

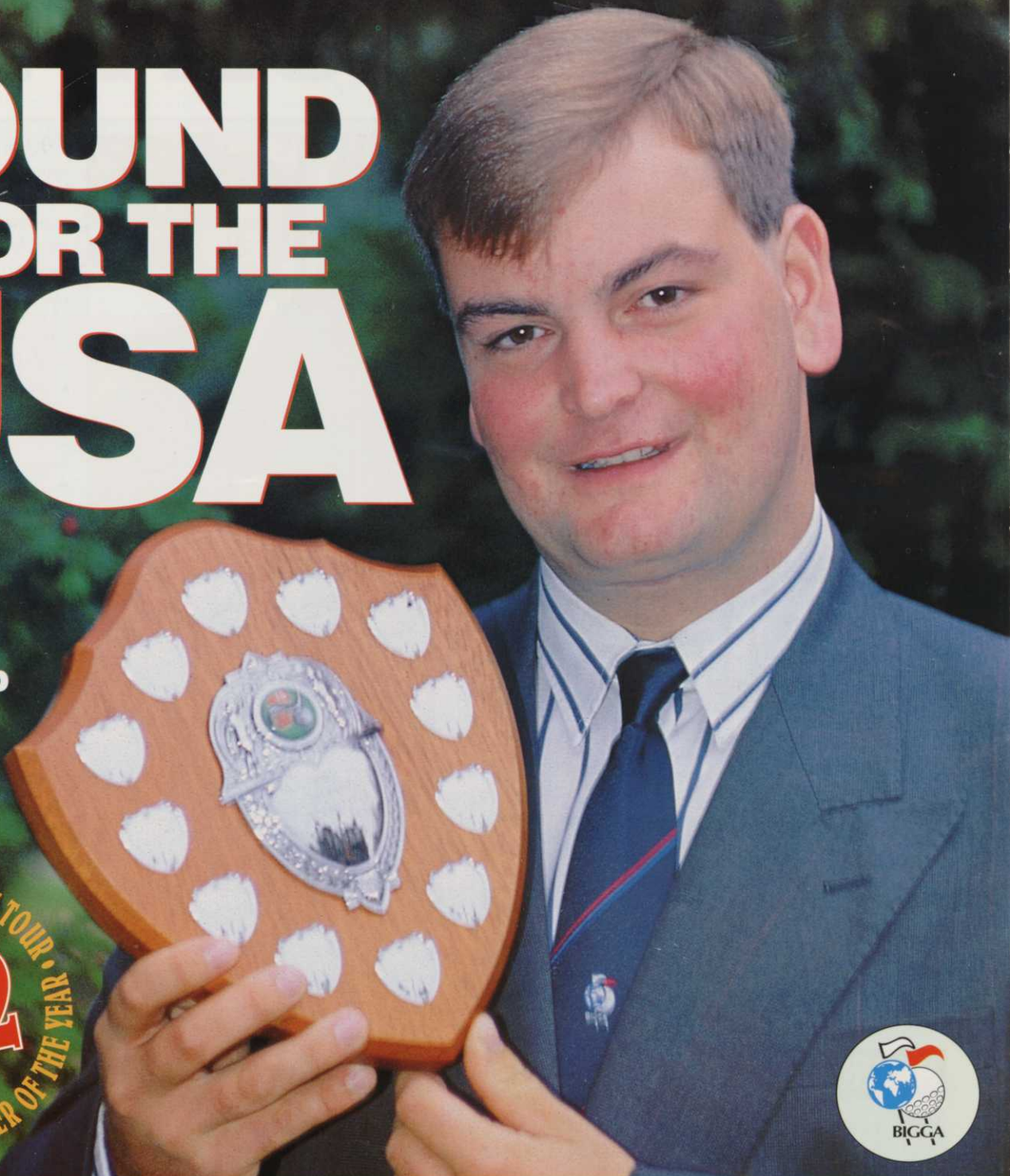
NOVEMBER 1992

GREENKEEPER

International

BOUND FOR THE USA

**Barry
Neville
scoops top
student
prize**



TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR • YEAR
1992
STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR





OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE

...WHO'S OPENING BTME '93



HARROGATE, JANUARY 20-22



The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is proud to announce that the Duke of York will officially open the 1993 BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

The presence of Prince Andrew at the BTME, together with Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA President, underlines the event's importance and confirms its status as the premier exhibition for the fine turf industries.

