from the USA), irrigation, basic agronomy and one with the title 'From Greenkeeper to Course Manager'. Next month's four workshops look equally interesting, with perhaps pride of place going to the one being run by Jim Arthur, Barry Cooper and Brian Pierson on 'How To Achieve All Year Round Golf'.

Seminars are held in the Royal Hall attached to the Exhibition Centre for the remaining two-and-a-half days. In 1992 these began and ended with Graham Phillips of The Marketing Group advising

greenkeepers on 'How to Prepare a Case for Golf Club Committees' and further on 'How To Win The Day'. Any committee member listening to those two talks would have gained a valuable insight into the tactics which might be used when his head greenkeeper next presented a case for new equipment. The other sessions ranged over a variety of topics, such as turfgrass nutrition, course construction and maintenance (with three interesting case histories), the image of greenkeepers and one under the title 'Will We Wear Out Our Golf Courses?'.

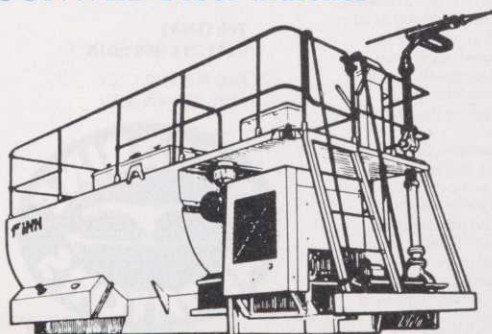
The seminars planned for next month look equally promising, again covering topical subjects likely to be of interest to many delegates attending the Exhibition. I am particularly looking forward to hearing John Millen talk on 'Golf-365 Days A Year', and Jane Ryan, an assistant greenkeeper, on 'Why We Should Hold Our Heads Up High!'. Two social events are arranged during the week to increase the opportunities to meet other delegates - a quiz night on the Wednesday and a full scale banquet the following evening. Last year the subsequent entertainment was provided by Norman Collier, best known for his chicken imitations, and next month it will be the turn of Wayne Dobson, the TV magician. If he can show how to make thatch and fusarium disappear from greens in the same way that he makes a helicopter vanish, he will have more than earned his appearance fee!

The BTME promises to be bigger and better than ever this time, thanks to the enthusiastic and efficient organisation of the BIGGA team. It deserves to be fully supported, not only by the greenkeepers who always attend, but also by golf club secretaries, green committee chairmen and others concerned about the proper management of their own golf courses. From my own experience last January, it is hard to imagine that anyone attending the BTME will come away without feeling that his or her visit has been very worthwhile indeed.

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We've come a long way quickly, says BIGGA's Executive Director NEIL THOMAS

Looking forward to a great week in Harrogate



In January 1989 the first Turf Management Exhibition was held in Harrogate. Time marches on and now we approach the fifth exhibition on an altogether larger and more professional scale.

This year BIGGA is honoured with the presence of HRH The Duke of York to formally open the Exhibition on 20 January. In a short period the BTME has come a long way and there is justifiable pride amongst both BIGGA members and exhibitors alike that the BTME has now received royal recognition. We all look forward to a great week in Harrogate.

During the last four years BIGGA has listened to many people, not least those working within the industry, with a view to constantly improving upon both the exhibition and the educational programmes. The Steering Committee continues to be the key to the upgrading and development of the Exhibition, meeting some three times a year for lively exchanges of views which have resulted in decisions influencing the future direction and growth of BTME. As an Association, we are indebted to those industry representatives who give so freely of their time to ensure the ongoing success of BTME.

Our educational programmes continue to be a key factor in BTME's success attracting delegates in large numbers to both the popular

two-day workshops which precede the opening of the Exhibition as well as the general seminar programme which runs throughout the Exhibition. This year, for the first time, BIGGA will be organising a European Forum aimed particularly at ascertaining the needs of greenkeepers throughout Europe, seeing where help can be given through BIGGA's administrative structure and seeking greater co-operation with European greenkeeping Associations. A number of speakers from Europe have been invited to contribute to the Forum which it is anticipated will meet with an enthusiastic response from BIGGA's many members working in Europe. Indications are that the Forum will also attract much interest from a number of European Greenkeeping Associations as well as Golf Federations.

One of the Exhibition's main marketing 'tools' is the Pre-Registration Card and all participating companies are urged to distribute these cards in large numbers. There is no limitation on the number of cards that can be provided and companies can order them by contacting BIGGA Headquarters. BIGGA is looking at all times to promote the Exhibition jointly with the industry and is always open to suggestions on marketing initiatives.

The 1992 Exhibition certainly proved to be the most successful to date. Not only were

there many more Course Managers and greenkeepers at Harrogate, but they were often accompanied by Chairmen of Green, Secretaries or club owners as the case may be. Also the geographical spread was much wider with, for example, not only a substantial attendance from the South West but also a most encouraging presence from Scotland. BIGGA will continue to direct its efforts to increasing member participation. In this we are undoubtedly helped by the Exhibition's surrounding infrastructure - restaurants, hotels, guest houses and shops all offer much to the visitor together with the bonus of being able to park one's car and leave it unused for the week with all facilities within walking distance. Indeed, those attending BTME need no second invitation to return and many in returning have subsequently brought colleagues with them. Our intention is to firmly establish BTME as the premier exhibition for the fine turf industries. In this regard we are actively encouraging local authority participation and we are also targeting architects and constructors considering it important that they be present in Harrogate as an integral part of the industry.

I believe that BTME is now firmly fixed in the industry's calendar and we in BIGGA will spare no effort to ensure the continued growth and success of the Exhibition.

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Looking ahead

BTME 1993 will be buzzing with so much to see and do. The Educational Seminar Programme starts on Monday January 18 with two-day workshops, and will again continue to explore topics vital to green-keeping professionals.

The keynote address on Wednesday January 20 will be by one of the world's most seasoned explorers, Colonel John Blashford-Snell MBE. His talk will focus on his experience of leadership, motivation, creative management, team-building and problem solving.

Special five-day, three day and two-day accommodation packages have been arranged at preferential rates for delegates. Places are filling up fast, however - check availability by ringing BIGGA HQ on 03473 581.

Best prices for accommodation

The Old Swan Hotel is nominated as Exhibition Hotel for 1993, following its success as a venue for the 1992 event. The hotel is just a couple of minutes walk from the show and is the focal point for the social programme and pre-exhibition workshops. The Old Swan say they have "extra special rates" exclusively for BTME delegates. Call them on 0423 500055.

Cooper Calder Conferences are a one-stop shop for hotel bookings.

Again, they can offer preferential rates and can arrange bookings on your behalf with a variety of hotels in the town.

The company can also arrange any hospitality requirements. Ask for Jahe Leonard on 0423 505663.

European Forum

Thursday January 21, Old Swan Hotel, 12-2pm
BIGGA is organising the first ever European Forum, aimed particularly at ascertaining the needs of greenkeepers throughout Europe.

The objectives will be to see where help can be given through BIGGA's administrative structure, and seeking greater co-operation with European Green-keeping Associations.

Speakers from Sweden, Belgium and Holland have already accepted invitations to contribute to the Forum which it is anticipated will meet with an enthusiastic response from BIGGA's many members working in Europe.

All international members are invited to attend. If you haven't indicated on your booking form of your intention to attend what should be a fascinating event, call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 03473 581 to secure your place.

A buffet luncheon will be provided, courtesy of BIGGA.

◆ The 1993 BTME runs from Wednesday January 20 until Friday January 22.

◆ BTME is open from 9am on all three days. It closes at 5.30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and at 1.30pm on Friday.

◆ If you're driving into Harrogate, RAC road signs will direct you to where you want to go. There are plenty of car parks or off-road positions within easy walking distance of the show.

◆ Rail-links to Harrogate are good and there are direct Inter-city services from London King's Cross.

◆ The nearest international airport is Leeds/Bradford (13 miles/20 minutes by taxi). Manchester Airport is 1.5 hours drive away.



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See us on Stand B42A at BTME

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Touch of magic at the end of BTME

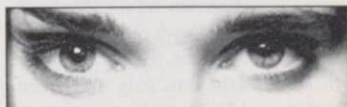
Social highlight of the week will be a fabulous banquet in the Ballroom at the Old Swan Hotel, followed by cabaret from talented television magician Wayne Dobson.

Wayne has emerged in just a few short years as one of the most accomplished and innovative magicians in showbusiness, both here and in the United States.

He's also quite a comic. Comedy characters such as "Clint Cricklewood" appear in his popular TV series "A Kind of Magic" - and so expect the unexpected during what will be an entertaining evening! ♦ Wayne is pictured as Clint Cricklewood, with Linda Lusardi in a scene from his hit TV series. Sorry fellas, Linda won't be at the BTME!



BTME
BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1993



Looking ahead

♦ Just for fun, a general knowledge quiz night will take place at the Old Swan Hotel at 8.30pm on Wednesday January 20. There is no charge for taking part, but let BIGGA HQ know if you've not indicated on your booking form, but you would in fact like to join in. Call Samantha Flint on 03473 581.

♦ Tony Shepherd, Chaplain to the Harrogate Conference Centre, has offered his services to BTME delegates. Tony is vicar of the town centre church of St Peter's and says he would be delighted to co-operate in any appropriate way. He's also a keen golfer and a member at Ripon. Contact Tony on 0423 500901.

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See us on
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SEE US ON STAND A4 AT BTME

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Exhibitors get ready for

Every year **Rolawn** supply hundreds of greenkeepers with purpose grown turf, enabling new greens and tees to be brought into play and worn surfaces to be brought up to standard. The turf can be supplied both in standard square yard rolls and in the new big rolls for large areas. A specially developed range of laying equipment is loaned free of charge to customers so that they can lay the large rolls themselves at greatly reduced cost.

The company has exhibited at BTME from the beginning and show a range of turf and of turf laying equipment and staff are on hand to advise on the best choice for individual needs.

For more details contact Terry Ryan on 0904 608661 or visit Rolawn on Stand A27.

