

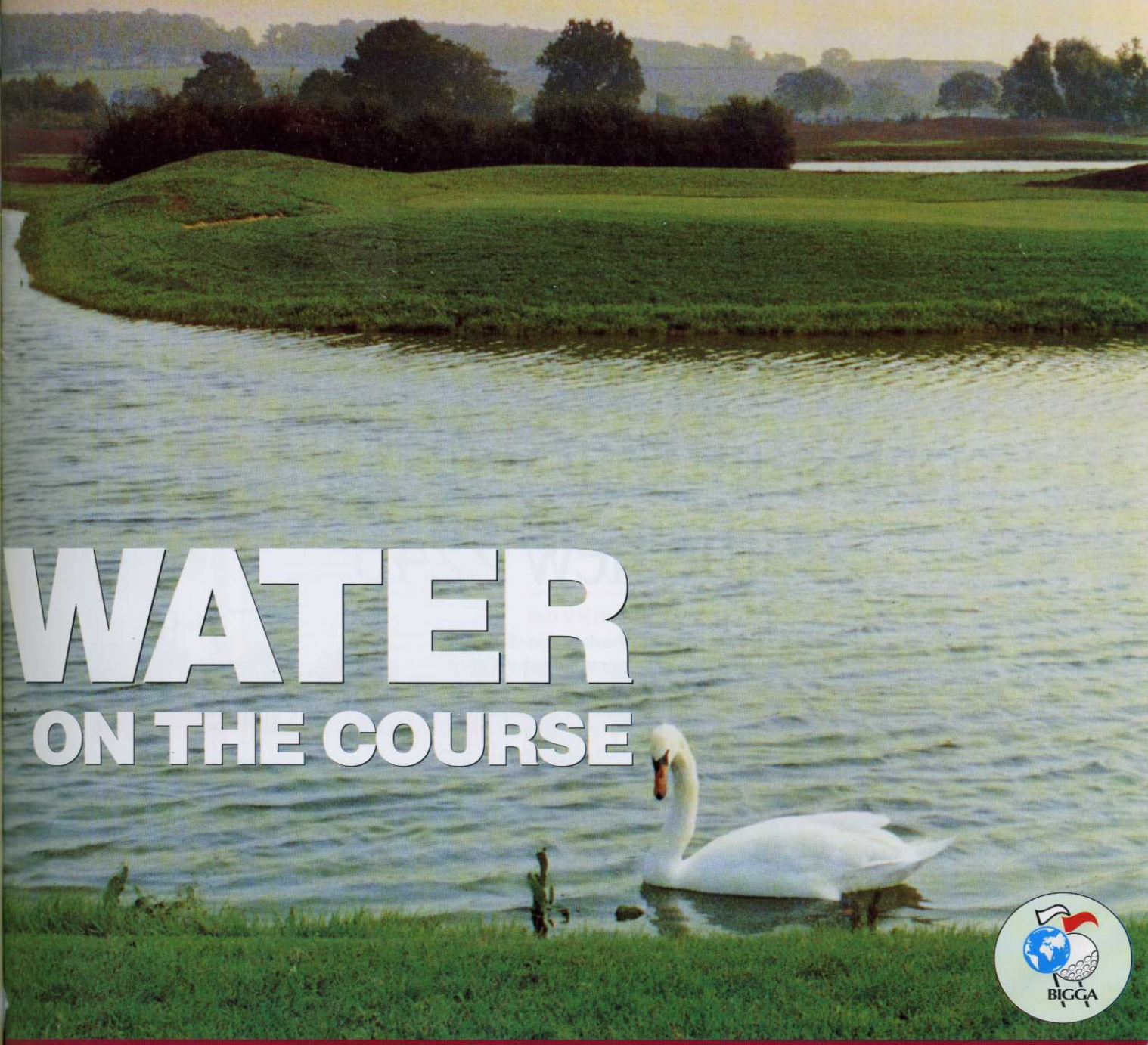
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ON THE COURSE



Journal of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



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



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GREENKEEPER

International

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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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■ Woodbridge Golf Club, which celebrates its centenary in 1993, is renowned as one of the best golf Clubs in East Anglia with all areas of the golf course having been kept in a top class condition over the decades. This excellent condition is largely due to head greenkeeper Lynn Arbon and his staff. Lynn celebrated 25 years of service with Woodbridge Golf Club and, as our picture shows, was presented with gifts from Ransomes managing director, Eric McCoy, at a recent ceremony.

Woodbridge Golf Club, spiritual home

of the Ransomes International Greenkeepers Tournament, has been a good training ground for greenkeepers from abroad, and Ransomes have on many occasions had good reason to call on Lynn to meet greenkeepers at Woodbridge whilst they were visiting Ransomes plant from places such as Finland, Belgium and as far away as the United States and Japan.

Lynn Arbon is a well known figure at Woodbridge Golf Club, though he tends to keep a low profile and just gets on with the job he knows best. The state of his course is testimony to his expertise.

■ Barenbrug UK has appointed new distributors for its Bar range of amenity grass seed mixtures to cater for increasing demand and to provide high quality seed backed by technical expertise and service.

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bristol, will cover the South

West; Collier Turf Care of Norwich will supply the East; Aitken Sportsturf of York will look after the North; Aitken (Seedsmen) of Glasgow will distribute through Scotland; and Lindsay Professional Sportsturf of Belfast will cover Northern Ireland.

The Bar range of 15 mixes provides for all professional amenity requirements, with emphasis on golf courses. Barenbrug UK is a subsidiary of Barenbrug Holdings in the Netherlands, one of Europe's largest grass seed companies.

■ Rolawn of York report of theft of their newly laid turf during the night. The new turf is obviously just too tempting. The thefts intrigued the national press, who resorted to such headlines as "Haul in one" (Daily Star) after 200 square yards was stolen from new greens at the Dewsbury and District Golf Course.

Gary Rawlinson, head greenkeeper of Heworth Golf Course was interviewed on local radio and TV after 50 square yards were stolen from his newly laid 5th tee. His new remedy was to spray mark the turf with criss-cross white lines hoping to deter would-be turf strippers. "The course is near a main road and houses, so someone must have watched us laying the turf," he said.

At the Dewsbury course, head greenkeeper, Jeremy Eastwood had just completed renovating the 5th and 6th greens with the new big rolls of turf when night-time thieves struck. They lifted 200 square yards and in the process inflicted thousands of pounds of damage to the rest of the course with their vehicles.



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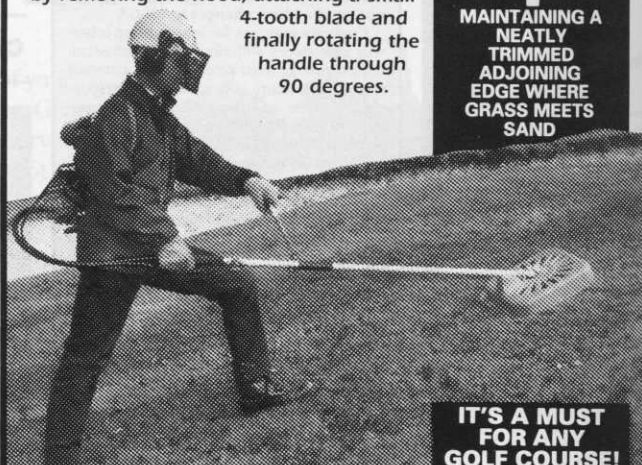
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■ The six BIGGA winners selected to play in the BARENBRUG International Golf Trophy event at Nunspeet in Holland are: Jim Lake, Druids Heath GC, Aldridge. Richard Pride, Thorndon Park GC, Ingrave. Barry Holt, Burford GC, Oxon. Richard Creane, Gosforth Park GC, Newcastle upon Tyne. John Philp, Carnoustie, Angus; and Huw Parry, Bristol & Clifton GC, Bristol. These six players will join fellow European amenity turf specialists in the tournament, plus a Dutch tour which includes a visit to Barenbrug's plant breeding centre. Greenkeeper International will publish a photo report and results in June.



■ Greenkeeper International sends good luck wishes to Sunningdale greenkeeper Robert Brewer, who is away to Canada on an extended trip which will include an attempt to obtain a private pilots licence. No doubt the time will soon come when we shall see 'the flying greenkeeper' aloft.

■ The Institute of Groundsmanship, organisers of the IOG Trade Show, have appointed Gene Price Communications (Tel: 081 866 8254) to handle press and PR for the exhibition. Bookings for stand space and all other matters will continue to be handled by the Exhibition Administrator at the IOG, 19-23 Church St., The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK12 5LG (Tel: 0908 312511). The official catalogue is published by Adam Publishing Ltd. The event is scheduled for September 8-10th and will again be held at Peterborough.

■ Greenkeeper International was saddened to learn of the recent death of Jack Simpson, a past chairman of the BGGA and a member of the executive committee representing the North East. Jack will be remembered with affection as a fine head greenkeeper who served his Club, Ponteland GC, over 50 loyal years. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow and family.



■ Southwood GC, Farnborough, Hampshire, were the lucky winners of the Kubota G1900S ride-on mower, worth over £6000, at the annual Kubota Draw organised by the Golf Founda-

tion – a registered charity established in 1952 to promote and develop the game of golf among young people. A record number of 116 Clubs throughout the UK qualified for the Kubota Draw by each raising £200 or more for the Golf Foundation's annual appeal, which raised over £71000 in 1991.



■ A new consultancy service has been launched by Robert Laycock M.Sc., former technical director of Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd., and previously a researcher at the STRI.

The consultancy, TurfGrass Science, offers a full agronomic service to established golf Clubs as well as to courses which are new or under construction. At a time when consultants are as prolific as new courses, where does TurfGrass Science fit in the market? The answer lies in the name: "There is a real need for a new independent scientifically based agronomic service for golf Clubs. There has been a very positive response from prospective clients," says Laycock. TurfGrass Science is able to give impartial authorita-

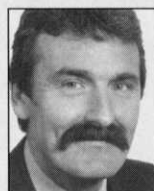
tive advice on all aspects of golf course agronomy. Advisory visits, analyses of soil, sand and plant material are all part of the service, as is the identification of grasses, weeds, pests and diseases.

Laycock has worked with close-mown grass since 1974 and is a Chartered Biologist and a Member of the Institute of Horticulture. Tel: 0759 318680.



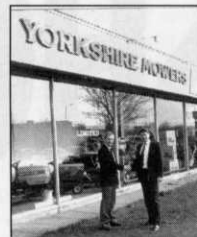
■ Growing Technologies, formerly Rokolene, has announced the appointment of former sales and marketing manager Rob Marriott to the position of commercial director.

■ Chandlers (Farm Equipment) Ltd have been appointed Toro Professional Grass Machinery dealers for Lincolnshire and S. Humberside. Jim Carr has been appointed as Grasscare Manager, Chandlers (Professional Grasscare), the new name under which Chandlers will operate.



■ Irrigation and slurry handling company, Wright Rain Ltd., have announced the appointment of a new managing director. Mike Damen will control the operation of Wright Rain's Sports Turf irrigation business, which is available through four regional branches.

■ Amazone Ground Care – a division of Amazone Ltd – have appointed Richard Tyas as sales demonstrator for the Eastern region. Richard, who lives near Doncaster, was previously with New Holland dealers Platts Harris, involved with their grass care division.



■ Ransomes have appointed Yorkshire Mowers Ltd as sole distributors for their entire range of grass cutting and turf care machinery. Yorkshire Mowers operate from three branches at Hull, Sheffield and Leeds.



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Career-wise, it is probably true for most of us that one person is the guiding influence in deciding our future. That person may be a parent, teacher or friend – or merely a colleague who is in the right place at the right time. More often than not he or she just happens to be around to utter the inspirational words from which ambition is sparked.

It is certainly true of our new national chairman, Roy Kates, who was born in St Mary's Paddington and raised in nearby Hillingdon. Roy lived throughout his childhood and teens next door to a man who was the secretary of Hillingdon Golf Club, a coincidence which could be said to have been his first exposure to golf, no matter how tenuous. As a teenager Roy did most of the things that impecunious 14 year olds are prone to do, including augmenting his pocket money with Saturday jobs. These casual jobs were to influence his life in more ways than one, the dual results being marriage to a girl he had known since early childhood – and a career in green-keeping!

To begin at the beginning, Roy worked weekends as the most humble of extras on the golf course, courtesy of Mr Next-Door Golf Club Secretary, whilst also working for the local dairyman on a busy milk delivery round. It must have occurred to him that early rising and working in God's great outdoors had its good points, and as a bright school pupil the seed of an idea for a career in forestry was beginning to mature. His tutors had other ideas however, and they lobbied hard for him to remain at school and aim for higher honours – 'A' levels and beyond.

The youngster was at the crossroads so to speak and although forestry still gnawed, nothing had been finalised – or indeed even instigated – and with nothing more sinister than a chance conversation with 'Old Bill' in the sheds at Hillingdon, a counter-plot was hatched. The idea was ventured by 'Old Bill' that maybe, just maybe, greenkeeping would offer Roy a splendid career and although he had never considered such work as anything other than his Saturday job, the more he thought about the idea, the more enthusiastic he became. 'Old Bill' had uttered the inspirational suggestion!

Roy didn't believe in doing things by halves, and immediately sought advice on training opportunities from none other than the BGGGA, straight away whizzing off to college to take an IOG course in groundsmanship. At 16 he was an apprentice at Hillingdon, at 17 a rising young lion in his chosen career and at the youthful age of just 19 – with an Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture tucked under his belt – he became head greenkeeper following the retirement of 'Old Bill'.

Thereafter followed a delightful period as the head man, with Roy making friends with several of the serving officers posted at nearby RAF Uxbridge, who played on his course. One such friend invited Roy to holiday in Germany and again fortune took a hand – with an offer of the job as course manager of the Royal Air Force Germany Golf Club – imagine it, the Boy Wonder was barely 21! Golden opportunities don't come every day and Roy leapt at the chance, the job leading to three happy years in a little piece of Britain tucked in a neutral corner of the Fatherland.

At this point we must back-track to Roy's other job, the one at the dairy. Roy had sparked off a



ROY'S THE MAIN MAN

teenage friendship with Tracey, the daughter of his dairy round boss, and although he had known Tracey since early school days, this renewed friendship was to blossom into a full-blooded romance. Tracey had been off to the Antipodes whilst Roy was away in Europe, but we must presume that Cupid's tug was stronger than either the Deutschmark or the Australian dollar, for as Roy returned from Germany, Tracey also returned from Australia and a wedding was soon announced! The second influence meant that Roy's old Saturday job boss was now his father-in-law!

Fresh from Germany, Roy was to spend the next three years at Wyke Green before Lady Luck again took a hand, this time with an advertisement appearing for a 'mature course manager, aged 35-40', for the new pay and play complex at Wexham Park. With tongue in cheek our 26 year old applied and instantly impressed the owner – who offered him the job right away! There was a bonus attraction in that Wexham Park was both a new development and proprietor directed and his new boss knew just how to inspire results. This

came by including a payment-by-results structure – the more green fees, the more Roy's income would increase.

I touched on this unusual reward structure and asked Roy how this affected his thinking with regard to course closures or the instigation of frost green usage. "It completely changed my way of thinking", he said, "I've never believed in pampering the course anyway, it's for people to play on and I can tell you that I've not yet suffered in the spring because play is allowed throughout the winter. I was never in the position where I could go to my boss and say I want the course closed because it's frosty. The way now is that I've changed some of my original ideas and I view pay and play golf in a different and rather special light. With so many people on the course all the time, we have to approach things in a different way anyway. Wexham Park is a purely commercial venture, three courses always on the go every day and indeed every night (with Cyalume light-stick golf!), no matter what".

Wexham Park is not unique, but it is certainly different in being on reclaimed gravel pits. Roy's team have planted 3,000 trees in the past two years and constructed extra holes to make 45 holes in total. The high sand content greens, 100% *Poa annua* in cover species, have stood the test of pay and play conditions and appear more resilient than one might imagine.

Turning to his coming year in office, Roy made the valid point about being backed and supported by his employer and of how vital this was. He further impressed upon me just how important this is for any BIGGA board member who might find himself in a similar position, for without total backing from the incumbent's employer, the job of chairman is rendered impossible. The commitment, he insists, is not just from the individual but rather that of a team effort.

"I'm not from a Wentworth or a Sunningdale", he said, "rather from a Club lower in the pecking order, but with an important part to play in the golf game cycle. I hope that my position at such a tender age might inspire those younger greenkeepers who perhaps think that in order to participate they need to be from a high flying set-up".

Asking Roy about his aspirations for the coming year, he told me that following the well-worn path – further education for his fellow greenkeepers – will again be the 1992 cornerstone for growth. "There's nothing new in wanting a better life and education is opening up those opportunities", he said, continuing, "I'm also drawn to the idea of getting more involved with talking to those who might want to help the cause – prospective Golden Key candidates, for example".

Eleven years of marriage and two daughters – Kimberley and Emma-Jayne are the apples of his eye – finds Roy still as ambitious as ever and he is delighted to have reached another peak by being elevated to 'The Chair'. It is an ambition very much to his liking and he expressed a hope "that I may be as worthy as my illustrious predecessors". Sound sentiments indeed from one of BIGGA's youngest ambassadors. "In 12 months", he concluded, "I hope I can look back with great satisfaction, knowing that the Association is still on the climbing curve and that I may have played a small part in taking us further forward in this crucial year of taking Britain – and that means BIGGA – into Europe."

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Bayco ball washers
from Pattisson's



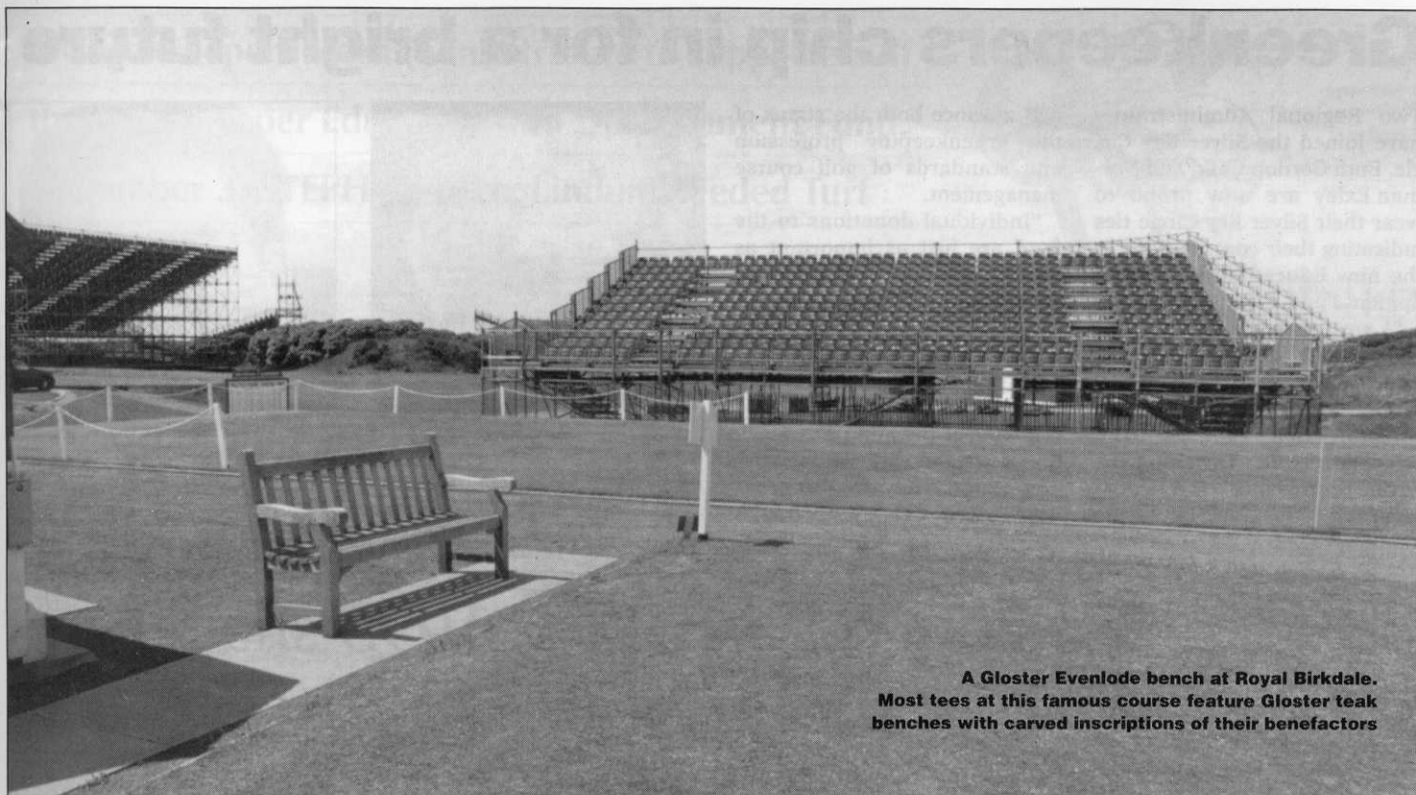
Even if greenkeepers don't actually spend the money, they should be aware of the varied pieces of golf course furniture that's available, in order to offer a valued opinion, points out DAVID WHITE

The average golfer, who will certainly not know his agrostis from his *Poa annua*, is nevertheless an opinionated soul who will judge a golf course, or at least a newly visited golf clubhouse and surrounding practice putting greens and teeing areas, from the first impressions that meet his eyes as he leaves the car park. Thus a poor impression created early in the day will take twice the effort on the course proper in order that the opinion may once more swing in the greenkeeper's favour.

