

JULY 1992

GREENKEEPER

International



THE OPEN

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Merchandise



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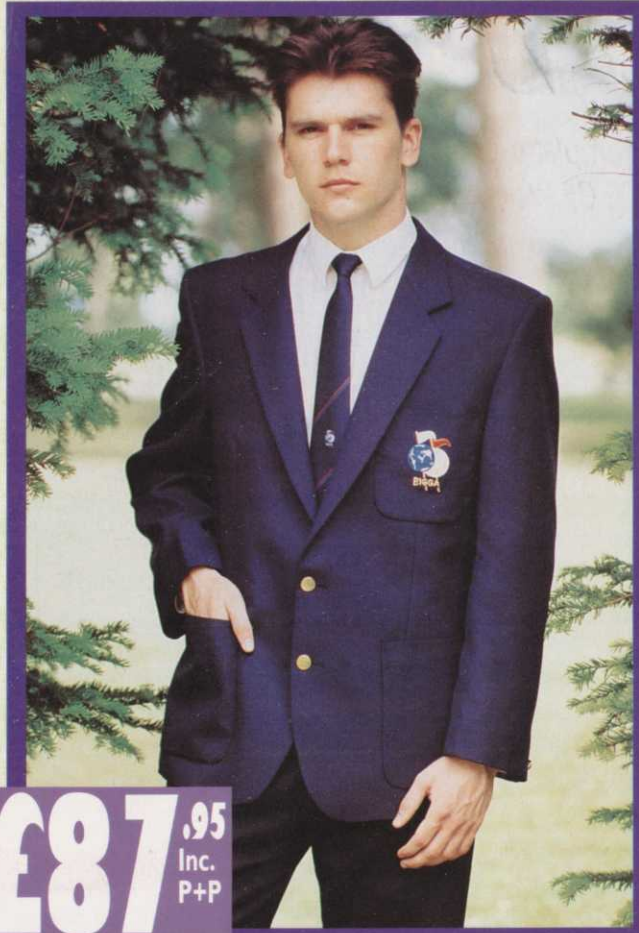
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Prices are inclusive of postage, packing and VAT. Photocopy this form, or use a plain sheet of paper, if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 42 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers and leave it to us.

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JULY 1992



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EDITOR

David White

Tel: 0323 891291 • Fax: 0323 895593

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR

Tim Moat

Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch

Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Carol Dutton

Tel/Fax: 0207 570117

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent, Houghton Road, North Anston Trading Estate, Dinnington, South Yorkshire S31 7JJ
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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GREENKEEPER

International

FREE CAR STICKER

All greenkeeper members of the association receive a smart, colourful car sticker free with this month's magazine. It's yours to display with pride, either in your car or maybe in an office window!

The stickers are also available on request for anyone else who wants one - just call BIGGA HQ on 03473 581



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COVER PICTURE:

A panoramic vista of Muirfield, venue for this year's Open. Photograph: Glyn Satterly, Still Moving Picture Company



Take a closer look at what Greenkeeper

International can do to promote YOUR business

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

"Our initial optimism for Greenkeeper International was obviously well placed. It has become the most effective vehicle for contacting those involved in the construction and maintenance of golf courses."

- RICHARD BISHOP
UK Sales Manager,
Ransomes Sims
and Jafferries Ltd.

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 recognised as the industry's most significant indoor event. Contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can 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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and SILVER KEY
CIRCLES

Sample the Sun,

the Sand
and the Surf...

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
Transfer to Los Angeles Airport
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic - 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
London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic - 25th January
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton
7 nights Anaheim Hilton - 25th January-1st February
Transfer to Airport
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic - 1st February (to arrive in UK on 2nd)
Cost: Twin Room £689 per person
Cost: Single Room £1,004 per person.
Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95; Anaheim only £34.80.

BOOKING FORM

GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

Please return to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

Full name:

Address:

..... Telephone:

Name(s) of additional passengers:

PACKAGE 1: ANAHEIM/SAN DIEGO

Twin Room: £842.00. Number of persons:

Single Room: £1266.00. Number of persons:

PACKAGE 2: ANAHEIM

Twin Room: £689.00. Number of persons:

Single Room: £1004.00. Number of persons:

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G.I. 7.92

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

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

If cancelled more than 42 days before departure date: cancellation charge will be the deposit; 42-29 days before departure: 20% of total holiday cost; 28-15 days before departure: 30% of total holiday cost; 14-4 days before departure: 55% of total holiday cost; 3-1 days before departure: 70% of total holiday cost. No refund for non-appearance. Under certain circumstances, cancellation charges are covered by the comprehensive travel insurance policy. As cover is provided by the insurance company from the date of purchase of the policy, insurance premiums are not refundable and are excluded from the total holiday price for the purpose of calculating cancellation charges.

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A GRASS ROOTS BUSINESS



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35



■ Robert Dryden has joined the Commercial Products Division of Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd as their regional sales manager for the Northern Region.

Robert is responsible for servicing the needs of existing Kawasaki ATV, Engine and Generator dealers, plus the appointment of new dealers in open-point areas. His region includes the north east of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and its islands.



■ Representing Lloyds in London and the Northern Home Counties is Steve Fletcher, appointed to sell the company's range of professional grass cutting equipment. Many golf Clubs and local authorities will already recognise Steve, who has been working the territory for the past two months. Although new to the industry, he has a wealth of business experience and a keen interest in golf.



■ Tom Murray, head greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club and recently elected to the BIGGA East of Scotland section committee, has been awarded the 2,500th Chain Saw Operation Certificate of Competence issued in the UK. The scheme is operated by Scottish Skills Testing Service, the National Proficiency Tests Council in England and Wales, and the Forestry Training Council.

Based at Inghliston, SSTS conduct practical skills tests for the land based industries in Scotland. Tests available also cover pesticides applications.

Tom also holds a full Certificate of Competence under the statutory pesticides application scheme operated as part of the Control of Pesticide Regulations.

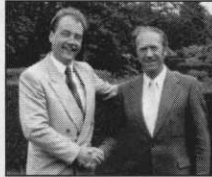


■ The former deputy principal of Merrist Wood College, George Shiels, and our very own Jack McMillan, former BIGGA chairman and course manager of Sunningdale GC, have established a new golf course consultancy, McMillan-Shiels Associates, intent on supplying a complete specialist service which will include course maintenance, training, conservation, ecology and arboriculture, operating through a network of selected consultants. Shiels, who set up the first HND in golf studies, has quit full-time education in some frustration following long delays in establishment procedures for the diploma course at Merrist

Wood, which after nearly five years has only just been given the OK to proceed.

The linking of McMillan/Shiels, who are old friends, boasts a combined greenkeeping/agronomic experience of over 50 years, brought together in 'team' form at the Wildwood course in Surrey last year, where their paths were inextricably linked for the greater good. McMillan-Shiels Associates are at 21 York Road, Woking, Surrey. GU22 7XH.

■ The Course Care division of Highspeed has appointed Paul Shaw as technical sales representative to take responsibility for development of the Course Care range to the turf maintenance market in Lancashire and the West Midlands. The Course Care range includes high quality lubricating oils, fuel treatments, greases, spray dispersants and cleaning products. Paul will be based in Stoke on Trent.



■ Keith Wishart, Rigby Taylor's technical representative for North Yorkshire and the north east, has retired after 16 years service. At a retirement party, Keith was presented with a portable TV by Bernard Hedley, chairman of Rigby

Taylor Limited.

Taking over this important area for Rigby Taylor will be Paul Taylor (BASIS certificated), who has many years experience as both a head greenkeeper and with Trident as an equipment salesman. Pictured: Paul Taylor, left, and Keith Wishart.

■ The Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture was awarded the BALI-CHALK Trophy and £50 for the best college stand at the Landscape Industries '92 exhibition at Stoneleigh. There were a total of 16 colleges from all parts of Britain exhibiting at the show. Jeffrey Bernhard, Chairman of the BALI Chalk Trust and one of the panel of judges said: "we were disappointed with many of the stands this year, as we felt that they lacked imagination - we were looking for a stand that presented the college with creativity and flair, and Lancashire achieved this".



■ Ransomes has appointed Jeremy Chowns, FCIMA, as chief accountant.

Jeremy, with some 24 years experience in both manufacturing and distribution, has joined Ransomes at their Ipswich headquarters.



David Driver, recently head greenkeeper at Henley and formerly of Royal Eastbourne, has joined the prestigious new Buckinghamshire Golf Club as course manager. This is the course where Kevin Munt has done such a grand job of management during the 'growing in' period.



Where?

...the north of England

January 18 - 22!



Huxley's Muxtrux, left, and the Sisis Hydromain Twin 25

Get moving

HUGH
TILLEY goes
through the
ABC of ATV
and TMV

Tractors, trailers and turf maintenance vehicles (TMVs) are the means of getting men and materials around the golf course, a job almost as traditional as shanks's pony. However, time is money and the (golf) world becomes increasingly impatient, with a growing demand for faster and more efficient means of transporting machinery and bodies around. Tractors and trailers are a normal part of the golf course scene and a legacy of agriculture, with turf tyres a simple and increasingly common semi-effective customisation. TMVs are purpose built, but it is one sector of the industry which had seen little development save those one or two manufacturers with specific ranges of implements. There are also a number of utility vehicles, mostly adapted for the golf and amenity market, whilst All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) have received a mixed reception on the golf course.

Some golf courses can manage with a conventional road pick-up vehicle, gaining the advantage of being able to travel on the road at the expense of non-acceptability on greens, tees and (possibly) fairways.

Trailers

The ubiquitous golf course trailer is invariably a 3 or 4.5 tonne capacity hydraulic tipping trailer of agricultural origin, usually with relatively narrow tyres. However it is usually possible to get special wide flotation wheels and tyres, even though these may extend beyond the trailer body. Most have all steel construction with drop sides, but those with hardwood sides and deck resist abuse better and are more easily repaired using standard greenkeeper carpentry. Most will have brakes of some sort, but whether these still work is another matter – for the most part do they need to – as tractors are designed to do the braking for them. Gross trailer weight should not exceed two and a half times the weight of the tractor, but even this can be excessive on wet grassy slopes – thus it is sensible to ensure that the trailer brakes work in conjunction with those of the tractor. Legislation sets maximum weights and requires brakes that operate from the tractor when on the public highway, and these requirements could be construed as a 'code of practice' under Health & Safety legislation, even for off road use – especially if there is sloping land or tracks.

While agricultural trailers are devoid of springing there is an almost infinite range of designs of trailers of up to about 3.5 tonnes gross designed primarily for road use. These have suspension, lights and over-run brakes, however they may suffer the disadvantage of narrow wheels. For transporting heavy machinery and ease of unloading, consider the benefits of tilt-bed four-wheel versions with steel mesh sides, these giving added security to such small items as fuel cans and hand tools. Standard coupling is the 50mm ball hitch but most offer options. Very light trailers such as those designed for ATVs seldom need brakes and as they inevitably have balloon tyres they are ideal for golf course use. However they lack capacity – normally little more than 500 kgs. There are also a large number of relatively small trailer manufacturers who buy components from suppliers and undertake the simple fabrication work. Thus it is easy and inexpensive to get a trailer custom built. Most trailers



Above, tilt-bed galvanised trailer by Indespension
Right, the Kawasaki KLF300B with 'Logic' attachment
Below, Jacobsen's new 610/810 utility vehicle





Cushman three-wheel Turf Truckster

can be physically loaded with significantly more wet soil, sand, gravel etc than their intended capacity, but be aware that this is a recipe for tyre, axle and tipping troubles. Generous 'over specifying' is the best recipe for a trouble free life, and if there is one additional piece of advice on purchasing trailers, it would be to plump for galvanised framework. The ease of maintenance will remain long after the extra cost has been forgotten.

Turf Maintenance Vehicles

Without doubt the best known name in TMVs is the Cushman Turf Truckster, and the success of this system, which has interchangeable attachments which cater not only for top dressing but also spraying, spreading and even aerating, has resulted in many other manufacturers producing similar designs. Hydraulic linkage and pto dimensions on TMVs are

usually different to tractor standards, however the use of adaptor brackets (or a little welding) make it possible to utilise and interchange most attachments. Flexibility is a most important feature of these machines and the ability to tow a dragmat, pull and lift a slitter or carry and operate a sprayer or topdresser is a prime reason for purchase. Equally important on many courses, however, will be the light tread of the machine which makes it acceptable on greens. Mounting a sprayer or topdresser over the back axle gives advantageous weight distribution, and this also applies to carrying bulk loads such as soil or sand in a 'box' on the back, although the capacity will not match that of a trailer. The Huxtruk is particularly suitable for spraying in having an electronic speed control, while for straight forward transport operations it has a top speed of 20

mph, a 680 kg load capacity and is equipped with a passenger seat. Similarly, this applies to the Sisis Hydromain Twin 25: twin seats, good capacity and a 15 mph speed. These machines have the speed to take the greenkeeper quickly to any part of the course and because they are 'of golf' they can 'slip across' the fairway without raising too much wrath.

Others - including ATVs

When sophistications such as pto and hydraulic lift are an extravagance and the prime need is simply to move personnel, tools and a limited bulk of materials around, there is a diversity of utility vehicles. Some are born to golf club use but a greater number are of industrial parentage. There are also several machines built to work difficult terrain, having either large flotation tyres or multi-axle drives, or both. Some of the 'works trucks' lack speed - it wasn't 8

SOME SUPPLIERS

- Turf Maintenance Vehicles (TMVs)**
 Huxtruk - Huxleys Grass Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hampshire.
 Cushman - Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, Ipswich, Suffolk.
 Hydromain - Sisis Equipment, Shoresclough Works, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
 Argo - Crayford Special Equipment, Luton Road, Harpenden, Herts.
 Jacobsen - Jacobsen House, Telford Way, Kettering, Northants.
 Mallard - Mallard Trucks, Fiskerton, Lincs.
 Bonza - Martin Trucks, 61 Battlefield Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
 Mule - Kawasaki Motors (UK) Millboard Rd, Bourne End, Bucks.
 Hauler - Hauler (Europe), 12 Oakdale, Clayton, Newcastle, Staffs.
 AMT - John Deere, Harby Rd, Langar, Notts.

- All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)**
 Allen Power Equipment, The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8ES
 Heron Suzuki, 46-62 Gatwick Rd, Crawley, W Sussex.
 Honda Motor Europe, Power Rd, Chiswick, London W4 5YT
 Kawasaki Motors (UK) Millboard Rd, Bourne End, Bucks.
 Polaris - E P Barrus, Launton Rd, Bicester, Oxon.
 Yamaha - Mitsui Machinery Sales, Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey.
- Trailers and other equipment manufacturers**
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 Please send FREE Allen Mustang details. G1.7.92

Name.....
 Address.....

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SOME SUPPLIERS

Trailers and other equipment manufacturers

Conway Products Ltd., Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9DW.
 Hazlewood Ltd., Bishampton Rd, Rous Lench, Evesham, Worcs.
 Rice Trailers Ltd., Portland Works, Cosby, Leicester. LE9 5TG.
 Indespension, Belmont Rd, Bolton. BL1 7AQ
 Ifor Williams Trailers Ltd., Cynwyd, Corwen, Clwyd, LL21 0LS.
 Bateson Trailers, Inglehurst Rd, Marple, Stockport, Cheshire.
 Compact Machinery, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby, N Yorks.
 Fraser Agricultural, Rothienorman, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.
 GMS, Stonesfield, Stanton St John, Oxford.
 Iseki UK, Broadway, Bourn, Cambridge.
 Kilworth, Smisby, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics.
 Lewis Equipment, Waterloo Rd, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.
 Logic ATV-Equip, Bridge End, Hexham, Northumberland.
 Charles J Marshall, Bucksburn, Aberdeen.
 Saxon Industries, Lower Everlands Rd, Hungerford, Berks.
 SCH Supplies, Holbrook, Ipswich, Suffolk.
 D W Tomlin, Old Leake, Boston, Lincs.
 Trailer Barrow Co, Buxted, Uckfield, E Sussex.
 Warwick Bros, The Dean, Alresford, Hants.
 Wessex Farm Machinery, Oakhanger Rd, Bordon, Hants.

'A go anywhere ability'

7 needed around a factory site, nor for moving from green to green – and many only have a single seat,



John Deere AMT 626

perhaps valid reasons for not buying. A bench seat to take two or three people is a significant advantage in many situations, room to carry tools, topdressing or other repair kit making them useful workhorses. Of course there is no point in buying a speed machine for the sake of it, especially if it is likely to be abused. A growing number are available with diesel engine and cab options which make them more economical and suitable for all weather use.