Taking pride of place on the **Allen Power** stand will be the Allen Mustang All Terrain Mower – a 42" ride on mower with a difference.

This rugged machine, built around a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin Vanguard will go where other ride-ons fear to tread, according to Allen Power.

Low pressure ATV tyres and

hydrostatic drive with differential lock mean the vehicle will cut grass on banks where until now only pedestrian machines could be used.

The above configuration also means the Mustang is in a class of its own on newly seeded grass or in extreme wet conditions.

Electric lift to the cutter, a deck that can be removed in 20 seconds and an impressive towing capacity together with stunning good looks means the Allen Mustang is in demand with the owners of large lawns and the professional user alike.

Price: £3695 +VAT – see it at BTME on Stand A28.

United Agri's United Super Zip Topper is available in three versions, 12' 6" cut with wheels single or dual rollers which enables it to follow ground contours. It has a very clean cut, an even spread with quick recovery. It can cut from half an inch upwards. Low horse power required. Transport width 7' 10". It has five spindles with anti-scalp discs and 15 blades.

United Parks Zip Mower is available in four versions. 7' 6" cut, with easy screw adjustable side skids, sin-

gle or dual rollers, or with wheels. Extremely strong. Either machine will cut in forward or reverse direction. 3 point linkage front and rear.

See the United Agri machinery at BTME on Stand A21.

On display at the **Allett Mowers** stand will be three machines specifically designed for greenkeepers. The Allett Conqueror is a ride on triple mower for use on tees and surrounds. The machine benefits from hydrostatic transmission and is therefore very manoeuvrable. Unique for a machine in this price range, the Conqueror has individual clutches for all three cutting units giving a choice of cutting widths of 78", 57" or 36". The machine is powered by an 11HP electric start Command engine with a pressure lubricated system for prolonged use on banks.

Also on display will be two pedestrian greens machines. The Tournament incorporates a power driven spiral brush fitted between front roller and cylinder which brushes the turf, lifting any lateral grass, for a much better quality of cut and at the same time it brushes the front roller to keep it clean and so main-

tain a consistent height of cut. The Shaver is a similar machine but with an optional static brush. Both machines give 180 cuts per yard and a finish which is unequalled.

See Allet Mowers on Stand B42A.

Inturf, grower and supplier of high quality cultivated turf, operates a seven day harvesting programme, producing six grades of turf from the selected 1200 acres of nurseries situated throughout the country, and is the official turf supplier for Wembley Stadium. Technical advice is offered by Turfgrass Services International Ltd, and the whole Group accomplishes total quality management verified by BS5750 accreditation. Visit Inturf on Stand A34, where technical personnel will be available to offer advice.

Lindum Turf on Stand B5 will be displaying their range of turf. Lindum turf is well respected and is used by golf courses nationwide.

Grades available: Tournament – the top quality fescue bent greens turf; Tees 1 – the fine grass tees turf and Tees 2, the hard wearing tees turf with dwarf perennial ryegrass.

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are covered by the Lindum range of turf grades.

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For more details contact Stephen Fell or David Snowden on 065 261 329.

Pattison welcome old and new friends to their stand where they will be able to see their new nylon bogey hole cup, putting green markers and flag swivel with the easi-fit flag along with their comprehensive range of golf course and driving range equipment.

See Pattison on Stand B24.

The Express Dual will be shown by **Atterton & Ellis**, which is capable of not only conventional plain cylinder grinding with the cylinder removed, but also in-situ grinding of the cylinder when still mounted in the machine – a particularly useful feature when resharpening during mid-season. A "Professional" kit will be included which allows a larger range of cutting units to be sharpened in-situ.

The Anglemaster heavy duty bottom blade grinding machine will also be shown by the company and will include a power traverse feature.

All machines are well proven and carry the Atterton hallmark of quality and reliability and may be seen in use in many of the leading golf courses throughout the country as well as many other parts of the world.

Further details will be available at the show on Stand A8 or by contacting Atterton & Ellis Ltd on 0440 702312.

Hole-in-White return to Harrogate for the third year to enable greenkeepers and trade to see first-hand a demonstration of Hole-in-White in use.

Hole-in-White is a golf hole turf whitener and has been specially designed to provide the golf course manager/greenkeeper with a fast and most efficient way of painting the inside of the golf hole (top inch) using our patent device and quick drying new formula aerosol paint.

Don't miss this opportunity to come along and see us on Stand A4.

This year **Donath Seeds** will be introducing their new wildflower mixtures for conservation areas on golf courses and Danilo, the leading

new amenity perennial ryegrass, which will be available in their fairway mixture.

Donath Seeds will be happy to help with any queries visitors may have concerning hydroseeding on golf courses. For more details or an information pack, call 0666 502834, or visit Donath Seeds on Stand B9.

The unique turfgrass teaching facilities at Myerscough (**Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture**) provide a comprehensive range of irrigation systems, golfing surfaces and demonstration areas, with a further two holes currently being constructed on the golf course. This allows students to study different construction profiles and management systems. Integrated with these features is a research programme on irrigation and nutrient requirements of high sand and content rootzone mixes.

Such excellent facilities and research programmes are designed to enhance the quality of courses and improve the career opportunities offered to students – a strategy which has proved highly popular with the successful launch of the new Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Provision in September 1992.

For more information contact Martyn Jones or Maria Gara at Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture on 0995 40611, or visit Stand A15 at the BTME.

In introducing the driving range version of their tried and tested synthetic surface "Golf Mat", **Pro-Tee Products** have retained all the qualities and innovations which have proved so successful to date.

Management is considerably eased due to the reduction in range operating costs brought about by the maintainability and durability features designed into the rubber frame/surface combination.

Users have not only noted the size of the mat but also have been pleasantly aware of the qualities it possesses for the protection of their equipment (a 15mm shock absorbing backing cushion) and the non-clogging tee retention system.

For more details of Pro-Tee Products, call 0306 712998 or see them at BTME on Stand B26.

Supreme Mowing proudly present the supreme grinding system, designed to accommodate all sharpening needs.

"You request and we can provide from single function cylinder and bottom blade grinders to our unique

design dual purpose cylinder and bottom blade grinding machines," says Linda Adams, General Manager. Cylinders can be spun and/or single blades ground in situ or out of frame, together with the ability to sharpen bottom blades on the same machine with equal efficiency and precision. Why take up expensive working area with two machines when one will provide all facilities?

Supreme's designs incorporate high safety levels including full shatterproof canopy, recirculating coolant system and, importantly, 24-volt switch gear.

See Supreme Mowing on Stand A32 at Harrogate.

Sports Ground Irrigation Co. will be showing for the first time at BTME, their remote control irrigation system – this enables the greenkeeper to operate each valve manually without opening the valve box.

The system uses a hand-held transmitter and smart decoders developed specially for the CIC range of decoders and, says the company, is probably the easiest golf course controller to programme.

Also on display will be the full



Looking ahead

range of "Hunter" gear driven sprinklers, including the "Hunter" golf range for which Sports Ground Irrigation are UK distributors.

See these products on Stand A9.

Otterbine Aerators, on Stand A10, can help keep irrigation waters clean. This full-time management tool reduces bottom sludge, algae, aquatic weeds and foul aquatic odours through a process called Aeration. Mechanical aerators pull cold dense bottom waters upwards and throw them into the air where they collect atmospheric oxygen. This circulation and oxygenation helps speed biological clean-up process. Mechanical aerators are effective when the stress on the aquatic ecosystem is greatest during calm, still and cloudy days. Otterbine supplies a self-contained compact system with over 100,000 installations throughout the world.

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See us on Stand A30 at BTME in Harrogate



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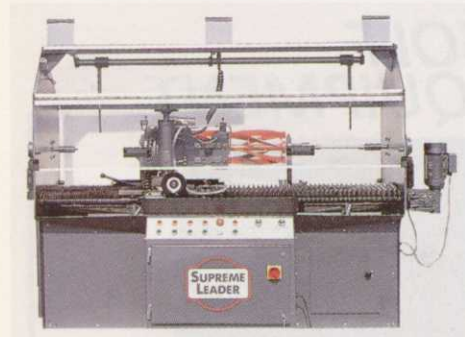
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Wiedenmann (UK)

(as at 25 November 1992).

A message from BIGGA Chairman Roy Kates

You've got to be there!



Looking ahead



Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities and this is always clearly illustrated in the development of the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

At the beginning of this year, expectation was high for another successful BTME. Our expectations were more than surpassed, with a tremendous response from greenkeepers, the trade and all visitors who attended the Harrogate event in whatever capacity.

To build on that great success was always going to be a challenge. Faced with a crippling economic climate and the worst recession in over 50 years, the prospect of a BTME which matched the record-breaking 1992 event, was something we could only dream about.

But thanks to the determination and sheer hard work of the BIGGA staff, our friends in the trade and the sterling efforts of the BTME Steering Committee, all the signs are that we have indeed produced another winner.

I am thrilled at the prospect of Prince Andrew opening the 1993 event. It is a clear sign to the entire industry that the BTME has achieved recognition at the highest level. Our exhibition has always been the jewel in BIGGA's crown – an expression which takes on even more meaning this coming year.

A keen sense of purpose continues to drive the

Association forward. Our Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund was launched by Viscount Whitelaw at this year's BTME, and you can read elsewhere in this issue of the huge strides this fund has taken in so short a time.

We are all working tirelessly for greenkeeper, golf club and game and the annual BTME is your chance to see those efforts come to fruition. As well as the education and illumination of it all, there's ample opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and generally take advantage of the stimulating atmosphere which gives BTME such a buzz.

If you've already been before, no doubt you too will be looking forward to this "week of the year." If you haven't, I urge you not to miss out and guarantee that you won't regret the journey.

This is an appropriate time to thank those many, many people without whose efforts the 1993 BTME would not hold such promise. To everyone within BIGGA, the staff, magazine staff, Board of Management, Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries, plus the members – thank you for working together to build a brighter future for us all. A special thank you goes to the trade for their support and to the Golden/Silver Key Circle members who have provided vital financial help for tomorrow's greenkeeping profession.