Whilst the head greenkeeper may have no direct control over crazier impulse committee purchases, the clever man will keep a watchful eye on new innovations and ideas and thus be able to

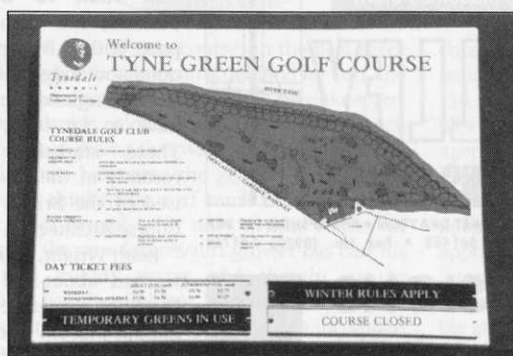
advise his green chairman on what is or isn't worthwhile – for in that way he will have a direct influence on intelligent acquisitions.

Certainly the head greenkeeper will be unable to control the number of those increasingly popular widow donated memorial benches that are dotted around the course, but wherever possible he should guide the committee into purchasing only teak made furnishings, particularly those made from sustainable plantation stock. There are several companies in the teak furniture business who endorse this environmentally friendly concept, and many of them support BIGGA through using the pages of Greenkeeper International for their advertising.



A Gloster Evenlode bench at Royal Birkdale. Most tees at this famous course feature Gloster teak benches with carved inscriptions of their benefactors

Look sharp

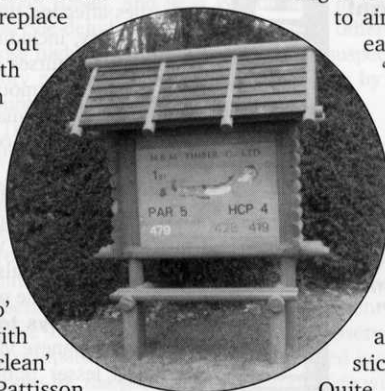


GRP panel signs from Shelley Signs; below, combined bench and sign, from M&M Timber

Turning again to first impressions, whilst some of today's newer golfers are totally unschooled in the art of tidiness and course manners (and I shudder to think what the inside of their houses must look like), it must never be forgotten that litter is less likely to be indiscriminately scattered if receptacles are seen in proliferation around the course – and there are some really handsome designs around that do not intrude upon course aesthetics. Again, look at teak, or at some of the clever cast metal designs, which need no more than a quick wire brush down every five years or so, followed by a quick re-spray.

I make no apology for raising the question of ball washers, if

only to report on vastly improved materials and to praise those Clubs which have had the good sense to replace old, worn out cleaners with more modern and infinitely more practical styles. In particular, I'm much taken with the nifty Canadian 'Bayco' cleaners with their 'twist to clean' action which Pattison & Co are marketing and which, I'm reliably informed, are selling like hot cakes. Around the green, I like Tacit's swivelling



flagpole and appreciate bright, unfaded flags. I also appreciate a bright white cup at which to aim (including the earth rim) and 'Hole-In-White' seems a clever and utterly simple idea. If you want people to know what to do, where to go, or what to expect on any given hole – stick up a sign!

Quite apart from speeding folks up, these bright and attractive signs actually enhance course appearance, though with so many splendid

signs being marketed now it is difficult to highlight just one, or declare a 'best buy'. Signs come in GRP, plastic, natural wood and pressed aluminium and there isn't a maker around who won't design a set of signs especially for your course – they are not necessarily expensive, either.

Finally, crossing a stream or brook can be done in several ways, with the most obvious being the use of railway sleepers – effective no doubt, but not exactly pretty. A touch of real class can be added with the installation of an attractive bridge, and here again the modern manufacturer has made great strides in the past few years. Bridges are rarely stock items and must be properly designed to meet maintenance machinery loading requirements, but the warning here is not to leap at the cheapest quote from the local builder cum timber merchant, rather consider the options available in steel, or the clever Swedish timber designs from Lappsett.

Greenkeepers chip in for a bright future

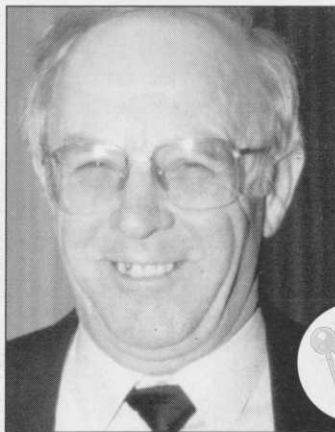
Two Regional Administrators have joined the Silver Key Circle. Both Gordon Child and Norman Exley are now proud to wear their Silver Key Circle ties indicating their contributions to the new Education and Development Fund.

"I am particularly pleased to welcome Gordon and Norman as members of the Silver Key Circle," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "The Education and Development Fund represents the ideal opportunity for donations, gifts and bequests to be made which

will advance both the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course management.

"Individual donations to the fund are just as important as those from companies and groups and it is gratifying that our members now wish to contribute to the development of education and training within the profession."

● Details of the Fund and benefits of membership to the Silver and Golden Key Circles from BIGGA HQ, telephone 03473 581/2 or by fax on 03473 8864.



Gordon Child and Norman Exley - new members of the Silver Key Circle

Booking deadline set as BTME 1993 shapes up

Companies exhibiting at this year's successful BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition have until June 1 to confirm the same positions for next year.

New companies and existing exhibitors have expressed keen interest in high profile positions and so a June 1 booking deadline has been set in order that last year's exhibitors occupying the prime sites, can still keep them.

Exhibitions Officer Debbie Savage comments: "With a lot of people waiting for these prime sites, it's only fair that we have this deadline. If companies had a good space this year and they want the same next year, it's imperative they contact me with their booking as soon as possible."

The 1992 BTME was considered throughout the industry as being the best yet. In his welcome

speech, BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw declared that "Greenkeeping has come of age." The Harrogate event attracted thousands of visitors and was held in conjunction with the popular Education Seminar Programme.

The Association believes that since 1989, BTME has established itself as the premier exhibition within the fine turf industries.

Continued development and growth of the event is constantly monitored by BIGGA and the BTME Steering Committee.

Dates for the 1993 BTME are January 20-22. For more information, or a copy of the comprehensive Information Pack, which details all you need to know about prices and stand space, contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581/2 or by fax on 03473 8864.

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an appreciation of what is not always appreciated

The rush to build new golf courses has gathered remarkable pace with 1,890 planning applications now lodged with local authorities in England alone. Of these 735 have so far been given approval. These statistics were revealed recently at the first seminar organised by the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

Keith Wright, secretary of the EGU, warned about the trend that had "brought the entrepreneur into the market place... and encouraged the opportunist non-expert to enter the field of design, construction and support services".

The seminar, entitled 'The Positive Face of Golf Development' examined key issues affecting the golf development industry, including the number of additional courses that really are needed and the amount of detailed geographical and financial analysis required before a course can be established.

Leading experts in specialised areas of golf development offered frank views on the way the sport must progress and also issued their own warnings on the pitfalls.

Jim Arthur enjoys telling the true story of a Japanese visitor to one of Scotland's lesser publicised golfing gems and on purchasing a green fee. The cost was £60 and the following morning the tourist returned, clutching another £60, declaring the desire to repeat his previous game. 'We

canna tak yer money agin, sir', came the retort, 'yon saxty pounds was for a wee monthly ticket!'

Some weeks ago, writes Paul Worster, I was spraying Spasor Total Kill to eradicate weeds and grass which were threatening to invade a gravel fringe of the putting green at Lilley Brook. Reaching half way round the fringe with the knapsack sprayer I noticed three students deliberately putting off the green into the fringe, and then kicking or throwing the ball back on. I approached the ringleader and asked him to stop, pointing out that any spray residue on the ball was likely to damage the green. This request brought a tirade of sarcasm along the lines of "oh dear, what a tragedy", accompanied by much mirth from his mates.

I was then faced with the choice of either completely losing face, or perhaps aiming a blow to the louts' nose - an awkward situation.

However, in a moment of inspiration I held up my rubber-gloved hands and said, "of course, this particular chemical can cause extreme skin reaction resulting in a bright red rash." At this point the lads' manner changed abruptly, "Oh my God," he screamed, dropping both club and ball as though they were suddenly red hot. He was last seen racing for the showers, leaving his mates, who up until then had been merely tittering, on the ground and helpless with laughter.



A Greenkeeper International tribute to supporters of the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund.

Number 3: STEPHEN FELL, Lindum Seeded Turf



Stephen Fell, the chief executive of HR Fell & Sons Limited, a long established family agricultural business of which Lindum Seeded Turf is the turf production and marketing arm, is a man of many parts, or perhaps to put it more accurately, many careers.

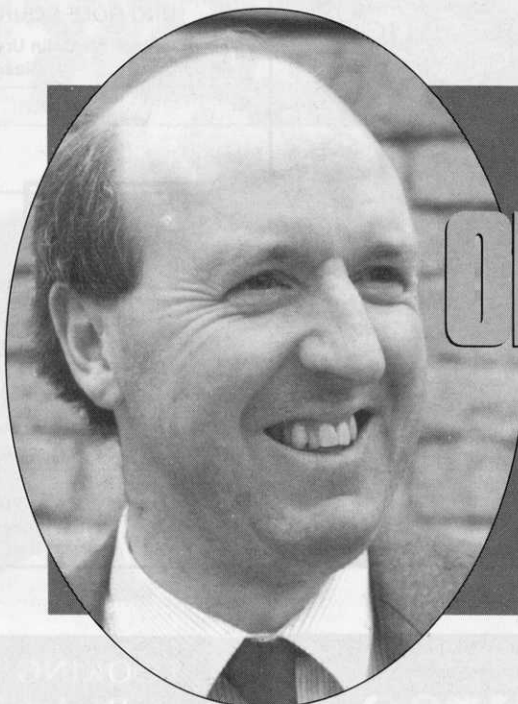
What most would be delighted to have crammed into a lifetime, Stephen seems to have crammed in within just a few short years, and whilst it would be every young man's dream to travel extensively whilst carving a career, each of Stephen's sorties to far flung corners of the globe, undergoing many different though essentially agriculturally related tasks, has neatly and successfully dove-tailed into his earning a living, with a clear cut path of progression emerging.

To understand more of Stephen as the turfgrass businessman however, one perhaps must look at the family connection, in particular the paternal influence of his father, Henry Fell, who is chairman of the company and a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society. Henry is a Council Member of the Royal Agricultural Society and is well known and highly respected in both British and European agriculture. Add this to the fact that the company is managed personally by members of the Fell family, each playing an important part in the overall success of the business, and it seems to logically follow that Stephen has enjoyed a guiding influence from an early age and that his present task of chief executive can be seen to have followed a very logical path indeed.

Stephen himself is a Member of the Royal Agricultural College, having taken a Diploma in Rural Estate Management in 1975 and is also a Chartered Surveyor, qualifying in 1977. He worked as a surveyor with ADAS in Durham, essentially involved in land use and open cast reclamation and also managed a farm in Limoges in France for four years. He was estates manager at the large country estate in Kent of Robin Leigh-Pemberton, taking control of farming, forestry and property management for nine years and as previously noted, he has travelled extensively both as a Nuffield Scholar in the Antipodes and then studied turf technology in Australia, the United States and, of course, throughout Britain.

As one might expect, Stephen is in love with the countryside, though one could never call him a rabid conservationist in the now accepted sense. No, for that would mean he was anti golf courses, anti developments, anti growth and anti progress in a golfing sense and certainly anti diversification – and that is clearly not his line. To appreciate his philosophy, we can do no better than extract segments of his recent address to the BIGGA Education Conference at Cirencester, in which he talked of an awareness of big golfing projects that have failed, loan capital that has all but dried up and of speculators going bust and hurting others in the process. No one knows more than Stephen how hard the media has been on golf recently and of the hostility of the environmental lobby.

From all this doom and gloom, Stephen emerges as the eternal optimist, well aware that



AN OPTIMIST AND A REALIST

if the need for 300 new courses in the next three years is met, this will mean a demand for turf and seed – and also at least 300 new greenkeepers! His optimism is coloured with more than a touch of realism in seeing that with the decline in farming fortunes has come the general farmer who suddenly thinks that turf must be a profitable enterprise. Armed with only a thin veneer of expertise the new farmer/turf grower has cast his net into muddy water and therein, warns Stephen, lies the problem, with turf grown on a whole range of soils, nearly all of them incompatible with the rootzone mixes on your greens and tees. He further warns that greenkeepers should be vigilant in seeking out only fine turf grown on stone free sands such as are found only around York, in North Lincolnshire between Caister and Market Rasen, and near Woodbridge in Suffolk. Don't be deluded, he says, for on soils other than those highlighted the growers are on suspect territory and one should not be led astray by their doubtful cut price products.

Turning a moment from the man to his company – Lindum Seeded Turf – it is well known that Lindum are avid supporters of BIGGA and their education cause, and for the past two years they have sponsored our National Education Conference and contributed in many varied ways, all geared toward making the lot of the greenkeeper a better one. They believe that efficient golf course management and country conservation are compatible and are actively involved in negotiations for the setting up of a nationwide wildlife and conservation management programme at an affordable price. Why do Lindum want this? Quite simply because they see the need developing if not being forced upon the industry and feel that the service would fit well within Lindum's

current portfolio of services and products. How would it work? Through a network of 42 advisors (16 in Scotland) who are mostly graduates and all experienced in ecology and conservation management. The service is envisaged as taking the form of a visit from a local advisor, one well acquainted with the type of habitat and indigenous species, and the production of a written appraisal to include highlighting areas of specific interest, outlining recommendations for future management and providing information on possible grant aid that may be available. Follow up visits would be available and on course half day training sessions with several greenkeepers from one area are envisaged.

Lindum may well be in the business of supplying fine turf, as their list of clients bears witness, including such internationally famous courses as Gleneagles, Royal Birkdale and Wentworth, but they are also in the business of preserving the environment, of maintaining excellent course aesthetics. In short, they have their finger on the pulse of nature.

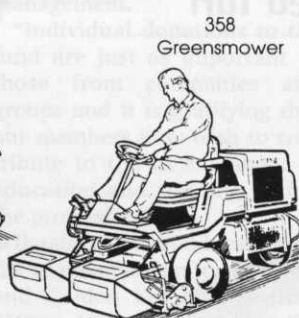
In describing Stephen Fell earlier as a turfgrass businessman, the picture fell short of describing the man totally, for he is a naturalist, a man with a feeling for the beauty of the land, one who is friends with the countryside and one who believes that a well designed golf course should be a celebration of nature. All this in a modern business with a long standing policy to major on quality and to use only the very best STRI approved varieties grown on light sand to ensure fast establishment and bonding on the customers prepared site. The latest technology is available to Lindum and this ensures that these quality standards are consistently maintained and that confidence in their products is never questioned.

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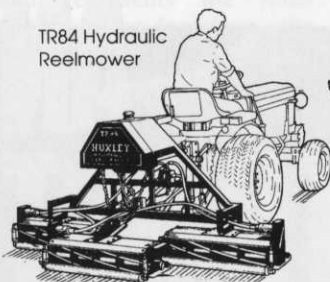
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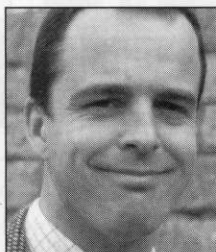
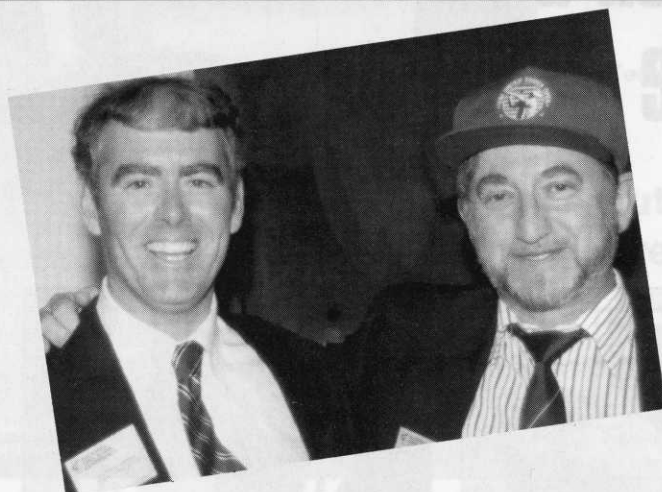


DAVID WHITE, reporting on an ambitious BIGGA National Education Conference, discovers how the learning process can be inspirational – and even fun

Three days of incarceration in a college theatre is not the sort of thing too many greenkeepers would wish upon themselves, but the whisper that became a roar – that BIGGA conferences are somewhat different – was out, and on the occasion of the Lindum Seeded Turf sponsored BIGGA Education Conference staged at the inspired seat of learning, Cirencester Agricultural College, delegates were unanimous in declaring three days as not nearly enough! Time and again one would hear comments that this was the best conference yet, that there was so much to learn, that they wished it might go on longer, and (with not a little touch of pride) that the greenkeepers had the professionals licked into a cocked hat in terms of both material and presentation! It was magic stuff and did much to bolster self esteem in a profession that is clearly on a rapidly rising curve.

Certainly the ambitious programme covering seventeen presentations from no less than fourteen speakers called for slick adherence to timing, and although on this occasion our able chairman Gordon Child was minus his red light warning, his skill in running a tight ship was again evident – we'll award him ten out of ten for efficiency!

One way to win instant acclaim is to tell an audience something they want to hear, and Tom Cook began on a high note by stating in his presentation 'Can we maintain pure bentgrass putting turf in cool temperate climates' that the answer was a categoric NO! In truth, he covered all angles by maintaining that in parts of the USA he believed the answer was yes, and continued by explaining why bentgrass failed, revealing that in no less than 450 courses in Oregon and Washington (climate similar to Britain) there were no 20 year old courses with pure bentgrass greens, probably fewer than 20 mature courses with more than 50% bentgrass on greens



Top: Delegates gathered in the lecture theatre, below, an Anglo-American exchange – Patrick O'Brien from the USGA Green Section gains the benefit of Jon Allbutt's knowledge, Jon Allbutt gains... a US Open cap. Above, from left, Bernard Findlay, Carol Borthwick and Geoff Hodson.

and the average green in this region was probably yielding 80-95% Poa annua. The rogues in this equation were revealed as over zealous use of water and surface disturbance.