Prime reason for the ATV is usually the light tread, go-almost-anywhere ability and the reasonable travel speed which enables the greenkeeper to be at the ninth green while his mate on a tractor is picking his way around tracks on the rough. ATVs have succeeded in breaking away from the 'fun' image in the UK, perhaps because British weather does not promote joy riding on an open machine. Effective as they are for personal transport they generally lack load carrying capacity – nevertheless they are reasonably effective as a tug and a wide range of attachments like sprayers, mowers and trailers are available for them – they are also effective ball pickers on the practice range. The ease of operation and driving of all the above types of machine varies greatly, but most are exceptionally simple, often devoid of clutch, but frequently with electric and manual starters, thus avoiding several problems which can result in an ignominious walk back to the hut. Reliability may be as important as price, as 'workhorses' maintenance seldom has high priority so long as they do the job.

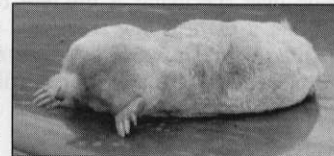
Flying Divots

■ **Allan Lofthouse**, course manager at Saffron Walden, has had a singular honour bestowed upon him and his staff from none other than the Red Arrows stunt flying team, stationed at nearby Stanstead. A number of the golf crazy pilots played Allan's course and were highly impressed with its condition. 'Watch out tomorrow morning', Allan was told as the Red Arrows departed, and sure enough, as the maintenance crew were taking a five minute 'breather' around mid-morning, overhead came the full Red Arrow formation, flying lower than ever before and with a full close formation circle of the course they appropriately dipped wings in acknowledgement of another man's job well done!

■ **A story** circulating in Dublin tells of a head greenkeeper confronted by a newly elected captain, demanding that predominantly *Poa annua* greens be cut at 3/16th or even lower and prepared to a 'glass fast' standard for a so-called 'important' Club event. 'Can't do it', sir, came the reply, 'we are in a stress situation already following minimal winter growth and current low rainfall'.

'Rubbish' came the retort, 'I am the captain and you must do as I command or take a month's suspension' – which, of course, duly followed. The greens were shaved by A.N. Other and are now in horrible shape, though thankfully our wise head man has moved to a Club where common sense prevails. The moral? Stick to your guns when you know you're right!

■ **Albinism**, a strange quirk of nature caused by the congenital absence of pigmentation to hair, eyes or skin, is rare indeed in the wild animal kingdom, though the breeding of albino rabbits still continues to amuse those who delight in exhibiting such animals. An exceedingly rare albino mole recently surfaced at Lingfield Park Golf Club, where Jim Russell is course manager. The creature shown in our picture, we are reliably informed, is one in several million!



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GREENKEEPING IN THE UK: WORTH £187m A YEAR

Key findings of the BIGGA/Golf Research Group maintenance survey show a number of surprises.

There was a fantastic response to the survey from greenkeepers all over the country, with just under 200 survey returns received and with a depth and quality of return that researchers have described as "excellent." With this number of completed questionnaires, it has been possible for the first time to produce statistically accurate figures for the size and nature of the UK greenkeeping industry.

The availability of these figures may well have a significant impact on the greenkeeping industry in this country. Whilst in America I undertook a very similar study in 1985 for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The effect of this work in the USA has been considerable. This survey for the first time showed the sheer scale of the American greenkeeping industry: over \$2 billion annually. Superintendents and the greenkeeping industry generally became marked for respectful treatment when it became known how large their business had become.

Secondly, the publication in the States of standardised 'average' greenkeeping budgets had a significant effect. Prior to the survey there were about as many charts of accounts for greenkeeping budgets as there were golf courses, though afterwards the standard budget, hammered out so carefully for the survey, was increasingly adopted as the uniform budget for American superintendents. Further, with these 'average' budgets figures now available, the American superintendents had a firm ruler by which to measure their own operations and a strong tool assisting them when pressing home budgetary requests.

A strong indicator of the success of this first US maintenance survey is the subsequent establishment by the GCSAA of a whole department which today does nothing else save producing a whole series of surveys of the American greenkeeping industry, these surveys being continually updated.

This diversion across the Atlantic is useful in setting the scene for the BIGGA maintenance survey and gives an indication of the considerable effect this work may have on the UK greenkeeping business.

The UK survey shows the UK greenkeeping business to be of a considerable size, worth £187million annually and employing over 10,000 people. Labour is the largest single component of this expenditure, accounting for £92million annually. Capital spending is the

second largest item accounting for £36million. Two thirds of this spending goes on new machinery, one third on course projects such as extending tee boxes and re-laying greens. In fact, the amount spent on course projects is likely to be somewhat higher as the labour for these projects is not always properly accounted, the work simply being added to the duties of the regular green staff.

Looking at the use of chemicals, golf comes out looking very 'green'. On average a golf course spends £16 per acre per year on chemicals (pesticides and fertilisers) whereas arable agriculture spends £75. This is a very important area indeed, one where golf can say it is environmentally friendly – all the more important in the current climate when new golf development is increasingly under attack as being evil incarnate.

Parkland courses spend less on maintenance than heathland or links courses

The UK average for a golf facilities maintenance spending is £95,000 per year. Labour is the largest item, accounting for just over half of the money spent. Clearly there is considerable variation around this average in the maintenance spending by individual courses.

Facility size is the most obvious impact on maintenance spend. While 18 hole courses average £94,000 per year, 9 hole courses average £45,000 and 36 hole courses average £145,000. Looking at these figures on a cost per hole basis, 36 hole courses spend £4,000 per hole per year whilst 18 hole courses spend £5,200. This certainly does not mean the 18 hole courses are better maintained than the larger facilities, for if anything the reverse would be true, with many of the larger facilities being prestige courses. Rather, the lower maintenance spend per hole at larger facilities is an indication of economies of scale. For example, a 36 hole course does not need twice the equipment inventory of an 18 hole course, nor does it require two course managers.

Probably the most surprising finding of the survey is that parkland courses spend less on

maintenance than heathland or links courses. It has always been thought that parkland courses were the most expensive to maintain. Often termed 'grass factories', their often heavy soils tend toward the robust fast growing weed grass *Poa annua* and rye grasses that need twice as much mowing as the natural fescue and bent grasses used on heathland and links courses.

The survey shows 18 hole parkland courses spending £90,000 annually on maintenance, while links and heathland spend £100,000 and £115,000 respectively. This apparent anomaly may be explained by the preponderance of premium, better manicured courses on heathland and links.

Do customers get value for money when they pay high green fees? Comparing maintenance budgets to cost of play suggest that they do. Courses charging over £25 for a round spend twice as much on maintenance as courses charging less than £10. Comparing the budgets the most notable difference is the wage bill: keeping the top end courses manicured is very labour intensive.

Looking at the average maintenance spend, by region, for 18 hole courses, not surprisingly the South East appears as the most expensive, spending on average just under £140,000 per course. Scotland is the least expensive spending just half of the South East figure. A small part of the difference in the figures between Scotland and the South is due to labour rates, however the South spends more across all budget categories, which leads to the conclusion that the large difference in budgets is mostly due to the difference in philosophy of the game. The Scottish courses are closer to the natural environment whilst the Southern courses are increasingly man-made. As a result of the significant difference in maintenance operations in each region, two thirds of the report summarising the findings of the survey is given over to presenting results individually for each region.

The report, 'Golf Course Maintenance In The UK', is available for £70 (£40 to BIGGA full greenkeeper members) by sending a cheque payable to the Golf Research Group, located at LSE, 406 St Clements Building, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE (071-9557721). BIGGA members enjoying their substantial discount over non-members will, for £40, obtain a piece of market research that would cost £50,000 if commissioned by a single user.

● The author, Colin Hegarty, conducted the survey on behalf of the Golf Research Group.

Grand expedition and 'entertaining' golf

Keeping true to their highly legitimate claim in titling the Barenbrug Trophy 'International', the good folk of Barenbrug UK Ltd held a competition which included as reward a trip to compete in the third International Barenbrug Trophy at Nunspeet GC in Holland. Thus it was that a party representing and upholding the traditions of British green-keeping golf took to the air for a three day visit, included Jim Lake (Druids Heath), Barry Holt (Bur-

ford), Hugh Parry (Bristol & Clifton), John Philp (Carnoustie) and Richard Pride (Thorndon Park) and your humble editor.

The whole event – sans golf – could only be described as wonderfully entertaining and totally informative, with grand expeditions to both Barenbrug's testing, breeding and scientific plant and to the factory where literally billions of seeds are sorted, cleaned, bagged and dispatched worldwide. It was, quite literally, mind boggling and did much to further the enlightenment of those who might have imagined that seed is seed. Don't ever believe it, at Barenbrug it's a scientific act of wizardry!

I use the term sans golf, for it is not being too critical to say that the golf at Nunspeet, or more specifically the golf course, whilst being charmingly pretty and delightfully set in what should have been perfect golfing country, with pines, heather and delicious sandy loam soil, was a disappointment. I do not know the name of the architect, though I understand he is of aristocratic blood, but I hope someone will take him aside very soon and tell him what a golf course ought to be about. Here



Upholders of a proud tradition – our British team of greenkeeping golfers

we had a course laid out with Penncross which had gone horribly wrong, coupled with a lay-out that provided no facility for balancing-out, no width to speak of, no alternate routes and with treachery and disaster awaiting every shot that was even minutely off-line. Nunspeet is one to send people dashing to the bar not for mere sustenance, but to wash away the taste of doom and horror on the course.

Notwithstanding the golf, which at least was entertaining, our

Barenbrug friends – the delightful and refreshing Muchel Mulder and the ever-smiling John Bradley – were our most charming hosts and our scores – all of them – will remain a secret in order to protect the reputations of those I know to be good golfers. In passing, I can heap nothing but praise upon Mr G B Kooster, handicap 10, who succeeded where others failed and produced the almost unbelievable score of 37 Stableford points!

DAVID WHITE



Mr G B Kooster receives the Barenbrug International Trophy and congratulations from Barenbrug's Michel Mulder

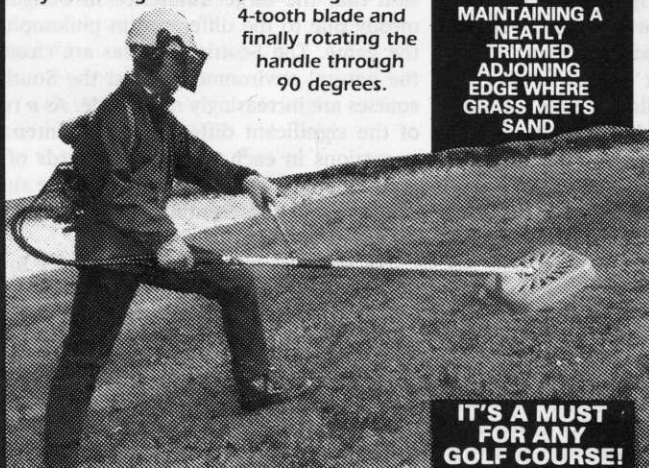
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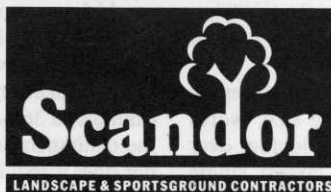
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AD REF 338

Some not-so tongue in cheek observations from JIM ARTHUR, Britain's most astute golfing observer and outspoken critic of the absurd and ridiculous

Failing is, in fact, one of the easiest of all tasks, but you will need to acquire a few specialist qualifications and obey a few rules to achieve total success, ie. failure! However, there are so many ways of achieving the desired end that if you do not initially succeed, do not despair. Just when things start going well you will find you have overlooked something.

The first prerequisite of any successful failure is that those who have to deal with the human race should actually either dislike or, better still, despise them. The management of two legged livestock is quite different in some basic respects to that of four legged ones, as many farmers, seeking without success a less exhausting and frustrating way of life than agriculture, have discovered. This in essence is that such livestock answers back, is very difficult to satisfy and can vote with its feet.

The next stage is planning, but do not waste valuable time and money on that. All the answers are in the R & A's handbook – The Demand for Golf – a publication which made it clear that 700 new courses were needed in the last decade of this century, irrespective of such trivial factors as location (and location and location), suitability of soil and terrain, and above all the proximity of the potential market. Consequently, in order to fail really dramatically there must be *no* unsatisfied need in your area.

You will need some advice on the layout of course, though for a real humdinger there is nothing to beat being your own architect. In passing, I had experience of one DIY man who produced three doglegs in a par 3 – though on reflection I have seen only very little less daunting designs of courses where vast sums have been expended on the advice of 'experts'.

Of course, to make a real success of failure you should be an enthusiastic golfer. The prospect of designing a course to suit you and you alone is something that few golfers can resist, even if they are aware – and few are – that this may prove to be a very expensive present.

Never mind all those professionally experienced architects, agronomists, drainage and irrigation consultants! Why not go to the real professional – your local Club pro – who will knock up a design for you for a modest fee. If, however, you want real success then opt for that internationally known Top Tournament Professional (always identified by capital letters) who, if he can be tempted with enough money, will design you a course fit for his peers – and only his peers. He may just possibly produce you a good design, though what is certain is that he will not only charge you ten times too much – as he has an army of *real* experts to pay behind their desk tops – but the costs of construction will be in proportion.

Having got over these trivia – and assuming you have access to untold wealth – now is the time to start the work. You are unlikely to be presented with ideal golfing country. More likely it is some flat, heavy, featureless agricultural land – a legacy of prairie farming. Never mind – we can soon alter that. Carefully watching your television set, you will see televised tournaments played over water-scapes. Nothing pleases the average

HOW TO FAIL GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

golfer more than watching someone at the top of the leader board plop one straight into the pond in front of a steeply sloping green, surrounded by tiger country. (Nothing of course pleases him less if he suffers the same fate personally).

Therefore your design must incorporate lots of water – never mind if managing water is expensive in order to keep it clean and sparkling, instead of blooming with algal growth and evaporating (or extracted) to leave their surrounds like watering holes in the Serengeti! After all, what is money for?

Clearly the course must be challenging. (It seems no coincidence to me that this term is increasingly being used by do-gooders to describe those with serious handicaps and disabilities). Therefore, we need at least five carries of 200 metres over water. Think how much the greenkeepers could make in the sale of lost balls – you might even cut their wages accordingly.

The course must be long – length before strength is a good gambit which applies to another game, so must be right for this.

So we have a flat heavy featureless expanse? No problem! Let's bring in an army of earth moving equipment and push it about a bit. You want a hill here – certainly. A lake there – fine, no sweat. What about the existing field drainage. Oh, we ignore that because in the States we rely on surface run-off to fill our irrigation lakes – field drainage is old fashioned.

The first things to build are, of course, the greens. If they are not in the right place, no matter – we can move them later. Now you have a real decision to make. Do you build them of sand only on a well drained base, set as they are in saucers of impermeable clay? Or do you use the local soil wherever possible (which means always) and mix a bit of sand with it. Someone murmurs that sand plus clay makes bricks. Nonsense, if it works in Texas, its got to work here. What about a blinding layer over the stone carpet between it and the rootzone layer? Old fashioned USGA Green Section rubbish! With pure sand you don't need it. With soil and sand use a geotextile membrane! Nice and easy and no problems about compatible particle sizes. 'It may get silted up?'. So what, we can always put the Vertidrain over it and punch it full of holes.

When making the greens, do not waste money on hand work. What are machines for anyway? Get them in – the bigger the better – churn it up and spread it all around. It doesn't matter about working over the future approaches and surrounds – we can top the lot with sand to make a

seed bed, having rotavated up the soil.

The great day dawns – ready for seeding. What seed? Why, naturally, Penncross or the equivalent – 'because it does so well in the States'. Do not believe those, including many US Agronomists, who say it does not suit most of the States. They probably have an axe to grind with someone else's seed!

Your 'architect' will have planned your irrigation system – costing mega-bucks and so computerised that the control panel looks like the pilot's view of Concorde. What's all this nonsense about not being able to use the water? Who do the NRA think they are anyway. You have a wall-to-wall watering system and the God given right to use it. Throw some money at the problem – that should resolve it.

At last the course is green instead of brown and your thoughts turn to the grand opening ceremony. But first there is a small hurdle to face. How many staff? One per *hole*! And the machinery list costs as much as a luxury house? So now you look for members or unsuspecting punters. You are assured that there will be an insatiable demand from well-heeled golfers, all of whom will be happy to put up £30,000 a piece plus a hefty annual subscription to keep the place select. Or alternatively you can have thousands vying for membership, happy to pay through the nose to take five hours for a round, (seven if you include waiting time to get onto the first tee) and then having to use brute force to get to the bar against a throng of like-minded characters.

You now have the makings of a really spectacular failure and you ask yourself, who is this insolvency firm Cork, Gullie? How you wish you had settled for golf in a field – a no-nonsense cheapie. But then again, you would have been successful, having to pay staff for twelve months of the year but with the course closed for three, because of lack of drainage.