To conclude, I wish you all you would wish yourself this Christmas and I hope we will all enjoy a prosperous New Year – starting, of course, with the fortunes of the BTME.

Having read about BTME on these pages, I do hope you will make tracks to Harrogate, and will bring your colleagues along too. I look forward to seeing you there.



There's still TIME

- ◆ To book a stand space – call Debbie Savage on 03473 581 or request an information pack by fax on 03473 8864
- ◆ To pre-register to gain preferential admission. Complete the postcard in this issue, send it back to us – post free – and we'll have your badge waiting for you when you arrive. Submitting this card also means you stand a chance of winning fantastic BIGGA merchandise in a free prize draw

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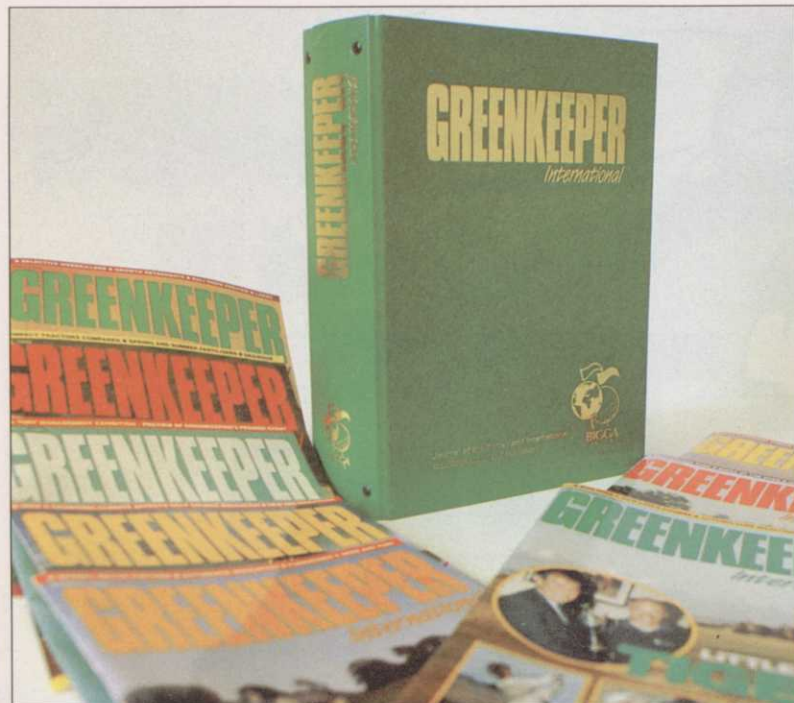
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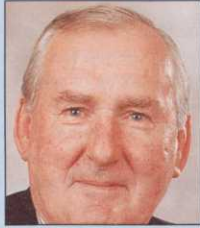
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Drainage



Barry F Cooper, son of the nationally acknowledged drainage expert, the late Turner Cooper, inventor of the first trenchless drainage machine in 1954 and author of the seminal work 'Practical Land Drainage', has spent a lifetime in solving drainage problems. This feature is edited from a paper prepared by Barry Cooper for the BIGGA Education Conference at Cirencester. It offers timeless words of wisdom

In my opinion, the drainage of golf courses is no different from that of ordinary agricultural land. In most cases one is dealing with virgin land, and the principles of land drainage remain the same. This applies to both existing courses and courses under construction, with exceptions being those that have been constructed by Americans or Japanese, where wholesale earth moving is the norm.

I must be appreciated that it takes a very long time for a reasonable sub-soil structure to build up in land that has been subjected to massive earth moving, and no matter how many drains are installed the drainage will not work to full capacity until this sub-soil structure is restored. This fact is of paramount importance to the successful drainage of any course.

When I am asked to assess the drainage requirements of land that is to become a golf course, I approach it in the following way. Normally I am provided with a plan showing the proposed layout, but it will not be of much use in the initial stages of drainage design. My first requirement is a 1/2500 OS map of the area showing all the old field boundaries. If it is possible to obtain an OS map dating back to the early 1900s so much the better, because there are likely to be many more field boundaries shown than on later series, showing the original boundaries before farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture vandalised the area concerned in order to produce more food and facilitate the ever increasing size of farm machinery.

Having obtained the relevant OS maps, I can visualise how each original field was drained, and I have a starting point for designing my scheme. In the old days the hedgerows usually depicted differing sub-soil types, so that farmers knew exactly which field could be worked during which time. All of this skill vanished when farm machinery improved, but I still feel this knowledge is important to me, because my plan may call for different drainage designs dependent upon the nature of the sub-soil. I try also to obtain a copy of the Geological Survey map for the area, which denotes sub-soil changes fairly accurately. Thus equipped I can be on my guard when designing a drainage scheme in an area of ever changing sub-soil.

Having ascertained where old field boundaries were I check on the relevant outfall ditches. This will also give me an answer as to whether any more modern grant-aided drainage schemes have been installed over the last 40 years or so. My next task is to seek out the man who has been farming the land in previous years. Such information is invaluable, for he will be able to tell me almost to the metre where the wet areas are, or where an old main drain runs. This is particularly important in instances where the land is flat, main drains travelling some distance to find a satisfactory outfall.

As drainage is a very costly operation, I often come under pressure from constructors to cut drainage specifications to a bare minimum, this to encourage the client to proceed with the contract. I resist this vigorously, not only because it is false economy, but also it is like building a house without foundations. If the drainage is right, some of the surface requirements, eg. trees and bunkers, can be postponed until the following year to ease the cost, without any long term damage being done.

Having made my enquiries, I start my own field work: soil samples, level surveys etc. It is at this point that I turn to the proposed layout plan, because I can allow for larger diameter

pipes to accommodate greens, tees and bunker drainage, whilst designing my drainage scheme around any proposed tree planting.

I am often asked whether the drainage or irrigation should be installed first. Usually I would plump for drainage first. Drainage is purely hydraulic and has to rely on being laid to the correct falls, and as an advocate of deep drainage I like to operate without the restriction of irrigation pipes and cables.

On courses with a fairly uniform clay sub-soil, my usual design would be for a series of laterals laid at 15m centres and approximately 800mm deep, with porous fill to within 150mm of the surface, with the last operation taking place before seeding: a good sub-soil at 450mm deep. This sub-soiling is of prime importance, because during the construction work considerable compaction occurs, which must be overcome before seeding takes place. I like to bring the porous fill to within 150mm of the surface, so that lighter machinery can successfully carry out secondary treatment.

During 1989 I was asked to design and supervise a system for the Strathtyrum at St Andrews. The sub-soil was pure sand and most of the area was below the high water mark. I instituted a comprehensive level survey and ascertained that a pumping situation would be required. I am no expert on pumping schemes, so I set out to find the contractor who had worked on neighbouring land three years previously. I found him and learned more in talking to him for an hour than if I had toiled on my own for a month. He told me what water volume to expect, what pump sizes would be necessary and to make provisions for dealing with the dreaded 'red ochre'.

A series of very deep and large size concrete mains had been laid by the first contractor some seven years prior to our starting the new scheme, and upon inspection they were already beginning to block with 'red ochre'. We successfully jetted them all, and installed extra man-holes to facilitate future jetting work. A system of laterals was installed some 1.2m deep at 15m centres, which produced a staggering amount of water. The plastic pipes were all filter wrapped and I am keeping my fingers crossed that the wrapping does not become blocked. The end of every lateral was brought up to surface level and covered with a cap – also to facilitate jetting – which I calculate will be needed every five years.

In the past I believe that drainage was considered to be of little importance on existing courses, with green chairmen just shrugging their shoulders if any fairway was unplayable, with little concern to either take the affected fairway out of play or close the course until it was dry. Thank goodness these attitudes are changing now, as the realisation that if a course, or any part of it, is too wet for play a considerable amount of revenue may be lost. Many courses remain wet because people in power think they are impossible to drain. This usually comes about because 'the greenkeeper had a go at draining the fairway down by the stream and it did not work, therefore it is impossible to drain'. They do not stop to think that the drains hadn't been laid either deep enough (the usual problem) or in the correct location to achieve the best results. It amazes me that people who should know better still advocate shallow drains when draining fairways. I would rarely, if ever, recommend to a club that they lay any drains less than 750mm deep, and I shudder when I hear a supposed drainage contractor refer to a golf course as a

► 'sports turf situation'. This usually is an excuse to lay drains at 450mm deep, at about 5 or 6m centres. Not only is this very expensive, but it is not as effective as it should be, giving little or no room for secondary treatment.

When I am called to visit an existing course, I follow a similar procedure as when visiting a greenfield site, particularly as far as the old OS sheets are concerned, obviously with a course some 80 or 90 years old, there are unlikely to be any workers left who know anything about the land. If it is possible to obtain these old maps, at least then I have the old field boundaries to hand and can start my investigations accordingly. Some times construction work has been carried out during a dry time and ditches have been assumed to be dry, when in reality they were not what we know as dry ditches, and we all know the result of burying drain outfalls.

At St Andrews, apart from the greenfield site I mentioned earlier I had to design a pumping scheme in order to drain a 1200m landstrip that comprised the 2nd, 3rd and 4th holes of the Jubilee Course, which was also below the high water mark. Well, I thought I had seen an awful amount of water making out of the sand on the Strathtyrum Course, but it was nothing compared to what we hit on the Jubilee. The contractor installed the pump site and we started with the pipe reservoir at 3.5m deep at the pump site and 1m deep 1200m away at the 4th Green. Two laterals were installed, average depth 1m, parallel to the main and connected into it at intervals. We were suddenly removing in excess of 1 million gallons of pure clean water per day. I thought the water would be salty, but it was beautifully fresh and clear.

There are five courses at St Andrews and they have a 400,000 gallon reservoir that was kept going by pumped water from the Swilken Burn. This water was sparse and not as clean as it might have been and although all the courses at St Andrews have automatic sprinklers on greens, tees and fairways, water was so scarce that only the Old Course received the

'Many links courses could be sitting on a goldmine of untapped pure water...'

amount required to keep it fairly green.