New equipment, the latest products, service updates, familiar faces and some new ones made Viscount Whitelaw, who opened the 1992 exhibition, proclaim that "greenkeeping has come of age".

For 1993, as well as the Royal visitor, there's even more to watch out for. With all the names you'd expect plus a few surprises, you'll certainly be wide-eyed at the choice and variety of what's on offer.

Space bookings are already up on this time last year for the record-breaking 1992 exhibition and bookings for stands from all sectors of the industry will continue to be accepted right up until the last minute, depending on space limitations. But to make sure of the best positions, you need to act quickly. Why wait until January to squeeze in your stand when *this week* you can plump for a prime site?

Debbie Savage has all the details of how BTME can provide you with a window of opportunity. Call Debbie on 03473 581.

The 1993 BTME will be an event you won't want to miss – make a note of the dates in your diary! *A world class exhibition... the highest calibre education seminars... all at BTME, January 20-22, Harrogate.*



For more details or a copy of the comprehensive BTME Information Pack, contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 or request one by fax on 03473 8864. The BTME is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

PRE-REGISTRATION CARD



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BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1993

20-22 JANUARY 1993, HARROGATE

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1st prize: £100-worth; 2nd prize £60-worth; 3rd prize: £40-worth.

Draw will be made on the Wednesday; prizes must be collected during the Exhibition.

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



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EDITOR
David White
Tel: 0323 891291 • Fax: 0323 895593

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR
Tim Moat
Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER
Bill Lynch
Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE
Carol Dutton
Tel/Fax: 0207 570117

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

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GREENKEEPER

1875
International

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Barry Neville with the shield awarded as Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of 1992



Take a closer look at what Greenkeeper

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

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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.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS: Hardi Ltd • ICI Professional Products • Iseki UK Ltd • Jacobsens • Kubota UK Ltd • Lely UK Ltd • Lindum Seeded Turf • Ransomes • Risboro' Turf • Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd • Toro Irrigation.





The eighteenth from behind the lake – the second shot

A win by a whisker

The Kubota records will show no more than the bare bones of our latest success, gained at the tenth anniversary match for the Kubota Golf Challenge: it will be simply written – The Greenkeepers defeated The Golf Club Secretaries in 1992 – period.

What will not be recorded is that for the seventh time in ten years the greenkeepers have succeeded – this time in a final which ended at four games all, decided in our favour by the margin of holes won, nineteen to fifteen, with the match result resting on the performance of Bernard Emberley, a stout performer with the courage of a lion. Let me explain...

Since 1983 the Kubota Challenge has been the very epitome of match play golf – head to head singles – and the greenkeepers have had it pretty well sewn up year upon year – certainly for the past seven years and irritated only by a single hiccup in 1990, when a team of secretaries sneaked in a blow for their side. We've had grand victories, none finer than the eight-nil whitewash of 1991, and in truth we've come to expect to win! This heavy burden, the massive expectations of the greenkeeping fraternity, was never more apparent than in this latest series, when the team came to battle out the final after winning a semi-final against the Golf Foundation – by the now familiar margin of eight games to zero! We all know this God-like play can't last forever, there must come a moment when the veil slips, when players become human again...

Richard Barker, captain and number one, is noted for his golfing excellence, a more solid four handicap player doesn't exist... yet he met his Waterloo at the hands of Martin Yates, four and two – without putting a foot wrong! Barry Holt, the Mighty Atom who seems to romp along the fairways, his legs trying to catch up, couldn't wait to get on with his game as our number two, loving the hard battle. He positively thrives on match play and his was a crucial victory, a splendidly contrived five and three whilst declaring throughout the round that he was 'not at his best'!



Alistair Tough



Ian Holoran



Jim Byrne



Bernard Emberley



Graeme Patrick



Richard Barker



Craig Handyside



Barry Holt

Holt's game over, there came a pause while a handful of spectators settled down to gossip in the chill, sunny air and wait for the Handyside/Peak match to reach a conclusion. Both are excellent players, but in Handyside's case it was all nip and tuck, up then down, the game finally swinging in Peak's favour by two and one. No disgrace for Craig Handyside and one that could have gone either way.