It would take the length of a novel to report thoroughly on every aspect of the conference, the reader therefore must be content with this overall picture spanning many hours of presentation, whilst appreciating that some of the papers may

form future features within Greenkeeper International. Thus I will mention without comment the presentation given by Dr Neil Baldwin of the STRI on 'Integrated disease management', the talk on 'Project management compared with normal golf course construction contracts' by Jonathan Gaunt, the insight into 'Greenkeeping in Norway' given by

Tor Senstadt, and Gordon Jaaback's presentation on 'Limitations in root-zone design', not to dismiss them but rather to concentrate on the first of a trio of head greenkeeper presentations, that of Royal Liverpool's Derek Green on 'Dry Patch'.

Derek told in his typical droll humoured style of the 180 hydrophobic acres on the links of Hoylake, with some 50-60% of Dry Patch on any one green which appeared in a mosaic pattern. Some of the worst affected areas at Hoylake, we learned, were in roughs and sand dunes which had never been treated with anything. The theory was suggested that Dry Patch might be caused or exacerbated by sand top dressing applications, necessary with increased play, though Derek was at pains to point out that his links greens were not pure sand, rather a 80-20 mix with dirty sand and crushed shell. Dry Patch at Hoylake was certainly no recent phenomenon either, for old records revealed that the problems were first noted back in 1920. Derek told an amusing tale of the investigative work undertaken by the STRI, when he jokingly suggested that at one time it seemed they were taking so many samples that his fear was that an upcoming tournament might well be played over 15 greens at Hoylake and 3 at Bingley! Thus far, he told us, no positive results have come from these experiments, though of course he remains optimistic.

To round off our first day, Jim Arthur presented a paper on 'Drainage, before and after construction', this originally scheduled for delivery by his indisposed old friend, Barry Cooper. Although Jim delivered Barry's piece word perfect, he could not, of course, resist the temptation to spice the contents with his own invaluable reminiscences and observations – pure vintage Arthur of the finest quality which nicely rounded off the official proceedings, though shop → 14

UNMISSABLE

It was magic stuff and did much to bolster self esteem in a profession on a rising curve



'No-one nods off when Jim Arthur is on the platform'

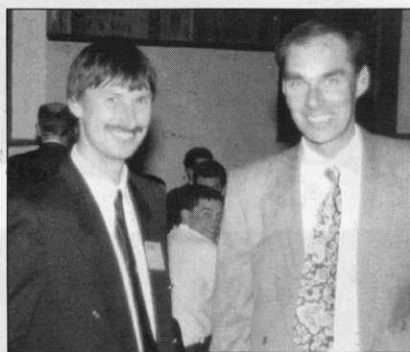
13 ➤ talk continued well into the small hours!

Jon Allbutt is well known to our readers as both author and presenter of no-nonsense information relating to spraying, pesticides, codes of practice, COSHH regulations and the like. Delegates might have been forgiven for thinking beforehand that his subject, 'Using chemicals on the course and complying with the law', was as dry as dust, but the man is a veritable wizard in making presentations not only interesting but fascinating. Thus we enjoyed forty minutes of Jon, whilst learning of the perils that lurk in failing to comply with the law. One wag was heard to whisper, 'he could make a 'phone book sound exciting', and indeed this was the case, a hard act to follow.

That Stephen Fell, managing director of Lindum Seeded Turf, was able to follow Jon with aplomb is to be applauded, for his paper on 'Course aesthetics, good, bad and indifferent' was delivered with sound professionalism and gave delegates much food for thought – indeed this obviously wasn't Stephen's first time on the podium at Cirencester, for he is a graduate of the Royal Agricultural College, having majored in Estate Management in 1975.

Learning more of 'The development of education programmes for the greenkeeping profession in the USA' was our next major presentation, delivered by William Roberts, president of the GCSAA, and followed by Carol Borthwick asking 'Where do we go from here?'. Carol is no newcomer to the lecture room, though in wielding a mashie niblick to give emphasis to her talk, she gave a whole new meaning to the school marm edict 'pay attention!'

We all knew 'where we were



From left, Gordon Child, our chairman, greenkeeping experts David Whitaker and Laurence Pithie, and Tommy Lindelof, representing Golfium AB, Sweden

going from here', making our way to a luncheon room that buzzed with informed comment and bulged with good food – a splendid break thoroughly deserved by speakers and delegates alike.

Laurence Pithie is so well known and well informed that there was no need to persuade delegates to return to the lecture theatre to listen to our first 'Master Greenkeeper'. Laurence spiced an altogether fascinating talk with his own highly professional slide presentation in talking of 'Golf course development' from his own individualistic viewpoint, enlivened the proceedings with shots of course construction disasters that would make Harry Colt turn in his grave.

Like the good trooper he is, Pat O'Brien of the USGA Green Section finally made Cirencester some 24 hours late, having been stuck on the ferry between Ireland and the mainland overnight, and though his talk on 'Bentgrass management in the south eastern USA' was covered, his thrust was interspersed with so many anecdotes that he had the gathering in stitches of laughter, a natural comedian who could always get a job as an entertainer should his agronomy career falter! He was later to continue in like vein with

his 'Ten best all-time tips of the USGA Green Section' – hugely entertaining and rewarding.

The finale of Saturday was left to the irrepressible Jim Arthur, this time with Jim shunning all notes in presenting his 'Sound traditional greenkeeping practices versus gimmicks'. The one predictable thing about Jim is that he is unpredictable, though he always enjoys ruffling a few feathers and never shuns controversy, especially aiming at those of the 'don't rock the boat' brigade. Indeed this occasion was no exception with his sound condemnation of the gimmick, and love him or hate him one could not fail to be impressed by his huge font of knowledge properly earned in the field, his forthright delivery leaving no-one in doubt as to his message – no-one nods off when Jim is on the platform!

The lecture day ending on a high, delegates later dining in splendid style in the imposing banquet hall and feted by a sleight of hand comedian who was uncanny in his polished routine. Indeed, in these days of smut and innuendo it was refreshing to be so perfectly entertained without a scrap of bad language – more of the same, please!

Came the finale, and it was with

Bernard Findlay, course manager at Portstewart Golf Club, that the seal of excellence was finally set. I will purposely refrain from exposing his stunning presentation, for this will be a major feature within our pages in the near future, but I can reveal that Bernard has actually built a seaside links course from scratch, has the scars to prove it, the pictures to back up his experiences, and tells a tale of such interest that you will all want to visit Portstewart to see the course for yourself. Bernard began the day as a greenhorn presenter, modestly murmuring about his inexperience and finished as the star of our conference, a perfect role model for other greenkeepers – indeed all platform presenters – to follow in the future. That BIGGA can produce such worthy speakers from within the ranks is a great credit to the profession and augurs well for the future of both greenkeeping and the National Education Conference of 1993. Incidentally, should the success of Derek, Laurence and Bernard spark off the inclination in others to become public speakers (see Page 12 of the April issue), they could do no better than attend a two-day specialist course at HQ Give David Golding a call on 03473 581.

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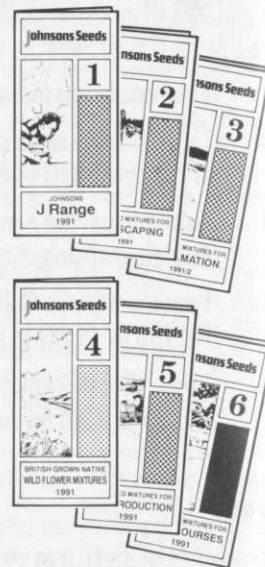
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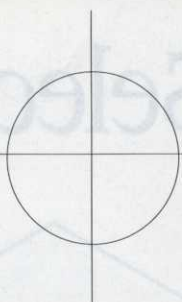
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SIGHTS

Legislation and the requirement for specific label recommendations have reduced the number of herbicides which are available to the greenkeeper. Cost and delays have prevented several manufacturers and distributors from seeking approval for herbicides unless they have a significant and assured market, and while there are a number of materials which are approved for 'grass,' most if not all are primarily approved for agricultural grass – or cereal (which is a grass!). Amenity grass – ie. turf – is regarded as a different 'crop' and use. Nevertheless those manufacturers or suppliers with a significant interest in the turfgrass market have tried to ensure that their most important products are still available – although several are still in the Ministry of Agriculture approvals 'pipeline.' Only Approved Products may be supplied, stored or used: approved by the Government and including a wide range of products which encompass herbicides, adjuvants (wettters), insecticides and fungicides.

The manufacturer or his agent (who may be an importer or licensee) must seek approval for new uses even for materials which are already approved for apparently similar use, whilst approval is also needed if an existing product is reformulated. The Minister can also make specific requirements over the use of specific products (such as has happened with ioxynil) and these may include how and where they may be used and at what maximum application

rates. They can also stipulate requirements for protective clothing.

As an example, ioxynil is a valuable herbicide for taking out speedwells but it cannot be used with hand held or knapsack sprayers. It is perhaps not surprising that the products which are currently available are (mostly) those with the longest history of use and the first hormone weedkillers to find general use in agriculture: chemicals such as 2,4-D, mecoprop (CMPP) and MCPA. These pre-date most of the non-selective products such as paraquat. The two notable exceptions to this hormone weedkiller family are ioxynil and ferrous sulphate, used as a moss killer. Several suppliers have suggested to Greenkeeper International that in future they will not be licensing some of their products for amenity turf, thus the range available from any particular supplier – if not the overall range of products – is likely to be greatly more restricted.

Maximum weed control comes from optimising the application of the selected herbicide with obvious limitations being imposed by weather, growing conditions, stage of weed growth, and the efficiency of the application. Weather limitations obviously include rain, and the less obvious such as drought and hot weather – which place stress on the grass as well as inhibiting the uptake by the target weeds. Hot weather may also cause vapour drift with 2,4-D ester

► 19

GREENKEEPER International

Selective herbicides – for the control of broadleaf weeds in turf

as listed in the British Agrochemicals Association Amenity Handbook

Active ingredient	Formulation	Suppliers and product name
2,4-D amine	Liquid	Agrichem 2,4-D, Mirfield MSS 2,4-D amine, Vitax Syford
2,4-D amine + mecoprop	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Supertox 30
	CDA	Rhone Poulenc CDA Supertox 30, Vitax Sydex
2,4-D amine + picloram	Liquid	Chipman Atladox HI
2,4-D ester	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Dicotex Extra, Mirfield MSS 2,4-D ester, Vitax Forester
2,4-D ester + mecoprop	CDA	BP Oil/Chipman BP Zennapron, ICI Verdone CDA
2,4-D + dicamba	Liquid	Vitax New Estermone
	Aerosol	Vitax Green Up Weedfree – spot weedkiller
2,4-D + dicamba + ioxynil	Gran Fer	ICI Longlife Plus
2,4-D + mecoprop	Liquid	ICI Super Verdone
2,4-D + mecoprop + ferrous sulphate in fertiliser	CDA	BP Oil/Chipman Zennapron
Chlorthal-dimethyl	Powder	Vitax Weed 'n' Feed Extra
Dichlorophen	W/powder	ISK Biotech Dacthal W-75
Ferrous sulphate in fertiliser	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Super Mosstox
	Sol Powder	Fisons Greenmaster Mosskiller, Vitax Green Up Mossfree, Vitax Lawn Sand, Vitax Turf Tonic
		Vitax Microgran 2
MCPA	M/Gran	Mirfield MCPA 50
MCPA + mecoprop + dicamba	Liquid	Chipman Tribute, Mirfield MSS Mircam Plus, Fisons Tritox
Mecoprop	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Clovotox, Mirfield MSS CMPP
Mecoprop + MCPA in gran. fertiliser	Liquid	Fisons Greenmaster Extra
Suitable for seedling grasses or young turf		
Isoxaben	Liquid	Vitax Knot Out
Mecoprop	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Clovotox
Ioxynil	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Actrilawn 10
For special situations, control of docks, nettles and bracken and so on		
Asulam	Liquid	Rhone Poulenc Asulox
Triclopyr	Liquid	Chipman Garland

Suppliers

- Agrichem International Ltd.**
Industrial Estate, Station Road,
Whittlesey, Cambs PE7 2EY.
Tel: 0733 204019
- BP Oil Ltd.** BP House, Breakspear
Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts
HP2 4UL. Tel: 0442 232323.
- ISK Biotech Europe Ltd.** 4th Floor,
Central Court, 1b Knoll Rise,
Orpington, Kent BR6 0JA.
Tel: 0689 74011.
- Fisons plc.** Horticulture Division,
Paper Mill Lane, Bramford,
Ipswich IP8 4BZ. Tel: 0473
830492.
- Hortichem Ltd.** 14 Edison Road,
Churchfield Industrial Estate,
Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7NU.
Tel: 0722 320122.
- ICI Professional Products.**
Woolmead House East,
Woolmead Walk, Farnham,
Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: 0252
733919.
- Mirfield Sales Services Ltd.**
Grosvenor Works, Linthwaite,
Huddersfield, West Yorks HD7
5QE. Tel: 0484 842451.
- Nomix-Chipman Ltd.** Portland
Building, Portland Street, Staple
Hill, Bristol BS16 4PS.
Tel: 0272 574574.
- Rhone Poulenc Ltd.** Regent
House, Hubert Road,
Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TZ.
Tel: 0277 261414.
- Vitax Ltd.** Owen Street, Coalville,
Leicestershire LE6 2DE.
Tel: 0530 510060.

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'No-one can be unaware about the need to 'read the label' before using any pesticide: all warnings, precautions and statutory recommendations must be included...'

17 →

and this has been known to decimate susceptible plants at a considerable distance downwind.

Probably the most common hormone material for use on amenity turf is 2,4-D, formulated by several companies either as an amine salt or in the ester form. Hormone weed-killers work by interfering with the plant's hormone system, causing abnormal stimulation and distortion before death. A single application applied when the weeds are growing actively in the early part of the season is likely to control weeds such as Plantains, Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Creeping Buttercup (which are very susceptible), though a second application four weeks later may be needed to finish off Daisy, Cat's Ear, Dandelion and Sorells. Clovers and trefoils may survive two applications, but obviously if these are a dominant problem you should perhaps look at using another product. Applications can safely be made with a tractor mounted sprayer or by hand-held or knapsack sprayers which allow 'spot weeding' to be carried out. Dico-tox Extra, an ester form, is suggested by Rhone Poulenc as being ideal for the economic control of a range of weeds on 'outfield' turf. Apart from relative low cost it has the advantage of being resistant to light rainfall.

More frequently 2,4-D is sold as one active constituent of a proprietary herbicide – of which mecoprop (also known as CMPP) is the most common partner. It is available both as a conventional liquid for dilution with water and application by motorised, tractor or knapsack sprayer or even by watering can, and as an oil/water concentrate for CDA application. The addition of mecoprop increases the spectrum of control by perhaps 40%. This combination is available from ICI Professional Products for CDA as Verdane CDA and from BP Oils/Chipman as Zennapron, both with the ester form of 2,4-D and the limitation of spraying in hot weather. In contrast, Supertox 30 in both CDA and conventional dilutable liquid from Rhone Poulenc uses a 2,4-D amine salt and as a consequence is non-volatile so that it may be safely used near ornamental or other susceptible plantings. Dosage rates of these chemicals is reasonably flexible allowing them to be tailored to the susceptibility of the targeted weed. White clover, creeping buttercup, plantains, daisy and dandelion succumb to the Rhone Poulenc recommendation of 84ml in 9 litres (of water) to cover 100m². Doubling the inclusion rate (but not reducing water or area) should provide control of red clovers, lesser trefoil and other weeds. Mecoprop is active against chickweed and it has a significantly greater effect on clovers and trefoils than 2,4-D, having the advantage of being particularly safe for the grasses, to the point that it is recommended – as Clovotox, by Rhone Poulenc for application to young seedling grass or turf. Again there is the flexibility to apply by hand or power sprayer or even a watering can (with a fine rose). As already stated this flexibility does not apply to ioxynil, which in a straight active ingredient formulation as Actrilawn 10, is a prime herbicide for new grass and turf, and one which is particularly effective on chickweeds and trefoils. Whilst not a hormone weedkiller, it is a contact herbicide which inhibits photosynthesis and respiration and is exceptionally safe for fine turf grasses including bents and fescues (but excepting crested dog's tail) and it may cause temporary tip scorch on perennial ryegrasses – especially if care is not taken to avoid over spraying. No claims are made for control of mature weeds, thus it is essential these be removed before seeding – perhaps by the use of a non-selective herbicide such as paraquat, diquat, or glyphostat which require no delay before seeding. However, in general, environment awareness would suggest mechanical control prior to planting.

Particularly effective for 'difficult' weeds such as Speedwells, Parsley-piert, Pearlwort and Woodrush is the mix of Mecoprop with ioxynil which suppliers Vitax were selling as

Synox, though currently they are having difficulties with supply. Their recommendation is only for established fine turf. Vitax previously sold their pesticides under the Synchemicals mark and some of these products are still around. Another 'useful' hormone herbicide which is found in combination with other active ingredients is dicamba. Vitax combine it with 2,4-D in New Estermone to give control of weeds such as Black Medick and Toad Rush as well as enhancing the control of species such as Chickweed and Common Mouse Ear. ICI include it with 2,4-D and ioxynil in their conventional liquid herbicide Super Verdane while Chipman in Tribune, Mirfield in Mircam Plus and Fisons in Tritox add it to MCPA and mecoprop to give an optimum wide spectrum of control. Vitax's answer for weed control in newly sown grass is Knot Out. Based on Isoxaben this is ideally applied within two days of sowing so that it forms a layer over the soil surface, and as it is a residual it is absorbed by broadleaf weeds as they break through. Weeds controlled include Mayweed, Speedwells, Common Mouse-ear Knotgrass, Common Chickweed and Parsley-piert. Like most residuals it is inactivated by high organic matter or peat in the soil. Iron, usually as a Ferrous sulphate compound, is well known for its ability to control moss and algae, though often it is not even recognised as being a selective herbicide as it is frequently a component of fertilisers. The contact application is perhaps less critical than with any other 'herbicide' as it can be put on by watering or spraying with hand or mechanical sprayers.

Set your SIGHTS

Many of these products can be 'tank mixed' with adjuvants – wetting agents, liquid fertilisers, conditioners or fungicides etc., – however such mixing must be within the label recommendations. For instance Rhone Poulenc list Mildothane Turf Liquid as being suitable for mixing with Clovertox and Supertox 30 where disease control is required in addition to weed control. Vitax suggest their 50/50 liquid feed as an ideal way of boosting the grass to fill in where weeds are killed. Some agronomists recommend the use of wetters to aid absorption of the chemical, but these must have clearance for this use. No one can be unaware about the need to 'read the label' before using any pesticide: all warnings, precautions and statutory recommendations must be included – and the container must at all times be complete with its label.

For anyone who has a personal computer there is the option to buy the Datachem program, a very comprehensive software package which assists the user in selecting the right product (from the Rhone Poulenc range) and to set rate use, including the calibration of the sprayer. The database also assists with the identification of pests and diseases. Past entries are saved for future reference and the program also allows data to be added to the database.

Pesticides course an 'overwhelming success' – and some places still available for next one

by DAVID GOLDING, Education Officer

The pilot Pesticides Course held at BIGGA headquarters was an overwhelming success with all five members passing both FEPA PA1 and 2A examinations.

Members travelled to headquarters on Monday, 16 March for two days' intensive training with the Association's Health and Safety consultant, Jon Allbutt. On the Wednesday morning all delegates completed the Foundation Module (PA1) and during Thursday and Friday morning the application tests (PA 2A) were negotiated.

