

plex, near Exeter. The morning started with Devon taking on Cornwall in a nine hole match, the winning team (as usual) being Devon, returning six cards totalling 110 points to beat Cornwall with 103. The best score from Devon was John Breyley with 21, this gaining him a pair of cut glass goblets donated by Rigby Taylor and the best Cornish score was that of Richard Minton – also with 21 – but declaring himself out of the prizes and allowing J Bullen to collect the prize of a video presented by – guess who? – Richard Minton! As is usual, the course was presented in excellent condition by our chairman, Bill Pile, and his staff.

Following a superb lunch the 'Dry Patch and Wetting Agents' seminar got underway, with Dr Neil Baldwin presented his paper on Dry patch. Neil, who is a plant pathologist with the STRI, told of his research into this problem, funds for which are being provided by the R&A.

Neil's talk was most informative and I am sure he has made all of us more confident when dealing with Dry patch. We thank him for presenting his paper and for making the long journey West. In addition, the section thanks Mr Breeding and Fingle Glen GC for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities.

Special thanks to all our trade friends who took stand space, these being Avoncrop and ICI, PJ Flegg and Ransomes, Devon Garden Machinery and Toro, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Fisons, and Willcocks. We hope they found the day successful.

RICHARD WHYMAN

S. WEST AND S. WALES 'ARCTIC EXPEDITION'

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9am to begin our 'journey into the unknown'. All seemed well at the first pick-up point – Exeter G&CC – and with half our party on board we proceeded to the M5.

AROUND THE GREEN

Flashing lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone-ranger (waiting in a lay-by), and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was commissioned and we continued our great adventure, having been adequately fed and watered in the pub, setting off for the M5 once more. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in this package deal. However, the regional administrator was determined to take his party to the hinterland and having made Bristol and our last pick-up safely, we continued our trek to the BTME.

Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by a Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination – some three hours late – those able bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerated container.

At breakfast the following day an amazingly good humoured party ate heartily in readiness for

the opening of the 1992 exhibition, showing no signs of their endurance test ordeal. Having taken-in the seminars, walked the exhibition hall and met old friends, we were able to enter first class teams in the quiz night, though in being so young at heart our team was just beaten by failing to remember Max Bygraves! Some then decided to take Harrogate by storm and one talented trio won the Karaoke at a night club, the name of which cannot be remembered, whilst others drowned their sorrows, with some sad results.

Rising next morning bright and early, we were once again greeted with sub-zero temperatures. Undaunted, we sallied forth to the exhibition halls and another excellent day of looking and learning. Continuing extreme cold in the evening suggested that taxis be laid on for those who were banquet bound and a superb meal and top class entertainment gave us a night to remember – or for some a night which cannot be remembered, though a good time was had by all.

The final day proved no less exciting than the others, with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30, with everyone ready and on time. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded – leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last – even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.

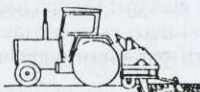
With time to reflect on the disasters of 'modern' transport, it has been suggested that we may have to resort to horse drawn carriages for 1993, these seeming more reliable. However, stops will have to be made at Bristol and Birmingham for a change of horses, though this should not → 62

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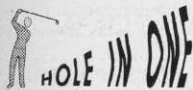
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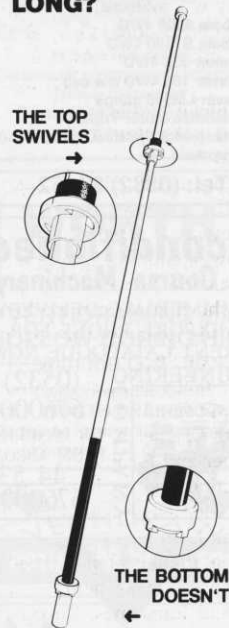
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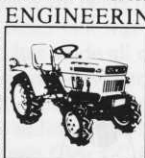
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