Now with the water we had found, we connected it to the reservoir through a series of gate valves again and they had to install a 150mm overflow pipe to cope with the quantity of water. I was concerned that the water was forming an underground block against the encroachment of salt water, and with drawing so many million gallons of it away I felt the salt water may eventually become predominant. However, chemical tests are carried out regularly and during the last two years this hasn't happened and the quantity of water has only decreased slightly.

What was very interesting at St Andrews was that there were two main drains (stone drains) with manholes at every 150 yards that must have been at least 100 years old, laid by hand. They were around 300mm in diameter and, apart from their upper reaches, were working perfectly. I should mention that where our new main drain was at its deepest, we were drawing water from the sand over 150 yards away.

Having had these experiences at St Andrews, I can't help feeling that many other links courses could be 'sitting on a gold mine' of untapped pure water, which could save untold cost if harnessed properly. The same could be said for some inland courses, where there is a particularly sandy sub-soil and the topography of the area creates the correct circumstances.

I would just like to mention the drainage of greens and tees. These days greens are constructed on a 'stone carpet', with pipe drains laid under the carpet at approx. 300mm deep. The carpet

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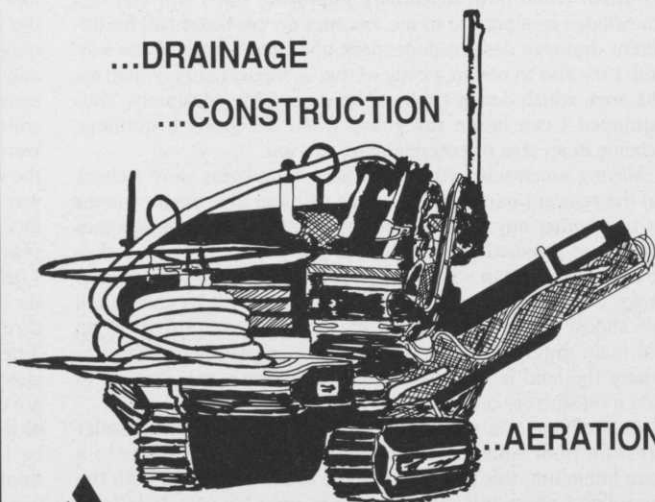
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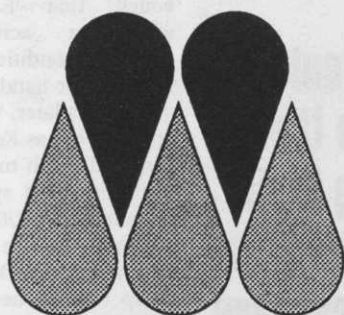
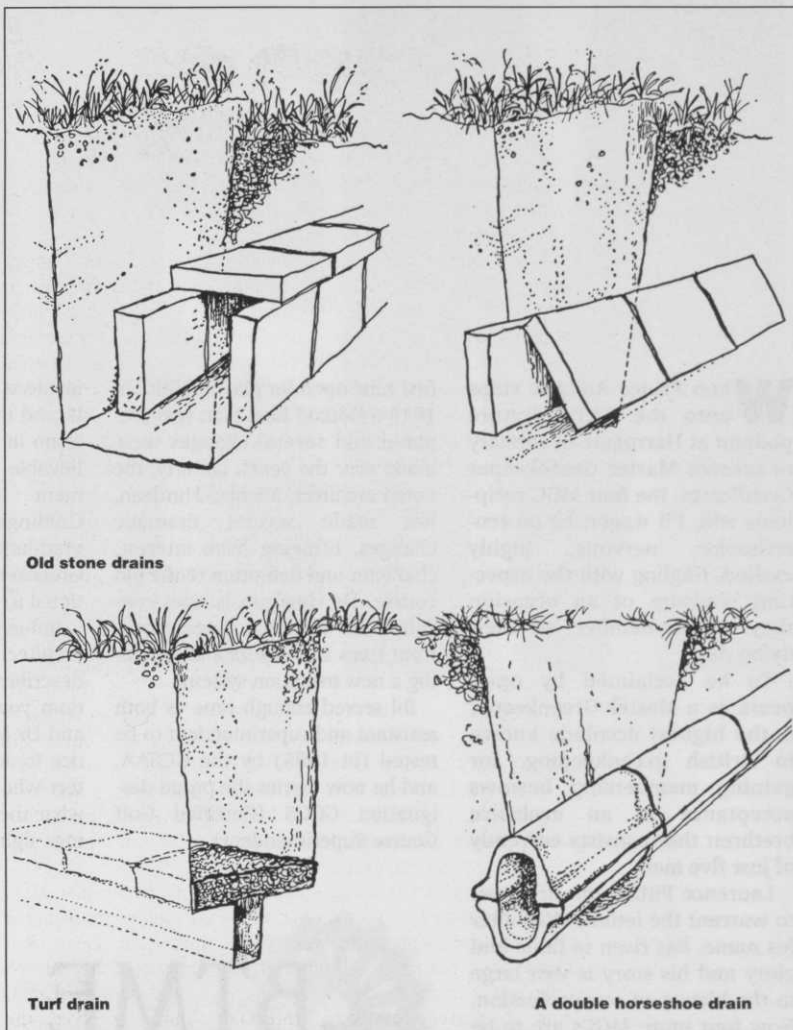
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is usually 40mm clean stone laid to a thickness of around 225mm. Newly constructed tees are drained in an identical manner. The only thing I fall out over regarding this is that if there is no general drainage scheme required or afforded, green and tee drains are usually led to a 'soakaway'. The use of soakaways always make me smile, because I believe that if water is expected to soak away just a few feet from the drained area, it is reasonable to expect it to soak away anyway and not require draining! Greens that were constructed many years ago have no stone carpets and present a variety of different problems, particularly the obvious ones arising from sunken greens or those carved out of the side of a hill. The only way to drain virgin greens is to install pipe drains to lower the water table therein. Sometimes with careful thought this object can be achieved without actually laying drains in the putting surface.

As with agriculture, drains alone do not keep a green dry. Good greenkeeping is essential, and things such as thatch and compaction must be kept under control at all times. Bunkers on clay based courses are also a potential trouble spot, and I usually recommend that drains be laid along the length of the bunker some 300mm below the level of the sand. I usually specify filter wrapped pipe, with a 6mm to 10mm backfill over, with a geo-textile membrane strip over the backfill or turves. I prefer this method to a sump in the bunker, because the sump tends to be like taking the plug out of a sink full of water and drains the sand into the porous fill and the pipe.

Another thing I feel strongly about is the timing of drainage work. Most clubs will try to insist that their drainage scheme is carried out at the end of the season so as not to interfere with tournaments, but what they don't realise is that not only are they taking a much bigger risk weather wise, in extreme conditions they could lose a further season's play on the affected areas. I always try to persuade clubs to allow the work to take place in mid summer, when disturbance to both club and soil is minimal.



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When Prince Andrew steps onto the BTME lecture podium at Harrogate in January to present Master Greenkeeper Certificates, the four MGC recipients will, I'll wager, be on tenterhooks: nervous, highly excited, tingling with the expectant pleasure of an occasion they will remember 'til their dying day.

To be acclaimed by one's peers as a Master Greenkeeper is the highest accolade known in British greenkeeping, for gaining membership bestows acceptance to an exclusive brethren that consists currently of just five men.

Laurence Pithie, the first ever to warrant the letters MGC after his name, has risen to fame and glory and his story is writ large in the history of our profession. Now four more MGCs are to be thus honoured, and in recognition of their 'Right Royal Acclamation', Greenkeeper International outlines their careers, Masters all!

WILLIAM (Bil) MONTAGUE, CGCS, MGC

Bil Montague is the first American to gain MGC status, and I am indebted to Thom Martinek, President, Northern Ohio Supt. Assoc., for his commentary.

'Bil started in the business in the sixties after serving in the US Army. Under the watchful eye of Walter Dean, Bil learned quickly, acting as Walter's most able assistant. He attended night school until the State of Ohio declared an austerity programme and laid off many of its employees, working then as a superintendent at a public course before returning to education, this time as a full time student at Ohio State University. Following his time at Ohio State, he worked for Leo Petronzio, gaining valuable experience of landscape layout and plant selection from one of the best known exponents of the art.

In 1972, Bil began working at the Oakwood Club, and he will soon be starting his twentieth season, having been named superintendent upon his predecessors retirement. The Oakwood Club was founded in 1905, with the

first nine open for play in 1906. In 1915 a Donald Ross plan was prepared and several changes were made over the years. Latterly, the noted architect, Michael Hurdzan, has made several dramatic changes, bringing back interest, character and definition to the old course. Dr Hurdzan is now consulted on all long range plans, from trees to bunkers and including a new irrigation system.

Bil served enough time as both assistant and superintendent to be tested (in 1985) by the GCSAA, and he now carries the proud designation CGCS (Certified Golf Course Superintendent).



Four greenkeepers have a particular reason to be looking forward to the 1993 BTME. They'll be collecting their Master Greenkeeper Certificates from Prince Andrew. We look at the careers of four more recruits to the profession's most exclusive club

In 1988 Bil was introduced to BIGGA and attended his first conference in Scotland. "I was so taken by the hospitality of the people I met", Bil told me, "I came home an avowed ambassador for BIGGA, keen to tell everyone of my experiences and of the great educational opportunities existing within the organisation".

Bil began his quest for MGC in 1990, "after having been in golf for over 20 years, and having been certified by GCSAA, I felt the need for a career orientated educational goal, which BIGGA fulfilled perfectly via its MGC programme. With the time

involved to complete Phases I and II, and the comprehensive written exam in Phase III, I had an unbelievable feeling of accomplishment upon reading David Golding's fax, which read: 'Congratulations! - the second Master Greenkeeper and the first International to achieve this status'...".