It is essential that all course managers/head greenkeepers become certificated for the application of chemicals and BIGGA headquarters is only one option for students to consider for certification. Many colleges have run very successful training courses but testing has at times been a problem. However, this is a cheaper option rather than our in-house course. The benefits of our course is that we train and test within five days at the Manor and the camaraderie which is apparent amongst the mature greenkeepers is a vital ingredient in the preparation for the tests (see letters page).

In programming and projecting our own course it was thought that whilst younger greenkeepers will choose the college route, the more mature greenkeeper would prefer the informal surroundings of BIGGA headquarters.

In conclusion, I would like to thank tutor, Jon



All aboard for success at the Pesticides Course at Aldwark Manor

Allbutt, Colin Gregory, managing director of Hardy Sprayers and Richard Bishop, sales director of Ransomes, for the loan of equipment used on the course. This is much appreciated as it is well documented that many greenkeepers when facing their FEPA tests have been asked to use equipment, chemical labels etc. which have no resemblance to golf course maintenance. This is an issue which we are confronting with the examination body and it could be that shortly we will be requiring certificated greenkeepers to

become examiners! Watch this space.

For those members still not certified, please contact your college for details of the PA1-2A courses or for members who would prefer the BIGGA route, the next week for training and testing is Monday, 5 October-Friday, 9 October inclusive. Cost is £421.27 +VAT = £495.00 including accommodation, meals, training, examination and certification fees. There are only six places available, so ring headquarters now to book your place.

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AD REF 61

GREENKEEPERS LIBRARY

DAVID WHITE

examines some of the latest offerings from publishers who have the greenkeeper in mind

For those who use pesticides (and who doesn't?), there is the most bewildering range of products available to control pests, weeds and diseases or the regulation of plant growth. The aim of **The UK Pesticides Guide** is to guide the user in the selection of pesticides, by providing details of all the products marketed and their approved uses, both those recommended on the labels and those which have been officially approved but are not recommended on labels and for which the suppliers will not accept responsibility (off-label approvals). The book is revised annually.

The compilers draw from authoritative sources: approved labels and product manuals, The MAFF/HSE publication Pesticides 1991, and entries in The Pesticides Register, the official monthly publication on approvals (including off-label approvals) up to and including the issue for August 1991.

Coverage, as you might expect, is most thorough, not only in identifying products but in providing guidance on how to use them safely and effectively, but without giving dose rates, volumes, spray schedules, or approved tank mixes. There are sections on FEPA and COSHH, substances most dangerous (the Red list), use of herbicides in or near water, maximum exposure limits, which diseases or weeds a product will best

be suited for, and special precautions that must be taken.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that the bulk of pesticides are primarily used by the agricultural industry, (the book lists them all), but that stated, any greenkeeper will find enough for the book to be a veritable bible of facts and information.

As an interesting aside, and admitting that it is not a book you will ever read from cover to cover, in my investigations I discovered one fungicide, as yet listed as being effective in the control of

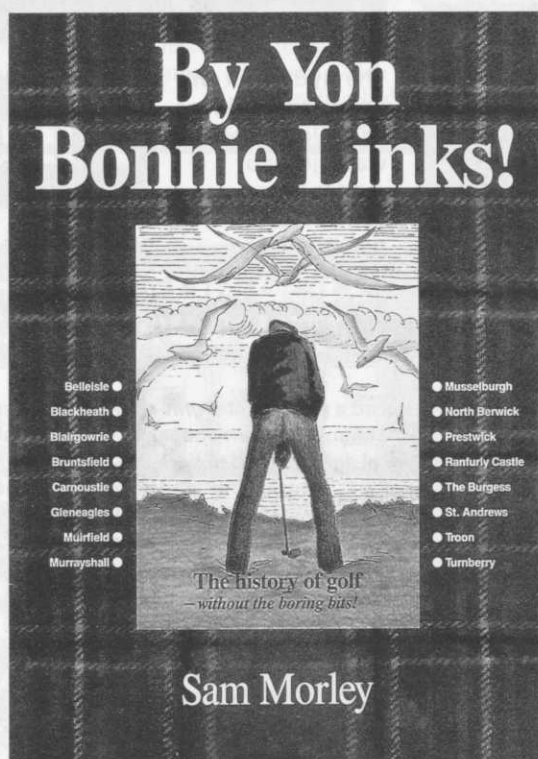
for golf...!" and decided that while in Scotland he would visit 14 famous venues, ostensibly for a 2,000 word article for a golf magazine, identifying Scotland with the birth of golf and giving his opinions on the overall scene as he saw it today. As he was unable to satisfy the former and it took him over 60,000 bright and breezy words to do the subject justice, the magazine never did get its article. Instead came **By Yon Bonnie Links!** – Sam's fifth full-length narrative hard-back and best summed up with his closing epilogue on page 217: Whether from the Highlands, Lowlands, Netherlands, Midlands – or Papua New Guinea – addicts the world over acknowledge Scotland as the 'Holy Land' of golf. This light-hearted story of a pilgrimage across that 'Holy Land', amongst those who worship at its shrine, should leave little doubt that golf and its history needn't be quite so awesome as some would have us believe!

It's not quite a '1066 and All That' version of golfing history, because although amusing, it is, in every way factual. But thanks to a colourful imagination and love of hyperbole Sam has converted 400 years of 'sacred' lore into a zesty presentation which will please all but the stuffiest of students, and certainly all addicts and non-participants alike.

On reading an early draft, a top golfing historian wrote to the author: "This is good breezy stuff – but whether they'll let you play again at Muirfield is an interesting question!"

The idea of the history of golf – without the boring bits! – certainly delighted me and I believe you'll be equally enamoured by its irreverence.

By Yon Bonnie Links! is published by Aedificamus Press, 113 The Ridgeway, Northaw, Herts EN6 4BG, at £12.95 post free.



American gooseberry mildew on soft fruit, which positively sees off all *Poa annua* growth. As yet I am sworn to secrecy by the manufacturers, who are seeking approval, but you may be assured when the story breaks you will read about it in Greenkeeper International. Published by BCPC Publications, Bear Farm, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks RG12 5QE, the guide costs £15.25 post free.

The author Sam Morley was invited to the R&A by Michael Bonallack after publication of his hilarious "If it wasn't

The Boom Sprayers Handbook, edited by the BCPC Chemicals Application Committee and produced jointly with the Agricultural Training Board is a handbook which sets out to give practical and easy-to-understand guidelines on how to spray agrochemicals safely and effectively when using boom sprayers; and how to calibrate and look after the increasingly sophisticated machinery being used today. It describes the many different types of tractor mounted boom sprayers and includes details of nozzles, spray pumps, control systems, booms and boom suspension, and filters.

Guidelines are provided on methods of calibration, spraying practice and maintenance, as well as on health and safety aspects. It is cleverly illustrated and written without calling on unfathomable scientific jargon and will prove invaluable to those who are receiving instruction in the use of such equipment, as required by FEPA. Published by BCPC Publications, Bear Farm, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 5QE, the handbook costs £5.00 post free.

Two free publications are announced by the British Agrochemicals Association: **The Cost Benefits of Pesticide Use in the Community** and **A Guide to Pesticides in the Community**. I particularly appreciated their reasoned answers to ten common myths and the no-nonsense way the pamphlets are written, with real life costings and comparative costs of alternative techniques that will enable balanced discussions; essentially with the layman in mind. They could prove invaluable should the Club 'clever dick' raise an argument in the clubhouse. Free from BAA, 4 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RP.

The STRI's role as a publisher of books is well known, and news that a comprehensive guide to golf course management is currently being planned and should be available in the not-too-distant future is likely to raise interest throughout the world of green-keeping. In the meantime, their

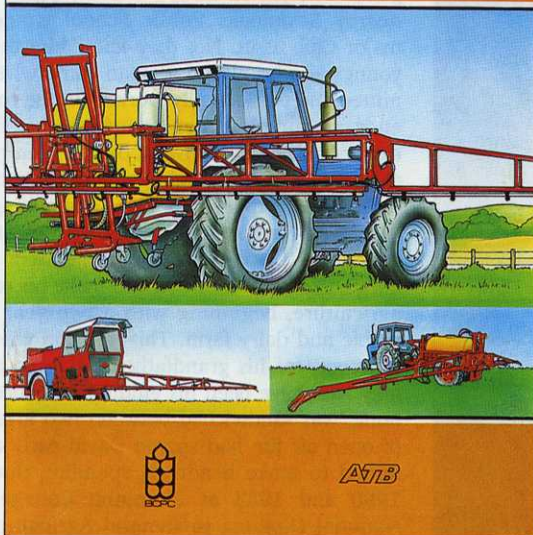
Turfgrass Seed 1992 is now ready, regarded as the essential reference on the relative merits of currently available grass cultivars for the seed trade and consumer alike. **Turfgrass Seed 1992** is published by the STRI, Bingley, W. Yorkshire BD16 1AU, at £1.40 including postage.

Every association of importance needs a disciple and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries were indeed fortunate in having John Crowther as theirs alone for many years. His recent book is an up-to-date, comprehensive guide to all aspects of golf club management, from draft contracts of employment to damage by driven golf balls.

Far from being dull and heavy reading, all chapters have a crisp, clear style, with many devoted to non-management stories and articles, some with full colour pictures. The author has used considerable 'inside' knowledge in compiling this book, benefiting from his years as national secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, and his continuing success in running the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association. He was himself a secretary of a golf Club, and was a 4 handicap golfer for many years. He has always known that there was a need and a demand for such a reference book in the golfing world. One small sector, reproduced here, deserves exposure beyond these pages and should be posted on every Club notice board:

"The number of members in a Club may be 250 or 1,250. They all, as individuals, know how to do the job better than the staff and officials. They are experts in

BOOM SPRAYERS HANDBOOK



AGCS

administration, accounting, green-keeping, the law, stock control, housekeeping, car parking, slow play and fast play. They all know how to produce fast true greens, deal with vandalism, make a profit, keep beer in top class condition, know where to buy wine at low prices and are able to cook and serve excellent meals at a third of their present cost. They, however, do not know how to pay their subscriptions on time, deal tactfully with visitors, mend pitch-marks on the greens, rake bunkers or understand the rules of golf or the handicapping scheme. They are, therefore, a special breed who need very careful administration and control. However, it is surprising how many of them are so friendly and pleasant and how good it is to work on their behalf.

This hard-bound volume is a valuable working document for golf club secretaries, members of committee, and indeed any golfers interested in the management of their Club.

Managing Your Golf Club - The Facts and Skills of Golf Club Management, by John Crowther, is published by Harper Trade Journals (tel 071 261 1604) at £22.50 incl. postage.

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David Wood

The members at Holtye Golf Club, on the borders of Kent and Sussex, have sound reasons to be proud of David Wood, their 31 year old head greenkeeper of just three years standing. To even the most casual observer it is clear that the Holtye course is in spanking condition – unarguably better now than it has been for most of its 99 years of existence. They can with every justification boast of David's achievements, not only for his bringing the appliance of science to this utterly charming course, but in capturing a veritable armful of major awards as the star student of the BIGGA approved Plumpton College, under the expert tutelage of David Blackmur.

Few, however, would have believed that the young junior golfer who joined Holtye in 1974 whilst still attending the nearby Sevenoaks Public School would develop into a major Club asset. No, they knew him then only as a keen youngster who played a mean game whenever studies permitted and who happily worked on the course during weekends at humble green switching, his first greenkeeping exposure. David has always been a keen golfer, playing now to a handicap of 11 and having been in single figures when calls upon his time were not as demanding as they are now.

Leaving Sevenoaks in 1975 with eight 'O' levels, David astounded his parents (his father is a schoolmaster) by announcing that he wished to make his way in the world of agriculture, beginning with a two year spell on a mixed arable and dairy farm. This decision was hardly surprising however, for his grandfather had been a farmer – indeed may well have been his guiding influence – and the family home was sandwiched between two lovely farms. The call of open air life had snared David early and he was determined to make headway, spending three years between 1980 and 1983 at Plumpton College whilst taking a National Diploma in General Agriculture. However, this young man was no run-of-the-mill agricultural labourer and in observing the general decline in agriculture he quickly moved into his own business as a garden landscaper and designer, his own boss at 22!

The creative aspect of landscaping was very much to David's liking and it is conceivable that he may well have progressed and, who knows, perhaps even entered into golf course design, but it was not to be. In his own words, "landscaping was a hugely satisfying business, but like so many one-man-bands I was doing too much for one, working all the hours that God created, but still not quite making enough profit to pay for an assistant".

The call of golf echoed again and early in 1989 David joined the greenkeeping staff at Holtye, a small team in which his obvious talent soon came to the fore. It may seem hard to believe, but within eight months he was offered the job of head greenkeeper – a meteoric promotion happily accepted.

Holtye is on common land, Par 66, 5,325 yards, nine holes of quite delicious heathland reminiscent of a miniature Ashdown Forest. The traveller comes upon it quite suddenly on the twisting main road between East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells, its simplistic charm guaranteed to turn every head. It is carved through age old woodlands and is sparsely bunkered, thanks to clever green siting, with cross hazards of close cut heather through wide runnels – a legacy of old pack horse tracks. It is a haven for wildlife (look out for David's strategically placed bird breeding boxes), and is awash with silver birch, fir and gorse. One may be forgiven for forgetting that golf is the reason for its existence, for the numerous glimpses of nearby Ashdown Forest and stunning views of the North Downs can easily make one dismiss the less than perfect shot. It is a hugely popular course with 450 active members and its very popularity could have been its downfall.

With popularity comes activity, and the nine holes have

been well hammered over the years, compaction being a continually recurring problem. David's programme evolves around relieving compaction and retaining the near 100% fescues and bents often found on heaths lacking any depth of top soil. It is typical heathland, weak and acidic, and David is of the opinion that not having automatic irrigation until very recently was the saviour of such fine turf. A greens irrigation system was installed in 1990, prompted perhaps by previous drought panics, but David uses this in a minimal way, giving the natural firm turf just enough moisture to keep the grass alive – no more, no less. He believes that over enthusiasm with fertilisers in the mid-80s was the cause of the dreaded *Poa annua* creeping into his greens, though he keeps this from becoming more than a minor irritation by natural minimalistic practices – ageless methods well taught at Plumpton. Even in late March the hand mown greens were looking healthy and putting quite beautifully – a credit to his clever maintenance programme.

Ninety-odd years of marching feet have taken their toll and David was at pains to point out that a programme of slitting, hollow tining and Verti-draining was an immutable necessity. Enthusiastically, he took me to where Colin Pryce was working with his Terralift compressed air subsoil aerator, hammer probing to a depth of up to 3ft and firing a seaweed based soil conditioner under pressure, into the soil profile. "I had seen the Terralift was complementary to Verti-draining, working wonders in relieving deep seated compaction on our fifth green, which was rebuilt a few years ago with decidedly dodgy materials and had always panned and behaved out of character", he said, "the whole nine greens are undergoing the same treatment now and I am sold on the efficacy of the treatment. The cost is £1,300 and takes about two days, but will be appreciated long after the price is forgotten" – sound recommendation indeed.

David reports directly to the general committee and keeps members informed with detailed but easy to understand course maintenance notes. Understanding is clearly the first step to acceptance, and David's members greet him with enthusiasm rather than as an opposing force out to get them!

Apart from day-to-day routine, David has the touch of an ecologist in restoring still more of the delicious heather. He is also carrying out a continuous programme of rebuilding pocket sized tees into areas which will more adequately cope with constant tee box changes and all tees will be sizably increased in time for Holtye's centenary year. His new construction is detailed (as one would expect from a landscaping expert), utilising sound practices and turfed with Tiller turf, grown and lifted from a complementary growing medium. Whilst the tee building takes place, David is also installing strategic tee pop-ups himself, which makes him something of an irrigation engineer to boot. Nothing is left to chance and those tees already completed are looking wonderful. One hesitates to use the language of the real estate salesman, but they are of true championship quality and size, greatly improving playability.

David's BIGGA connection began three years ago, being a perfect mixture of active golf participation (he won the prestigious Ransomes Trophy at Ganton, represented BIGGA in the Kubota Challenge in 1990 and played for England in the Ransomes International Challenge at Fulford in 1991), along with dedicated work for the Kent section as their treasurer and secretary, taking the latter mantle from John Millen – a tough act to follow. His earlier committee work at college has stood him in good stead and he is now on the regional board, being the spokesman for Kent. Long term



New tee: the 2nd at Holtye Golf Club

aspirations lean toward serving at national level, which he hopes might come "when I've enough experience". It would be remiss to gloss over David's academic record, for in recent times he has achieved the rare and coveted distinction of being the first ever greenkeeper to take the nationally awarded City and Guilds Silver Medal – the

Top Student of the Year Award presented by the examining body itself, the City and Guilds of London Institute Examination Board. Last year he won the BIGGA Cup and Tankard for Best All Round Student (Phase II) in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management at Plumpton and he is currently engaged in Phase III, a busy man in every way.

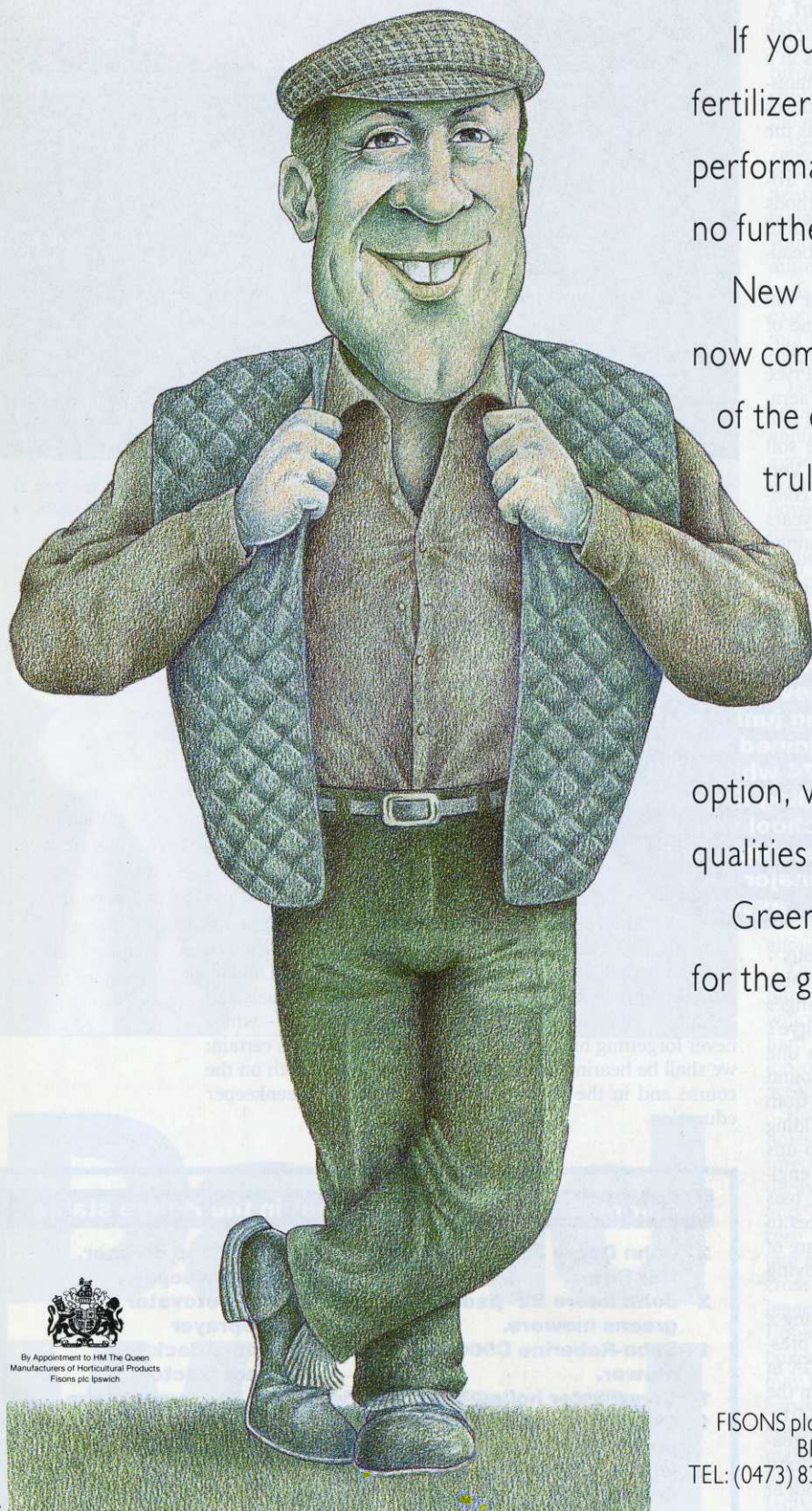
Where does a high-flyer like David set his sights? Despite his unbelievable modesty I fancy that Europe may well beckon before too long, for those Europeans have a penchant for British technical competence and seem ever willing to offer both challenges and generous pay structures. Looking at his bulging library of well-thumbed fine turf manuals and stealing a glimpse at his recent examination work – whilst never forgetting his practical expertise – one thing is certain: we shall be hearing much more of David Wood, both on the course and in the continually active world of greenkeeper education.