Of course, you could minimise your losses by pulling out halfway, leaving yet another blot on the landscape – and with your advisory team high-tailing it back to the States – or wherever they came from. There must be more exhausting ways of losing money, but I do not know of one off-hand.

♦ **Editor's note:** If this seems too far-fetched to be true, no less than five multi-million pound golf courses were advertised in an estate agency window in York last month, the developers of which had all run out of cash before the trees had shed their first autumnal leaves. Most were being offered at prices well below the cost of land and construction. All were described as 'championship' courses.

What a waste



Very Toxic



Toxic



Harmful



Irritant



Corrosive

New laws on Special Waste came into effect on April 1st in England, Scotland and Wales, known as the Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This requires anyone who has the responsibility for controlled waste to take all reasonable steps to ensure its correct disposal. These steps are • To prevent the illegal management of special waste by themselves or any other persons. • To prevent the escape of waste. • To ensure on the transfer of waste that the waste goes through a section 17 transfer schedule, and only through properly authorised persons. • That records are kept for at least two years

Failure to comply with the Duty of Care or with the requirements to provide and retain appropriate documentation is now a criminal offence, with no limit on the fine that may be imposed on conviction or indictment.

The dumping of waste or the treating of it without a licence may result in a fine of £2,000 (from April 1993, £20,000) in a Magistrates Court or unlimited fines and/or up to two years prison in a Crown Court. If the most poisonous waste is involved, the £2,000 Magistrates fine may also include (and/or) six months in prison, and in the Crown Court the fine could be unlimited or five years in prison. Breach of Duty of Care or its regulations are subject to a maximum of £2,000 in a Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

Furthermore it is the greenkeeper's responsibility to ensure that the Special Waste disposal contractor is Local Authority registered. The contractor must also provide you with details of their registration number. Failure to obtain this information can result in fines.

Special Waste can be identified from the table below, however as a guide, any product carrying a hazard symbol as shown can be interpreted as Special Waste.

The most important item in assessment with regards to pesticides is * above. This statement simply means if the pesticide will cause discomfort or damage to skin or eye tissue over a period of 15 minutes then it is Special Waste. Having identified Special Waste (with pesticides in mind) what disposals are likely?

- 1 Any full containers of pesticide no longer cleared for use by MAFF or no longer required.
- 2 Any empty containers that have contained these products.

How do you dispose of special waste?

Disposal by burning? – NO

The burning of pesticides or empty pesticide containers must have approval from the air division of H.M.I.P and the Environmental Department of the Local Authority. Fumes or smoke present a serious health risk and should burning take place the following must be adhered to. • Burning must take place in an open space at least 15 m from a public highway and not in a location where any smoke produced is likely to drift over people or livestock or move towards any highway, housing or business premises. • Any containers must be open and placed on a very hot fire a few at a time. • The fire must be supervised constantly. • Care must be taken to avoid breathing any smoke the fire produces. • The fire must be extinguished before being left. As far as we are aware, no approval has ever been given for illegal burning. The penalty is £2,000 (as from April 1st 1993, £20,000 or 6 months imprisonment).

Disposal by burial – NO.

It is an offence to cause or knowingly permit any poisonous noxious or pollutant matter to enter * any controlled waters. These include rivers, lakes, canals, estuaries, coastal waters and underground waters. A consent to discharge issued by the National Rivers Authority must be obtained and to date no known approval for burial has been given. (* eg. by leeching.)

Fine for illegal disposal £2,000 (20,000 or 6 months imprisonment from April 1st 1993).

Empty containers washed and then disposed of? – YES.

• Providing they are thoroughly cleaned. Following research by the Waste Technical Division of the DOE it was found that this takes at least 6 rinses. Even then some residue may remain in the curl, thereby you will commit an offence. • That you gain approval from your Local Authority to take the ‘clean’ empty containers to a landfill site. • That all necessary waste transfer notices have been completed.

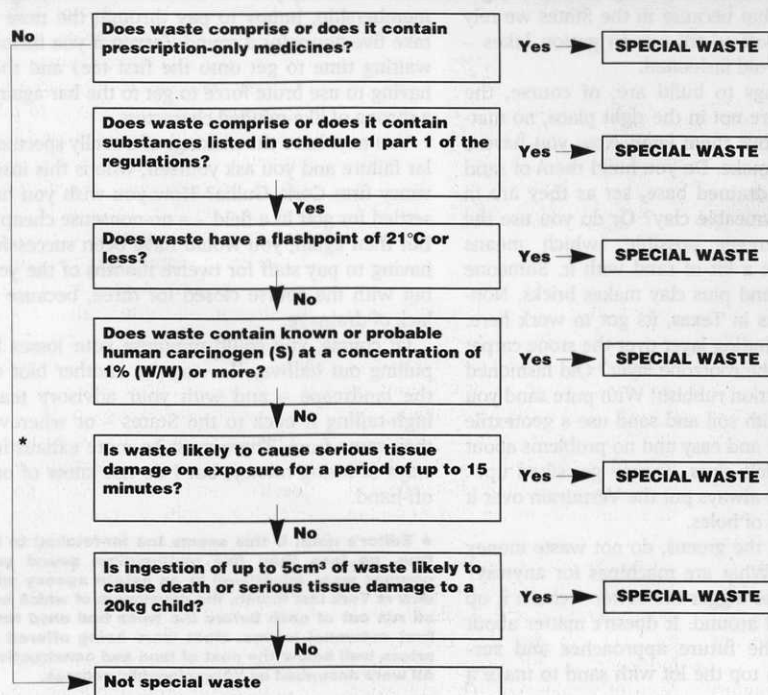
Disposal in a correct and legal manner through a licensed Special Waste contractor – YES

• Providing they are registered. • You complete a section 17 consignment note.

A number of special waste contractors are already registered and a special section has been set up within the Local Authority Unit to ensure consistent standards of enforcement and to deal with pesticide matters.

♦ Contributed by Carl Crome, marketing director of Maxwell Hart Ltd. Their national Special Waste disposal company is Envirogreen. Tel: 0345 125398.

SPECIAL WASTE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE



PETER ROBERTS, Toro Irrigation Ltd and GRAHAM DALE, Lely (UK) Ltd

Two men, Peter Roberts and Graham Dale, though from different sectors of the turf industry, have become inextricably linked and identified, certainly in BIGGA circles, by a company name that is world renowned in the sphere of fine turf management. Both are dedicated to furthering greenkeeper education and both are known for their involvement with BIGGA under the umbrella that is Toro.

To be scrupulously accurate, Peter works for Toro Irrigation Ltd – he is their UK managing director – whilst Graham is identified as ‘Mr Toro’ in the machinery sector, though he is actually the managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, the Toro machinery distributor for the UK. Both are high profile personalities known best as the joint sponsors (along with the PGA European Tour) of the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, a prestige event that has caught the imagination of thrusting young college greenkeeping students. This is seen as a wonderful, indeed mind-boggling, experience for the fortunate winner, who is whisked away for two months to the USA as a guest of the Toro Parent Company, visiting such widely differing places as the City and University of Massachusetts and the Toro machinery manufacturing plant in Minneapolis, through to the warmth of Southern California and Toro’s irrigation HQ at Riverside. Winning this event is a fairy-tale experience, with the planning, execution and financing down to the individual companies of Messrs Roberts and Dale.

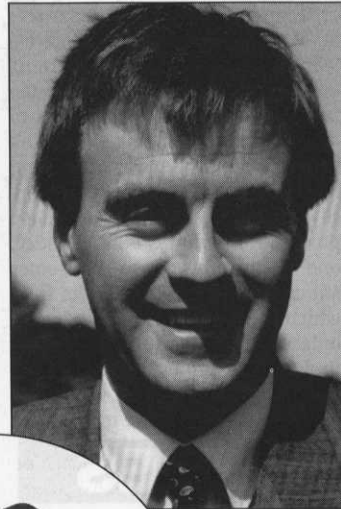
All that ought to be enough, but these two eminently likable workaholics are not content to just sit on the sidelines and watch – no, they are in at the deep end, tossing ideas around like confetti and offering more than mere finance – the Student Greenkeeper Award is very much the better for their active involvement.

Let me now turn to their individual characters and personalities, so much alike in their collective thinking about BIGGA – twins almost – yet as different in style as, say, Camembert and Parmesan. Peter is the archetypal salesman, a following that has been his forte for all his adult life and for over 21 years in the irrigation industry. He is instantly recognisable, a ‘character’ with a wicked grin, a winning personality and a ready wit, though at times appearing almost scholarly when his pipe is on fire alert and his bearded face is wreathed in clouds of sweet smelling tobacco smoke – what is it he smokes, I wonder? I must ask him!

Peter began in irrigation quite by chance, thrust by family into coun-



Peter Roberts



Graham Dale



Heart and soul

try life from London roots and chancing upon a Hampshire company that needed a sales administrator. The story is told of his first day – of being cheesed off and not wanting to return after a pub lunch but forced back as the only one with a car, of being somewhat taken by a gorgeous young lady that afternoon and of returning the next day to see ‘what progress could be made’. We can draw a veil over that episode, but the business outcome was to have repercussions that are evident to this day.

Quickly realising that colleagues

would duck from dealing with ‘difficult’ orders or unusual requests, Peter offered to take the tough ones, learned far more about irrigation by *having* to investigate problems on the factory floor – quizzing the technical experts – and was soon recognised as an expert himself and thrust into the mainstream of selling – his real love.

Chance took another hand in 1976 when Toro Irrigation Ltd, previously working with a sole distributor, set up in the UK as an independent subsidiary and had need of a salesman. The grapevine

suggested Peter was their man, he was hired and the rest, as they say, is history.

Those were pioneering days, the British irrigation industry was in its infancy and much was myth and magic, with few understanding what they were buying. Someone in the golf world (*not* the irrigation world) had put a round sum of £5000 as the amount that would buy an automatic system – it didn’t, but it bought a few domestic sprinklers, a bit of piping and rudimentary controls – and only when drought hit hard did weaknesses manifest themselves.

The irrigation industry learned quickly, and by the time the first recession of 1980/81 ended they were well organised and thinking and acting in a professional manner. The British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association had been formed, a watch-dog group dedicated to establishing standards and a Code of Ethics and seen as a voice of reason when ‘cowboys’ were muddying the water during the so-called ‘golf boom’. The market on both sides now viewed irrigation as a professional science and one that must not be entered into lightly.

For approaching ten years Peter was all things to all people in the UK, an irrigation power-house, especially in the golf field. In 1986 his job changed, he took over Northern Europe and became embroiled with distributors and developers, acting as a management consultant – living out of a suitcase and enjoying every minute. Only in early ‘92 did he come home to roost, this time as managing director of what had become Europe’s fourth largest Toro business turnover, the British market. This, in his own words “is of such size that it needs total dedication, for it is more difficult to stay number one than to get there. My time will now be 100% in the UK marketplace and my plan is to take Toro forward to an altogether different level – we’ll stay number one by dynamic management in selling not just systems, but through a total concept of consultation through design facility and product application, together with immaculate installation and after sales. Above all, the product will not stand still and we will become even more technically advanced – that is what makes an irrigation system”.

Outside of work Peter is a tournament caster – a fisherman who doesn’t catch fish! He’s good, scratch by golfing standards, and challenges most amateur golfers that he can cast further than they can drive a golf ball – to the first bounce – take up the challenge and get good odds!

Turning now to Graham, we see a man whose bearing and appearance

'We both felt that we needed to get more involved in education'

would not go amiss in the corridors of power: the bearing of a politician perhaps, or maybe someone big and mysterious in the City. He's the less talkative of the pair, but you can almost hear his mind whirring, a deep thinker and a most astute observer. I'll admit to being surprised on learning that he had enjoyed four storming years as a private entrant Moto-Cross competitor – and in truth rather saw him as a pukka yachtsman, which indeed he told me he was and still is – funny how first impressions can throw you! I digress.

Graham is from Ipswich, as are so many others who make it in the

world of turf machinery marketing or technology, and began his career at Ransomes. His early interest leaned toward a career in farming but it became evident to him by the late 1960s that unless one was of direct farming stock that wasn't likely – indeed there was no guarantee even for those with the farming silver spoon, as later events have proven. He began as an apprentice, one of twenty or so Ransomes annual intake of raw recruits from which the future of their industry, indeed almost the industry, would find its new production managers, designers, engineers and sales technicians. Exposed in the mainstream

of Ransomes technology, Graham quickly felt that agricultural machinery sales should be his chosen path. He was fortunate in being trained at a time when Ransomes were selling combine harvesters and even more fortunate in manoeuvring himself from the more mundane apprentice tasks of engineering inspection by being assigned to finished goods, an interesting exercise. Equally fortunate, Ransomes encouraged further education and Graham took several courses in mechanical engineering at Ipswich College.

The role of a Ransomes apprentice is very thorough and opportunities presented themselves for Graham's exposure within the agricultural sales division. With his apprentice not yet complete, decisions nevertheless had to be made on his career path and he was guided by Roger Smith, who suggested that the future lay not in agriculture but in grass machinery – and that a vacancy in sales was there for the taking! At the tender age of 20 Graham was a demonstrator, at 21 seconded to Australia on an exchange scheme and working in the distributorship network for three years. It was in Australia that he saw another side – the smaller and altogether more personal side of the distributor.

Although there were to be no instant changes – still too much to do and learn in Ransomes – this 'other side' had sown a seed in Graham's mind – which was to come to the fore later. For the time it was work as a territory rep back in 'Blighty' till 1977, then a brief and satisfying flirtation in being one's own boss – selling kit boats (the sailing connecting) which only ended when recession cut into every yachtsman's pocket and made smaller business enterprises very precarious indeed.

Luck follows the lucky, they say, and a Toro area management job was whispered on the grapevine as being for the taking with the Toro distributor for the South West. Graham had covered this area for Ransomes, knew the people and certainly knew the machinery business – the job was his! Various promotions followed, culminating in a move from the south west to County Durham as sales manager until 1983, when things began to change. Changes take place, business tycoons make decisions and company profiles alter. In this brief article it is not possible to precis all that happened behind boardroom doors at that time – suffice to say that the Toro distributorship changed hands – without bloodshed – and Lely UK, a Dutch owned company in the agricultural machinery business, took over this sole distributorship prize.

Graham was hired as sales manager at Lely for Toro products – not

surprising in view of his skill and expertise – thence promoted to the general manager's role and finally to the lofty role of managing director – lifting a turnover of £2m to one of over £5m and rising. It all seems so simple written here, but this is really a lengthy tale of dedication in a highly competitive market, of grasping every opportunity and winning more than one's share in a tough business. Looking at the Toro machinery marketplace, one thing stands out – the meteoric rise in technological features and innovations: nothing stands still, and in scanning a complete product line of, say, 1983 and comparing it with today, one will see that not a single machine has escaped the high-tech advancements for which Toro are noted. It isn't that obsolescence is planned – it comes by demand from the end user, who literally presurise for more and more innovations. It's called 'the what's new' syndrome. A prediction from Graham for the future? "Watch out for a huge leap forward in the use of micro-chip electronics and controls – see what the motor industry has done in that field, we'll surely follow".

Like any good Captain of Industry, Graham has a release-valve in being an active yachtsman, with what leisure time he has all down to getting thoroughly soaked; heaving-to, luffing to leeward and all that stuff. A sport and language I cannot comprehend, but eminently enjoyable and a wonderful re-charger of human batteries.

In closing, I quizzed these good friends on the BIGGA Student Greenkeeper Award connection. They had both worked through the EIGGA, SIGGA and BGGGA syndrome – both enjoying and revelling in the politics of it all: "We had to know which political cap to wear" they both chuckled in unison. Graham now – "We both felt that we needed to get more involved in education and we listened with glee when Paddy McCarron suggested that greenkeeper education needed something upon which to hang its hat – a publicity vehicle if you like and the scholarship came out of that chance comment.

"Any advice for candidates?", I asked, and their reply, again in unison, centred around a candidates achievements both in college and on the golf course, together with enthusiasm for their chosen career and how they might cope out of a normal environment – in short the candidate who is chosen will be the one who might most benefit career-wise from the experience – that's how it has been, but one never knows: nothing stands still and changes can and do take place, so being on one's mettle is the wisest guide-line.

DAVID WHITE

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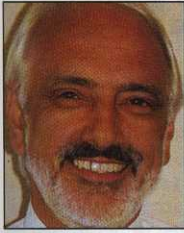
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Membership joins with industry to boost Fund

NEW MEMBERS



René Orban



Roy Kates



Howard Evans

Jacobsens are the latest company to join the Golden Key Circle.

René Orban, Managing Director, Jacobsen Ltd commented, "We think the Education and Development Fund is ideal for companies wishing to contribute to the future development of greenkeeper education and training.

"Membership of the Golden Key Circle is a natural path for Jacobsens to follow as a company with a long tradition of supporting the greenkeeping profession.