Meanwhile news was filtering through of a battle royal between ex-pro turned secretary, Bob Lanyon and our Bernard Emberley. It looked likely to go the full distance... and it did, as you will soon learn.

Of Graeme Patrick, our number five, there can be nothing to add save a drum roll and trumpet fanfare for his annihilation of Dewi Davies by seven and five. Add a second fanfare for Jim Byrne's similar thrashing of Bill Short by six and five... things were looking positively rosy!

If Alistair Tough will forgive the obvious pun, his day couldn't have been tougher. Each tiny slip was punished beyond reason: his ball would nestle between tree roots, lodge in unplayable lies, spin three times round the cup and lip out – the Gods were against him. His five and four defeat against Len Harpum was something even he came to expect in the end, for when the bitch that is Old Mother Fate takes a hand it's best to greet her with a grin, hoping for her blessing the next time round.

It was a similar story for Ian Holoran, our number eight. His was a game which never quite reached his own high expectations and he

went down battling to Trevor Davey by four and three.

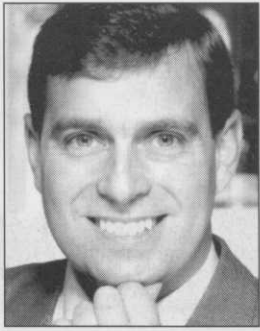
From these known results you will see the rose had withered, we were in deficit by one, we needed a win from Bernard Emberley! Our man Bernard has nerve galore, though I doubt he has been called upon to exhibit such nail-biting stuff at such a crucial time before – and at such an illustrious arena as the eighteenth on the Brabazon. For those who may have been in a time warp, The Belfry's prima-donna hole, scene of so many triumphs and tragedies in Ryder Cup history, is 474 yards from the back tees, two lakes in play at both tee shot and approach, the final shot a most daunting carry to a sloping and well protected green.

Coming to the final hole all square both players hit fine tee shots, Emberley's some 15/20 yards longer. What followed, especially at such a crucial point, was somewhat uncharacteristic for an ex-pro, for he played short of the lake rather than risk a carry of some 190-200 yards. Emberley was made of sterner stuff and conjured the most exquisite spoon shot imaginable, the ball finishing near pin high and just rolling into the right hand bunker. Lanyon faltered with his third, leaving it on the very edge of the green, uphill and sloping – three-putt country! Calling on every ounce of those priceless qualities called grit and inspiration, Emberley feathered his wedge and we saw the ball floating, landing above pin and some ten feet from the cup. The inevitable happened, Lanyon three-putted, Bernard lagged to within 'gimmee' distance and the game was over – sweet victory was ours.

What a wonderful event The Kubota Challenge is, what a clever concept. It has been said before and deserves repeating: The Kubota Challenge is a very important event indeed. We are proud to retain the handsome porcelain Kubota Trophy – our good friend Brian Hurlley, Vice President and Director, Kubota GB Ltd., may be assured that it is in very safe hands!

Results: The Greenkeepers defeated The Secretaries. Third place was taken by the Golf Foundation, who defeated the English Golf Union (margin of four holes the better after a tie at four games each).

Duke of York to open BTME '93



Prince Andrew: to open BTME

Pride is something one hears a great deal about in greenkeeping circles of late: pride in the profession, pride in the importance of our place in caring for Britain's great golf courses and pride in our achievements in the field of education.

Now our cup runneth over, for pride is bursting from every seam as we learn that Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, a recent convert to the game of golf and its most visible devotee, has honoured us by accepting our

invitation to open the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate next January.

Not only will Prince Andrew open our exhibition, he will also present awards to the recipients of BIGGA's highest honour, The Master Greenkeeper Certificate, and to those companies who honour us by supporting our Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund, making greenkeeper education a reality.

Let us share equally in this honour – proud to be royally recognised!