'Few would have believed that the young junior golfer who joined Holtye in 1974 whilst still attending the nearby school would develop into a major club asset'

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When Jim Parker, owner of the new Bank House Golf and Country Club, just outside Worcester, was contemplating the design of the golf course, his step-father who lives part of the time in Florida told him "Plenty of lakes, Jim, that's the answer!"

The first phase of eleven holes and a spectacular necklace of seven lakes set in 120 acres of countryside, which is being manicured and moulded into an attractive par 72 course together with a driving range is now being completed. The second phase of the remaining seven holes and six lakes, which includes building a tunnel under a secondary road, will be undertaken during 1992.

A spokesman for Laser Civil Engineering said: "We were certainly intrigued at the prospect of including so many lakes. Such high water storage is, of course, very commendable these days and this does not reduce the level of water in the lakes because there is so much water being induced by the circulating pump from lake number seven to lake number one".

Only a small pond fed by surface water existed at the start when Ocmis Irrigation came on the scene in March 1991, about four months after work on construction had begun. They devised a system of water management involving the re-circulation of water from the bottom lake (number 7) to lake number 1 by weirs and sluices to lake number 2 where the water is abstracted for use on greens and tees. Water falls from number 1 to number 8 lake by gravity and is pumped back through a sunken pipe line. There are manual hydrants for approaches and fairways. The course will not flood because the same pipes which feed by gravity would also take water off the site. The lake at the second hole holds seven million gallons and there is a waterfall between lakes 2 and 3.

Head greenkeeper David Kelly, who has had American experience and was previously at Bearstead, Maidstone, expresses his delight: "The Pencross creeping bent now on the putting surfaces requires plenty of water", he says,



WATERSPORT

KEN JOHNSTONE adds weight to the controversial use of lakes in British golf course design and describes a new course where *thirteen* will make up the landscape

adding, "it's great to have all these lakes and it certainly helps us to irrigate specific areas whenever we like, for even though the irrigation system is fully automatic and irrigates the greens and tees at night, we can still plug into the system manually with a hose". David has just joined BIGGA ➔ 28

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Above: Jim Parker, left owner of the new Bank House Golf and Country Club, with course designer Bob Sandow. Previous page: young trees in place in a lake setting

27 and has as his first assistant, Robert Bishop, a very keen BIGGA member, who came from Evesham. Arthur Young, who assists full time, has considerable local connections which have helped in the development plans.

Some of the hedgerows have had to go but trees have been saved and more will be planted. The Malvern Hills provide a fine back-drop and the spire of Worcester Cathedral and the tower of Bromsford Chapel pierce the skyline. Swans move, oblivious to the world of golf, on lakes two

feet deep containing trout and carp, with lilies setting the scene. It is not only aesthetically pleasing, there is a strategic challenge too.

Playing the tenth (Par 4, 310m) you drive between lakes 2 and 3 landing on a wide fairway, with lake number 2 comfortably to the right. Two of the lakes are in play. The ninth is a splendid dog-leg with a carry across the water of 150 yards. You cross lake 4 (lakes 4 and 5 both have an island which come into play) – it being a very reasonable width even for the high handicapper – or you can lay-up after about 50m. You then play alongside lake 5, which is on your left.

Course architect, Bob Sandow, says, "I was not really taken back when I was asked to incorporate as many as thirteen lakes into my design. In fact, it is something I am getting used to, though admittedly not always so many, for all over the world there is growing emphasis on lakes for golf courses. No more so, of course, than in the USA, where they are very popular. One of the most famous examples is at Augusta National; and in South Carolina for the most recent Ryder Cup millions of TV viewers saw the spectacular lake orientated course at Kiawah Island. Here at home we also have the example of The Belfry, where lakes figure at the 10th, 17th and the impressive 18th".

He goes on to say "When a course is built on a comparatively small area like Bank House – 120 acres for a par 72 and Driving Range – one has to apply a safety zone and trees and lakes are ideal. "It is a very well installed system and when one considers the urgent need for water storage, there is further good sense in using lakes in the design of the course".

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Asset or liability?

DAVID HEMSTOCK considers the merits, or otherwise, of water features on golf courses and looks at planning, design, construction and maintenance

As with many other aspects of the golf course, the pros and cons of water features are an emotive subject, more often than not producing an emphatic for or against, with rarely a display of indifference.

We all seem to have an almost instinctive affinity for water: ponds, lakes, streams are an attraction in being mysterious, changeable and always drawing attention. Any Club with water on its course (formal rather than casual) should view it as a valuable asset. Those without would do well to consider the value of establishing a water feature to add interest and variability to play, to improve the views, to encourage wildlife diversity, to serve a purpose, say irrigation, drainage or even fire fighting to name but a few – or indeed all of these.

Historically, water features are important. Our island once had many more areas of exposed water than it does now, particularly in England, but innumerable ponds have been in-filled, with streams, running ditches and springs piped for convenience. There is an element of maintenance involved with any open water, arguably less than that of an equivalent turf area perhaps, but still representing a commitment which if not carried out may result in an eyesore rather than an asset.

Time casts the cloud of doom over many such areas, slowly and often unnoticeably, as siltation, shading by trees that have increased in size and changing water inputs have

their effects. A greenkeeper needs to have another string in his bow – that of water area management – if he is to keep the whole of the course in thriving condition.

The arguments against? Well, as a number of greenkeepers have put it to me in the past, they have enough on their plate without the regular donning of waders to cope with black sludge, blocked outlets, midges and water weeds. Fair comment, but many such problems can be avoided with good planning at the construction stage. One bad experience with an ill-conceived water feature should not condemn water features forever and if you are unfortunate enough to have a very demanding area of open water, perhaps there is a way of reducing the maintenance requirement, for instance, in a pond which requires regular cleaning, one that may be suffering from leaf-fall and a build up of organic matter which cannot break down quickly enough, because conditions are not right for biological decomposition eg. trees are blocking out light and aeration is not sufficient.

These problems suggest that presenting a good water circulation is essential to provide oxygen for healthy water. If flows have reduced for some reason (many spring supplies are not what they used to be due to the recent low rain-falls), then perhaps rainwater harvesting can help supplement water inputs. By this I mean directing more surface run-off or drain flow by actively diverting these flows in



Pond under construction: clay seals are not necessarily easy to form. Vertical faces require special treatment

29 ➔ some way. Alternatively an aeration pump helps to keep water healthy and conditions stable whilst also providing the interest of bubbling water. Of course, there is bound to be a maintenance element involved in the upkeep of an aerator and a potentially expensive power supply necessary to install, but they are worthwhile.

Sedimentation of water areas may actually indicate bank instability and erosion upstream, particularly if increased peak flows are occurring due to, say, a new intensive drainage scheme or hard surfaced area (car-park, housing estate, etc). Off-site problems affecting the course are often tricky to negotiate solutions, and so perhaps controlled collection of sediment in advance of the pond/lake/brook may be the answer, by means of a small lagoon which slows down flow velocity and causes deposition. High nutrient levels caused by applying too much fertiliser and its subsequent leaching also causes excessive weed growth and other problems, such as algae blooms (which, in the worst cases can be toxic). This, coupled with water which is too shallow, can lead to serious weed problems. Again, water circulation and aeration, aided by deeper water, helps control the problem.

Moving now to new water features, there are those who object not just to maintenance needs, but to the very concept of water on the course. We are all aware of how unnatural and excessively formal and penal water can be, particularly in the hands of some American-style designers. Timber-edged and amoeba-shaped, they may be simple to maintain with a clean break between water level and mown edge, but are they British?

Formally-edged ditches and brooks are easier to maintain and positively discourage the socks-off brigade, who may indulge in a spot of impromptu, aeration of water whilst

'What to do with that strip of mud when water levels drop...'

holding up play. A definite edge and deep water leaves no one in any doubts what to do.

Concerning banks, a particular problem is what to do about that unsightly strip of mud which appears as water levels drop, either through evaporation losses or drawdown by irrigation. A large surface area will give less drawdown for a given amount of water abstraction than a small area, but evaporation losses will be greater. Typical evaporation losses can amount to 0.3 metres over the summer and when coupled with irrigation use can make a pond look fairly sad by the end of summer.

The National Rivers Authority, when considering an application for abstraction of water for irrigation, may stipulate that the summer base flow from the supplying source must be maintained, meaning that all water must be collected in winter with potentially very little reliable summer replenishment. This has implications on cost of construction with expensive regulatory structures being required, but also heightens the drawdown problem. Edging the water with crushed stone (rip-rap), slabs, blocks and textiles etc., is effective as a disguise but is again expensive, given the generally large area and circumference involved.

Why not place a 'tank' or steep-sided reservoir, purely for the purposes of irrigation, away in a corner where unsightliness does not bother anyone? The design will have to be carefully executed, but this now applies to most water areas. The NRA should be consulted on all work to main water-courses, including drain outfalls, foot-bridges etc, and you may also require an impounding licence for a proposed pond or lake. Planning permission will also be required, thus levels will have to be calculated; along with drawings of the pond, cross-sections, inflow/outflow etc. and an assessment of cost produced, including the method of sealing. Of course, the obvious but occasionally un-addressed question of where the initial filling water will come from must also be decided.

It is easy to be too optimistic on the latter point, particularly with the low winter rainfalls we seem to be experiencing. Drains which flow reliably may mysteriously stop for all sorts of reasons, indeed this is happening at present. Thus reducing losses through seepage by adequate sealing is important. The cheapest method of sealing off on the right soil type is to compact and puddle clay. Done traditionally by scooping out soil, throwing a bale of hay into the middle

and allowing cattle to do the poaching or puddling for you, heavy machinery is the preferred method now. Weight, high ground pressure, smearing action and good, fairly high moisture content of the correct type of soils are essential to form a good seal. Subsequent to this the clay seal must always be covered by at least 0.3m of water or protected by a layer of soil, gravel etc., where it is periodically exposed to the air. Otherwise it will shrink and crack and the seal is lost. This is a lesson which has been well learnt, often from constructors who did not pay enough attention to sealing work.

On sandier or more free draining sites, the rule that 'you get what you pay for' applies. Polyethylene or PVC is commonly used as a waterproof lining, but needs protection from sunlight or it will harden and be easily damaged. A life-span of 10 years or more is possible if the correct gradients, jointings and laying methods are used. Heavy duty grades cost up to £10/m². Butyl rubber is tougher and potentially has a longer life costing over £5-6/m² for 80% Butyl + 20% EPDM. It does not require a soil cover, but can look ugly without. Other proprietary membranes are available, eg. reinforced and coated polyethylene or polyester reinforced bitumen, etc with costs which can be as low ➔ 32

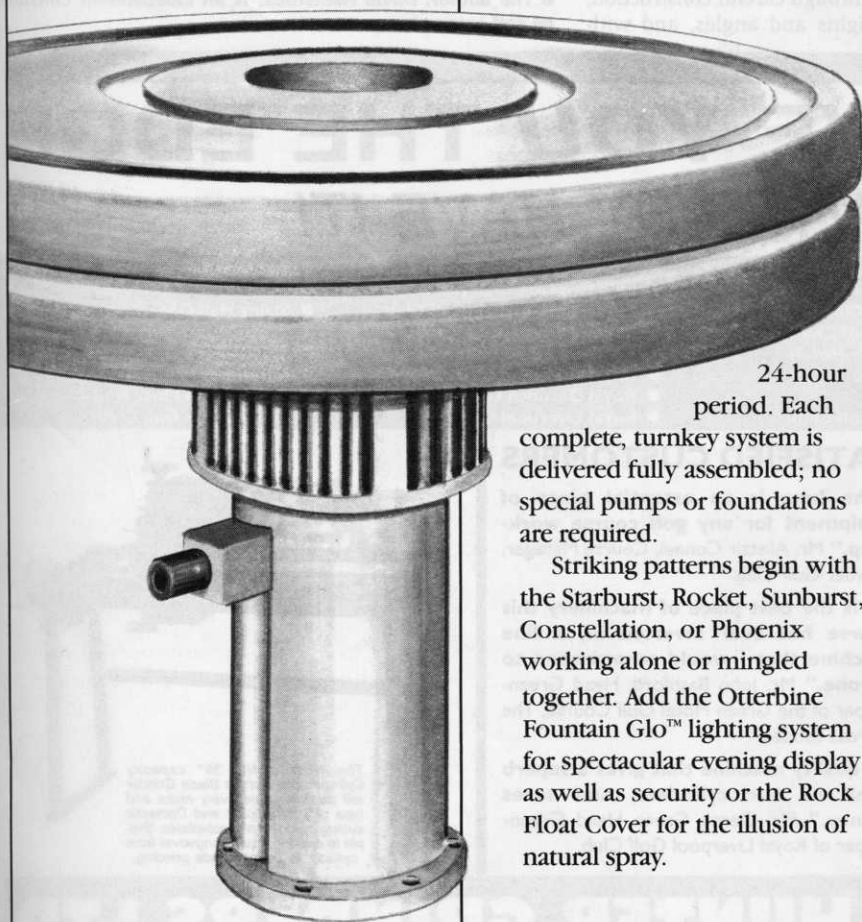
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'A natural appearance is really the main aim: a blending in with surroundings through careful construction, without civil engineering straights and angles...'



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The edging or bank protection methods – referred to earlier as disguisers of drawdown levels – obviously serve another purpose, that of counteracting a wave action against banks, which can eat away soil at an alarming rate and undermine the structure. There are materials available which can be 'disguised' above water by grass, effectively providing a reinforced turf, whilst protecting above and below water level, eg. 'open' concrete blocks and plastic meshing. A natural appearance is really the main aim: a blending in with surroundings through careful construction, without civil engineering straights and angles, and with

plenty of opportunities for unique wet area habitat species to develop.

Indenting the shore-line and varying the depth on margins and planting will increase the rate of development and maturity of a new pond or lake. It is a good idea to deposit some of the original topsoil (or better still silt) from an old pond or marshy peat into the water feature to act as a pump-primer for this development process. Marginal plants can be planted directly into mud (marsh marigold, bur-reed, watermint), emergent plants in 150mm deep water (reed-mace, common reed, water plantain). Aquatics (floating, such as water lily, or submerged, such as water milfoil) are best planted with weighted Hessian sacking to anchor them at the right point. Temporary protection from wave action can be provided by anchored floating logs or a similar 'boom' type of arrangement aimed at breaking up waves. Insects and other wildlife appears very quickly in new ponds, thanks primarily to water pond, and with a bit of luck other more interesting fauna such as frogs and newts will appear, or in the case of a renovated pond, re-appear.

From then on it is a case of monitoring over the years and watching for tell tale signs of developing problems – dead fish, abundant algae, dominant water weeds – and taking action before the pond or lake system degenerates too far. This action includes tree pruning, dredging, controlling pollution and as a last resort, chemical control (following consultation with the NRA).

The result? A healthy stretch of water which will hopefully benefit the course in a variety of ways.

● The author, David Hemstock, is an independent consultant on golf course improvement.

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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

Letters

■ Green issues contained ■ New course was 'great' ■ Saw point...

■ We write concerning a green issue which has come to our attention over the last few years, that of the use of plastic containers for the storage of organic based foliar feeds. As an eighteen hole golf course, we use 90 or more of these 25 litre drums each year, which we think could be refilled and used again by the manufacturers. It is an environmentally unsound practice to have to burn or dump the containers after use when they are perfectly capable of being used again.

We feel the sports turf industry should be setting standards for other industries to follow, for even our local council recycles plastic, glass, paper, etc. – and in this day and age every effort counts. We would welcome any comments from manufacturers, such as Farmura, or any greenkeepers that have views as strong as our own on the subject of the environment.

CONCERNED GREENKEEPERS

West Sussex GC, Pulborough

• Greenkeeper International asked Farmura for their comments, which are published below:

As a company manufacturing environmental products we share the concerns expressed by West Sussex – clearly a different attitude towards packaging has to come.

For a number of years we have from time-to-time refilled customer's drums and we would be pleased to publicise and extend this service to other Clubs. I would stress at this stage that this is a refill service and not an exchange – a trace of the wrong contaminant could do serious damage.

Apart from the 25 litre containers a cost effective option is the 210 litre drum which, apart from being refilled, can be sold as a water butt – have you seen what they cost in garden centres! These can be refilled but physical handling considerations need to be taken into account. Finally, on-site refilling of 1,000 litre mini-bulk tanks is another option we could offer.

With co-operation, a great deal can therefore be done, and with drum allowances refilling can also be cost effective as well as environmentally friendly.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in discussing the above in more detail.

JONATHAN HARMER

Managing Director, Farmura Environmental Products, Ashford, Kent

■ Fellow greenkeepers and all who are concerned with pesticides use and application take note. I and four other BIGGA members attended the first of what I certainly hope is not the last course on pesticides. The course was presented to the highest professional standards and Mr Jon Allbutt, our lecturer, left us in no doubt as to our responsibilities toward those around us. We were groomed and manoeuvred in the direction of our certification in PA1 and PA2A with authority, care and

consideration. All five of us passed!

All this in the wonderful, relaxed atmosphere of Aldwark Manor, where food is a culinary delight... I digress.

I owe a debt of to the organisers – namely David Golding, Neil Thomas and, of course, Jon Allbutt. Thank you.

J STEWART MACINTOSH

Golf Club Beuerberg, Germany

■ I was privileged to be part of a team of five who were the guinea pigs on the first one week pesticide spraying course at Aldwark Manor. As one of those guinea pigs I would just like to say 'well done BIGGA' – you have come up with an other great course. Not only was the course excellent but the results at the end of it were equally so, for we all came away having obtained our PA1 and PA2A certificates.

I would just like to say a special thank you to Jon Allbutt, our lecturer for the week, who made it so interesting and enjoyable. I would also like to thank all the lads on the course; because the high morale and the team work certainly gave me the confidence to obtain my certificates. I would certainly advise any greenkeeper who is un-certificated (and I'll bet there's a few out there) to go on this course. What a week, well done BIGGA.

DON J WILSON

Dyrham Park GC, Barnet, Herts

■ Was I competent to use pesticides? I was not. But I found someone who was – Jon Allbutt!

In March I set off to Aldwark Manor with some trepidation to join other greenkeepers I had never met before, to take part in a course for the safe use of pesticides and to take the exams PA1 & PA2. These four men were just as dubious about the course and were to become my partners and friends in the week which followed.

Then it was our privilege to meet our tutor, the man who was going to get us through our 'exam' (a term we were to hear quite a lot during the week). Not only did Jon Allbutt get us through, but he opened up a whole new way of thinking and was a true professional.