Influential in Bil's life have been architect Jack Kidwell, who he describes as "a man whose wisdom you can take to the bank", and Dr Michael Hurdzan, apprentice to Jack and a talented architect who "gives his clients exactly what they want, whilst never losing sight of the needs of the

story, for though he was born in the Kingdom of Fife, often acclaimed as 'The Home of Golf', in the 16 years he spent there he never once set foot on a Scottish golf course!

Kerran moved with his family to Hertfordshire and on leaving school at 18, started work at Berkhamsted Golf Club, home of the Berkhamsted Trophy and scene of early triumphs by the young Sandy Lyle. Some 18 months later he moved again, this time to Brighton's finest municipal golf course at Hollingbury Park and after just one year he was appointed their head greenkeeper. Two years at Hollingbury gave him the confidence to move into the private domain, and he became head greenkeeper at East Brighton Golf Club, then the home club of editor, David White, who recalls, 'though I was not at that time involved in greenkeeping journalism, I can readily vouch that East Brighton's windswept acres were in sparkling condition, obviously in very capable hands'.

Six years later, 'the rough edges knocked off' as Kerran puts it, he ventured north to Staverton Park Golf Club and spent five years learning about USGA spec greens and how to care for heavy clay fairways, 'greenkeeping at the sharp end' as he now describes the experience. Whilst at the Daventry club he attained the EIGGA Diploma in Golf Management and won the coveted EIGGA Course Manager's Gold Diploma.

The lure of the Downs brought Kerran back south, this time to the historic and welcoming Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club, and it is here that he cares for the needs of his members, producing turf that is, according to his peers, a pleasure to play upon.

Education has never been far from Kerran's mind, and mindful of the benefits such education brings in keeping greenkeepers 'on top of the game', he has completed Phases III and IV in Golf Course Management. His recognition as an expert saw him compete in the ICI Professional Product Premier Greenkeeper of the Year awards in 1990, placing a creditable third.

superintendent, who must maintain the end product".

Bil lives in Kirtland, Ohio, with wife Monica, son Jason (18) and daughter Amanda (10), together with several horses. In expressing his appreciation to his friends in BIGGA, Bil especially singled out fellow American, Jean Esposito, who introduced him to the Association. He also thanks his family for "all the times I couldn't be with you, 'because the grass was growing' and you all understood".

KERRAN DALY, MGC

There is a novel, some might say cruel, twist in Kerran Daly's career

In his 21 years of greenkeeping there has been no stronger supporter of BIGGA, in the past as chairman of the Sussex section, whilst now holding office on the committee of the South Coast section. Apart from this active participation in committee, Kerran is at ease on the lecture podium, and he has addressed both South Coast and Devon and Cornwall section meetings on several occasions. In January, greenkeepers will be able to see and hear him in action at our own BTME, when he will address the subject: Computers and Golf Course Management.

Kerran is married and confesses to spending most of his spare time with his daughter, Shona, who is just three years old and the apple of her father's eye.

ROBERT MAIBUSCH, B.Sc., CGCS, MGC

Bob Maibusch is the second of our American Internationals, a man whose first experience with the game of golf was as a caddie. He writes: 'I was employed at the Oak Park CC from 1971 to 1976, fortunate to work at a club that cared enough about their caddies that they encouraged us to play. An outcome of this experience was that I attained a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship. The scholarship is based on a combination of grade point average, caddying experience, financial need, moral character, a written essay, and the recommendation of the members of your club. This scholarship allowed me to attend Michigan State University for four years, majoring with a B.Sc. in Turfgrass Management.

Another experience that I had caddying and which, more than anything else, convinced me that I wanted to devote my life to golf was that as the top caddie at my club I was qualified to caddy in the 1974 Western Open. By luck of the draw I chose Tom Watson, who had played well the previous week in the U.S. Open but had faltered in the last round in what has come to be known as the "Massacre at Winged Foot". Fate works in mysterious ways, and on the last day Tom Watson came from six behind to win his first ever tournament. Since then he

has gone on to win over 30 professional events including five British Opens. Throughout his career he has been an inspiration, we have stayed in touch and his encouragement has been a great motivation for me.

From 1976-'78 I was employed at Oak Park CC and got my first taste of how difficult this line of work really is, thereafter (1979-1981) I was assistant at Kenosha CC, Wisconsin. Working under superintendent David Ward, I learned some of the difficulties involved in managing a staff and projects. Dave Ward, now the superintendent at Olympia Fields CC, was and continues to be a great mentor for me. He gave me the opportunity to develop my management skills and much of the credit for my skills as a course manager can be attributed to his positive influence, and his willingness to let a 'wet behind the ears' assistant prove himself.

From 1981-'82 I was assistant at Ravisloe CC. This position came as a result of Dave Ward taking the job as superintendent. It was a new experience for me, because the course had many agronomic problems as a result of prior mismanagement. The experience I gained in seeing it transformed from its poor condition into one of the finest conditioned courses in the district helped to prepare me for the step up the ladder to superintendent.

Since 1982 I have been superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club, fortunate in the past ten years to have worked with a board of directors and committee who were committed to the betterment of the course and were willing to allocate funds to see our goals achieved. Also, I have been blessed with an extremely dedicated and competent staff. I believe that these two factors, more than anything else, have been instrumental in whatever success I have enjoyed professionally.

Cheryl, my wife, is my biggest supporter and understands the long hours and dedication that it takes to be successful in this business. It helps that she was also a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship recipient and had worked on the

ground staff of three different golf courses.'

Bob and Cheryl have two youngsters, Alexandra, aged four and Kieron, three.

GORDON IRVINE, MGC

It struck me in writing about Gordon Irvine (27) that he is the youngest greenkeeper thus far to achieve MGC status. Further, he is the third Scot to be so honoured and I am eaten with curiosity – who will be the first greenkeeper born south of Hadrian's Wall to join the hallowed MGC Club?

Though still the youngster in the pack, Gordon has ten solid years of experience behind him, culled in the main on the championship links of Turnberry, Ayrshire. Joining Turnberry straight from school, his first assignment was on a Government Job Creation Scheme, a stint of just six months. The wisdom of his peers was shown when after those six months had expired he was offered a full time job on the course as a trainee greenkeeper, a fortunate decision for both parties.

Fortunate again, Gordon was sent on a day-release management course to Langside College in Glasgow. He spent four years at Langside studying Greenkeeping Management and passed through each year with Grade A results – four straight 'A's, as our American friends might say. At the end of this period, based on exam results and glowing tutor recommendations, he won the title: 'Young Scottish Greenkeeper of the Year'. It is his proud claim that during his time at Langside College he received on-course training from some of the finest course managers in the country, whilst working with a team of 'most highly skilled greenkeepers'.

Seven very happy years were spent at Turnberry, preparing the golf courses for club members and many thousands of visitors. Turnberry nevertheless plays host to many famous events, notably The Open, the Amateur Championship and the British Seniors, this exposure acknowledged as a huge bonus in the learning curve of any young greenkeeper. The time came, however, when Gordon

was ready for a new challenge and a chance, as he states 'to put back into greenkeeping all that I had been trained and educated to achieve'.

Luck fortunes the brave, and Gordon was successful in securing a position at Surrey's exciting new Mill Ride Golf Club, where in 1989 he came as clerk of works during construction and is now their course manager. His fortune continued during construction in being part of a fabulous team consisting of the modern-day triumvirate – architect Donald Steel, agronomist Jim Arthur and constructor Brian Pierson – who welcomed and encouraged his input and responded favourably to his ideas from the maintenance viewpoint. Opening the project eight months ahead of schedule, the course has received huge praise and has attracted some of the top golfers in the country as playing members.

"My studying has carried on over the years, Gordon told me, 'with added interest in the game generated through study of course design and a growing collection of books and literature on golf and greenkeeping. I have now achieved three of my targets in life: I have become a Master Greenkeeper and I have a golf course of my own to prepare in a way that will enable me to demonstrate what British greenkeeping is all about. Finally I am lucky enough to be married to a very supportive wife who understands the greenkeeper's lot. She insists my 'baby' is Mill Ride, though our first child is due in November." (Written in early November, readers may now assume that Gordon is adding the word DAD to his MGC title! – editor).

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON & CORNWALL

The section congratulates Tony Gooch, head greenkeeper at Torrington GC., on being runner-up in the 1992 Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year award, held recently at Aldwark Manor. Tony's prize includes a visit to Portugal for the 1993 PGA European Tour seminar for head greenkeepers/course managers, plus working with the PGA greenkeeping support team at two Tour events next year. Congratulations to Nick Rigden and his staff for the support they have given Tony and also to Torrington GC. Though Torrington is only a small nine hole club, the members have encouraged and supported Tony's greenkeeping education. Hopefully some of our larger clubs will follow suit.

Our first meeting of the season was held at the expertly prepared Warren GC., which I am sure all will agree is a credit to Lauchlan Millar and his staff. It was nice to see so many members at this meeting – and to welcome especially our most westerly located member, Peter Stringer, who is head greenkeeper on the Isles of Scilly. We hope you enjoyed your day, Peter, and we look forward to your next visit.

Following an excellent lunch, our president Don Hunt presented the prizes to our lucky winners, prizes he had kindly donated for the D O Hunt Trophy :- First: Buster Lewer (Dainton Park) 37 pts, Second: Norman Gagg (Churston) 33 pts Third: Trevor Pipe (Honiton) 32 pts. A mention now for Richard Minton of ICI who finished with 36 points. Richard declined a prize for a mere mention in this report, so here is a mere mention!

Our educational talk was on 'Medical emergencies on the golf course', presented by Dr Peter Stanley. The talk was most informative and posed many questions from the audience. The raffle rounded off a most successful day and our thanks to all the trade who donated prizes for the raffle, especially to Maxwell Hart, who donated £30. The section thank the Warren GC for allowing us use of their facilities and their staff for making us feel so welcome. Our thanks finally to Don Hunt for donating the prizes and to Dr Peter Stanley for his excellent talk. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you all at Fingle Glen on Wednesday 13 January.



RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH WALES

Our Autumn Golf Tournament held at Chirk G&CC on 14 October was a great success, with 103 players (must be a record for any section?) attended. The winners were: 1st Peter Gabriel (The Gem Professional Shield & Tankard, an umbrella and a bottle of whisky) 96-28=68. 2nd A. Kift (Hayter sweater) nett 75. 3rd D. Rowlands (body warmer) nett 75. 4th C.M. Davies (putter). 5th N. Tower (holdall). 6th Gareth 'Bronco' Williams (holdall). Best Gross Alun Lewis 80. (ski coat donated by Major Owen). Guests: 1st Colin Bather nett 75 (Rolrake). 2nd Ted Roberts (holdall). Nearest the pin on the 12th, John Humphreys 11'6", (stainless steel spade + shield). Two's sweep: three people shared 20 golf balls: A. Lewis, J. Westcott, J. Humphreys. First raffle prize (a golf bag) went to John Moss. There were many other prizes, too numerous to mention.

We now have our own flags, poles and tee markers with BIGGA N. Wales Section printed on them, donated and supplied by A. Cornes of ACORN.

Many thanks to all the sponsors: Gem Professional, ACORN, Major Owen, Mommersteeg, R.J. Campey, I.C.I., Martin Brothers, Walker Engineering, P. Hughes (Mowers), J. Osman, High Speed Oils and Hayter, plus many more prizes donated – apologies if any name has been omitted from the list.

A very special thanks to Chirk G&CC for allowing the section to stage the Autumn Tournament on such an excellent course, prepared so well by Chirk course manager Alan Sharp and his staff, plus the catering staff for a superb meal.

I had the privilege of playing with Alan and 'friends' and have no doubt that the jokes told over 18 holes were enough to make me forget why I was out there in the first place (but the jokes were very good)!

A Christmas venue has been kindly offered by Abergele & Pensarn GC on 9 December 1992. Our thanks to secretary Mr. E Richards, Mr. D Prys-Jones (green committee) and course manager Mr. B Anderson.

DAVID PROCTOR

NORTH SCOTLAND

As we near the year end it is pleasing to report a healthy increase in section membership. Total membership is 186, of which 162 are greenkeepers. Next year, let's aim for 200 greenkeeping members, and if staff at your club are not yet part of BIGGA, let them know the benefits and get them to join – the more the merrier.

All section events have been well attended and the last for 1992, our AGM, takes place this month. Royal Aberdeen is the venue and prior to our annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match we have a talk on top dressing by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress. We welcome him and look forward to his words of wisdom.

We are currently in the seminar/demonstration season. This gives members the opportunity to learn of new products or machinery and also meet old and new friends in the business. One I attended recently gave us details of a new herbicide that will kill just about all weeds in fine turf, even when turf is at the seeding stage. The sooner it gets approval, the better!

Next month sees BTME at Harrogate. I have enrolled and hope to see plenty of North members present, as well as friends from other sections. The attendance of a member of the Royal Family is quite a coup and H.Q must be congratulated on this achievement.

Any greenkeeper now deep in salary negotiations may care to know that I have copies of BIGGA wage scales for 1993. I will post these to anyone interested. I am currently trying to put together Pesticide Spraying Courses of two days tuition, followed by a third day of examination at a college in our area. The package will include accommodation and course fees. Interested?, please call me on 0862 894402, for by the time you receive this magazine I hope to have something organised. A minimum of ten will be required for each course.

Well, all that remains is for me to wish all members a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

I hope 1993 brings you all you wish and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the year.



IAIN MACLEOD

CLEVELAND

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Brass Castle GC, Middlesborough, on 29 October, the format being a Fourball, Betterball Stableford. Prizes were presented by the captain to the winners, Graham Pyle and H Wilson, with second place going to David Crocher and R Derby. Twenty four players took part. Our thanks to Norman Shedd of Aitken's for making the score cards.

We offer a warm welcome to the latest new member to join our section, Paul Millward, greenkeeper at Bedale GC.

A Christmas Social and Quiz, sponsored by Turf Care of Consett, Co. Durham, will be staged on 15 December at Billingham GC, starting at 7.30 pm. I close by extending my personal Christmas greetings to you all.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH WEST

The final golf fixture of 1992 was held at Dunham Forest GC on 8 October, and proved to be the biggest turn-out of the year with no less than 50 competitors. I must admit I was pleasantly surprised at such a large attendance until I realized the reason. Dunham Forest are at present without a head greenkeeper and this was a perfect opportunity to reconnoitre the course. I don't think there will be a shortage of applicants when the job is advertised, and with such a good attendance it might be advisable to choose our golf venues from the Sits. Vac. columns! The day was a great success with everybody enjoying the course and the hospitality. The winners were: Best Gross. P. Pearce. 72. Best Nett. M. Sheehan 76-6=70. 2nd. J. Pearson 80-10=70. 3rd. J. Farrimond 76-2-74. 4th. F. Platt 84-9=75. 5th. M. Davey 87-12=75. 6th. P. Solski 90-15=75. Vets Prize J. Wright. 98-20=78. Guests Prize 76-8=68. Aggregate Prize J. Pearson. 215.

Many thanks to our trade friends for helping to swell the prize table; the caterers for a superb meal and Dunham Forest for allowing us the courtesy of their lovely course.

A series of winter lectures has been arranged during the coming months and all members will now have received a newsletter with lecture titles, dates etc. Please make every effort to attend and support your section. The Toro workshop at Reaseheath College on 16 October was very poorly attended, with only nine of an estimated forty attending, despite every effort being made to advertise this in your section news and at Haydock Park. The day turned out to be excellent value for money; and I would like to thank Robin Hume and the Toro team for their presentation.

That appears to be all, other than to take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BERT CROSS



BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

'In the bleak mid-winter', or so the song goes, is about right for some of the weather we have been experiencing at the moment, but have no fear for you can still rely on the trusty greenkeeper to go out and toil against the elements for a meagre crust (send donations for the Ray Clark Appreciation Fund to the usual address!).

Now, once your heads have stopped nodding in

AROUND THE GREEN



ing, and new EEC Directives concerning such issues as lifting of heavy loads and articles at the work place. Obviously, all were concerned by the implications of these requirements, and I feel it is important that we all bear in mind that though somewhat complicated and intrusive, they are all directed towards a safer working environment and are for our protection and benefit – not something to be frightened of.

It perhaps highlights the past unwillingness of some golf clubs to invest in the proper training, education, staffing, delegation of staff job descriptions and facilities, that these matters seem to touch such a raw nerve. However, as Jon suggested, we are all playing our part by simply keeping abreast of requirements, by attendance at seminars, reading articles in our magazine and grasping opportunities to take proper instruction, etc. Perhaps if you do feel in difficulty and sense the hot breath of the Inspector over your shoulder, it may help to pass the legal responsibilities for such matters up the club committee ladder, simply by photocopying the articles that appear in our magazine, even Jon Allbutt's own 'News & Information' leaflet (tel 0959 575575) and making sure that the club is aware of such matters and that your presentations are recorded in committee minutes. As Jon pointed out, the inspectors are not adverse to prosecuting every serving member of a committee. After all, it is the club that is responsible for financing proper training and safe working conditions. If they require a member of their staff to be responsible he must be properly trained, and have this position of responsibility properly recognised by his employer.

Jon also touched on the safety of some of the rather old machinery still seen in use. I would suggest that if every club had a proper capital machinery replacement budget, perhaps on a five year cycle, more modern equipment featuring the latest safety features would become more common. Perhaps when looking to replace a machine, it may be wise to highlight not only the machines performance, but also safer features such as power steering, interlock switches etc.



Any way, far too much rambling this time, perhaps next I will recount the sorry tale of our Iseki star, Nigel Stapley, and his fall from the heavens – into a pint glass! Merry Christmas to you all.
PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

The historic city of Wells, in deepest darkest Somerset, was the venue for our annual match against the South Coast section. The day dawned fair, and with a course in good condition under the recently appointed head greenkeeper, Maurice Pearce, a close result seemed on the cards. After a number of matches going 'to the wire' the eventual result was a very diplomatic halved match, largely thanks to our 'super-sub', gleaned from the Wells green staff at the very last minute. Many thanks to this friendly club for hosting this match, and thanks also to the steward & stewardess for the superb meal.

Diplomacy was far from the minds of the Welsh team for the final match of the season at St. Pierre. There has always been a great sense of friendly rivalry at this fixture and this year was no exception. The final result was a win for Wales by four matches to two. Many thanks to St. Pierre, yet again, for selflessly playing host to the Association: I cannot overstate our gratitude for their courtesy. Thanks also to Steve Gent and Sierra U.K. for their very generous contribution by way of drinks at the bar.

agreement, we can get down to the real business. Congratulations to all competitors who have made it through the tough qualifying rounds to reach the grand finals day of the Rigby Taylor Fourball Trophy at Frilford Heath GC. Having played on this stage myself, I can guarantee all qualifiers a great day out – may the best partnership win! The finalists are: J Nudds & S Horwood, D Childs & D Goodchild, J Teixeira & D Buckley, and S Edwards & P Wright.

What a great day was had at our Autumn Invitation, held at Burford GC. All the greenkeepers and their guests had a great time and our thanks for this go to head greenkeeper, Barry Holt, the captain, Mr J Shepherd, and the secretary and catering staff for a very well run and enjoyable day. The results: 1st nett-L.Robinson & C.Clifton. 2nd nett- B.Holt & J.Shepherd. 3rd nett- J.Bevon & D.Eagleton. Nearest the pin- (am) B.Woodward, (pm) M.Fuller. Longest drive (am) P.Snell. (pm) N.Fenwick.

Last but not least, thanks to the trade, especially for the TORO Shield donated by County Mowers; and Sta-Brite, Risborough Turf, Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart and Patissons.

Congratulations to the Midland region on winning the team event at the ISEKI National Tournament and to Barry Holt for representing us at the Kubota Challenge, which as you all know resulted in the greenkeepers triumphing yet again.