Contributions from the industry, the game and BIGGA members are now being channelled into one central fund, which will provide substantial future training benefits for greenkeepers."

Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA, welcomed Jacobsens' contribution pointing out that they are the tenth company to join the Golden Key Circle since its inception in January.

Donations to the new fund in the last month signify the impact of the fund on the BIGGA membership. The South East region board donated a sum of £790.65 whilst the Surrey section committee has contributed £1,000. In welcoming these initiatives at both region and section level, Neil Thomas said: "It is particularly pleasing that BIGGA's own membership is recognising the importance of the new fund in terms of enhancing future greenkeeper education and training.

These are significant contributions and give a further boost to the fund which to date has met with an encouraging response. In the months ahead I am hopeful that increasing publicity will generate further interest within the game, the industry and our own membership and thereby

provide a sound base for future educational developments."

The growth and success of the Westurf Exhibition has been reflected in a donation of £1,000 to the Education and Development Fund by its organising committee. The committee says it considers it "very important that monies raised from the exhibition are utilised towards new and improved training programmes for greenkeepers." Those companies supporting the exhibition are therefore contributing to the continued growth of the new fund and BIGGA is much appreciative both of their support and the donation of the Westurf committee.

BIGGA will be presenting plaques to Jacobsens, the South East region, Surrey section and the Westurf committee to mark their donations.

■ Association Chairman Roy Kates has joined the Golden Key Circle on an individual basis.

"I consider it most important that members of the Association support the new fund," he said. "I am sure it will have a significant impact on the future of greenkeeper education and I would urge all members to offer their support in this inaugural year - and thereby ensure the fund is soundly established and will offer lasting benefits for the future training of greenkeepers."

■ Howard Evans, Special Financial Advisor to BIGGA on pensions and mortgages, has also joined the Golden Key Circle.

"I am in regular contact with greenkeepers all over the UK on a personal basis and I am only too well aware of the need to offer increased educational and training opportunities to those working in the profession," he said.

"It gives me great pleasure therefore to contribute to the Education and Development Fund."

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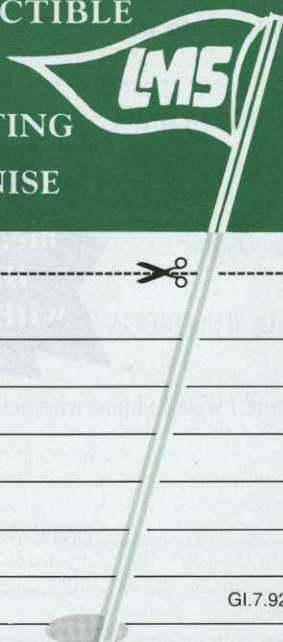
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AD REF 371

Golf Course inspection under FEPA

From April 1992 the responsibility for enforcing the Pesticides Regulations passes to the environmental health officer for the local authority. He or she has just completed the excellent Open Learning Course for FEPA (available from HMSO price £16) and is now 'armed' and ready to do battle! This new responsibility is added to their other duties to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act; The COSHH Regulations and, of course, the Environmental Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations. Your local inspector is now able to take a broad look at the workplace with his enforcers eye; so what will he be looking for with his FEPA/pesticides hat on?

The inspection is going to be 'by the book', as most EHO's will not have much experience of the use of pesticides on the golf course. They are likely to take a more severe view of even small points than the HSE agriculture inspector and have powers to issue Improvement Notices giving a number of days (usually 30) to carry out the improvements or else!

Because the Regulations place a duty upon the employer to protect staff and the environment from any hazards arising out of the application of pesticides, it would be wise for the employer to have a formally written policy setting out the Club's position. The inspector on reading this will be in no doubt that the Club accepts its responsibilities and has taken steps to meet them. The policy will set out how the Club intends to meet the main requirements of the Regulations, these being clearly set out in the Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides (copies from David Golding).

The inspector will want to see details of the training and certification of staff, and this should include office copies of the certificates and details of the training carried out. If the training and testing was carried out more than three years ago, there should be details of revision courses carried out or proposed. Just having certificates is not enough, for staff must be kept up to date on the many changes that are taking place in product labelling, application techniques etc.

'The inspector will look at the general condition of the sprayers'

The storage of pesticides is important. The inspector will want to see the store, the inventory, spill clean-up procedures, empty container storage and disposal arrangements. There are changes in approvals for some pesticides: some are being withdrawn (simazine and atrazine 1992/3), others are being discontinued. Make sure that all the products in store are up to date and approved.

The pesticides applicators will be inspected and the inspector will look at the general condition of the sprayers: are they clean; do they look clean; are there any worn or chafed hoses, is there a clean water tank for rinsing of containers and for operators to wash after mixing a batch of pesticide out on the course.

The pesticide application records are important too. The Code of Practice has a suggested format for a record of pesticides application. The records must be kept for at least three years and may be important for health monitoring if staff have been using organ-phosphorous or carbamate chemicals.

The issuing and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will also be looked at. The new PPE Regulations (to be published shortly) will form a part of inspection. The first question to be answered is whether the PPE is 'suitable for the purpose'. Are there data sheets showing the equipment has been tested and is suitable for protection against the pesticides in use. Is the equipment clean, in good condition and stored separately from other clothing where it can dry. If respirators (RPE) are in use, they must have the correct filter fitted, they must be stored in a sealed bag and be in a clean condition. Many respirators are supplied with dust filters as standard so when buying respirators tell the supplier what they will be used for and make sure they are supplied with data sheets showing that they are suitable.

If a Club has made a good start by implementing a policy, has good storage arrangements; owns good equipment; has trained staff and is keeping good records, the inspector will be much less likely to go into print on what improvements he requires. But if no effort has been made then beware - the inspector will not be amused and may well add a lot of improvement items under health and safety legislation as well.

JON ALLBUTT

Bookings up and hotel prices stay the same for BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition 1993

Bookings are UP on this time last year, for the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, with a number of companies exhibiting for the first time.

Although it's early days, the stage is set for another hugely successful event. The 1992 exhibition was hailed by many to be the best so far.

The majority of exhibitors who took space in this year's exhibition, have booked their positions again for January. Exhibitions Officer Debbie Savage believes exhibitors are moving more quickly this year, in order to secure the best stand spaces.

And there's further good news for delegates. The Old Swan Hotel, situated just around the

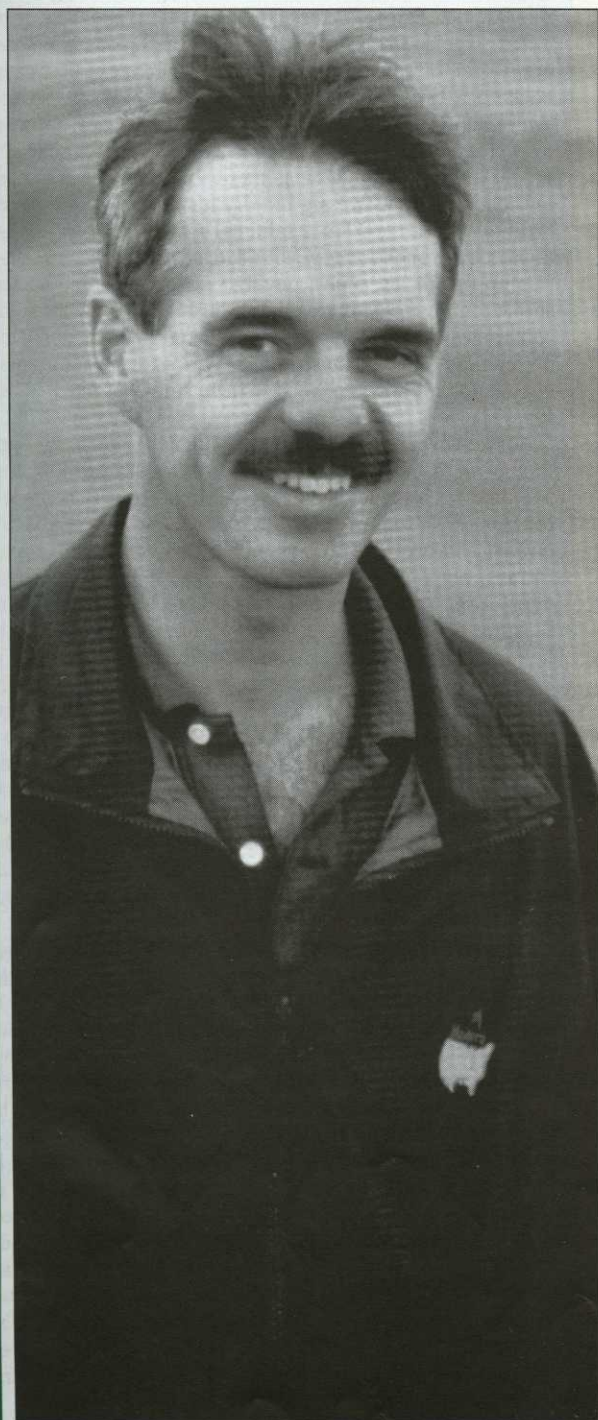


corner from the exhibition and focal point for a number of activities, have agreed to peg their prices for the 1993 BTME. Rates remain at £59 (single) per person and £72 (double) per room, including full English breakfast. Reservations can be made now by ringing direct on 0423 500055. Quote your atten-

dance to the BTME to reserve these rates.

As last year, the BTME Newline will be distributed in October. It will give visitors and delegates news and industry information on what they can expect to see at the show. Companies who have already booked their stand positions will soon be invited to contribute news of intended product launches, or any other relevant information. Information for the Newline can be sent straight away, however, to Debbie Savage at BIGGA HQ.

■ For more details about the show, or for a copy of the comprehensive BTME 1993 Information Pack, call Debbie on 03473 581 or fax 03473 8864.



THE OPEN

All eyes will soon be upon Muirfield for golf's premier tournament. Ready for the action is Chris Whittle, the course manager who went for his job with "guns blazing" for the chance to handle an Open venue. DAVID WHITE reports on the man and his mission

When the victor of the 121st Open Championship marches down the eighteenth fairway of Muirfield on July 19th, savouring the sweet smell of success and basking in the tumultuous cheers and adulation, there will be another who will share equally in that victory. His name? Christopher Alan Whittle, golf course manager to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield, East Lothian, Scotland – the undisputed number one golf course in Great Britain.

Despite the clatter of grandstands being built and giant marquees being lifted high to the sky, the place that is Muirfield still retained its undoubted air of aristocratic elegance when I called to see Chris Whittle, so much so that the raising of voices or the revving of engines seemed tantamount to hooligan behaviour – one must always be on one's best mark in such august surroundings. Granted, the place was being turned into a circus arena for The Championship, with hundreds of contractors beavering away, but above the bustle Chris Whittle, pictured left, remained serenely calm, despite this being his Open preparation debut.

Chris and I had met before – at Royal Birkdale in '91 – and I had walked the links of Muirfield many times, falling for those subtle bunkers that lurk to trap the least weakness – fade or draw – and always impressed by the sheer discipline of the course: Muirfield wants good golf to be played, but it never allows liberties. I knew how good the course was as a golfing examination – now I could see that it was most exquisitely well kept. ➡

'Business as usual, but

My first question for Chris – I really wanted to know – was “how does an Englishman come to be managing the number one Scottish course, indeed the number one rated course in all of Britain, here in the very heartland of what many regard as Scotland’s Mecca”. His answer was honest and without an ounce of side – “Why not – I had always set my sights on managing an Open venue and when I saw this post advertised I went for it, all guns blazing”.

Chris’s story-book career in golf began in the time-honoured way as a schoolboy golfer who caddied on Formby Links. Although he became a banker on leaving school in 1971 this was short-lived, for he gave himself just six months in which to either like banking or quit – six months to the day he resigned! Straight to Formby he strode and asked for a job, which by good fortune was given to him, working as an apprentice greenkeeper under the inimitable Jimmy MacDonald, now head greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

“Jimmy has taught me just about everything I know”, Chris said, “he’s just about the best in the business and he certainly knows how to keep a ‘mean’ golf course”. Praise indeed, which perhaps explains why Chris needed no second bidding, on completion of five years at Formby, to join Jimmy at Royal Lytham. Good fortune continued when Jimmy’s deputy soon moved to Royal Dornoch, for Chris was offered the deputy’s job! Time moved on, skills were honed to perfection and Chris was ready in 1981 for his first ‘head’ job, close by at St Annes Old Links, a delicious course much loved by all who play upon it and known as a fine challenge for those who seek to qualify for The Open. The practice of keeping a ‘mean’ links continued at St Annes Old and in October 1988, well skilled and eminently well suited, Chris took up his present role as course manager of Muirfield.

“How does your present job as course manager manifest itself”, I asked, “Ninety per cent in directing and supervising the management of course and crew, with, if I’m lucky, ten per cent ‘hands-on’”, he replied. “The trouble is the minute I’m in a ‘hands-on’ situation, someone wants me, so my tendency now is to delegate more”.

He expanded on getting the job, telling the tale of driving from Lytham to Muirfield during Open week, the fateful Friday of the downpour and subsequent flooding, of turning on the TV in his hotel room and seeing Walter Woods pushing water off the ninth at Lytham. “I wondered what the hell was going on”, he grinned. “Could it happen at Muirfield”, I asked, “unlikely” the quick reply. “What happens here is that once the soil profile is wet it will take all the rain imaginable. It may show a temporary puddle or two, but once any dry layer is moist, which takes minutes, even if the heavens are open the course will drain beautifully – almost to the point of disbelief. Most of the sandy soil particles are uniform in size and the pull through is remarkable. One thing though, if there is a break in the drought, July will be the month, though God forbid it should happen during The Championship”.

Having been selected from a ‘field’ of 32 applicants, Chris started at Muirfield the week after the 1988 Home International Matches and just in time for winter preparations, so he quickly had to assess immediate needs, prioritise the work, and think about formulating a machinery replacement programme. “I’ve never had a bad employer”, Chris ventured, “but these folk are without doubt the best, good as their word, fully supportive in everything I do or ask for in my roll-over replacement programme, and very knowledgeable collectively in golf course management. They don’t want the place to be too green, they’re true links golfers to a

MUIRFIELD'S MAJOR MACHINERY

Daihatsu Jeep 1600 petrol*

David Brown 1190

Ford 1910

Kubota B8200 HST*

Kubota 1750 HST c/w Front Loader*

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Ransomes 180 Triple Mower

6 Ransomes Autocertes 20in. Mk3v

1 Ransomes Autocertes 20in. Mk2

2 Ransomes Autocertes 18in. MkB

3 Ransomes Marquis. 10 JLO Flymo GT2s

Allan Pro Brushcutter 43.

* Acquired over the past 4 years as part of a roll-over/replacement programme.

man, which is wonderful for me. We meet five times a year and I give my report on what has been done and what will be done. I also write an explanatory bulletin for the members notice board, which prepares them for any disruptive maintenance work and prevents futile questions”.

“Muirfield is about 200 miles north of the Fylde coast, but is much dryer, with around 50% less rain, though gales are a problem and an ‘overnighter’ will take upwards of 60 man-hours to replace bunker sand. We had eleven gales one spring, which took up most of my labour for weeks on end”.

“How long did it take you to get the course to your own personal high standards”, I asked, “well, it can never be perfect, for links maintenance is an on-going thing”, Chris replied. “We can seek perfection, but there is always something... the course is fully grassed, a mixture with a moderate degree of course grasses such as patches of rye, dating back to a time when seed for divoting was unspecified. We’re soon to start a campaign to remove this, for apart from the unsightly appearance it’s awkward to cut. The greens are fine, though we get a flush of *Poa annua* in April, but it soon goes as we are too dry for the weed to cope. We fertilise very little – I’m a minimal man in this respect and always have been – Jim Arthur proved to me the wisdom of this approach and I’m a devoted fan. Everything he ever showed me works very well and is so simple. Granted that sometimes it hurts before it gets better, but prevention is better than cure, of that I am convinced – ‘tis a pity more people don’t follow his creed, which, simply applied, is keep it basic”.

A typical playing season at Muirfield starts in April, though the Club don’t encourage stroke play and the average field for a medal is a mere handful. The proper game is foursomes. Weeds were a huge problem when Chris first arrived and over £2000 is spent annually on selective applications, not only for the course proper but also turf nurseries, paths and practice grounds – all call for treatment and they are now well on top of the problem. All watered is by hand – no automatic system – and though the idea of installing a system is discussed just about every year, the members express greater satisfaction in playing on a fine-textured, sometimes browning, turf at Muirfield than on a lush green one elsewhere! True links golf indeed. Chris opined that there might be an automatic need at the moment of Open Championship preparation, when they are busy chasing hosepipes around the course, but true to his minimalistic beliefs, he suggested that at the end of a season – any season – automatic water is about the last thing on his mind.