■ Ian Tomlinson, head greenkeeper at Lausanne Golf Club has written with news regarding Jim Richards, who started his greenkeeping career at Knaresborough GC and has been at Lausanne some five years, four as Ian's first assistant. The surprise for Ian came when Jim announced that he is to leave Lausanne in January for Brownsville, Texas, where he is to become a pilot. As Ian joked, 'having seen Jim on a triplex, God help him!'

'Should you happen to be on a commercial aircraft flown by Captain Richards in the future,' added Ian, 'why not drop into the cockpit and say hello' – Roger, over and out!



■ Continuing with the flying theme, it is with particular pleasure that Greenkeeper International announces the granting of a Private Pilots Licence to Sunningdale's Robert Brewer (pictured left) – is he, we wonder, Britain's first official airborne greenkeeper?

■ Toro, world leaders in professional grass cutting and maintenance equipment have awarded their coveted 'Mr Commercial International' award to UK Toro distributors Lely (UK) Ltd.

Senior Toro International managers throughout the world vote on the distribution network that they feel has given the most distinguished achievements in the field of: Coverage of commercial dealers and direct accounts; Aggressiveness in seeking new turf product outlets; Excellence of demonstrations and field days; Service to commercial dealers and Toro customers.

Graham Dale reported that he is fully committed to improving the already high standards of service support to all Toro dealers and customers alike. A fact which is endorsed with Lely's introduction of a 'Guaranteed on time' parts delivery service to its comprehensive dealer network anywhere in the UK.



Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd receives the 'Mr Commercial International' award from Ted Reilly, Toro Sales, Marketing and Commercial Director, Europe, on behalf of all UK Toro dealers.



■ Warmest greetings are extended to Eric Palmer on his well-earned retirement after 50 years of greenkeeping, a career which began at Sitwell Park GC in 1942 – aged 14! After a two year spell in the RAF from 1946-48, Eric returned to Sitwell Park and remained there until 1966, holding the post of head greenkeeper for some fifteen years. He moved to Abbeydale GC in 1966 and remained until 1982, when he joined Hickleton GC until his retirement – a proud record which deserves recognition.



■ The winner of the SISIS Diamond Jubilee competition was Cliff Parry, head greenkeeper of Woolton GC, near Liverpool. The picture shows him receiving a diamond pendant from the directors of SISIS at their Macclesfield office.

■ Eric Hunter wrote telling of an enquiry received from a Mr Oliver Hackett of Rathcormac, Co. Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. Oliver, green chairman of a Co. Sligo golf club, informed of 'not enjoying good service for our mowing machines – they are away too long and when returned they are not that good anyway'.

Leaflets despatched, Eric waited some three months to be given some good news and some bad. The bad news was the club had decided – on cost- not to progress with an order for a Hunter grinder. The good news? Mr Hackett was so impressed with the Jupiter machine that he bought one and started up a new business – North West Lawnmowers – specifically to serve fellow clubs bugged with the aforementioned problems. It seems the spirit of enterprise is not yet dead! Oliver Hackett can be contacted on 010 353971 43669.

■ De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, home of the 1993 Ryder Cup, has acquired Belton Woods Hotel and Country Club, a 96 bedroom hotel with two eighteen and one nine hole golf courses at Grantham, near Nottingham, for £10.3 million, from administrative receivers KPMG Peat Marwick. Belton Woods is a purpose-built four star hotel with conference facilities for 300 people, set in 485 acres. In addition to the two 18-hole golf courses, there is a further 9-hole course and driving range. Indoor leisure facilities include heated swimming pool, gymnasium, two squash courts, a spa bath, saunas and steam rooms.

■ Following a misprint in our October issue, Verde Sports Ltd have been flooded with enquiries for 'winter trees'. Much as they love the idea, and may consider it as a new line for the future, Verde Sports have asked us to point out that the company are actually in the business of providing winter *tees*. Anyone interested in the latter can reach Verde Sports on 0257 269069.



■ Simon Checketts has joined Watermation in their Aldershot sales office as a sales engineer in the contracts division. Simon replaces Jonathan Turner, who has donned the pith helmet and travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to open a new sales office for the company.



■ A new golf manager, responsible for the co-ordination of all golfing services at St Andrews, has been appointed by St Andrews Links Trust. John Lindsay (46) previously executive director with the PGA, will take up his post on January 1.