On a sad note, it is with regret that the section committee says goodbye to our secretary, Bob Woodward, who has decided to call it a day after two years at the post. He leaves us in a strong position and his presence and organising skills will be sorely missed by the section. Unfortunately, this means he now has a chance to concentrate on his golf, and I think we are going to get sick of the sight of him picking up prizes! Good luck, Bob, and we look forward to seeing you back on committee once you have filled your trophy cabinet.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas indeed. The section would like to thank 'The Trade' for their support this year and look forward to continued friendships next year – Merry Christmas.

RAY CLARK



KENT

The first frost of the autumn greeted competitors for our tournament at Holtye on 13 October. Despite an early chill, we were blessed with a brilliantly sunny day and the privilege of playing on a gem of a course. Those of us with previous Holtye experience were to find it a little on the 'tight side', whilst those without found it somewhat tricky. During the morning we competed for the Sta-Brite Shield, and, as with our Spring Tournament, the competition seemed a little one-sided and we should have realised, by the choice of venue, that the result here was also to be inevitable with our host, David Wood, picking up the first prize with 39 points. The margin of victory calls into question both the degree of local knowledge needed and the shortcomings of the handicap system, as back in second was Mike Smith of Moatlands with 32 points, followed in third by Alan Page from Holtye (surprise, surprise!). The p.m.11 hole Texas Scramble was most enjoyable, but the winning team were Malcolm Arthur from Knole Park, Sandy Anderson from Moatlands, and, once again, David Wood. The only prize that seemed to elude David was nearest the pin, which was picked up by 'Big' Malcolm Arthur. The morning version of this prize was cancelled as a big, blonde, American bloke called Mr John Daly, who happened to be passing, said that he felt the target to be "somewhat out of range".

Thanks for a super day to our hosts at Holtye, the caterers did us proud, from the fine cooked breakfast through to a hearty evening meal, David and his staff for the presentation of a wonderful, well respected little course, and to our friends in the trade for again supporting our events, especially Chris Sharp from Sta-Brite, for supplying the shield.

We had a guest speaker in Jon Allbutt, who outlined to a somewhat uncomfortable audience the implications of the latest requirements of legislation regarding Health & Safety, COSHH, Pesticide Spray-

The first 'customers' on our Pesticide Training Scheme are now becoming qualified and we have received nothing but compliments from all concerned. I find the numbers taking this training, and the interest shown, extremely gratifying. Some dozen Clubs in the area have also been able to take advantage of our COSHH assessment offer. This sensible practice is available at a very reasonable cost, care of our resident expert, Mr. Noel Stevens. Noel is available for consultation, Tel: Gloucester (0452) 526111.

We have also 'broken the ice' by running our first extended Emergency First Aid Training course. Again, this was found to be an extremely useful day, with the potentially difficult subject being well put over. We hope to repeat this in the Bristol area early in the New Year.



The full fixture list for the coming year will be circulated very soon. In the meantime, I'll wish you all 'Warmest Seasonal Greetings and Happy Green-keeping in 1993'.

PAUL WORSTER

SHEFFIELD

The section would like to thank our chairman, Mr Roy Kates, for coming along to present Rotherham Golf Club with a gift from the Sheffield section in appreciation of their support for BIGGA. The Rotherham Golf Club has hosted our winter lectures for the past five years and the gift, an antique barometer, was received by the club captain at a special presentation made to them on their Invitation Day.

The Autumn Tournament was held at Sitwell GC. and was well supported by 30 competitors. Thanks must go to Barry Heaney for his arrangements. Thanks also must go to Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event and presenting the prizes. The course was in fine condition, thanks to head greenkeeper, Chris Colton and green chairman, Mr George Barnett – many thanks to you both. Lastly; thanks to Sitwell Park GC. and their vice-captain, Mr Mike Greaves, for making us so welcome – the day was a tremendous success and very much appreciated by the Sheffield BIGGA section. Winners: Yorkshire Mowers Trophy, Mrs Jane Ryan 32 points. Second: A Rhodes, Sherwood Forest G.C. 30 points. Third: M Coultas, Grange Park G.C. 30 points. Fourth: P Stain, Notts G.C. 30 points. Congratulations to all fourteen prize winners.

Many thanks to all the trade members who have supported the Sheffield Section events: Steve Boroughs (Amenity Turf Supplies), Les Purdy (Purdy's Machinery), John Price (Yorkshire Mowers), Brian Booth (Rigby Taylor) and Peter Fell (Atkins). A Happy Christmas to you all.

JANE RYAN



SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to attend our Autumn Tournament, the following report is from notes kindly supplied by Ken Lodge.

The format was, as in previous years, a morning 18 holes Foursome and an afternoon 18 holes Greensome Stableford. Forty four members and their guests played over the Bulberry Woods course and the winners were: First – Phil Wentworth and Phil Ryan, Army GC. 67 points. Second – Shaun White and Eddie Robertson, Ferndown GC. 65 points. Third – Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd, Woodcote Park GC. 65 points. Best surviving Foursome round: Alex McCombie and P Jeffries, Parkstone GC. 35 points. Best surviving Greensome round: Derek Cheetham and A Jones, Knighton Heath GC. 33 points

As on all of these occasions, thanks must go to our sponsors, which this year were Vitax Commercial Products and Jenman Engineering representing Jacobsen. Club officials were most helpful and our thanks to club directors, David Holdsworth and John Sharkey; green staff, Eric James and Tim Neighbour; and Dawn of the catering staff for an excellent meal. Section officials were thin on the ground for this tournament and I must thank Ken for all his efforts in checking cards and posting the scores as well as all the other duties he carries out on these occasions.

Congratulations to Bernard Emberley on ➡ 38

37 * representing the region in the Annual Kubuto Tournament. Bernard was the sole region representative and I look forward to a full report when we next meet. Please support our January Meeting at Came Down GC on Wednesday 13 January. Our speaker is from Lloyds of Letchworth and the talk will start at 2.00pm with free refreshments at 3.15pm. Finally, to all Section members, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from your secretary and committee.

BOB DENNIS

EAST MIDLANDS

Congratulations are due to Ian Dunmore, Steve Goode and Russell Allen, who were members of the victorious Midlands team at the Iseki National Final held at Coventry GC in September.

The winner of the annual Breakwells match on 15 October was Matthew Buckley, who continues his storming start in section/region events. Thanks to Breakwells as ever for sponsoring and organising this event.

The Rigby Taylor East v West Midlands match was held at Whittington Barracks GC on 21 October. A promising start saw East Midlands leading after the morning greensomes, but the afternoon singles took their toll and we finished losers by ten matches to five. Notwithstanding the result, many thanks to Steve Blake-man and Brian Booth for organising the event. I am currently seeking a course for next year on which the East Midlands might stand a chance of winning. Please let me know if you can think of a venue that fits the following description: (i) all fairways at least 80 yards wide (ii) course devoid of trees, heather, gorse, long grass and water hazards.

Our singles knock-out competition was won by Mark Bindley, who triumphed over Dave Leatherland by five and three at Willesley Park in October. The successes of both Mark and Anthony this year have given rise to a new expression. No longer do you say you've been beaten, the word is you've been 'BINDLEYED'.

I can also report some success for us on the academic front, with Andre Woodings gaining a special award in the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper evaluation. His prize is a trip to Harrogate for BTME.

This month the section is pleased to welcome Frank Kempster, course superintendent at Glen Gorse GC.

Our next event is the Christmas Bring & Win competition at Birstall GC on 16 December - entry forms already supplied. I hope to see many of you at Birstall, and to the rest of my colleagues (and to greenkeepers everywhere) I send best wishes for Christmas and 1993.

TONY HOWARTH

SURREY

Yet another first class day of golf was enjoyed by section members on 29 October at Worpleton GC. Scoring was good on such a fine day and even the bulging waistlines caused by a sumptuous luncheon did little to sabotage afternoon scores. The results: (over 27 holes) - Winner Jim Russell 57 pts. Second Steve Kirkham 50 pts. Third Doug Fernie 50 pts. Scratch prize Brian Turner. AM prize Ronnie Christie, PM prize Kelvin Reay. As ever, thanks went to the club for their first class hospitality and courtesy of their fine golf course, also to Brian Turner, Mike Yorston and all the green staff for presenting the course so well.

Members are reminded that our final golf event of 1992, the Turkey Trot, is at Effingham GC on 10 December, the event paired with the AGM in the evening. All members are urged to attend, if not for the golf then please try for the evening AGM, where views on running the section may be aired.

Please remember that any news for publication in this column should be sent swiftly to me - surely some interesting things must occur amongst a membership of 300 greenkeepers?

Finally, a reminder to contact a committee member ASAP if you are interested in complimentary coach travel to BTME Harrogate, along with subsidised accommoda-

AROUND THE GREEN



tion in Harrogate. A local travel company has expressed interest in helping cover travel costs, but the interest shown thus far has been extremely disappointing.

Having covered the 'heavy stuff', I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

ROGER TYDEMAN

MID ANGLIA

The Autumn Tournament took place once again at the Woburn G&CC on 27 October, and I'm sure all of the 53 entrants were looking forward to playing the excellent Dukes course. When play commenced the weather was fine, and one could really appreciate the autumnal appearance of the course. Then the rains came! It didn't really stop all day and the afternoon nine holes scheduled for play over the Duchess course had to be cancelled.

The putting surfaces were in excellent shape - true and fast - until the rain took its toll during the latter holes and made putting tricky, to say the least!

Many thanks to Neil and his staff for their efforts. The Woburn staff filled four of the first five places, so local knowledge was an obvious advantage. Results: 1st Charlie Harris (Woburn) 39 pts. 2nd Steve Cherry (Woburn) 35 pts. 3rd Lee Murdoch (Woburn) 34 pts. 4th Stewart Boyes (Hammonds End) 33 pts. 5th Neil Whitaker (Woburn) 32 pts.

Many thanks to Sta-Brite Supplies for sponsoring the main competition and to Dave Murphy for his time and effort during the day.

