

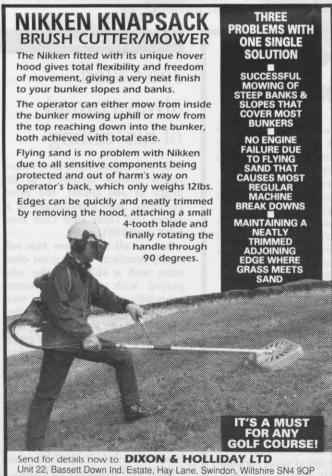
## Manufacturers & Suppliers of Golf Course and Driving Range Equipment.

Aluminium posts and inset panels have made these colourful new tee plates an attractive addition to the wide range already available, and were well received by the visitors to the Harrogate Exhibition



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Letters to the editor are always welcome. They should be signed and carry the writer's address and telephone number. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, libel and good taste. Please send letters to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

## Price cuts 🗉 Testing times

■ To my knowledge, most head greenkeepers prepare annual budgets for their respective Clubs and, once approved, work within accepted limits. To do this effectively one must have up-to-date prices and I am thus bound to ask why is it so difficult to get these from stockists?

Writing in late April, I have received just one 1992 price list, and this came through the pages of Greenkeeper International. When requesting lists the excuse offered is often that they are still 'at the printers' or 'one will be sent' (still waiting!) and I am prompted to ask: why are they not printed at the same time as brochures, which are always in abundant supply?

Do stockists resist sending them for fear of price comparisons, or are they just saying to themselves 'greenkeepers need the products anyway, so why bother?'.

I would like to think this letter will bring me some price lists, and would urge suppliers to send brochures only when they can be backed up with prices.

SAM MORRISON Head Greenkeeper, Royal Aberdeen GC, Scotland

■ I am writing to you to raise the subject of dyslexia. Over the last couple of years we have been in the process of getting help for our son, aged ten. Well, what has this to do with greenkeeping people you may ask? I shall try to explain.

We came to realise that our son was having learning difficulties, particularly in reading, writing, and also in short term memory, although he had no trouble solving practical problems. We took him to the Dyslexia Institute for assessment. The report confirmed our fears - in spite of an IQ of 120, specific learning difficulties were identified.

It was in conversation with the psychologist that she told us the Institute had been consulted by an agricultural college to advise of ways they might identify and help students who have problems. It had become apparent to the college that agriculture tends to attract a higher than average number of people who have some form of learning problem and greenkeeping must be included in this.

With more and more emphasis placed upon written examinations, this, in some circumstances, could preclude individuals with natural flair and ability from advancing to their full potential unless appropriate strategies are used and problems addressed. Our younger greenkeepers who feel their exam mark is below their ability at practical greenkeeping may well have a specific learning difficulty and should get specialist testing as soon as possible, as help should be available. The test for adults can cost around £25 and there is often a waiting list to endure. However, if a specific learning difficulty is established, help can be obtained in many areas and examining boards can allow extra time and/or make a greater allowance for spelling/grammar errors in such cases.

I think more discussion needs to take place on the subject in order to remove the cloud of academic failure from some of our able workers. How can the Association help? What can a head greenkeeper do if he believes one of his staff has a dyslexia problem?

More information about resources is available from local Dyslexia Institutes - details in local phone books - or contact the Dyslexia Institute, 133 Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AJ.

RICHARD HEASLIP

Hainault Forest GC, Essex

■ I read with interest the articles (May G.I.) about water features on golf courses. Certain points led me to wonder how hazards such as these are now influencing the design of new courses in the British Isles. At Bank House they have 18 holes and a driving range in a limited site of just 120 acres. I presume that most of the 13 lakes must be used as safety zones between fairways, as opposed to being created for irrigation storage purposes or as part of the strategy of the course

I cannot admit to having visited the site, but the article gives the impression that the lakes are not in naturally occurring depressions which would normally collect surface water, especially when they are merely two feet deep.

What most interests me is the reason for creating all these lakes. I presume it is the 'Florida influence', as a majority of the resort courses in Florida feature lakes highly, but why? Is it to make the courses more difficult, or to improve the playability of the course, or is the real reason to provide further income for the developer in the resale of 'lake balls'? I think so, especially as they are becoming an increasingly profitable product in most pro's shops