“Mainly the season is taken up with watering, weed spraying and mowing, just like any other course, and at the back-end of the year I usually get a Vertidrain in to treat at least part of the course, mainly fairways, tees and paths, and we begin our own aeration programme, with spiking, hollow tining, whatever is necessary. We also go mad on re-turfing, using our own nursery turf, because it must be down and rooted before the year end. This is very necessary, as we can get frost and gales, which really do crash in with a vengeance and bring us scuttling back to base to work on machinery or boundary work and scrub clearance. We are inundated with rabbits and employ contractors to do their worst – using gas; snares; shooting; ferrets or whatever. They are a huge problem and we actually had one tee collapse on us through underground burrowing: we backed a tractor on it and the whole thing sunk! We rebuilt it, fitted a reinforced plastic mesh below ground and have it netted off, which helps”.

“Tell me about your plans for The Open”, I asked. “It’s

more of it'

really business as usual, but more of it', Chris replied, "more intensive maintenance – and obviously we are protecting the greens and not cutting them quite so low – normally at this time we would cut at 3/16", mowing six days a week with three hand cuts and three by machine, but at the moment we are cutting at 1/4", though obviously we shall gradually lower to 1/8" when the Championship approaches – it will all be very gradual, ending up with a twice-daily cut using both hand machines and the Jacobsen Triplex, which we stipulated should have extra blades in the verticuts from 3/4" to 1/2" spacing – it's a great machine!

David Boocock, the STRI agronomist, is a regular caller, increasingly so during Open year and we think along the same lines. He's a great help and we sort out any problems together". I asked about the R&A influence, which Chris indicated was minimal, "I'm sure they would have greater input if things were not to their liking, and they've been around quite a bit over the past year playing, inspecting and walking the course. It seems they're happy. Bear in mind, however, I've worked at Clubs where major R&A events have been staged. I've had the Curtis Cup, Ryder Cup, English Amateur, British Amateur, Home Internationals, The Open whilst at Lytham and I've had the British Amateur since I've been here, so I'm not new to the task or the demands. The R&A folk work fantastically well, manage their side of this huge operation quite remarkably and ensure that contractors are in the right place and not running around where they shouldn't be – they smooth out a lot of wrinkles and are great at team work".

"Any particular problems this year", I asked, "Drought" the quickfire reply. "We have a bit of browning-off and moss is a recurring problem. It's been difficult to eradicate as we've had no growth to speak of until a few weeks go – just a typical East Lothian cold, dry spring – so we just get on with it. During the season we don't fertilise much, maybe two light feeds of an 8-0-0 on greens and tees, and this year we've dressed the fairways with a farmyard type slurry dressing, followed perhaps next year with a seaweed formula".

Almost inevitably my next question was, "what will you do to the greens, will you be doing anything special". Chris is a man who knows about tournament golf and has the answers: "Obviously we will increase the frequency of mowing, our greens are undulating and cutting at 1/8" will make them plenty fast enough. In the final analysis, of course, it will be down to the R&A to tell me if they are too fast, but I fancy they'll be fine. We cut at 1/8" for the British Amateur and they were plenty fast enough!" "Tell me about stimpmeter readings", I asked and again this was clearly answered by a man who knows: "I've got one but frankly I haven't found it helpful enough, undulations are such that you can get far too many variable readings – easily the best way to judge is to get out and play the course and all my nine staff are very observant players".

This team of nine includes a full time fitter, though with an increasingly large percentage of state-of-the-art machinery used, his time is now split 50/50 with on-course work. A good example of changing ancient for modern is seen on the cylinder grinding side: from somewhat archaic old grinders capable of handling only up to 30" reels, and resulting in an annual bill of £750 for off-site grinding, Muirfield workshops now boast an ultra modern Juno grinder and a Garfitts spin grinder – money and time savers both.

Another nice 'Whittle touch' is the thinking behind never spraying chemicals during playing time – an ecology move that may mean a 5am start -with Chris at the helm keeping his hand in – and again at 8pm for a couple of hours.

Turning thoughts to Open week proper, Chris is greatly looking forward to the big occasion, though he's far too busy to be nervous – "it may happen, who knows", he says with a wry grin. He'll be pleased to welcome the BIGGA support team in their distinctive regalia, is delighted that help from BIGGA is close at hand whenever it may be needed and is the Association's most enthusiastic supporter – "haven't we come on well in the past couple of years" his astute observation.

Great champions have been crowned at Muirfield and to a man they've heaped praise upon its hallowed acres. Five times winner, Tom Watson, acclaims Muirfield as a place where 'there isn't one poor hole on the course'. As the world's TV cameras flash the saga of The Open across the airwaves into billions of homes, many watching will also give silent thanks to Christopher Alan Whittle and his dedicated team of expert greenkeepers, maybe even waving a flag or two – quite rightly so.





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COPING WITH COMPACTION

Compaction is a major problem on heavily trafficked turf, causing lack of grass vigour and waterlogging. How prone any area is to compaction depends largely upon soil type, with the fine particles found in clay and silt soils more readily aggregated or compacted than sand. Nevertheless, it is possible to get high levels of organic matter which can block even sands. Several meth-

ods of alleviation are available to the greenkeeper, from long term remedies such as incorporating sand into the rootzone through less radical mechanical operations like tining, slitting and scarifying, or operations such as subsoiling or moiling. How radical an operation is needed will depend upon many factors such as soil type and condition, and the depth of the compacted layer. Operations such as sand slitting or gravel banding will also have an effect on compaction.

Compaction problems on a golf course tend to be relatively shallow, which means that alleviation can be undertaken with minimum disruption and effort. Although slitters and tinners were designed to 'aerate' and scarifiers to 'de-thatch' (and these are slightly different objectives from compaction alleviation) such tools can be expected to have an effect on breaking up compaction - to a greater or lesser extent according to design, operation and timing. Some manufacturers claim their scarifiers are able to penetrate into the root zone to 50mm thus (perhaps) removing surface smearing and providing some aeration of the rootzone. The displaced fibrous material requires to be col-

lected and several machines are able to do this at the same time. Slitting also has the effect of root pruning and fine turf slitters with narrow blades minimise surface disturbance, especially when there is a strong and healthy root system. However, minimising disturbance means that they do little to open up the rootzone. Likewise the principle of the tinner is to open up the turf for aeration and drainage rather than to cause disturbance of the soil, nevertheless the core tinner, by providing pathways for topdressing, fertiliser and roots to penetrate actively, assists opening up the soil. While most tinners are carefully designed to stab the soil without tearing it, several, including spoon tinners, can produce some loosening of the soil, - how severe and effective this will be is controlled by the intensity of the operation in terms of tine size and spacing. The removal of cores allows surrounding soil to spread into the vacant space, that is if not immediately replaced by sand or topdressing.

Perhaps the most revolutionary method of aeration to reach the golf scene in recent years is the Toro HydroJect, which uses jets of water at high pressure to punc-

ture the turf and rootzone with minimal surface disruption and no cores, and while it does not break-up compaction directly, simply punching holes through, it will answer the needs for easing compaction. The machine is self-propelled using an 18kW engine which is used (mainly) to drive a high pressure pump, with water being supplied through a hose from a hydrant or tanker. Penetration is normally to about 150mm although by using repeated shots it is possible to penetrate several times deeper. A number of firms are now offering a contract service using the machine.

Arguably the best known and most widely used machine for relieving compaction is the Verti-Drain, a machine able to operate down to depths of 400mm, depending on model and tine fitment. The principle of its action is a levering of the tip of the tine, rather in the way the greenkeeper might operate manually with a fork. Both pedestrian operated and tractor mounted/pto driven models are available, but one constraint may be owning and putting a suitable tractor on greens or tees, as this must have sufficient weight and power and a low enough bottom gear to oper-

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COMPACTION

ate the implement. However as it is not a draft operation the power requirement with the smaller machines is not high, nor is weight required for grip. Timing the operation for maximum effect means working when soil conditions are optimum, i.e. dry and drying – a wet soil may be too 'plastic' to gain full benefit. A worthwhile surface aerifier is the Ransomes TM80, the action of which allows compacted soil to expand into the scooped out 127mm deep holes, leaving the rootzone open and loosened to receive nutrients and improve soil drainage. The TM80 incorporates a fixed axle to ensure that soil is removed by deeper penetration on high areas of undulating ground.

Sorting out soil structure below 400mm is liable to be a major operation, probably involving a drainage system, however limited areas can be deeply aerated using air blast injectors such as the multi-needle Terralift or the single

needle Fuji-Robin Dagger. These machines work by driving needles into the ground before releasing a blast of compressed air which heaves and shatters the surrounding soil. A different approach is that of Sisis with their Powadrill, a compact tractor mounted machine which uses 12 large masonry drills to drill holes at 100mm centres to a depth of 305mm. Most 'agricultural' methods of compaction relief result in a considerable degree of surface disturbance and so may only be acceptable for greens as a last resort, nevertheless they may be valid for fairways and walkways. Such methods mainly comprise the dragging of winged tines through the soil to get a lift and heave effect – with a disc before the leg and a roller after it reducing surface damage. Vibrating the tines, as on Turf Conditioner, Vibramaster and Shattermaster machines, reduces draft and so reduces the danger of tractor

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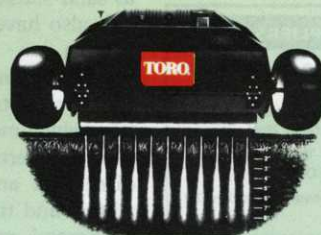
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wheel damage as well as significantly improving the 'shatter' effect. The Shattermaster was first seen in UK at IoG last year. Again such operations are soil condition dependent - dragging them through the soil when it is plastic is most likely to produce a mole channel with smeared sides. How-

ever in very wet conditions it may be valid to operate many of these machines to produce drainage channels, vertical or horizontal, just to get the water away and allow the rootzone soil to dry out so that a compaction relief operation can be carried out.

HUGH TILLEY

The Ransomes TM80 Aerifier. On Page 21: the Sisis Powadrill

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BIGGA EDUCATION OFFICER

Certificate of Competence - PA1-2A. Application of Pesticides

I have received many verbal complaints from members regarding problems associated with the above examination techniques and procedures. If any member has experienced any problems I would appreciate a letter outlining just where this operation can be improved.

The National Proficiency Test Council has acknowledged my concern and before they can investigate individual complaints, documented evidence would be required. With this in mind, whatever your problem please write to me at BIGGA headquarters. The major complaints received are as follows:

- Examiners having scant knowledge regarding fine turfcare.
- Equipment and machinery used in testing which is not familiar to course managers/greenkeepers.
- Chemical labels used in testing are not those which course managers/greenkeepers use in turfcare.

For those who have not yet attempted the examination please either contact your nearest college or book for the next BIGGA course scheduled for 5th-9th October inclusive, which will be held at Aldwark Manor. Jon Allbutt will again undertake training and the North Yorkshire Testing Council will carry out examinations.

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John Philp

John Philp says:

Head greenkeepers and course managers are encouraged: 'Be a master of your profession' and register for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme, a seemingly worthy qualification on offer to all head greenkeepers and course managers who are BIGGA members.

I am concerned, however, about the adequacy of the criteria as described for this intended 'standard of excellence'. Although in agreement with the principles of both educational, self advancement and the elevation of the greenkeeping profession in general, I remain sceptical, as I have from its inception, of the ability of the formula per se to accomplish the desired goal: that of being a widely recognised professional status for golf course managers and greenkeeping in general.

One can imagine a large number of greenkeepers achieving the 200 credits applicable to Stage One sooner or later, and no doubt many will also possess the necessary capability to pass the examination – given the syllabus – required for Stage Three. The vital yardstick however, to my mind, has to be involved in Stage Two where we have but scant information. I very much doubt whether a one-day, pre-arranged visit with preparatory guidelines set in advance, to 'ensure that correct management and maintenance practices are being implemented', is sufficient for a realistic assessment to be made. After all, this is the acid test, the only one where whatever knowledge, qualifications or years of experience a man may possess, together with implementation of professional skill in the field can be scrutinised. What real value, other than personal satisfaction or gain, has the fullest knowledge or the highest qualification in any industry unless it is applied correctly to produce an end result of true quality, which only then can merit professional rating. Acquired knowledge and relevant qualifications do not by any means guarantee professional skill!

Planned application of knowledge however, with or without qualification, allied to acute awareness, as well as quite a few other personal skills, mostly gained through experience, certainly can manifest themselves as professional skill with an end result to match!

I would suggest therefore that 3 or 4 non-arranged visits at different times of the year (with no guide-lines), would be a minimum requirement to assess the many and varied 'management practices', as well as special emphasis on areas such as construction and conservation to name but two, if not already on the agenda. One wonders who is going to weed out dubious aspirants in this all important area, so critical under the present formula, in the establishment of a true professional.

Further, I consider Stage Two to be particularly important at the present time as we still have a dearth of good course managers who are not only skilled in the art of greenkeeping but adept in the science of fine turf production, notwithstanding the crop of mainly younger greenkeepers who are 'grasping the nettle' – may their numbers continue to multiply. The mere fact that the single assessment is 'during the season of growth', does tend to impart the feeling that perhaps course preparation and presentation is the main aspect of on-course examination and not, as it should be, botanical composition!

Professional status surely cannot be applied unless quality golfing turf, which by definition dictates that it is largely composed of fine true perennial turf species (i.e. the fine fescue and or bent grasses) is offered, especially on putting surfaces whereby the true potential of a given site is realised or is being effectively managed towards this goal. This represents professionalism, requiring infinitely more skill than the mere, relatively simple, aspect of course presentation.

I well remember from some years back Jim Arthur's poignant

description, when he said, "Greenkeeping is essentially about botany and men". Meticulous preparation and presentation techniques are to no avail if botanical composition is ignored! Yes, we have to present a product – the golf course – to the paying customer, but it has to represent real value, not a wolf in sheep's clothing!

Many players are fooled by higher standards of presentation in evidence on most courses nowadays and often put aside the poor playing surfaces suffered, sometimes for as long as seven months of the year, as soon as summer growth permits meadow grass swards to appear acceptable. Comments passed with genuine intent, such as, 'the greens are coming on nicely now' abound up and down the country at this time, but unfortunately this false flattery more often than not bears no relation to the stark reality of the situation. You can only fool some of the people all of the time, and if the day ever comes when you can't fool any of the people at all a lot of other people are going to be found wanting.

I foresee a real danger of greenkeeping moving into the next millennium with the alarming situation of a succession of candidates in possession of a Master Greenkeeper Certificate yet actively managing, albeit well presented, *Poa annua* dominated turf, although perhaps 'going through the motions' of change to golfing turf but with little real commitment and purpose, probably fuelled by a lack of the required understanding to achieve the correct progression. What a hollow, totally meaningless qualification it would be if my fears materialise and indeed completely contrary to all publications and worthy professional advice from authorities in the game. I hope BIGGA sincerely wish to follow 'the professional way forward' and perhaps the executive director can allay my concern by confirming BIGGA policy with reference to Stage Two and publish at the same time the aspects of management constituting the 'guidelines', together with corresponding rating or 'scoring' and what safeguards, if any, are in place. I presume progression to Stage Three is not possible unless candidates are successful in Stage Two.

In closing, it is my opinion that a British Golf Course Standards publication is overdue, by which courses can be classified and given a rating relative to what they offer the paying customer, and although this may not be a direct responsibility of the Association I do think they should have an active involvement. This may just stir lower rated golf club administrations into much needed action and course investment. Equally essential is an in depth practical and administrative manual relating to golf course management and development
J S Philp, Links Superintendent, Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee, Carnoustie, Angus, Scotland.

Neil Thomas says:

I am delighted to respond to John's comments and hopefully allay his concerns particularly with regard to Stage Two of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Progress to Stage Three is not possible until Stage Two has been successfully completed. Stage Two is therefore a very important aspect of the MGC and John's letter presents a timely opportunity for members generally to be made aware of just what is involved.

John touches briefly on Stages One and Three, as the main thrust of his concern relates to Stage Two and I will respond briefly on those stages. Knowledge, qualifications and experience are integral parts of the certification scheme and should not in any way be under-valued. The Association's efforts over the last five years have concentrated on improving the educa-

In search of a

tion and training available to greenkeepers, particularly through the 'approved colleges'. Today there is much evidence of greater co-operation with the colleges and of improved standards of both theoretical and practical training. The certification scheme from the outset has emphasised the need for education to be ongoing and continuing education was built into the scheme. Experience is another vital ingredient – many of our up and coming young greenkeepers need and will continue to need the wise counsel of these years.