■ It is with sadness that we report the sudden but peaceful death of Mr J K (Jock) Glass, latterly of The Cottage, Thorpe Hall Golf Club, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Jock, a life member of the Association and a holder of high office within the BGGA, was always keen to expound the aims of the Association. His contribution to greenkeeping over the years was without parallel and he will be sadly missed by his many friends and associates.



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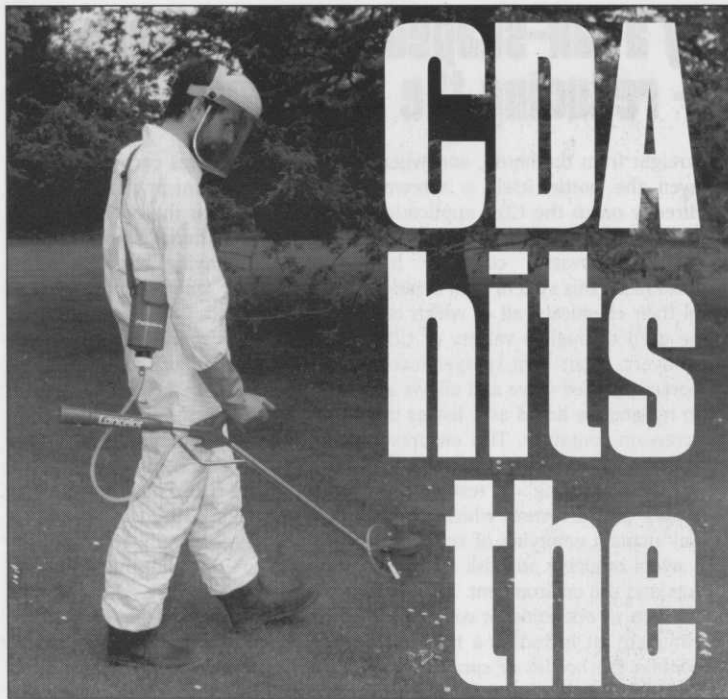
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CDA hits the target

Despite ten years of commercial use, the benefits of CDA – controlled droplet application – for the application of pesticides may not yet be fully understood. There could still be some confusion over the differences between CDA and the more traditional type of spray application.

Like many other advances in technology, the principles of CDA are very simple. A steady flow of undiluted liquid drops on to a battery-powered disc running at a constant speed, which throws out a controlled stream of uniform-sized droplets. The herbicide, fungicide or insecticide being applied can come pre-diluted, eliminating the need for mixing, and the system operates at low pressure.

Perhaps most important of all, CDA does not use erratic and often unreliable air currents to ensure distribution to the plant or other target area.

Conventional sprayers, on the other hand, mostly use a small quantity of pesticide in a much larger quantity of water. This involves mixing in the concentrated ingredient – one obvious area of possible operator hazard. This water must also be carried to the site being sprayed – four gallons of water weighs 40 pounds, even without the weight of the sprayer.

CDA sprayers, on the other hand, are light, ergonomically well designed and lead to less operator fatigue during operation. Manufacturers claim, in fact, that they are up to ten times lighter than conventional knapsack sprayers.

But it is particularly in the area of lessening hazards during spraying where the CDA system really scores,

both to the operator and the environment. It is this, sometimes quite unfounded, fear which has persuaded some local authorities to eliminate spraying verges, open spaces and other areas used by the public altogether. Yet as a survey by the British Agrochemical Association has shown recently, the costs of returning to manual weed control can be quite horrendous.

BAA compute that the additional costs per km of non-chemical treatment are around £64 for roadside weed control, £180 for site boundary maintenance for schools and recreation grounds, and £230 for pavement weed control. They say the total increase could come to nearly £1 million for 'the average county area'. In addition, the actual costs of roadside weed control are quoted by one county council as £7.26 per km with chemicals, increasing nearly ten times to £70 per km using non-chemical methods. Figures to make any treasurer ponder.

The answer, therefore, is not to eliminate the use of herbicides and other pesticides, but to reduce considerably the risks. This can be done partly by using the safer products now available, those carrying full Government Approval, and partly by using safer equipment to minimise the risk of environmental damage.