After three days of doing everything together (well, almost everything) we walked into the exam room armed with ten times the knowledge we needed to pass the tests – and we all passed and received our certificates from Neil Thomas.

David Golding sat with us and asked us to look back over the week to see if we might change anything to improve the course. We all agreed that it had been first class, was fine as it was and was probably the best course we had attended and we had a lot of fun doing it.

My thanks to my greenkeeping partners, to David Golding for setting up the course and many, many thanks to the professional – Jon Allbutt.

PHILIP TAYLOR Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds

■ The Royal Burgess GC took delivery of two Ransome 'GT' Classics last year and have been very pleased with their performance over ten months of cutting. We did, however, have a problem with the grooved rollers, which would collect grass from a dew soaked surface and therefore affect height of cut.

After much debate and several attempts at scrapers, the suppliers (not Ransomes) fitted scrapers that have so far proved to be the answer, keeping the grooves free from debris.

We would be interested to know if other 'GT' users have experienced the same problem, and if so, what was their remedy?

STAFF OF ROYAL BURGESS GC

Edinburgh

• Greenkeeper International asked Brian Mitchell, General Manager – Engineering, Ransomes, to comment: "Ransomes do have plans to develop a suitable scraper for grooved reels but these are not available at present. We are, however, aware of the needs for these in certain cutting conditions."

■ As we begin another season, how many greenkeepers, I wonder, have been using chainsaws throughout the winter without supervision and correct safety equipment? I am a head greenkeeper in Leicestershire and have just completed a two-day chainsaw course given by the Agricultural Training Board at Rothly Park, providing the student with valuable experience in both safety and correct usage.

It is very important to know your saw – inside and out – and our first task was to strip down the saw and get to know each part before putting it back – without any parts left over! The next session consisted of sharpening and the safety aspects of the guide bar, ie. maintenance properly carried out, which can save time and money.

Our second day consisted of on-site work, but before we could begin to saw, our safety equipment was inspected. I have to admit mine was pitiful: a pair of steel capped boots, a safety helmet and the all-important first aid kit. To continue the course I needed the correct equipment and this was hired from the examiner for a small charge.

On-site, the work consisted of felling trees some 20-25 feet high and 5-10 feet apart. This is where skill, expertise and experience comes into its own. Most important of all, however, was ensuring the safety of ourselves and others. The course was valuable experience and we all passed the examination successfully.

If and when the law changes concerning chainsaws and equipment, the careless user and his Club may face fines of up to £2,000. Can they afford this?

GAVIN ROBSON

Lingdale GC, Woodhouse Eve, Leicestershire

■ I wish to congratulate all those involved in the National Education Conference at Cirencester: not only to the speakers, but ➤ 37

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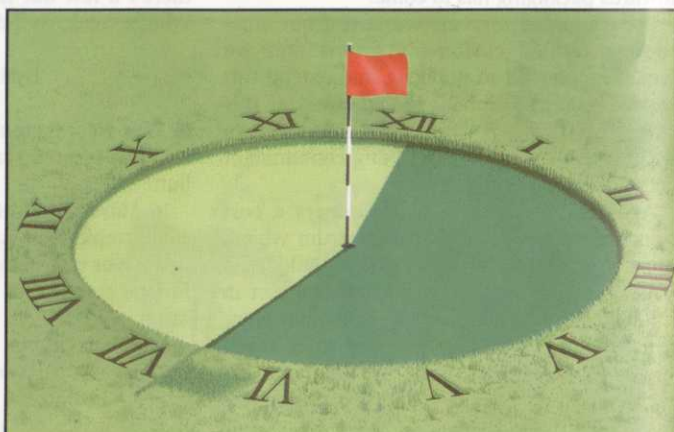


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Letters

■ Conference was a big success ■ Standard of speakers 'excellent'

35 • also to the staff at the college who looked after us so well, and to the BIGGA team who once again presented a very professional image, with the whole event running so smoothly.

The event lived up to my every expectation and how refreshing it was to hear of Bernard Findley's experiences and what he has learned from them. To me this was without doubt the most interesting forty minutes of the whole weekend. Before this we had Mr Jim Arthur preaching to us about the common sense attitude to greenkeeping, which parts of the industry would have us believe to be highly scientific. He also warned us of the realistic threat of certain elements of the game taking our jobs. If ever there was a rallying call for the profession to push ahead through education, this was certainly it.

Yes, I left Cirencester refreshed and enthused, confident in the fact that the profession is moving in the right direction and proud to be a member of the Association. Long may the Association give us the opportunity of attending such informative and value for money events.

Many thanks.

PAUL SEAGO

Head Greenkeeper, Royal West Norfolk GC

■ I must put pen to paper to write and congratulate everyone involved for a most enjoyable and successful three days at the National Education Conference at Cirencester. One can only imagine all the hard work that was put in by everyone at headquarters.

The standard of speakers was excellent – both from home and abroad – with three people who I feel must be mentioned by name and beginning with Bernard Finlay for his excellent paper on his experiences at Portstewart GC – it was good to see one of our own up there – well done Bernard! Secondly, Mr Patrick O'Brien, Director, SE Region, Green Section USGA, – what can I say? Only that I will remember (and giggle over) his presentation for many years to come. Finally, Mr Jim Arthur, who I do not agree with on many things but at least one knows which direction Jim is coming: head-on with both guns blazing (and usually in my direction!).

ROBERT GILBERT

Head Greenkeeper, The Wisley GC, Surrey

■ An article in the April issue of Greenkeeper International by Hugh Tilley, entitled 'Fertilisers', appeared with the following statement: 'Manganese, zinc, copper and iodine are all important at trace levels, and these and many

other compounds, vitamins and amino acids are found in seaweed. Thus the inclusion of seaweed meal or extraction in fertilisers and foliar feeds is a useful addition.'

This statement is incorrect. Iodine is not an essential trace element for plants, nor are vitamins used by plants in any shape or form.

I would also like to state that the STRI does not recommend the addition of calcium and boron in fertilisers for turfgrasses, as there is no scientific evidence for the addition of these elements creating any benefit to turfgrass generally.

DR PETER HAYES Director, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley

• *Greenkeeper International* invited journalist **Hugh Tilley** to comment. This is his reply:

My information was obtained from several major manufacturers, backed by my own years as a professional grower of (agricultural) grasses. Theirs is the statement that iodine and vitamins (et alia) are essential for healthy plant growth.

The feature did not suggest that the STRI recommended calcium or boron, simply that there was an 'indication' (from a member of their own staff) that there could be a benefit, even a need, for these on sand based constructions and on areas of acidic sand.

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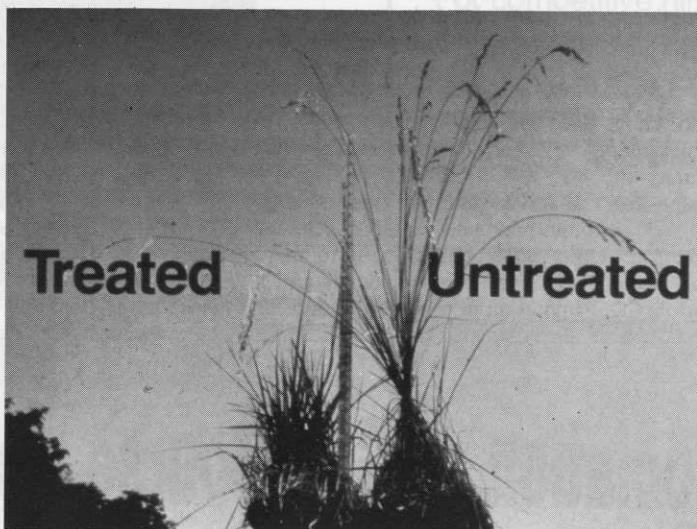
In the turfgrass context, a growth retardant is a chemical which in some way reduces or slows down normal grass growth, thus reducing the need for mowing to maintain a neat and tidy turfgrass area which is visually acceptable to golfers. When first marketed for amenity use, growth retardants were heralded as a panacea for the landscape manager, and even as a cure-all for the time-consuming and expensive process of grass cutting.

However, despite certain advantages which may be gained from growth retardants, currently only a small proportion of amenity grassland is being managed chemically by growth retardants. In this article, Neil Baldwin, of the Sports Turf Research Institute, explains the mode of action of growth retardants, describes the situations in which their use is appropriate and explains how to use them to their maximum effect.

The way in which growth retardants work, ie. how they influence plant growth, depends very much on the active ingredient they contain. One or more of the growth retardants currently available, are based on three active ingredients, namely maleic hydrazide, mefluidide and paclobutrazol. Maleic hydrazide works through foliar absorption, inhibiting plant cell division, thus producing a slower growing grass plant. Mefluidide, although distinct chemically from maleic hydrazide, also works via foliar absorption, and by slowing down leaf growth, but in addition it inhibits seed-head production of the grass sward. Paclobutrazol is effective in a completely different way, being root absorbed and it inhibits grass growth by preventing the production of the plant growth hormone gibberelic acid.

The effectiveness of growth retardants depends very much on the situations in which they are used. The growth retardation achieved by these chemicals may, in ideal situations, be considerable. In field trials, conducted by the Sports Turf Research Institute in the early 1980s, maleic

NEIL BALDWIN of the Sports Turf Research Institute examines turfgrass growth retardants for the golf course



Advantages

- Significant cost savings over conventional mowers for specific situations.
- Highly suited to difficult/dangerous areas to mow.
- Drought resistance of sward may be improved.
- Season long control may be achieved from 2-3 applications.
- Minimises yield of unwanted clippings produced by mowing.
- May be integrated with mowing to produce the desired effect.

Disadvantages

- Trained and qualified operators needed for application.
- Unsuitable for high quality, fine turf or large open areas.
- Do not give the high quality visual appearance of mowing.
- No single growth retardant available to suit all situations.
- Lack of use experience by many amenity managers.
- Being classified as pesticides there may be opposition to use of chemical sprays.

hydrazide, mefluidide and paclobutrazol reduced grass growth by up to 25%, 60% and 45% respectively, dependent on the grass species present. The duration of grass growth suppression also varies according to the chemical applied. Both maleic hydrazide and mefluidide are con-

sidered relatively quick acting with up to 12 weeks and eight weeks suppression of grass growth achievable respectively. Generally, little or no effect of paclobutrazol is observed 10-15 days after application, but growth inhibition has been recorded up to 14 weeks thereafter and occasion-

ally treatment effect is carried over to the following season. However, each growth retardant has differing effects according to the botanical composition of the sward. Maleic hydrazide tends to inhibit coarser grasses, leaving the finer species, in particular fescues, to thrive. Mefluidide has long lasting effects on annual meadow-grass, bents, perennial ryegrass and crested dogs tail and in the shorter-term, will suppress the growth of fescue, Timothy and smooth-stalked meadow-grass. Paclobutrazol tends to have lesser effect on deep rooted, coarser grass species. Thus, it is necessary to have an appreciation of the grasses present on the part of the golf course to be treated to achieve maximum results.

On the golf course, each area may be considered separately for its potential for controlling grass growth by application of a growth retardant. For large areas of grassland, such as golf fairways, gang mowing is often the easiest and most cost-effective way of restricting sward height. However, growth retardants have proved their worth in certain situations such as where the grass area in question contains many obstacles, for example such as around tree bases. Small, isolated areas, for example along fencelines, where mowing may be expensive and/or inconvenient are also suitable cases for growth retardant treatment. On low maintenance areas, such as embankments, growth retardants may be appropriate, as they are also for situations on the golf course, where mowing would be difficult or dangerous in practice. Also, growth retardants have a specialist use on erosion control areas where it is important to maintain a dense, uniform growth of deep rooted grass to resist soil erosion. Indeed, it is in these types of situations where growth retardants may be extremely cost effective. In comparative studies, reducing grass growth by spraying has been shown to be a quarter of the cost of maintenance using a rotary mower and one-fifth the cost of Flymo operation.

Potential use area of growth retardants

• Pictures courtesy of Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products

Users of growth retardants will notice they are sometimes formulated together with herbicides and are also recommended both alone and in mixtures. This is because in situations where growth retardants are being considered, there is usually a range of grass species present, together with non-grass species, such as broad-leaf weeds. Whilst mowing trims all vegetation present instantly to the required height, growth retardants have varying effects, according to the botanical composition of the sward. Paclobutrazol is available only as a mixture with the herbicide dicamba (proprietary name Holdfast D) to inhibit both grass and broad-leaf weeds. To achieve similar aims maleic hydrazide is available as a mixture with the herbicides dicamba and MCPA (Mazide Selective), although there are several maleic hydrazide only products such as Mazide 25, Regulox K and Royal Slo-Gro, to name but three examples. Currently mefluidide (Echo, Embark and Mowchem) is not formulated together with a herbicide as this chemical does give some suppression of broad-leaf weed species, although in situations where broad-leaf weeds are a problem, they may be controlled by tank mixing with Approved herbicide formulations. Certain growth retardants may also be tank mixed, paclobutrazol plus mefluidide or paclobutrazol plus maleic hydrazide are recommended where coarse grasses, such as cocksfoot, are dominant or in situations where suppression of grass seed heads is important.

To get the best results from growth retardants it is critical to follow the manufacturers recommendations for use carefully to achieve acceptable results. With maleic hydrazide the application rate is critical as a small over application may lead to severe scorching, whilst if under applied effectiveness is markedly reduced. Consequently, when combined with climatic effects such as rain after application, growth retardation by maleic hydrazide may be unpredictable. In contrast, mefluidide

is overall very reliable, providing it is used correctly. Mefluidide should be applied when the grass is dry, ideally eight hours elapsing before rainfall. Best results are obtained when mefluidide is applied in April-May when grass growth is strong. Mefluidide tends to make the sward greener and more lush in appearance, although some discolouration may occur if applied in very dry conditions. Paclobutrazol has its greatest effect when applied in early spring (February to March) prior to onset of grass growth, or in August-September to reduce the autumn flush of growth. Paclobutrazol is relatively inactive in dry conditions, but acts reliably when soil moisture is high. Generally, paclobutrazol is leached slowly although heavy rain after application may negate effects.

There have been several recent developments in growth retardant technology. A review of USA journals and periodicals has shown that the three growth retardants available in this country are also the mainstay of those available and used on turfgrass world-wide. However, there have been recent developments, particularly in the use of growth retardant, for the selective inhibition of annual meadow grass in fine turf, although it will be some time before this is available to the UK greenkeeper. Also, research is in progress evaluating ways of minimising the scorch problems associated with growth retardant applications.

Further information on growth retardants can be obtained from The National Turfgrass Council in a booklet called 'Growth Retardants', NTC Workshop Report No 7.

For those interested in the technical information on growth retardants, much is published in Volume 62, (1986) of the Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute, pages 59-64, 155-171, 172-181 and 200-203. A brief summary of growth retardants may also be found in the STRI's publication Sports Turf Bulletin (1986) 152, pages 2-4.



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assess the equipment and allow the products to speak for themselves. Landscape Industries '92 is *right for the industry*.

Landscape Industries is more than just a trade fair, for the country's finest research, educational, advisory and training organisations will be at Landscape Industries '92, together with many exhibits featuring the practical application of specialist landscaping skills.

A series of half hour, informative discussion sessions will be held each day:

■ 10.30am – TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS COMPUTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

John Topping, Deputy Chief Executive BALI, John Pearson, Otley College.

■ 11.30am – TRAINING & CERTIFICATION IMPLICATIONS OF THE HSE GUIDANCE NOTE ON CHAINSAW USE

Terry Howard, Agricultural Training Board

■ 2.30pm – CONTRACT MONITORING, MAKING CONTRACTS WORK

Patrick Kilburn, Client Manager (Grounds Maintenance) ILAM.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION POINT

Expanding on the successful demonstration area in 1991, an information point in the heart of the exhibition will provide independent advice and information from key specialists: John Shildrick, NTC; Mike Canaway, STRI; Suki Pryce, University of Manchester and Peter Dury, Nottingham County Council on a range of topics including:

- turf re-inforcement materials
- turf for general purposes BS 3969
- grounds maintenance

- peat alternatives
- BS 7370
- organic waste recycling

TREE SURGERY

The Arboricultural Association will be demonstrating a variety of tree surgery and tree climbing techniques and the Agricultural Training Board will hold a chainsaw maintenance and operation training session alongside.

INTERPAVE

Interpave, the Concrete Block Paving Association will be staging working demonstrations of the correct procedures for installation of concrete block paving. These will be carried out by members of Interlay, the Association of Block Paving Contractors.

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The first stage of a 5 year development plan will be started at the 1992 event. Trainees from industry and colleges will undertake a project to construct a landscaped area by working in groups and having the opportunity to develop various skills. The demonstration highlights the types of training available to those in the industry.


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This light hearted competition shows practical landscaping skills when teams complete an obstacle course involving a variety of tasks which require everyday skills. Competitors are drawn from both professional landscaping companies and allied organisations.

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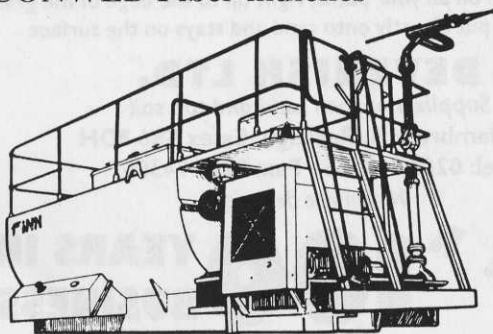
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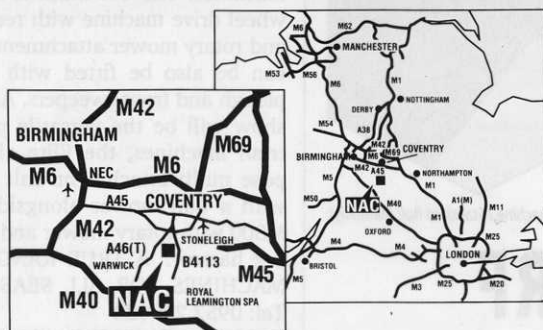
Adding to the educational and training focus of the event will be a number of organisations including:

- National Turfgrass Council
- Sports Turf Research Institute
- Landscape Institute
- ADAS
- British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association
- City and Guilds
- Dry Stone Walling Association
- Institute of Horticulture
- Joint Council for Landscape Industries
- Learning through Landscapes Trust
- National Association of Agricultural Contractors
- Scottish National Heritage
- More than 12 horticultural colleges

AWARDS

- Landscape Institute's "Landscape Management Award" will

How to get to the National Agricultural Centre



be presented for the second year.

- ILAM's "Open Space Management Award" will be presented for the first time at Landscape Industries '92.
- A best stand award, sponsored by Landscape Showcase, will be presented by the organisers to the best indoor and outdoor displays.
- The BALI Chalk Award will be presented to the best display from a landscaping college exhibiting at the 1992 show.

Landscape Industries '92 will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park,

Warwickshire on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June. The event is open from 9.00am-5.00pm on both days. Admission, car parking and catalogues are free.

Some of the exhibitors:

- **Donath Seeds Ltd** will be exhibiting their range of Finn hydroseeding machines, Conwed Fibers erosion control products and their new range of seed mixtures for the landscaping industry. Now part of the DLF TRIFOLIUM Group of Companies, they will be

pleased to advise visitors on specific site problems and will be launching Conwed Fiber 'Futerra' landscaping fabric. Ask for their product information pack which contains catalogues and samples. Tel: 0666 502834

- **Shelley Signs** will be displaying a range of signs and panels which are suitable for golf course applications. The signs are manufactured in Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) with the end text and illustrations inset printed into the surface of the sign. This results in a totally smooth finish and a sign that is exceptionally durable, easy to clean – one that will provide many years of service.