Those points having been made I would agree that acquired knowledge and relevant qualifications do not guarantee professional skill. Certainly not every successful individual will put into practice in later years what he has learnt. Clearly the certification scheme had to ensure that sound use was being made of the knowledge gained and this could only be done at the place of work. The golf course visit is a vital part of the MGC and therefore necessitated very careful planning about how best to carry this out in a fair and meaningful way. Three or four unannounced visits at different times of the year would have presented practical and financial difficulties of some consequence, before considering the Club's reaction to such visits. The Master Greenkeeper working party determined that a planned, well-structured visit would eliminate as far as possible the subjective judgements which are always likely to reduce fairness.

It needs to be understood that the golf course assessors have been trained and are sufficiently experienced to recognise the difference between good preparation and presentation and the fundamental composition of the turf. I would suggest to John that to make composition of the turf the sole method of assessment is to take a very narrow view. The visit is also to determine the ability of the candidate to organise, to plan and to assess progress in the implementation of an agreed programme. It looks at relationships at the place of work and also examines the candidate's abilities as an initiator. Would it not therefore be inherently unfair to mark down or fail a candidate who has *Poa annua* on his greens when it may well be that he inherited a problem and is in any event seeking to reduce it as part of a planned programme?

I am happy to detail criteria applying for Stage Two within the nine relevant sections. Each area of assessment within a section is marked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 excellent. Each section has a set pass mark. Within each section any area of assessment marked 3 or less is the subject of further consideration to ensure overall fairness to the candidate. The nine sections are as follows:

SECTION 1 – PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE: Presentation involves accuracy and tidiness of maintenance, siting, condition and playability of the whole area. It covers greens, tees, fairways, semi-rough, rough, bunkers, surrounds, pathways, furniture, hazards and clubhouse area.

SECTION 2 – STAFF ORGANISATION: In staff organisation the assessors should be looking for general attitude to work: from the golfers viewpoint, dress, welfare, accommodation and training programmes on and off site. This will require questions relevant to the adequacy of accommodation for working, dining and the general attitude to safety at work.

SECTION 3 – ORGANISATION OF SHEDS: Assessors should be concerned with general tidiness (not daily dirt), compliance with appropriate safety regulations regarding storage of tools and equipment, also the current state of repairs of building.

SECTION 4 – BUDGET MANAGEMENT: The wide range of vari-

ation and responsibility should be recognised in this section, but the least to be expected is that the budget has been prepared by the course manager as the basis for management discussion. The important elements are therefore responsibility for the budget within members (committee) limits. Lack of direct involvement with setting or servicing a budget by whatever means should be regarded as a disqualification.

SECTION 5 – RECORD AND STOCK CONTROL: In this area it is expected that all records required as a result of legislation are covered adequately. However, other records are necessary for achieving an adequate level of management. Accessibility of records to other staff should be taken into account where appropriate and therefore relevant questions should be asked. Diary, machine maintenance, stock inventory and chemical log are all important elements.

SECTION 6 – MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION: In this area a course manager should play a major role in the decision making process of the club with regards the golf course. It is essential therefore that the relationship to management, the role within the committee and the ability/opportunity to submit reports and support them, are considered. Questions regarding the exact role of the course manager are therefore appropriate.

SECTION 7 – COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: In this area the candidate is expected to have recognised potential problems and to have drawn up a programme to correct or rectify them. This may involve a long term maintenance programme or a construction programme. Assessors will be expected to determine the relationship between the course manager's programme and the plans of the Club management committee, as well as the methods used in drawing it up. It is assumed that contractors providing relevant assistance would be brought in as required.

SECTION 8 – MACHINE AND IRRIGATION: Assessors should be looking for a planned replacement and maintenance programme. The course manager's influence in this is important. Also the operative condition of equipment should be considered, coupled with questions directed to seeking explanations for what is found.

SECTION 9 – GOLF: An ability to play golf is desirable, including a detailed knowledge of the requirements of golfers of varying standards. Questions should be directed towards relevant rules and surface requirements where playing abilities are irrelevant.

As a final comment, may I say how much I welcome John's thought-provoking observations, which remind all concerned of the importance of an ongoing assessment of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme. As I have said on many occasions, this is not an easy award to obtain – were it to be so the Scheme would be fundamentally flawed and devalued. It is designed to find the 'master' rather than a good course manager. Members can rest assured that BIGGA and the working party will continue to ensure that the Scheme is equitable for its members and the industry as a whole. It remains my belief that the education and training programmes now in place and those being planned, particularly the introduction of HND courses in golf greenkeeping this coming September, coupled with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme, will accomplish full professional recognition for greenkeeping and a real status for golf course managers in the years ahead.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA.



Neil Thomas

true 'Master'

Living the American dream

Nothing could quite prepare me for my journey from Silloth on Solway to the far side of the Atlantic Ocean and my visit to the University of Massachusetts, this as part of my organised Toro tour. After a 21 hour journey which culminated at the Spruce Motel, I was in trepidation for what might be waiting in the weeks ahead but need not have worried, for within minutes of my arrival the telephone rang and I was offered a ride to the university, a touch of hospitality that I discovered was by no means unique – Americans are so very friendly.

The motel room assigned to me was so huge I gladly shared it with Phillip Miller, a superintendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and I was soon to discover he was something of a film star, having played a 'bit' part in the film *Lethal Weapon II*. Once at the university we were joined by other students for a two-hour induction period, immediately followed by a plunge in at the deep-end as we began the intensive 11 subject course, involving a full range of golf course management skills. These included entomology; diseases; irrigation; machinery maintenance; soils and fertilisers; turf management; trees and shrubs; personnel management; golf course design; physiology and turfgrass calculations.

As one might expect, the course content was first rate, though highly intensive and with much to absorb in a short time. My favourite subject was Irrigation System Design, which proved an eye-opener, as prior to visiting America I had mistakenly thought that irrigation was just a matter of putting in a few pipes with some sprinklers at the end and away we go! Not so, as I soon learned, and I was very impressed at being taught by the man who wrote our learning manual – Professor Pira.

Golf Course Design was another favourite, made doubly interesting by the enthusiasm shown by our lecturer, Brian Silva, and spiced with a wide range of topics that made learning far more interesting than just gleaning facts from books. Brian was most gracious in his willingness to reveal all – not only his successes but also his mistakes in design.

Turfgrass Calculations were fun and more than just a little useful, though it was confusing for me to return to Imperial measurements, and the lecture on Turf Management by Dr Cooper was made fascinating by the inevitable discussions which arose thereafter.

With two weeks remaining, I decided to take the week-end off and visit the GCSAA Show in New Orleans, though on arrival I discovered the show didn't start until the day I was to leave! What was to have been a great experience turned out to be the low-point in my trip, though I now had added time to explore the city. Down by the River Mississippi and the river-walk was nice, with the French Quarter – especially Bourbon Street – having to be seen to be believed.

Following two days of sightseeing it was back to the University of Massachusetts for a



BRIAN STORY,
Toro Student
Greenkeeper of the Year,
reports on his
experience of two
months in America as
part of his
winner's award – from
high-powered university
lectures, to sharing a
motel room with
a film star...

further week before travelling to Bermuda to visit a friend, Tim Carr, who had gone there to become a policeman. It was a fun week-end, and he even managed to get me entered in a competition at the exclusive Mid-Ocean course. I also played at Castle Harbour, much impressed by the fantastic weather and temperatures of 65° in mid-February! Leaving Bermuda came as a body shock, as I returned to Massachusetts at -12° for the last week at college.

A grand dinner was a fitting end to our course, enriched by the receipt of our well-earned certificates. This was also time to say goodbye to many good friends and to enjoy two final days of reflection on all that had been achieved at the college – a tinge of sadness at its ending.

Now on to Toro headquarters at Minneapolis, marred by weather that was simply too bad to get us to the assembly plant, though we did enjoy a tour of the prototype/testing areas. I say we, because I was shown around by Barry Beckett, along with Dennis Schmidt, a superintendent at the Sun City Complex in South Africa. After a couple of days 'living it up' in the Embassy Suites Hotel it was onward again, this time for a week at Toro's Irrigation Division HQ at Riverside California. I was met at the airport by Veronica Smith, who showed me to my rental car, experience of which was an eye-opener – not only for the drive on the right problem but the lack of warning before junctions – tough stuff this bumper-to-bumper driving!

The weather was kind once again and I spent my first day sunbathing by the pool.

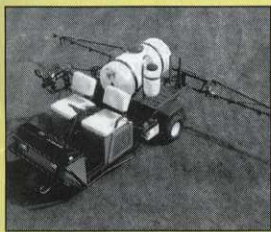
John Skidgle had organised a game of golf at the PGA West course at Palm Springs and we played with the superintendent – who informed me that he had 69 men employed on 36 holes! I am inclined to think that is the main difference in golf course management on the two sides of the Atlantic, with money no problem and superintendents commanding far greater respect than in the UK. The PGA course was fantastic, with views of the snow-capped Californian mountains and 70° of sunshine. I saw Bruce Forsyth outside the clubhouse and said to John Skidgle, 'Look – there's Bruce Forsyth!' His reply – 'Who is he?'

Next day I met Bob Symonds, who showed me around the Toro irrigation plant, followed by a trip with him to Orange County for the weekend. As a seal of excellence I was able to visit Disneyland on the penultimate day, with a splendid Mexican dinner enjoyed with Bob and his wife Amara capping an unbelievable trip. Of course, there had to be one more surprise – a personal limousine from the motel direct to LA Airport, leaving only a 26 hour journey to bring me back to Britain and reality.

There are so many people to thank and the hospitality of everyone in America was of the highest order. In singling out just one, the biggest of thanks must be to my sponsors, Toro, for such excellence – I hope many more greenkeepers will enjoy the benefits this award allows. Finally a big thank you to my Club, Silloth on Solway Golf Club, for granting me eight weeks off during their busy centenary year.

■ Brian Story is the course manager at Silloth on Solway Golf Club in Cumbria.

TRADE TOPICS



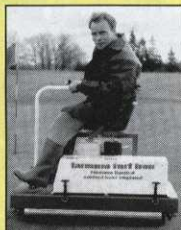
■ Hardi Ltd, already active in the amenity and local authority spraying equipment field, has announced the formation of a new 'Green Care' Division

containing machines and specialist back up support for Hardi sprayers that are appropriate for the amenity market

Examples are the Hardi BL mounted sprayers and the PS demount model, which fits Cushman and similar power units. There are also the well known Hardi knapsack and KS and TR wheelbarrow and power types for use around buildings, parks, etc, and machines designed for pick-up mounting and for use with ATVs.

■ T. Parker & Sons and Roffey Brothers Ltd. have launched the new Parker liquid fertilisers and turf feeds. Parker Turfmaster is a foliar feed and stimulant based on fermented seaweed with good levels of nitrogen, potash and sulphur designed to increase the density of a fine fescue/bent sward and to encourage the breakdown of thatch. Parker liquid fertilisers offer a range of high analysis nutrients for use on lighter soils where leaching of nutrients can cause environmental problems or where pressure of play precludes the application of more traditional fertilisers. Available as liquids in N; NK or NPK, the fertilisers are easy to apply through standard spraying equipment. Tel: (Parkers) 081 337 7791 (Roffey Bros) 0202 537777

■ Watermation have introduced a new tensiometer – the Hydrovisor – which is buried in the ground close to the solenoid operating the sprinkler. It is designed to work along with the TW2 irrigation controller causing the irrigation to 'skip' an area should moisture retention be sufficient at root level. To draw water from the soil plants must use suction. The amount of suction the plant must use is determined by how tightly the water is being held by the soil. As the plant pulls the water from the soil the remaining water adheres to the soil particles with increasing force. As a result, the suction required to remove it also increases. This force is called the soil matric potential (also referred to as soil tension, root stress or soil suc-



■ With growing interest in the Turf Iron, Farmura have appointed three dealers: Ernest Doe & Son in Essex, (0245-380311); Bedfordia in Bedfordshire, (02302-6262) and Aitkens Sportsturf in Scotland, (041-4400033). The appointments are for both golf and bowling machines.

Turf Irons are proving highly successful at increasing green speed, bringing back surfaces following mechanical work and allowing a higher cut, thus reducing stress.

tion) and it provides a direct measurement of water availability to the plant.

Hydrovisor reacts to these changes in the soil matric potential or soil tension, not the percentage of soil moisture. Different soils require different irrigation ranges so Watermation's Hydrovisor is available in three grades to suit various types of soil, ie. sandy soils and containers, normal soil and clay soil. It is the first and only solid state, maintenance free, tensiometer and can to provide water/energy savings levels of up to 60%.

■ Barenbrug UK has produced leaflets to cover its BAR range of grass seed mixtures. The BAR range has been specifically formulated to meet the professional standards required for golf courses, parks, lawns and turf production, chosen from Barenbrug's own wide range of high performance grass varieties, many of which are recommended at, or near, the top of STRI turfgrass lists. A separate leaflet covers each of these areas, giving colourful pictures to identify the end use for the mixtures. The characteristics of each variety within the different BAR grass seed mixtures are clearly explained, showing how these will blend together to form a mixture that suits a particular amenity need. Leaflets are free. Tel: 0359 70766.

■ Jacobsen have appointed Henry H Sheach as their distributor for Scotland. Based at Kirkcaldy in Fife, the company is now responsible for the sales, service and parts support of the complete Jacobsen range of mowers, aeration equipment and turf utility vehicles. Henry Sheach has over 40 years experience of the professional turf market and, apart from the new Jacobsen franchise, already holds dealerships for Agria, Bomford Turner and Scag.

■ Dennis Groundcare have taken on eight new dealers, with coverage extending to Scotland for the first time. They are: Cowies Eastern Tractors Ltd. – Essex, Suffolk, NE London. Mitchells Industries Ltd – Midlands, SW Yorkshire. Leppard Engineering – N Kent, SE London. Turf Equip. – E & W Sussex. Major Owen Ltd – N Wales, Wirral. H Mackintosh Ltd – Tayside. Geo Henderson Ltd – Central Scotland, Edinburgh. Lloyd Ltd – Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway.

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AD REF 365



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AD REF 185

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTHERN IRELAND

Due to airline re-scheduling, my time at Hermitage Golf Club for the Southern Ireland Iseki competition was very short. However, in the time that I was there the sun shone over the magnificent picturesque course in beautiful condition under the care of head greenkeeper, Jim Byrne. My thanks to Chris Nolan for the taxi ride.

Twenty-nine greenkeepers took part in the competition and the results are as follows:

Category 1- Handicap 0-9 inc.

1st Tony Burke nett 73, 2nd Ian Richie nett 74, 3rd Ollie English nett 74.

Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc

1st Joe Flaherty nett 70, 2nd Jim Byrne nett 70, 3rd Tom Bagnal nett 73

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc

1st David Casbourne nett 77, 2nd Chris Nolan nett 80, 3rd Brendan Harmon nett 86.

We all look forward to seeing the team at Coventry Golf Club for the final on 24th September.

DEBBIE SAVAGE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Unfortunately, (*writes Debbie Savage*) due to fog, Leeds/Bradford Airport was closed and my journey to Lurgan Golf Club was aborted. Luckily David White was also due at Lurgan as part his recent trip to Eire and Northern Ireland so the reporting is up to him as follows:

Like Debbie, my flight was also delayed, though due more to the monster car park known as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions to be told that a bomb had gone off in Lurgan centre and all traffic was diverted around the town - my informant, bless his devious heart, failed to let on that the bomb had exploded months previously, though it did leave me with heart in mouth for a wee while!

I was not too late to see at least some of the splendid golf being played over a pretty and lush parkland course, thought it was a pity I had no time to acquaint myself with all those who were locked in combat. Looking through the lens of a camera, however, I could pick out the skillful players and was most impressed with the style and performance of Patrick Devine, who shot a mean 74 gross over a tight and demanding track. Those Northern Ireland guys certainly know how to enjoy themselves too, and I was regally plied with Old Bushmills and Guinness!

Thanks to them all for a splendid day. The results are as follows:

Category 1- Handicap 0-9 inc

1st Patrick Devine nett 68, 2nd Michael O'Neill nett 73, 3rd Laurence McCusker nett 73

Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc

1st Jonathan Eager nett 68, 2nd Davy Eagar nett 69, 3rd James Kane nett 70



Patrick Devine

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc

1st Raymond McMath nett 71, 2nd Paul McBlane nett 73, 3rd Hugh McLaughlin nett 85.

Like Debbie, I shall look forward to seeing the victors at Coventry GC, which I'm sure all will all enjoy immensely.

DAVID WHITE

EAST OF ENGLAND

Our first tournament of the season was held in the 'Soak of Peterborough' and a 'wee soak' is what we experienced. However, the weather did not spoil the friendly welcome we received at this municipal course, the first our section has played.

Orton Meadows Municipal course is run on a franchise by professional golfers, Dennis and Roger Filton and maintained by David Walden, the course manager. It was David who welcomed us and I must thank him most sincerely for making all the arrangements.