The 27 hole final of the Lodgeway Fourball Tournament was also played on the same day, with Chris Brook and Eddie O'Hanlon (Family Golf Centre) victors over Ronan McKeown (Arlley GC) by five and four. Unfortunately for Ronan, partner Ken Bunting was on holiday and couldn't make the final, resulting in Ronan taking on both players single handed. Well done anyway, Ronan! The prizes for each competitor was a portrait oil painting of themselves in golfing action, these provided by Chas. Ayres of Lodgeway. They certainly looked very good. Many thanks, Chas.

A special mention must be made of Lee Murdoch (Woburn) who achieved an ace at the sixth - only the second person to achieve this feat during our competitions. Also a mention for John Blair (Brocket Hall) who, having scored only four Stableford points, still submitted his card, when he could so easily have ripped it up. Finally, a thanks to all the staff at Woburn for making us so welcome and providing such a wonderful meal, also to the trade: Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart and Patissons for providing prizes for our raffle.

A match against the London section was played on 29 October at Porters Park. Unfortunately, all the matches save one were lost, our saving grace being a half. Still, it was a great day out on a magnificent golf course and we thank the London section for their hospitality. Maybe in the future we might actually win a match against another section, so to all good golfers in Mid Anglia we ask - where are you? We need you!

PAUL LOCKETT

MIDLANDS

It is with regret that I have to inform members of the sudden death of George Dolloch, head greenkeeper at Trentham Golf Club, who died following a heart attack,

aged 47. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

On a much happier note, the Midlands section beat their old rivals, the East Midlands, in the annual match sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Having gone in to lunch one match down, we certainly came out firing on all cylinders in the afternoon to win the match convincingly. It was good to see our old friend Trevor Morris again and we thank him and his staff for the fine condition of the course, with the greens being particularly excellent. Thanks to Rigby Taylor and indeed also to Steve Blake-man, who I know puts in a lot of time and energy into making this annual fixture the success it is today.

Greenkeepers recently had a nice day at Brockton GC, where Boroughs held their Open Day. The golf was won by Richard Quine, his inside knowledge believed to be the key, as Richard is a member of Brockton.

Steve Wood and Tony Jesson have once again got their hands on the Pairs Knock-Out Trophy sponsored by Rigby Taylor, beating Peter Holtham and Ted Evans in an entertaining final played at the Northamptonshire County Golf Club.

Following our last tournament, the winners of the Aggregate Shields were announced: Mick Hughes won the gross award and Steve Wood the nett award - well done to both players!

During October the Gay Hill GC played host to the Champion of Champions competition, sponsored by Breakwells and organised by Keith Fitzhenry. Players represented both East Midlands and Midlands and the winner, with a fine round of 69 off three handicaps, was Matt Buckley.



DEAN CLEAVER

NORTHERN

Our first winter lecture was held recently at West Bowling Golf Club, and I am pleased to report that it was well supported, with an excellent turn out attending a superb presentation given by Eddie Seaward (Wimbledon head groundsman) on the year to year running of the Wimbledon complex. This was a joint meeting with our friends from the LoG and, yes, we did have the quiz as usual, though nobody told me who won. I am not going to give my opinion, as I may be accused of bias. My thanks to the LoG for running the quiz - we all had a good night. Your Christmas golf competition takes place at South Leeds GC on 9 December 1992. This is followed by our section A.G.M.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

PAT MURPHY

EAST SCOTLAND

It is with sadness and regret that I announce the death of a well known and respected greenkeeper from Scotland, George Dolloch, who passed away in early October following a history of heart trouble. George, ex head greenkeeper at Ratho Park and Livingstone, left his native Scotland in 1983 to take over as head greenkeeper at Trentham GC in Staffordshire, though for many years he was chairman of the East Scotland section, as well as serving on the committee. He was the brains behind one of the first seminars we held, at Stirling University prior to our Scottish golf match, and though this was not well supported he certainly put a lot of work into it. Many meetings were held in his home at Livingstone and I often wonder how his wife, Nancy, put up with it. Here in his native Scotland, George's many friends are devastated by the news of his passing, for he was just 47 years old, a man in his prime. He will be sorely missed by us all and our thoughts are with Nancy and her three sons, Kevin, Grant and Neil, at this sad time.

I reported that the wife of Duncan Herd (head greenkeeper at Longniddry) was doing fine after her illness. Thus it is on another sad note I now must report that Mrs Herd died in October. Our deepest sympathies go out to Duncan, due to retire at the end of this year. On a personal note, I know just how Duncan, Nancy and her sons must be feeling, having lost my own dear wife at the start of this year. On a lighter note, I am pleased to

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IRRIGATION CHECKLIST UPDATE Additional guide to manufacturers, dealers and distributors in the UK (not included in last month's checklist)

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BIGGA

Deadline for entries has been extended to allow for the Christmas mail, therefore the winner will be announced in February's magazine. Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.



There was a fantastic response to November's competition and the first correct entry pulled out of the hat, winning £50 cash, came from eagle-eyed Michael Connors, from Knaphill, Surrey, a greenkeeping member at the Drift Golf Club. Michael's winning entry was drawn at BIGGA HQ by Roger Evans, senior agronomist of the STRI. It could be YOUR turn to win this month!

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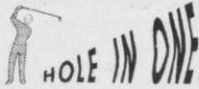
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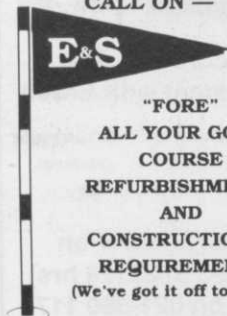
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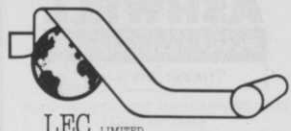
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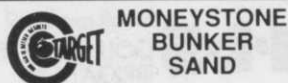
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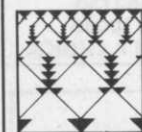
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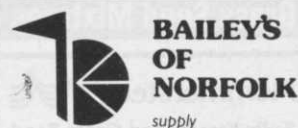
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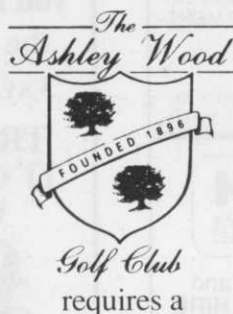
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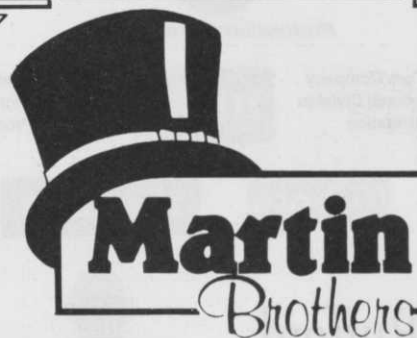
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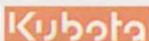


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AROUND THE GREEN



38 → announce the annual match East Scotland v North East England (sponsored by Stewart & Co.), played at Goswick, resulted in a well deserved victory – this after a loss and a draw in the last two clashes. I am delighted to have the trophy back where it belongs – in Scotland. Grateful thanks, as always, to Stewarts and Goswick GC.



The dance tickets are going well, so if you haven't yet obtained yours you may be too late. Let us hope that my next report will bring glad tidings. Until then, on behalf of your chairman and committee, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

WILLIE BLAIR

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The final golf tournament of the season was held in October at Kinross GC., where 50 members/guests had an enjoyable time on a sunny day. Results: Best aggregate (spring and autumn) – David Leith, St. Andrews. Best nett – Richard Sharp, Kinross. Scratch – Athol Purdie, Crail. 1st class – 1st Ross Wilson, Kinross. 2nd Tommy Gilchrist, Falkland Tryst. 2nd class – 1st Fraser McNeil, Braehead. 2nd John Crawford, Haggis Castle. Trade – Ian Thomson, Provan. Guests – Robert McHale, Kinross. Two ball foursomes – Graeme Downie and Fraser McNeil, Braehead.

Our sincere thanks go to Sir David Montgomery of the Green Hotel Golf Courses for the courtesy of their course, Kinross GC for the use of clubhouse facilities, Mr and Mrs Aitken for first class catering and service, and to course manager John Bashford and his staff for preparing the course in such excellent condition, despite the atrocious weather experienced in the weeks prior to the tournament – well done, lads!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: The Spring Tournament will be held at Gleneagles in April, date to be finalised. Visit to Souter's Sportsturf and Stirling GC, 13 February. Autumn Tournament at Glenbervie GC, 12 October. We also hope to stage an STRI lecture, given by David Boocock, in March. Topics for future lectures/demonstrations are welcome, so if you have any suggestions on subjects you would like to see included, please write to me and your committee will try to arrange them.

I would like to wish everyone the compliments of the season, and thank everyone who has supported us in 1992. Every success in 1993. JOHN CRAWFORD

COMING UP

- December 7: ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York**
- 1993**
- January 18–22: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire**
- January 23–30: GCSAA Show, Anaheim, California, USA**
- March 25–28: Golf Asia 1993 – Third International Golf Exhibition and Conference, World Trade Centre, Singapore**
- March 26–28: BIGGA National Education Conference, University of Keele, Staffordshire**
- April 28: Westurf Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton, Bristol**
- May 25–30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland**
- June 9–10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire**
- July 5–8: Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire**
- July 15–18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent**
- August 2–4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland**
- August 18–19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA**
- August 19–22: Planetarium '93 (specialised tree cultivation fair) Booskop, Holland**
- September 7–9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants**
- September 24–26: Ryder Cup, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire**
- October 2–5: Golf '93 Trade Fair, Düsseldorf, Germany**
- October 11–12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York**
- November 23–25: Golf International 2000, Sandown Park, Surrey**

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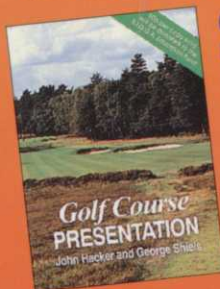
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