A number of sample signs and fixing arrangements will be on display as well as signs supplied to industry, local authorities and the Wildlife Reserve. These are ideal for tee marker plates, entrances, directional, car park and all clubhouse applications. Tel: 0952 541483

- **Bucher-Guyer (UK) Ltd.**, who operate their sales-service and spare parts facility from Telford, Shropshire, will be exhibit- ➔ 42



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Landscape Industries '92: some

ing their multi-purpose machines. The TM Multi is a four wheel drive machine with reel flail and rotary mower attachments and can be also be fitted with snow plough and front sweepers. Also on show will be the versatile pedestrian machines, the Elite all-purpose multi attachment unit fitted with a flail mower alongside the M300 with rotary mower and grading harrow. 'A TRUE RANGE OF MACHINES FOR ALL SEASONS'. Tel: 0952 290022

• C & P Soilcare Ltd will again be displaying and demonstrating the Terralift soil restructuring and aeration system. As it is anticipated this summer will again be a dry one for trees, the Terralift programme can significantly help reduce drought stress by means of soil injection with organic and polymer based water stabilising products. The soil fracturing programme will also improve rain and irrigation soil percolation and installation of aeration tubes will maintain long term benefit on all areas given this treatment. This and many other uses for turf care and landscape drainage will be actively demonstrated throughout the show, together with a range of soil activators for amenity turf. Tel: 0449 741012

• The Inturf Group, which today produces well in excess of 1,200 acres of turfgrass, has again proven its commitment to the industry in achieving BS.5750 Quality Assurance registration. The Group offers a full consultancy service under the banner of Turfgrass Services International Ltd. Following the success of previous years, Inturf continues to endorse the 'big roll' turf installation system whilst still meeting the demand for conventionally harvested amenity and sports turf, thereby fulfilling the requirements of a wide range of applications. Several nursery sites are established throughout the country where soil types are suitable for production, with each of these units operating a seven day production/harvesting programme and providing an unbeatable standard of service to both distributors and customers. Tel: 0759 304101

• Melcourt Industries, leading UK manufacturer and supplier of specialist bark and wood based products, will be showing Mulchip for the first time at Landscape Industries '92 in addition to its full product range. Providing a further addition to the company's expanding range of economy mulches,

Mulchip is produced from a mix of wood chips, bark, chipped branches, needles, leaves and twigs. Although similar to Melcourt's Forest Biomulch in content, Mulchip differs in appearance.

Mulchip has a rich dark brown colour which is produced by the special heat treatments and the humic acid generated during maturation, colouring the woodchip. As such it is ideal where the mulch is required to blend with the natural soil colouring. Its composition of different sized particles varying in colour and texture can be used to enhance visual contrasts between lawns, paving and other mulches. Tel: 0242 528877



• New items of solid teak outdoor furniture to be introduced by Gloster Leisure Furniture include a bench for feature locations and a capacious rubbish receptacle. The Tetbury seat features a back panel which includes a curved top rail and horizontal back rails. Available in 4' and 5' sizes the Tetbury features shaped flat arms, a contoured seat panel and carved finial tops to each back leg.

Gloster's new rubbish receptacle, pictured above, offers an elegant solution to litter problems. Measuring 28" square and 31" high, the receptacles feature sturdy construction with tongued and grooved side panels within a pegged mortice and tenon framework. Up to 7 cubic feet of rubbish can be contained within a galvanised steel wirework basket which is easily removed through the top of the receptacle.

Like all Gloster's range of furniture the new items are manufactured from teak obtained exclusively from plantation sources, a policy which has earned

Gloster a listing in the Good Wood Guide published by Friends of the Earth. Tel: 0272 540349

• **The British Association of Golf Course Constructors** will be exhibiting at Stoneleigh, on Stand No. EX H5.

Tim Banks, Secretary of the BAGCC, together with Jonathan Franks of British Seed Houses and Mark Pierson of Brian D Pierson

(Contractors) Limited, will be on hand to offer advice to those interested in golf development.

For further details telephone 0202 822372.

• For the first time, **Barenbrug UK** will be demonstrating a selection of its BAR range of amenity grass seed mixtures at the Landscape Industries '92.

There are 15 mixtures, all of

which have been formulated to meet the exacting professional standards for golf, landscaping, turf and amenity use. Whatever the requirement, ranging from putting greens to tennis courts, or from hard-wearing rugby pitches to roadside verges, one of the blends will fit the bill. A careful choice of high-performance grass varieties are especially tailored to

customers' requirements and the intended end use of the turf. Consideration is also given to low maintenance needs and environmental concerns.

Barenbrug UK is able to provide such carefully targeted mixtures because it has outstanding grass varieties in every category of the STRI turfgrass seed lists. Tel: 0359 70766.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

CLEVELAND

A busy month of lectures and social activities in March to report, beginning with a talk given by Ian Webster from Houghall College, Durham, on "Water Management". Ian suggested that water management is all too easy: just programme the timing and greens are watered while we sleep. But do we know how much water is already in the soil? We need to, and by using a moisture meter (which probes the soil), we can obtain an instant read-out. We need to allow for evaporation on sunny days, transpiration loss in growing conditions, and irrigate only to make up for those losses. Soil moisture checks should be undertaken two or three times a week, greenkeepers then will learn quickly how their greens drain water away: if they draw slowly (on clay or peaty soil) then irrigation should be applied with caution. It is too easy to over-irrigate and the suggestion is water frugally and if in doubt - don't. Two key factors are to feed little and often and apply just enough water to keep the grass alive. In addition, wetting agents are deemed desirable. By September, greenkeepers should be watering sparingly, for we will soon experience poor drying days and rain will be expected. Too much irrigation + rain = waterlogging and aggravates thatch build-up through lack of oxygen. The result - soggy greens all winter. Do water carefully, for we are all wiser on looking back on the water applied six weeks ago: now look forward six weeks and think carefully.

Neville Newmarch addressed us on the implications of COSHH, suggesting that we need to assess the dangers of chemical substances and recognise the danger to the user (the greenkeeper) and the public (the golfer) and to stop and think - is there an alternative? We must use chemicals as a last resort. Chemical symbols tell us of the dangers and we must be aware of the requirement for protective clothing, the handling of substances (with

great care) and protecting ourselves - mouth, nose, skin contact etc. COSHH is for the protection of all, so play safe and take all necessary precautions.

Finally, also in March, our committee held a celebratory dinner to mark our national chairman's year of office. George Malcolm was presented with an inscribed decanter set by section chairman Harry Lees. The Middlesbrough GC are delighted that George has represented our national interests and their chairman, Jack Higgins, gratefully received a plaque from Viscount Whitelaw which is to be wall mounted in the clubhouse. Ian Holoran presented George with a framed photograph.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTHERN

Another month goes by and when you read this our annual dinner dance and first golf competition will already be history.

Our lecture season has now finished and it was pleasing to see more people attending - keep it up! However, not many BIGGA members turned up for our last event, which was a quiz night with our colleagues from the IOG. It was a good night, we were made very welcome at Headingley and the event could possibly be repeated next year. By the way, BIGGA won the quiz - of course!

Golf events are filling up quickly so don't delay in booking, £10 deposit to me at 23 Hinchliffe Avenue, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 6QY.

Our friends in the trade are again being very generous with Henson & Chattell sponsoring our last mailshot, Yorkshire Mowers again sponsoring our Invitation Day, Patissons the famous Roses Match and Chaplins our Autumn Tournament. Many thanks to you all, it is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead now to the 1992/93 lecture season, some interesting events are being lined up - a trip to see the John Deere plant in Nottingham, a Lloyds workshop (as we had to

cancel the trip to them, they have offered to come to us - so I hope it will be well supported), and also Eddie Seaward from the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon. I have met Eddie and been shown the complex there. I can assure you all that his talk will be very interesting, both for greenkeepers and their wives.

BOB LUPTON

DEVON & CORNWALL

St Enodoc G.C. was the venue for our March meeting, the morning competition being for the Supaturf Head Greenkeepers & Trade Trophy and the May & Baker Assistants Trophy. Members were also competing for places in the 1992 Iseki regional final and just to make things more complicated, competitions were played over St Enodoc's two courses, this to comply with their handicap rule.

Our Zero to 18 handicap golfers played the ever testing Church course, with our 19 to 28 handicap section playing the shorter Hollywell course. As scores were being counted it came as no surprise that all the winning scores came from the Hollywell course, though I am sure all who played the demanding Church course were quite happy at just having the opportunity to play this unique layout. After an excellent lunch, John Palfrey of Avoncrop Amenities and Paul Clift of Rhone Poulenc presented the prizes to the lucky winners, as follows:- Supaturf Head Greenkeepers Trade Trophy: 1st D Parr 42 pts., 2nd J Manley 38 pts., 3rd S Redman 36 pts. The May & Baker Assistants Trophy: 1st T Clark 43 pts., 2nd T Blackburn 41 pts., 3rd N Macintyre 39 pts. Our thanks to John Palfrey and Paul Clifton for presenting the prizes.

The qualifiers for the Iseki regional final at Isle of Purbeck GC on Wednesday June 17th are (0-9) C Rawlings, N Gagg, P Newcombe, R Hall, and L Millar. (10-18) B Lewer, B Summers, T Pipe, T Farkins, and W Potter. ➔ 44

43 ➔ (19-28) T Clark, R Parr, T Blackburn, N Macintyre and J Bullen. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU INFORM GORDON CHILD OF YOUR AVAILABILITY TO PLAY.

Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Malcolm Jones on aspects of Health and Safety. Malcolm cleared up some of the grey areas of recent legislation, informing members that three wheel ATV's have been banned from sale due to instability. A question was raised from the floor with regard to the three wheel Cushman, which many had thought of as an ATV.

Malcolm's answer was that he is of the opinion that a Cushman was not an ATV but he wasn't sure on this matter.* His interesting talk was cut short through lack of time, though members have asked him to return and continue at a later date, Perranporth being the possible date next February. The section extend thanks to St Enodoc GC for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities and to Stuart Dymond and his team, who prepared the links in superb condition.

RICHARD WHYMAN

* Ransomes advised Greenkeeper International that the Cushman is not an ATV in the accepted sense of the terminology, i.e. it is not an ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE, having been designed specifically for use on fine turf. - Editor.

SOUTH WEST

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club was the venue for the final Winter Programme Meeting for 1991/2. This harder-than-average to find course nestles in the hills (somewhere) overlooking the River Severn, Oldbury Nuclear Power Station and the Severn Bridge.

At this point the reader may just get a hint of the difficulty the undersigned had in actually finding the place, and eternal thanks are due to the petrol pump attendant in North Nibley (I think), whose immortal response to the question "how do I get to the golf course?" was (in suitably broad accent) "bad place to start from, this." He wasn't kidding either! Anyway, we made it with seconds to spare.

We found the course in much improved condition over recent years and Matthew Ayres, a non-member on the staff at Stinchcombe (soon to join, we hope), showed us all how to play, recording the best score of 36 points. The actual result was as follows: 1st M. Pearce, Wells 34pts. 2nd P. Godwin, Tracy Park 33pts. 3rd Powell, Filton 32pts. 4th S. Frankcom, Tracy Park 32pts.

Our thanks to Stinchcombe GC and their staff for their hospitality, also to Avoncrop & Techsol for their generous prizes. After lunch it was over to Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies for a most informative lecture on the perils of choosing top dressing for your course. There's more, much more, in choosing top dressing than meets the eye and our congratulations and thanks to Peter for putting it over so well.

Congratulations to Kevin Green of Filton and his wife (who I'm told played some small part) on the birth of their daughter, Katy-Ann. I'm reliably informed that Kevin's quiet disposition has remained largely unaltered, apart from soft snoring at break times as he attempts to catch up on his sleep. Commiserations to 'Merv-the-Swerve' Gray from Clevedon, on his recent injury sustained on the course. We all hope he is soon back to full health and look forward to seeing him at the next section event.

AROUND THE GREEN



Please keep those applications for the pesticide training courses coming in. There is a popular misconception that all operators over the age of 27 are covered under the famous 'grandfather' clause, but this is not the case. The code states that some appropriate instruction must have been received: some of us may not be as secure as we think we are.

The section committee would like to meet all members, especially new members, at (at least) one meeting this year, so please make an effort to come along and see what we do. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

Turning to even more recent matters, as a Cirencester man born and bred I felt a tremendous sense of pride in seeing so many celebrated greenkeepers at the National Education Conference, not to mention several illustrious, or in one or two cases notorious, experts from within the turfgrass industry. I hope that many will now recognise Cirencester as being much more than an insignificant dot on the map on the short cut between the M4 & M5, and took the chance to enjoy the town Roman villa & wall, the 11th century church, the diverse Elizabethan and Victorian architecture and not forgetting Tesco Homebase and the Burger-King!

The atmosphere from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon was charged and electric, learning interspersed liberally with good humour. It's virtually impossible (and probably quite unfair) to single out any particular high point, though the three Americans, Tom Cook, Bill Roberts and Patrick O'Brien were quite outstanding, as were (on our side) the three working greenkeepers, Derek Green, Laurie Pithie and Bernard Findlay. Tipping the scales 4-3 to us was the irrepressible Jon Allbutt, who makes a potentially deathly subject very palatable indeed.

There were hints-a-plenty on public speaking technique for any would-be future speakers, these ranged from cracking jokes early on, to near respiratory failure (in an effort to breathe slowly), and from plenty of eye contact, to assault with a ladies nine-iron. Thanks from the rank-and-file membership, to all at head office, and for Lindum Turf & their associates, whose hard work and sponsorship made this event not only happen, but also run as smoothly as this weekend obviously did.

PAUL WORSTER

SURREY

The regional Gentlemen's Dinner held at Walton Heath on March 17th saw Mick Haynes employ his local knowledge in difficult conditions to take the main prize. However, the very next day he injured his leg playing football and may struggle to play his Huxley Bowl match (Competitors note: round one due by May 18th).

Returning to its traditional venue at New Zealand GC is the Cresta Cup on June 8th, the

format as usual being afternoon golf and tea - please enter promptly.

The annual England v Scotland match will take place at Reigate Heath GC on July 30th. Players in recent years will testify that this is contested with the ferocity of the Calcutta Cup and it is also noted that an English victory is long overdue. Anyone wishing to play should contact Derek Walder (England) or Robert Brewer (Scotland) who will select the teams accordingly.

Despite recent appeals, I have received little feedback from members regarding sectional news. Remember that births, marriages, promotions and witty anecdotes may well be of interest to our members and I'm sure these must occur with some frequency. Please don't hesitate to forward any such items to either Dave Andrews or myself.

ROGER TYDEMAN

SHEFFIELD

The section would like to thank David Golding for presenting the talk on education at our March lecture, held at Rotherham Golf Club.

Also thanks to Yorkshire executive Mr Peter Wharton, who came along to the meeting to update our members on what is happening with the education syllabus at Askham Bryan College. Mr Wharton is a member of the College Advisory Committee.

I have just completed Phase III City & Guilds Management at Askham Bryan, a course tightly packed with vital training for today's course manager. The list given here will give you some idea of the syllabus: Surveying and planning; Golf course design; Conservation; Tree preservation; Fertilisers; Plant care; History of golf; Soils and drainage; Herbicides; Labour planning, organisation and costing; Machinery costings; Budgeting exercise (main project); Computing; Quotations; Filing systems; Stocktaking; Ordering goods; Machinery records; Partial budgets; negotiation; Employment legislation; Highways legislation; Industrial relations; Training; Man management; Safety legislation; Wages; VAT; Disciplinary procedures; Interviewing procedures and recruitment; How to draw up a C.V.; How to place an advert.; Report writing; Supervision of staff; Forward planning; Long term planning; Assignment visits; Work study; Presentation of written work; Verbal presentation; Communication and Personal presentation.

The student is given assignment work to take home - with a deadline. The wise entrant will be prepared to allocate adequate time to complete if he/she wants good marks.

Remember, knowledge is power, so take full advantage of the training the colleges are offering to enhance your status as a greenkeeper and your skills as a manager.

Nick Bisset, John Middleton, Ian Snape and Bruce Cox are all excellent management tutors, and we as greenkeepers are indebted to them for their encouragement, enthusiasm and patience in guiding us through the City & Guilds examinations.

So if you are debating enrolling for a college management-course, all I can say is 'the satisfaction far outweighs the inconvenience'. If you require any information on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JANE RYAN

NORTH WALES

Here we are again looking forward to another successful season. I would like to take this

opportunity to wish all new members every success in their first year of membership. In addition, I would like to wish Mark Proctor and his family all the best, for Mark has taken on the new job of course manager at Carden Park GC.

Going on to something different, many thanks to all concerned for organising our recent welding lecture at Northop College. These events could possibly be better attended, so please lads, give us more support if you possibly can.

Dates for your diary include May 21st for our spring tournament, which will be held over the delightful setting of Chester (Curzon Park) GC. Please also note that this is an Iseki qualifier (tee times are from 10.00 am – 11.45 am) and also note that no entries will be accepted on the day. Please send off your entries (and the payment) before the event. Members requiring additional information regarding this event should call T. Adamson on 0978 852908.

Finally, don't forget – if you have any news, views or opinions, please contact 'yours truly' on 0248 712490.

DS PROCTOR

LONDON

Several members of the London section attended the National Conference at Cirencester in March, which gets better every year. I know our members were enthralled by the talks given by some of the speakers and equally enjoyed the after lecture discussions which took place. A big hello to Adrian and Ian from Hadden Hill GC, near Didcot in Oxfordshire-by the way, have you sorted out your education yet?

April 9th saw our Spring Tournament played at W. Middx. GC, the sun shining all day and everyone enjoying it immensely. My partner and myself only managed 10 holes in the morning, due to a few uneducated (in golf course etiquette) members of W. Middx., but the course was a fine test for all the players. Thanks to the Club for making us most welcome throughout the day. Two new trophies were being contested for this year: the Sta-Brite Shield for the a.m. medal round and the Turf Management Systems Salver for the p.m. Stableford. Results were: (morning) 1st-Robert Washbrook, Hadley Wood GC, nett 69 off 13 handicap. 2nd – Steve Cox, Abridge GC nett 70 off 17. 3rd- Darren Burdis, Hadley Wood GC nett 71 off 6. (afternoon) 1st -Steve Cox, Abridge GC 43 points off 17, 2nd – John Jackson, Wanstead GC 38 points off 4. 3rd – Robert Phillips, Porters Park GC, 37 points off 10. There was also a guest prize which was won by Peter Phillips with 28 points.

The morning medal round was also the qualifier for the Iseki championship and those players moving forward to the next round at Chelmsford are: Darren Burdis-Hadley Wood. John Jackson-Wanstead. Craig Handiside-Hadley Wood. Ian Robins-Porters Park. Robert Washbrook -Hadley Wood. Steve Cox-Abridge. Chris Carpenter-Brookmans Park. Norman Exley-Northwood. Richard Dunne-Mill Hill. Gary Speller-Abridge. Mark Skelton-West Middx., and Geoff Fowler-Sandy Lodge.

All our members were certainly dressed accordingly, both on and off the course, which was good to see and your committee hopes this will continue. Our thanks to all the companies which continue to support us, especially ICI, StaBrite, Parkers, Rigby Taylor, Turf

AROUND THE GREEN



Management Systems and CMW.

On a final note, Craig Handiside has taken over as temporary secretary of the section, as Brian Kelly is unwell. Get well soon, Brian. Craig's telephone number is 081 447 0214 and you should call him if you have any queries.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

MIDLANDS

Having just returned from Cirencester, where our National Education Conference was held, I must mention how successful this event was and praise the high quality of the speakers, who covered a wide range of subjects. These subjects prompted much discussion during the evenings and indeed well into the early hours of the morning. The venue was an excellent choice, set in such attractive surroundings and backed by splendid facilities. Thanks are surely due to the staff at headquarters for the fine way in which this event was organised.