The Peterborough Machinery Trophy was donated by Alistair Brown, who also joined us for our dinner and presentation. The main prize was given by Jacobsen and many more excellent prizes were received by our many trade friends - some of whom travelled many miles to deliver the prizes - thank you, gentlemen!

Orton Meadows course is built in two very different halves. The long half, which played around a lake, was a real test in the wind and the back nine was one where tee shots had to be well placed to gain advantage. With tees well back - nearly on to the busy A1 - it was not surprising that a local man, Graeme MacDonald, won with a splendid 35 points to beat Gilbert Ogden of Stoke Rochford, with Michael Wood of Thorpe Wood in third place.

I should like to place on record my thanks to BIGGA for making sure the wives who attended the recent conference at Cirencester had a superb time. Three members from our section took their wives along and they are now all looking forward to next year's meeting.

COLIN SWINGLER



NORTH SCOTLAND

The section's Spring Outing to Montrose GC was a great success, despite the windy weather. The course was in first class order, which would have been reflected in the scores had it not been for the gale force wind blowing, warm though it was. Nevertheless we were well looked after, with 74 members, trade and guests participating, 69 of them playing golf. Our thanks to the catering staff in the Caledonian clubhouse.

The results were: Scratch - 1st R Patterson 79 (b.i.h.) 2nd G Hampton 80. Handicap Class 1 - 1st I A Macleod 79-3=76. 2nd George Mitchell 81-4=77. 3rd A Dempster 83-5=78. Class 2 - 1st B Taylor 85-8=77. 2nd A Strachan 86-7=79. 3rd S McBain 88-9=79. Class 3 - 1st T Simpson 93-20=73. 2nd S Frost 96-20=76. 3rd S Donald 94-17=77. Unofficial and booby shared by K Wood and R Allan. Trade P Allan 78-5=73. Apprentice B Cameron 89-9=80. Veteran A Grant 86-8=78. Guest W Donald 93-6=87. Nearest the pin - R Patterson.

The day rounded off with the usual raffle and the first of our 200 Club draw, the winners being: Jan - £30 C Cumming, 16 Gollanhead Ave. Rose-

markie. Feb - £30 M Hampton, Balghulan Cott. Pitlochry PH16 5QT. March - £40 J Hamilton 15 Crown St. Inverness. April - £100 J Lawson, Letham Grange Farm, Colliston by Arbroath DD11 4RL.

Man on the move is Andy Robertson, who in June moved from Thurso to become first assistant at Sunningdale in Berkshire. We wish him all the best and promise to forward his money if he gets lucky in the 200 Club.

Congratulations to Steven Macintosh, first assistant at Muir of Ord, who won the North District Championships at Elgin by 6 strokes with a one under par total of 137. Fellow greenkeepers who also performed well were Mike Wilson of Kingussie with 145 and George Paterson of Fortrose with 146.

Well done to Steven Frost (Royal Aberdeen) and Derek Anthony (Duff House Royal) on qualifying for the Scottish team in the ISEKI finals to be staged in Coventry in September. Robert Allan Hazelhead is first reserve in class three.

Finally, the winner of a BIGGA blazer in the free members raffle at the Spring Outing was Donny Dingwall from Contin, near Strathpeffer. We hope to run a similar draw at our Autumn Outing.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WEST

Summer is here, the sun is shining, birds are singing, golfers are moaning, the greens mower is on the blink and the hosepipe ban is looming. Apart from that everything's fine.

The historic Westonbirt School was the venue for the ever-popular John Ireland Greensomes Competition at the end of May. Urbane thanks to the Westonbirt Bursar, John Watts, for yet again closing the course for the afternoon to allow us to play. All 52 competitors enjoyed the short course, the quality of which was reflected in the low scoring. Interestingly, the competition, which involves a greenkeeper paired with an amateur partner, was won for the second year running by brothers: Division 1 (0-18) Ist. J. & M. Leigh (Henbury G.C.) 75-18=57. 2nd. L. Johnson & R. Hodgson (Saltford G.C.) 81-18= 63. 3rd. C. Tozer & D Rendell (Bridport G.C.) 74-10= 64. Division 2 (19-28) 1st P Baynton & S Wilson (Long Ashton) 86-27=59. 2nd M Gray & P King (Clevedon) 80-19.5=60.5. 3rd A Johnson & R Stubbs (Saltford) 87-23=64. Best front nine- D Neale & W Jones 35. Best back nine - T Roberts & C Middleton 30. Two's - J Cooper & I May. J & M Leigh.

Many thanks to all the staff at Westonbirt for preparing the course, the landlord and his wife at the Old Royal Ship for the excellent meal, and Avoncrop and Roffey Bros. for their donations to our prize table.

Congratulations to Laurence Pithie, our Master Greenkeeper, on his forthcoming move to Candoval Holdings, where he is to become the adviser/agronomist to their some ten projects in the South East. Laurie is to oversee the courses right from the pre-construction stage to the day-to-day maintenance when they are up & running - quite a challenge. We wish him all the best.

Section membership now stands at 150, a far cry from the 56 on the books when BIGGA started in 1987. There is still room for more however, so do make every effort to convince any greenkeeper



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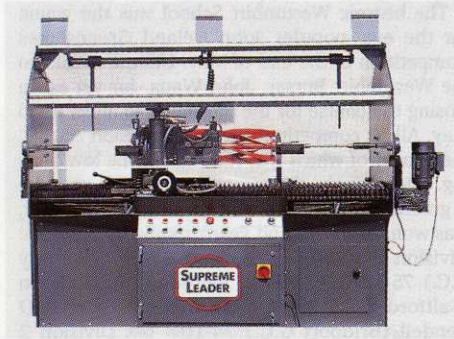
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at your Club who is not yet in, or maybe the greenkeepers at the next Club over from yours – half yearly subscription rates apply from now, so there's never been a better time to join.

This is also a good time to reconsider those pesticide training courses with the autumn not far away. This all important training will again be available at considerably less than college rates, and with less travelling and fellow greenkeepers at your side in the classroom, the whole day is extremely beneficial.

We are still offering the COSHH Assessment Service: just £60 for our resident expert to come to your Club and ensure when the man from the Ministry turns up out of the blue that you are not going to be his first prosecution.

Finally, to set the record straight concerning the circumstances of our section chairman, John York, I can confirm that he has left Wells GC in

Somerset and is currently at Mid Dorset GC., Blandford Forum. He intends to continue in the chair, sends his regards, and hopes to see as many of you as possible at the next meeting.



PAUL WORSTER

SOUTH COAST

Details of the section's Summer Tournament are as follows – Venue: Basingstoke Golf Club. Date: Thursday 6 August 1992. Time: Teeing off from 2.00 pm. Fee: £12.00. Closing Date: 27 July 1992. The competition, consisting of a member and guest, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better ball. A guest can be either a member from your own Club or a greenkeeper from a different Club. Written entries giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the current fee, should be sent to: Mr Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11. 8EA. Tele: 0258 861482

I am pleased to report that following a nasty fall at home followed by eleven nights in hospital, our chairman's wife is making a steady recovery. Ken has been unable to attend one or two meetings but has become very adept at overseeing numerous household chores. He has informed me of a number of new courses under construction in South Hampshire, including Cams Hall at Fareham, so hopefully this will provide plenty of opportunities for members in this section.

Not very many new members from Dorset took advantage of playing at Weymouth in our Spring Tournament, which was a little disappointing for your committee. Next year's Spring Tournament will be at Sherborne GC., and a good turn out from members in West Dorset would be appreciated.

Finally a report of our Spring Tournament, for which I am indebted to Joe Burdett, as follows: 'From a total 'field' of 40 players from all over the area, the sponsors Huxleys Grass Machinery Ltd (Alan Jeffrey and Mike Read) and Jim Fry (section president) were well pleased with the response. The sponsors kindly presented their own individual prizes, which were appreciated by the winning greenkeepers. Additional prizes were donated by Roffey Brothers Ltd., CME Equipment, Sta-Brite Supplies and I.C.I. Garden Products, and distributed by the host Club captain, John Wilson, assisted by the section vice-chairman Paul Drodge. The vice-chairman thanked the host Club for their hospitality and generosity in not only donating two glass engraved tankards, but for granting courtesy of the course to all the players. The day started very cloudy and rain dampened only a few of the competitors for a short while, but this did not deter the golfers from performing again in the afternoon to return some quite creditable scores. Robert Mabb (2) from the host Club returned a gross score in the morning of 70, closely followed by Brian Forder (3) from Southampton with a 71. Kevin Glass (New Forest) and Gordon Payne (Maidenhead) both returned nett 66's. The afternoon rounds of

AROUND THE GREEN



Brian Forder and Kevin Glass showed their determination by maintaining and improving their morning positions to take major trophies, with Brian successfully defending his trophy by a clear 4 shots.

TREGUNNA TROPHY (lowest gross 36 holes): Brian Forder, Southampton 71-73=144. ROWES ROSE BOWL (2nd lowest gross 36 holes): Robert Mabb, Weymouth 70-78=148 Third: Bernard Emberley, Knighton Heath 73-79=152. THE ROFFEY CUP (lowest nett 36 holes): Kevin Glass, New Forest, 66-68=134. THE DENYER CUP (2nd lowest nett 36 holes): Shaun White, Ferndown, 68-68=136. Third: Gordon Payne, Maidenhead, 66-70=136. NITA STIMSON AWARD (lowest nett – over 50's – 18 holes): Gordon Payne, Maidenhead, 73-7=66. Runner-up: Joseph Burdett, Sherborne, 82-13=69. THE CHRISTOPHER FRY TROPHY (lowest nett 36 holes under 25 's): Paul Jackson, Ferndown 69-70=139. Runner-up Spencer Naines, Romsey, 68-71=139. Prizes were also distributed for the lowest 'surviving' scores from the morning and afternoon rounds. Lowest gross a.m.: Mark Webb, Alresford, 79. Lowest nett a.m.: Rob Bailey, Salisbury & S.W., 70. Lowest gross p.m.: Ted West, Broadstone, 77. Lowest nett p.m.: Terry Patchin, Hockley, 65. Nearest the pin on the 5th hole: Ian Noble, Moors Valley. Longest drive on 16th hole: Paul Jackson, Ferndown. A special prize was awarded to Anthony Hyde from Ashley Wood, for actually returning his two cards, albeit achieving the highest gross score of the day.'

BOB DENNIS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Hi out there to all the downtrodden masses now even harder at work after some lovely 'warm & wet' from the great greenkeeper in the sky. You asked for it, so don't moan – get out there and cut the stuff!

Now down to the nitty-gritty, our Spring Tournament at Henley. I'm sure everyone had a marvellous day, I certainly did – and not just because I won the p.m. nett award. Our thanks to Harvey Tribe and his staff for preparing the course to a standard we all enjoyed (not easily done when dealing with greenkeepers), to secretary John Hex, and to Club captain, Martin Jordon, who presented the prizes with a flair and originality seldom found in one whose office is so high. RESULTS: Gross 36 holes 1st P Platter, 2nd T French, 3rd D Goodchild. Nett 36 holes 1st R Woodward (153), 2nd T Brown (155) 3rd S McFarland (146). A.M. nett: M Long (71) P.M. nett: R Clark (66). ISEKI qualifiers 0-9: P Platter, D Goodchild, M G Smith and T French. 10-18: R Clark, P Reeve, T Brown and M Cox. 19-28: S Lamb, J Socket, B Horworth and R Spicer.

The ISEKI qualifier will take place at Brockton Hall, Staffordshire, on July 16th – good luck to everyone taking part.

On a personal note I would like to thank the 'old gits' (Roger Bowles and Derek Stead) who in their straining to get to the dining table first forgot that they always serve the forest away first – I can't talk though, because I was sharing their table, but better luck next time.

Last, our thanks once again to the trade: Rigby Taylor; Maxwell Hart; Parkers; Sta-Brite and Bernie (who played like a star for 27 holes); and, of course, to ICI, who have also supplied us with

stationery. My number, should you wish to call me, is 0628 829208.

RAY CLARK

SOUTH WALES

May 14th saw our competition for the Jacobsen Cup, Brown's Shield and Waycott Cup, with the main sponsor being Keith Morgan of Usk, the Jacobsen agent. We thank him for the excellent prizes donated and the captain and committee of Cradoc GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities. In particular, our thanks to the Club captain for presenting the prizes at the end of the day. RESULTS: Winner of the Jacobsen Cup, set of crystal glasses and a brollie – R Kitcher, 69 nett. Winner of Brown's Shield and set of crystal glasses, A Jenkins 80 low gross. Winner of the Waycott Cup and a golf bag, T Garland, 74 nett. All the above awards donated by Keith Morgan. Other places (nett) were 3rd H Morgan (Whisky/Proturf), 75 on countback. 4th P Swain (Shirt/BIGGA funds) 75, 5th M Davies (Headcovers/Roffey Bros.) 76 .

A raffle was again held with a view to swelling section funds, the results being: 1st T Garland (Brollie, ICI), 2nd D Archer (Sherry, Avoncrop), 3rd A Panks (Whisky, Toro), 4th D Jones (Sherry, British Seed Houses) 5th P Robinson (Wine, G Peck/Birds) and 6th A Jenkins (Wine, M Davies/Cradoc GC).

My thanks to vice-chairman Mike Jones for chairing the meeting, to Malcolm Davies and his green staff for the course preparation and to Miss Ann Pugh and the catering staff for attending to our hunger pangs throughout the day.

PHIL SWAIN

MIDLANDS

On May 1st we held our Committee Cup at Moorhall GC, with the course playing nicely (thanks to Peter Woodward and his staff) and obviously suiting Mike Hughes, who played well enough to win for the second year running. The meal that followed was excellent, enjoyed by everyone and made even more pleasant by the Moorhall captain and his wife joining us in the evening. Thanks to Moorhall GC for showing us such good hospitality.

Thanks to Eric Thomas for again organising the annual match against Handsworth GC. Although this is not a BIGGA event run by our section, our members have supported it for the past 40 years. As usual, the afternoon and evening was enjoyed by everyone and this year the greenkeepers won. Handsworth GC are to be congratulated for keeping this event going and for making us feel so welcome.

Dates to remember: Autumn Tournament at Harbourne GC on Sept. 9th. Closing date Aug. 7th. If you want to play and do not have an entry form, please call me (before the closing date) on 0789 762912.



DEAN CLEAVER

DEVON & CORNWALL

Trelawny's army was once again on the march from the Duchy, but instead of watching the rugby at Twickenham, the party of true Cornish greenkeepers visited the Westurf trade show. It was reported to me that in case of a fire on their journey, some of the boys carried a red fire extinguisher! Those who were visiting Westurf for the first time were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the show and the professional way it was run. This, as usual, is all down to Marion & Gordon Child, who dedicate so much of their time in organising it and dealing with all other affairs of our region. Also I must mention the Devon lads, who as usual turned up in such large numbers – and not for the first time either. Next year let's see an even bigger gathering of members from this section attending the show – you could even bring your club officials along. With the success of Westurf, once again the region is offering

members a subsidised package to the 1993 British Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) & Seminar at the very popular Yorkshire venue of Harrogate between 19th & 22nd January 1993, all for only £99. This includes coach travel from your local pick up point, 3 nights B&B and entry to all seminars and (of course) the exhibition. Wives are welcome at reduced rates by prior arrangement with Gordon Child. Many Clubs already pay for their greenkeepers to attend, largely in the knowledge that extra greenkeeping skills are properly acquired – so why don't you ask your green chairman or secretary. All head greenkeepers should have received an application form, but if by chance you have slipped the net and are interesting, please call either Gordon Child (0803 844056) or 'yours truly' on 0288 353438.



RICHARD WHYMAN

SURREY

This section now boasts a membership of 295, including 85 new members enrolled this year! We extend a welcome to all these newcomers and encourage them all to make themselves known at our golf days and section functions.

Our candidate for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year this year is Ian McMillan, course manager at Hankley Common GC. Good luck to him in the rigorous testing that lies ahead.

Forthcoming fixtures see the McMillan Tankard at its familiar venue of Sunningdale GC on Aug. 6th and the Parkers Salver at Surbiton GC on Sept. 24th. Please send all entries for these events by the deadline date and observe the following rules: All Stableford competitions to be played at 7/8 handicap allowance and lowest current handicap to be declared.

ROGER TYDEMAN

NORTH WEST

The venue for the '92 Spring Tournament was West Derby GC (Liverpool), and the members of West Derby, who celebrate their centenary in 1996, made us all feel most welcome. The caterers and bar staff did a great job looking after the 34 competitors. The course, which covers 100 acres, is a good test of golf with tight tree-lined fairways making accurate golf essential and with greens that were a delight to putt on. Chris Sheehan and his staff had this very busy course in great condition and thoroughly deserved the many complimentary remarks made on the day. Many thanks must go to the North West president, Arthur Harrison of SISIS, and many other trade supporters, including Cheshire Light Tractors, Martin Bros., Maxwell Hart and ICI, who helped to swell the prize table. RESULTS: best gross B Horvath 81-9=72. best nett J Pearson 87-13=74. Other nett scores were T Davies 90-14=76 (card play off). F Platt 85-9=76. W Merritt 86-9=77 (card play off). T Doughty 95-18=77 S Moon 87-9=78. Over 55's B Cross.