On March 20th we held the last of our lectures during the winter period, with an excellent turn-out of 45 people in attendance. The first speaker, Martin Ford, gave a very interesting talk on trees, followed by John Franklin (with support given by Howard Storey) representing John Deere, his talk being followed by a working demonstration with the whole John Deere range being made available for use. Our thanks to John Deere for providing a buffet for those attending, and to Ivan Beetlestone and his Club – Telford G&CC- for both organising the event and allowing us the use of their facilities.

Two dates to remember are June 18th for our Summer Tournament at Handsworth GC., with the closing date for this event being May 13th.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

As I compiled these notes at the end of March, I realised we were only two weeks away from our annual tournament against North Wales – how time flies!

Looking at the team list for this first match I also became aware that some of the usual names were missing; and then it dawned on me – I had been doing this job for too long, for some of the 'regulars' are now retired and (I'm sure) getting enough golf in at their leisure. However, I am equally sure that we will finish with a full and capable team, hopefully attracting some of the lower handicap players to swell the ranks.

I have little else to write other than to ask you all to support the golf fixtures throughout the summer – and if you have any news please give me a call on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTH EAST

Warkworth GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament in April, a friendly Club that

made us all feel very welcome. The day was about the warmest we have had so far and resulted in the largest turn-out yet – with almost fifty players taking part. The results were: Best gross: Tony McLure, Whickham GC : 70. Best nett: Robert Bell, Slaley Hall G&CC: 95-28=67. Assistants Cup: David Jennings, Newbiggin GC: 71-3=68. Veterans Prize: Steve Pope, Tyneside GC: 77-9=68. Other leading scores: J.Richardson, Whickham GC: 74-8=68. S Cram, Slaley Hall G&CC: 84-15=69. M Gunn, Tyneside GC: 77-8=69. I Johnson, Stocksfield GC: 81-11=70. N Parkin, Hexham GC: 75-5=70.

The qualifiers for ISEKI are (0-9) D Jennings, J Richardson, S Pope, M Gunn with reserves A McLure and N Parkin. (10-18) S Cram, I Johnson, G Gainsford, B Weddell with reserves A Fiddes and P Hetherington. (19-28) R Bell, K Rutherford, R Creane, G Proudlock with reserves B Hughes and J Rippon.

Our thanks to Warkworth GC for entertaining us, to Alf Fiddes (head greenkeeper) for the excellent condition of the course and to the donating companies: Ryton Gravel Co., Turf Care Supplies, Shorts of Whitburn, Thompsons (Quarries), Rigby Taylor, Pattisons, Ruffords, Stewarts of Edinburgh and ICI. A special thanks to Abcon (top dressings) for financing all the competitors meals!

JIMMY RICHARDSON

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region Conference took place at Langside College, Glasgow on March 10th, a day in which we had everything from pouring rain and bright skies, followed by hail and snow. However, this did not deter people from travelling from as far afield as Southernness and Fortrose on the Black Isle. Six speakers entertained the audience of 140.

Colin Urquhart, Langside College, spoke on greenkeeping education and of the varied types and contents of courses covered at Woodburn House. Colin was followed by the ebullient Danny Godfrey of Inter-Seeds, who gave his audience a further insight into the breeding and selection of seeds, backed up with some interesting slides. Unfortunately Chris Kennedy from Wentworth had to withdraw at a late date but his capable assistant, Jim McKenzie, took over to tell us about the Good, the Bad and the Ugly sides of greenkeeping as he saw it. By using his collection of slides, Jim emphasised these points more vividly. This was followed by Neil Thomas, who addressed the audience on 'BIGGA – The Crossroads', where we have come from and where (hopefully) we are going. Following on from the progress made in the last 5 years, Neil stressed that there was a great need for our membership to give the Association their whole-hearted support and at the same time to impress upon non-members the benefits to be gained by being a member of the Association.

Just before lunch a presentation of a magnificent print from a painting of the Old Course, St. Andrews was made to Cecil George from the Scottish region, to thank him for all the hard work he had put into the Association over many years, with hopefully many more to come. The presentation was made by our chairman, John Crawford. After lunch Ben Simpson of Alginure astounded everyone with his slides on the many and varied uses of seaweed throughout all ranges of landscaping and horticulture. Finally George Brown of Turnberry told us in his own inimitable ➡ 54

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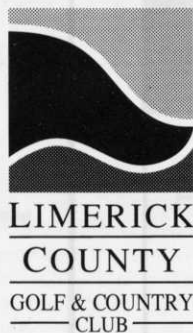
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Limerick County Golf and Country Club COURSE MANAGER

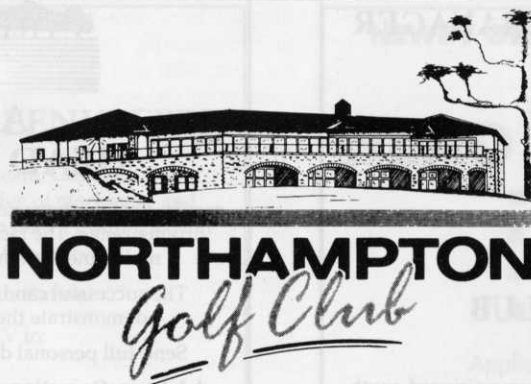
Applications are invited for the position of Course Manager for this prestigious, 18 hole parkland golf-course now under construction at Ballyneety, near Limerick, Ireland.

Designed by Des Smyth & Associates, the 6,800 yard championship standard layout will be completed in December, 1992 and open for play in April, 1994. The owners wish to retain a suitably qualified and experienced greenkeeper who would wish to be directly involved in the construction and "grow-in" phases as a prelude to taking over the full-time duties of Course Manager.

The successful applicant will have had a minimum of three years senior greenkeeping experience and possess a recognised professional qualification. A working knowledge of computer-controlled irrigation systems, course equipment maintenance and excellent supervisory and work planning skills are essential requirements.

The remuneration package is negotiable and the appointment will be effective on July 1st, 1992. Please forward application with full CV and references to:

L J Meade, Chief Executive, Limerick County Golf and Country Club Ltd, PO Box 94, Raheen, Limerick, Ireland.



Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The challenging position on this new course which has been in play for 18 months requires appropriate qualifications and experience in all aspects of modern course management.

The successful applicant must be able to control and motivate staff and have a comprehensive knowledge of machinery maintenance and course budgeting.

A generous salary will be offered to reflect the qualities required. A three bedroom house is also available at the Course.

Written applications including a full CV should be sent to:

**Chairman of Green Committee
Northampton Golf Club
Harlestone
Northampton NN7 4EF**

AITKENS

SPORTSTURF LTD

require a

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

To call on golf courses, local authorities, cricket and bowls clubs in the north west of England. A knowledge of fertilisers, grass seeds and pesticides would be helpful, also previous sales experience.

Apply in writing with CV (in confidence) to:

Mr E Russell

Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd

Unit 18, Moor Lane Trading Estate

Sherburn-in-Elmet,

North Yorkshire LS25 6DX

MINCHINHAMPTON GOLF CLUB



COURSE MANAGER

Minchinhampton Golf Club have an established 18 hole golf course set in beautiful Cotswold countryside. An additional 18 hole course is currently the subject of a planning application and it is anticipated that construction will commence this year.

The club requires an experienced and qualified Course Manager to maintain and improve the present high standard of the existing course. Some involvement with the construction of the new course is likely with prospects of management of the full 36 holes. A high level of autonomy will be given.

Commencing salary likely to be £20,000-plus, but could well be substantially more for an outstanding candidate. For further information write to:

**The Secretary, Minchinhampton Golf Club,
New Course, Minchinhampton, Stroud,
Glos GL6 9BE**

COURSE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



RINGWAY GOLF CLUB

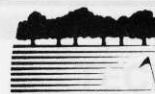
Ringway Golf Club, a prestigious parkland course situated south-west of Manchester, is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person of proven ability for the newly created post of Course Development Manager.

The prime function of the position will be the development of the course and other golfing facilities. He/she will report directly to the Chairman of a small Course Committee of which he will be a member.

A practical motivator and technically competent, he will be responsible for all aspects of work on the course, operating within agreed capital and revenue budgets and longer term plans. He will be expected to play a major and imaginative part in the formulation of these budgets and plans.

The position is a challenging one to meet the needs of the Club for the longer term as well as the immediate future. The remuneration package and terms and conditions including relocation expenses will reflect the importance of the appointment and are negotiable for the right person.

Applications in writing, with full CV should be made to:
**The Course Chairman, Ringway Golf Club, "Hale Mount",
Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8SW**



**Thornbury Golf Centre
near Bristol**

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

required at the above golf centre, consisting of 36 holes and 25 bay driving range. The facility has been designed, built and will be maintained to a high standard, opening in June 1992.

The successful candidate will be fully qualified and able to demonstrate the ability to shoulder responsibility.

Send full personal details including current salary level to:

**A J Acres, Operations Director, Burhill Golf Centres Limited,
The Club House, Burhill, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4BL**

BEACONSFIELD GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications in all aspects of course management, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.

Attractive package, including bungalow.

Applications in writing, including a full CV to:

**Mr P I Anderson, Secretary,
Beaconsfield Golf Club Ltd,
Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2UR**



We are looking for a
**FULL QUALIFIED
WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for
INGON MANOR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

This is a new position with full responsibility for the management of an 18 hole parkland course.

Applicants will have a free hand to put their stamp upon this course and will not be answerable to a committee.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Reply in writing with CV to:

The Managing Director
INGON MANOR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Ingon Lane, Snittersfield,
Nr. Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire



Royal Dornoch Golf Club

require a

FULLY QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

as soon as possible.

Applications and CV to:

The Secretary,
Royal Dornoch Golf Club,
Golf Road, Dornoch,
Sutherland IV25 3LW



Lutterworth Golf Club
Leicestershire

Applicants are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

No accommodation available.

Please apply with CV to:

The Captain
Lutterworth Golf Club
Rugby Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 5HN



Glynhir Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have suitable qualifications and practical experience in all aspects of course management and in the operation and maintenance of equipment.

The successful applicant must be prepared to work with, motivate and control staff.

Salary negotiable – no accommodation available.

Apply, in writing, with full CV to:

Mr E P Rees (Honorary Secretary)
Glynhir Golf Club, Glynhir Road, Llandybie,
Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 2TF

Romiley Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

To join an ambitious and progressive team. City & Guilds Certificate together with sound knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems required. Should be capable of leading a team after initial guidance from Head Greenkeeper.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary
Romiley Golf Club
Goosehouse Green, Romiley, Stockport SK6 4LJ

NEWBY GRANGE HOTEL AND GOLF CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

- Must be qualified and motivated
- Must be over 25
- Will NOT answer to a committee
- Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Mr Tony Sansom, Newby Grange Hotel & Golf Club, Crosby-on-Eden, Carlisle, Cumbria

Laleham Golf Club

requires an

AMBITIOUS ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

to become part of our enthusiastic course management team.

Apply with full CV quoting two referees to:

The Secretary, Laleham Golf Club, Laleham Reach,
Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8RP

Closing date 31st May 1992

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

(TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE)

Seeks position on the Continent, on a course presently being constructed, or newly constructed course.

For further details write to:

Box No. GI 52
BIGGA,
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne,
York YO6 2NF

45 ➤ manner how he was always open-minded about all greenkeeping practices and how what was good for one course might not be suitable for another. There was an intriguing insight into George's ideas of bunker renovation and also the exasperation and delights of working a links course on the West coast of Scotland after winter storms and on beautiful summer days. All in all it was a good day.

My thanks go to all the speakers and Cecil George and John Crawford who chaired the two sessions. To Langside College in allowing us the use of the facility and to the catering staff. I especially thank Colin Urquhart and Margaret Hamilton from Langside for their assistance, and Willie Blair, Chris Yeaman, Andrew Forrest and Fraser Ross for their assistance at registration. This was the first time a conference had been held at Langside and there were a few problems, most of which were overcome. The main problem was probably the lack of parking spaces at and around the college. That aside, the day was very successful and we look forward to the 1993 conference, which will probably be held at Oatridge College, again in March.

The annual Match Scottish Region v the Secretaries Association, took place at Elie Golf House Club on Wednesday 18th March. After extremely heavy rain all morning throughout Scotland everyone was a bit apprehensive, but as usual Elie was dry and mud free. Mind you, there was a gale blowing and when Brian Lawrie, Elie head greenkeeper told us that play was off the medal tees, visions of another win for the greenkeepers seemed acceptable, due to our being used to working in such conditions. When our leading couple, the vice-chairman of the Scottish Region, Gordon Moir and his partner Cecil George, strode to a flour-

AROUND THE GREEN



ishing 5/4 victory the writing was on the wall and the second match also finished at the 14th – another win for the Region ?? Well someone forgot to tell the secretaries that they're not supposed to win and except for Sam Morrison and Joe Wallace, the match was a rout: Secretaries 6 Greenkeepers 2.

There will have to be some serious selection before the '93 match and many of the regulars should be shaking in their shoes. Well done all you gallant secretaries, ably led by captain Gilbert Dempster from Longniddry. Just in case our captain for the day Gordon Moir and Cecil get carried away with themselves with their win, I would remind them that their opponents were approximately 50 years older (combined) than them. All in all it was a fine day, finished with a blether, a dram, a guid meal and stories from the respective captains. Our thanks to Sandy Sneddon, secretary at Elie and all the Elie staff for their hospitality and to Brian Lawrie and his men for the excellent condition of the course. Next time Brian, put us off the ladies tees – maybe we will then have a chance.

ELLIOTT SMALL

NORTH SCOTLAND

Following on from last month, here are the four remaining speakers. Our fifth and final speaker in the morning of our one-day conference will be David Golding, his subject naturally being education, with particular reference to the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Maybe this will provide the spur needed for North Scotland section members to enrol – for so far we have no participants. I believe this will be David's first seminar in Scotland and we are indebted to Neil Thomas for taking over his duties to allow him to come north. Following David's talk will be a question and answer session, followed by lunch. This will be followed by Peter Lloyd, assistant secretary of the Scottish PGA. Peter is to give us a light-hearted look at life SPGA style. We welcome a speaker from the professional body just as we welcome a member of the IOG, Mr Andrew Mur-

ray, as our seventh speaker. Andrew was parks manager of Kirkaldy DC until retirement and he will be addressing us on golf course maintenance in the public sector.

Last but by no means least, we have Eric Shiel, executive consultant of the JGCC. The Joint Golf Course Committee was set up by the R&A, aimed at giving golfers a better deal and improving conditions on courses. Its birth was the direct result of "The Way Forward" document, which was published a few years ago. Mr Shiel's talk will be "The Way Forward – An Update", with the JGCC telling me that by conference time they hope to have a significant message to impart – we look forward to hearing it!

Following all this will be a lively question and answer session, wrapping up what we hope will be an interesting and educational day. There are 180 seats available in the college lecture theatre, so when you get your application, return it quickly to avoid disappointment.

Congratulations to ex North Scotland chairman John Flint, who after 50 years of golfing has recently recorded his first hole in one. Well done, John, there is hope for us all! On a more serious note, congratulations are due to John Geddes, who is leaving Kintore GC to become head greenkeeper at Ellon GC., and to Derek Lithgow, a Scot who is returning north from London to become head greenkeeper at Banchory GC, taking over from Jeffrey Herd, who after 30 years as head man is stepping down to the quieter role of assistant. Other movements are David Sinclair, assistant at Royal Aberdeen, moving to a similar post at Cruden Bay and Graham Mackie, assistant at Murcar, moving to Gleneagles. Martin Orawe, newly qualified Dornoch greenkeeper, is joining the Scottish takeover at Wentworth. We wish them all well in their new jobs, along with any other members on the move.

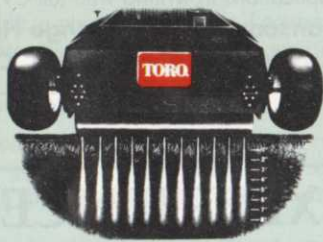
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COMING UP

- June 3rd-4th: **Landscape Industries '92**. Trade Show – National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
- 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 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 26th-November 27th: **BIGGA Management Courses** (five weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York.
- November 11th-12th: **IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition**, Edinburgh.
- November 12th-14th: **Golf Course Europe '92 Show** – Cannes, France.

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The three-in-one way to establish grass and other fine seeds
from the Amazone Powercare range

Where grass and other fine seeds need to be established quickly and evenly, when patching up worn areas or creating new plantings, the one-pass Amazone Overseeder is the perfect answer.

It comes in three models (1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 metres). Each comprises three components: a reciprocating power harrow to move the soil, a seed drill for controlled distribution of the seed, a rear roller to press the seed into the disturbed ground and ensure even germination.



- Direct seeding into freshly cultivated soil conserves moisture, gets the plants away to a good start.
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- Seed rates from 60 to 600kg/ha.
- Cage type roller (smooth roller optional).

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The superb, compact corer for greens, tees and fairways. Unique camshaft action of vertical corer tubes, in-line plumber block bearings, rear stabilising wheels and a choice of 4, 5 and 6in hollow and solid tines.



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Sales, Parts and Service Centre

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Amazone GNK Overseeder ☐

Amazone HR Condition-Master ☐

Amazone PC 10 Corer ☐

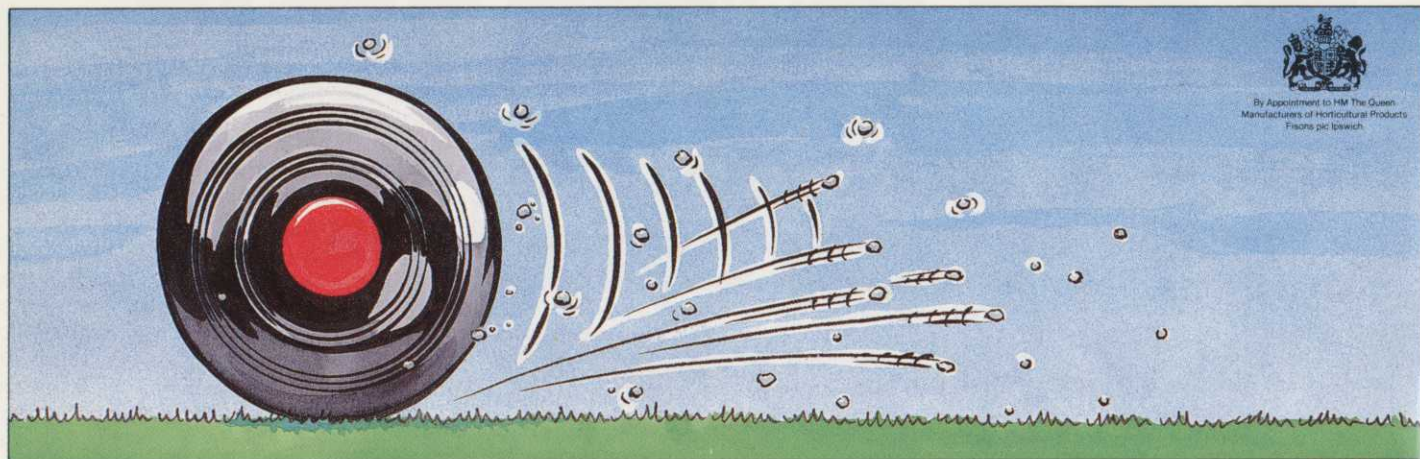
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Fisons new Greenmaster Liquid and Seafeed liquid products bring new standards of quality and performance to the market. Both are specially effective where a green is under constant use and where using granules may result in 'pick up' on bowls or golf balls. When conditions are particularly dry, new Greenmaster Liquid combines the premium Greenmaster performance with the rapid 'green-up' and flexibility of a liquid – while new Seafeed is a wholly organic turf tonic which stimulates root growth and aids water retention. New Greenmaster Liquid and Seafeed from Fisons – a real cause for liquid celebration.



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