The following are ISEKI qualifiers: 0-9 B Horvath, F Platt and W Merritt. 10-18 J Pearson, T Davies and C Wheeler. 19-28 E Stewart, J Wright and G Corness.

The next NW fixture will be the Roses Match at Stockport GC on Friday Aug. 28th. I will require a team of 16, so if you are available please give me a call on 051 7245412. In the meantime, if any members are going to The Open or the BIGGA National I will look forward to meeting them.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND

Tony Mears, head greenkeeper at Dinsdale Spa GC has constructed a new green with added features and mounds, also a large lake as part of environmentally friendly alterations.

Tony's hard work over the past years is improving Dinsdale – a slow job on heavy clay, but

AROUND THE GREEN



worthwhile – stick at it, Tony.

There are no short cuts to success in greenkeeping and a word of thanks is due to assistant greenkeepers who are hard working and conscientious – important members of a small team (average 5 per 18 holes). These important people make golf pleasurable for so many players (at least 50,000 rounds) and deserve our thanks and congratulations.

Today's assistants are tomorrow's head greenkeepers, so learning good standards is vital, ie. trying not to top dress greens on ladies day. A five-day week is too short and time flies! Cold spring weather is responsible for poor response from fertilisers and top dressings. Warm weather is required for fine grasses to grow at all!

Gordon White, head greenkeeper at Castle Eden GC, has retired after 40 years service, his position being filled by David Crocker, who was first assistant at Blackwell GC (Darlington) – our congratulations to them both.

Of the new so-called agronomy consultants, I suggest that greenkeepers ask themselves where the consultants do their research work.

I have supported STRI for 28 years and have received an advisory visit most of those years. Their trial grounds are available for visiting and research is on-going. Before taking any unnecessary risks, I urge greenkeepers to support STRI and involve their Club in an annual subscription – which means an annual visit to the course and any amount of advice over the 'phone – ie. how soon to irrigate following systemic fungicide treatment etc. Interesting answer, but invaluable. When learning useful tips, keep a notebook of them.

Our regional rep., Ian Holloran, head greenkeeper at Middlesborough Municipal GC, finds life hectic. Last year saw 79,000 rounds played and this year he has had staff cuts from 5 to 3, which is making his task impossible as allowances have to be made for holidays, sickness or both!

A recent SISIS and Kubota demonstration was well attended. The spring meeting scheduled for April 2nd at Stressholme, Darlington's Municipal course, was postponed due to heavy rain.

Following last year's drought, Peter Bishop, head greenkeeper at Seaton Carew, was earlier this spring in cultivating 4 fairways, re-seeding and top dressing. Spring germination is always difficult, particularly on a links course, but Peter's 36 years of experience is of enormous value to his Club.

Phil Walshaw, head greenkeeper at Saltburn GC, recently completed the City & Guilds Phase 4 management course at Askham Bryan College and we send him congratulations on his success.

Last year's influx of Crane Fly (Daddy Long Legs) has led to a lot of Leather Jackets and they are causing much damage to fairways. I heard of a bowling green almost ruined because of neglect last November, when preventative treatment would have meant success.

Harpers private pay and play have opened a second nine holes and this 100 acre course at Norton on Tees is in the good hands of head greenkeeper Paul Kellett, who was for many years at Billingham under Cleveland chairman Harry Lees. Harry recently underwent an operation for an ear complaint but thankfully is now keeping well – Good luck, Harry.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTHERN

This is my last report as section secretary as I am taking up my position as regional administrator. My successor is Pat Murphy, course manager at Shipley GC, and all queries, golf deposits etc. should be directed to him at 49 Cornwall Rd. Bingley, W. Yorks BD16 4RL tel: 0274 568128. He has taken up what can be a very demanding and time consuming job which is made worthwhile when members support events and give encouragement. Best of luck, Pat!

The winter lectures list is in the process of formation and will include some joint ventures with our colleagues in the IoG. They are running a bus to the show in Peterborough in September and would welcome any of our members along.



BOB LUPTON

The Northern region of BIGGA plan to hold a seminar in October on Toro machinery and irrigation, more details to follow.

WEST SCOTLAND

The section held their annual Spring Meeting, courtesy of the captain and committee of Kilmacolm GC. Some 57 members and trade guests entered and it was a pleasure to see some new faces. This was, in fact, the biggest turn-out for an outing in almost ten years, ironically also achieved at Kilmacolm.

As everyone in the West can vouch, the spring weather has been hellish to say the least. According to the Weather Centre it has been the wettest spring for 60 years and the rain need fall no more 'till mid July to bring the rainfall average back to normal! It is for this reason that special mention must be made of the work of Ronnie Bunting and his staff, for having the course in excellent condition. At the end of the day, which did finally clear, the winners and qualifiers for the forthcoming ISEKI Tournament were as follows: Scratch – Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC. First class – 1st Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm, 2nd Alistair Connell, Cander, 3rd Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 4th Stephen Hogg, Drumpellier. Second class – 1st Martin Treacy, Elderlie, 2nd Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, 3rd David Montgomery, Cander, 4th Stuart Cameron, Drumpellier. Third class – 1st Kevin McGuire, Drumpellier, 2nd Colin Scott, Glasgow, 3rd Andrew McDowall, Torrance House, 4th David Elliot, Drumpellier. New members prize – Jim Smith, Kilmacolm, trade prize – Derek Duthie, Aitkens, visitors prize – D Waugh, Captain, Calder GC. A special thanks to the captain of Kilmacolm for presenting the prizes.

A couple of dates for the future are Sept 17th for the Autumn Outing to Hags Castle and Nov. 20th for the Annual Dinner at a new venue – The Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow. The speaker has yet to be confirmed. These and other dates appear in our new fixture card, which was produced courtesy of Aitken Seedsmen, Glasgow. Those who did not collect a copy at Kilmacolm will receive one in the post. In the meantime, may everyone in the section have a good season.

GORDON KERR

NORTH WALES

Chester Golf Club was the venue for the North Wales ISEKI qualifier. First overall and winner of the Lesco Trophy, donated by RJ Campey, was Alan Lewis with an excellent 74 -4 =69. Best gross and winner of the Rose Bowl, donated by Paul Smith of High Speed Oil, was Ian Buckley with a score of 79-8=71. Second nett was Paul Best and best guest was Alan Buckley. Nearest the pin on 8th went to Rick Fletcher, who after the competition will be moving south to Henley on Thames GC. I am sure all members wish him well in his new job.

ISEKI qualifiers were: 0-9: A Lewis, I Buckley, D Parry, reserve J Dunn. 10-18: J Humphries, C Davies, A Kift, reserve S McCabe. 19-28: P Jeffries, I Gibson, P Bowen, res. J L Jones. ➡ 42

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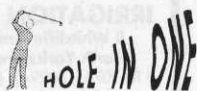
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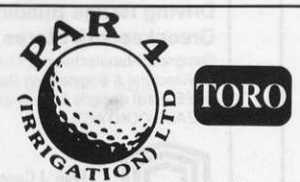
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The Secretary, Beeston Fields Golf Club, Beeston Fields,
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Application in writing with full CV to:

Valerie Pamard, Royal Club Evian, 74500, Evian, France.
Tel: 010-33-50-75-46-66



ROYAL MUSSELBURGH GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above vacancy.

Applicants must have the necessary experience and qualifications to fill the above post.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

Mr T Hardie,
Management Secretary, Prestongrange House,
Prestonpans, East Lothian EH32 9RP

Closing date: Saturday 1st August 1992

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invite applications for the position of

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This recently constructed 9 hole golf course set in peaceful and picturesque surroundings seeks a **fully qualified** individual in both practical and academic terms.

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Applications in writing please, including full CV to:

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(Tyne & Wear)

Applications are invited for the position of

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to become part of our enthusiastic course management team.

Applications with CV to:

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(This supercedes our advertisement in the June 1992 issue)

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Applications are invited for the position of Course Manager at what will be the South Coast's largest and most comprehensive golfing centre overlooking Chichester and the South Downs.

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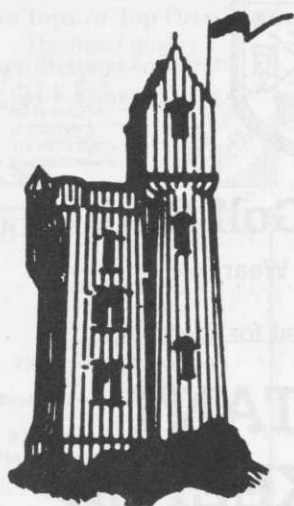
A top salary will reflect the qualities needed for a position managing 45 holes of golf and appropriately large greenkeeping staff. An excellent two bedroom house on the course is available. Written application, CV and references should be sent to the Golf Secretary. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGERS

Reporting to the Course Manager and responsible for either the new 18 hole members course or existing 'Pay & Play' 18 hole course – applicants should be thoroughly versed in all aspects of greenkeeping with the ability to organise and supervise staff and demonstrate a willingness to work comfortably within a team structure – competitive salaries are available along with accommodation. Please send written application and CV. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

TWO FIRST ASSISTANTS REQUIRED Must be experienced. We pay BIGGA rates.

All applications to: *The Golf Secretary, Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6AX*



The Clandeboye Estate

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the post of Head Greenkeeper.

A new and challenging opportunity is being offered to take on the development of the two courses, one 6450 yards Par 72, the other 18 hole par 3. There is also a fine club house and driving range under development. The courses are situated in the exceptionally beautiful surroundings of the Clandeboye Estate, Bangor, Co. Down owned by The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. They are to be run as a "pay and play" of the highest quality with awareness of the natural flora and fauna trying to achieve a balance between conservation and golf and as an example and experiment for other courses.

Construction and seeding will be completed in September 1992 and the Head Greenkeeper will assume responsibility for the development and maintenance during the grow-in period.

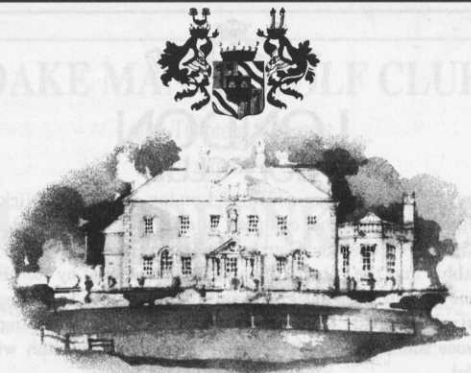
Applicants will be expected to have had practical experience at a high level and have enthusiasm and desire to form and manage a team of staff.

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Please apply in writing including CV to:

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requires

A Head Greenkeeper

and

A 1st Assistant Greenkeeper

Charleton is superbly located, enjoying spectacular panoramic views of the Firth of Forth. This new and prestigious 18 hole parkland golf course is privately owned. It is now under construction and will be completed in September 1992 and open for play in 1994.

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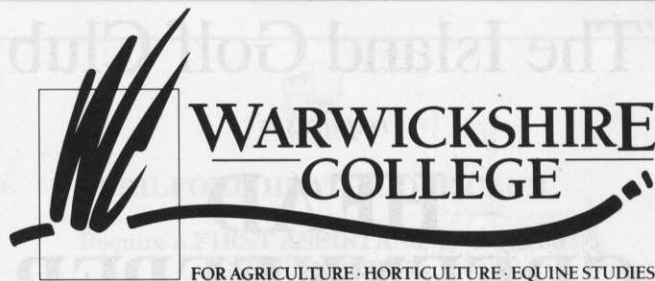
A formal greenkeeping qualification is preferred but proven experience of working to the highest possible standards in the management of the course will be equally acceptable.

The successful candidate shall be fully capable of deputising for the Golf Course Superintendent and have the ability to teach and motivate staff.

An attractive salary package will be negotiated.

Please apply with your full CV to:

Mr Aidan O'Hara,
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**Mr L O'Connor, Secretary/Manager
The Island Golf Club, Corballis,
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Latest date for applications: 24th July 1992



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Located just 20 miles south of London, this Jack Nicklaus-designed 36 hole golf complex is due to open in September 1993. The Heritage Course designed personally by Jack Nicklaus and the International Course designed by Ron Kirby, senior Golden Bear design consultant, are in the final stages of construction ready for the 'grow-in'. Knowledge of keeping bent grasses and USGA specification greens construction will be useful.

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No accommodation.

Applications in writing to:

The Secretary

St George's Hill Golf Club, Golf Road, St George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0NL

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EFFINGHAM GOLF CLUB

require a

WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have suitable qualifications and experience in all areas of course management. Ability to manage staff, organise work programmes, plan budgets, and enthusiasm essential.

Salary negotiable, accommodation available

Applications with CV to:

The Secretary, Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ

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Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary

Liphook Golf Club, Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7EH

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1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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(Golf course situated on Black Isle, 12 miles north of Inverness).

Apply with CV to:

The Secretary, Mrs M Collier, Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Ness Road East, Fortrose, Ross-shire IV10 (Tel: 0381 20125).

32 ➤ Many thanks to the committee and members of Chester GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. Naturally, our congratulations to head greenkeeper Peter Sproston and his staff for presenting such an excellent course and thanks to our sponsors: R J Campey, High Speed Oil, Gem Professional, Fisons, Fletcher Stewart, Mommersteeg Seeds and Jamie Warr, pro at Chirk G&CC.

On a personal note, Terry Adamson and I would like to thank Lewis Parks, chairman of Chester GC, for his company on the day.

Turning to other matters, anybody interested in staging one of our events at their Club should contact Terry Adamson. During the rest of the season we hope to arrange a match against the North Wales stewards, so – once again – anybody interested, please contact Terry.

D S PROCTOR

KENT

May 6th saw our Spring Tournament and ISEKI qualifier held at Darenth Valley. It turned out to be a fabulous day: the weather was glorious, the course was in great shape (thanks to the hard work of Nigel Stapley and his lads), and the food at lunch and throughout the evening was terrific – possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortunately only about 16 or so competed in the morning, with the numbers 'swelling' for the afternoon's Texas Scramble to about 20. Most of the usual hard core were there, so for those who did not make it, I can only say that you don't know what you missed for you couldn't find a better day out for £22 anywhere – imagine, mountains of food and great surroundings. Please don't forget that even if you cannot make the golf at our events, you can always come along for a chat and book a meal. Anyway, here are the results: The morning medal was won by David Wood with a nett 71, with David Vidler (despite a curious medical condition and a personal problem!) second with nett 73. Third was Bernie

AROUND THE GREEN



Sturdy with 76. Low gross was also won by David Wood, but modesty prevented him from picking up this prize. In the afternoon we held a hotly contested Texas Scramble, won by the team comprising Ian Rawlins, Jason Bean, Gary Ogilvy and Liam Galway. The ISEKI qualifying results: 0-9 George Brown and Ian Rawlins (by virtue of turning up!) 10-18 David Wood, David Vidler, David Goodhew and Paul Copsey. (reserve Jason Bean). 19-28 Bernie Sturdy, John Roots, Nigel Stapley and Rob Pearl (reserve John Waterman).

A couple of nearest the pin prizes were up for grabs and the winners – each with a rare accurate shot – were Neil Carter and me! Many thanks to Bernard Dibhams and Rigby Taylor for providing the wonderful cut glass prizes for the morning medal and we are delighted to learn that Rigby Taylor will also be donating a trophy which we shall play for annually at our Spring Tourney. Thanks also are due to our other friends from the trade who come along to support us and donate prizes at all our events – it is much appreciated by all who take part.

Finally, the news of two new staff members at Stockton Park, with Paul Stockton, previously at Cobtree Manor, joining as an assistant greenkeeper and Mark Drake, formerly of Pennyhill Park, taking the position of deputy course manager. The best of luck to you both.

PAUL COPSEY

COMING UP

- July 16th-19th: The Open Championship – Muirfield, Scotland**
- August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent**
- September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Exhibition – Peterborough, Northants**
- September 22nd-24th: Leisure Industry Week – NEC, Birmingham**
- September 24th: ISEKI Championships Final – Coventry GC, Warwickshire**
- October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – Aldwark Manor, York**
- October 14th-15th: KUBOTA Challenge – The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire**
- October 19th-November 27th: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York**
- November 11th-12th: IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland**
- November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Monte Carlo**
- November 24th-26th: Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey**
- November 27th: BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College, Angus**
- December 7th – ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York.**



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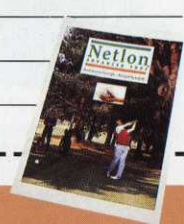
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