Public opinion is, of course, often against any use of pesticides at all. Essex County Council, who changed to the CDA system two years ago, say that the public were initially apprehensive but had given a positive response once the situation

Sample the Sun,

the Sand
and the Surf...

in Anaheim and
San Diego, California, whilst attending the

GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW 1993

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

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

We have this year chosen two outstanding luxury hotels:

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

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

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

◆ Package 1

25th January to 5th February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic – 25th January
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton
6 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-31st January
Transfer to San Diego – 31st January
4 nights Hyatt Islandia – 31st January-4th February
Transfer to Los Angeles Airport
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic – 4th February (to arrive in UK on 5th)
Cost: Twin Room £842 per person
Cost: Single Room £1,266 per person

◆ Package 2

25th January to 1st February 1993

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

Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95;
Anaheim only £34.80.

BOOKING FORM

GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

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

Full name:

Address:

..... Telephone:

Name(s) of additional passengers:

PACKAGE 1: ANAHEIM/SAN DIEGO

Twin Room: £842.00. Number of persons:

Single Room: £1266.00. Number of persons:

PACKAGE 2: ANAHEIM

Twin Room: £689.00. Number of persons:

Single Room: £1004.00. Number of persons:

Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95 • Anaheim only £34.80

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

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

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

I enclose a deposit of £100.00 per person plus insurance payment (if required).

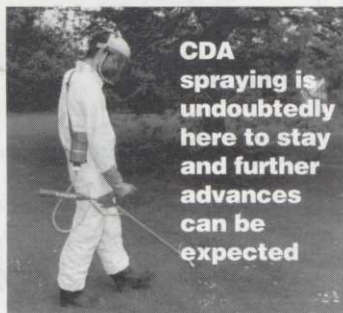
Total enclosed:

'Safety for operators is enhanced by a fan-shaped spray pattern projected forward of the operator - reducing the 'wet welly' effect'

7 was explained to them. Any local government supervisor who has had to negotiate damage claims through over-zealous pathway spraying creeping into gardens will know the problem. On the other hand, we know that the public will be the first to complain about weedy, untidy pavements and verges.

The safety of the CDA system comes first, from directing a relatively small amount of pesticide on to the target area - with little wasted into the surroundings; second, through being a low pressure system; third, and probably most important of all, the uniform droplet size which the sprayers produce. Conventional sprayers produce a wide range of droplet sizes. Many of the larger ones will bounce off the plants being sprayed to give uneven results. The smallest droplets, on the other hand, are easily carried away on air currents. This can also cause uneven results, certainly with total herbicides, plus considerable damage to adjacent areas.

CDA equipment is designed to produce a very narrow range of droplet sizes. The Lancelot sprayer, for example, uses only droplets in the 200-300 micron band, no matter what width of swath is being



CDA spraying is undoubtedly here to stay and further advances can be expected

sprayed. This size is not only the best for 'stickability' on plants, but gives the lowest risk of inhalation by spray operators.

The rates of application with CDA are also low, ranging from 5-30 litres per hectare, which in itself reduces the amount of unwanted pesticides entering the environment. This is especially important for insecticides and fungicides, where excessive and uncontrolled application can lead to a loss of beneficial predators and an increase in pesticide resistance. Safety for operators is enhanced by a fan-shaped spray pattern projected forward of the operator - reducing the 'wet welly' effect.

To eliminate the risks still further, ready-to-spray formulations of pesticides are now available for using

straight from the bottle, and where even the bottle itself is screwed directly on to the CDA application equipment.

One innovative company has introduced this system with a range of their chemicals, all of which can be used through a variety of CDA sprayers. Their own sprayer incorporates a bleed valve and allows air to replace the liquid as it leaves the screw-on container. This ensures a steady flow through the feed tube without 'glugging'. It results in a totally closed system which avoids any manual emptying of containers - again reducing any risk to operators and the environment. Designed for ease of operation, it comes as a complete kit including a holster to contain the bottles of spray liquid. Loading consists of inserting the container and replacing the bottle top with a cap containing the air bleed valve connected by a feed tube to the end of the lance. The bottle is held inverted and the liquid fed to-the spray lance by gravity. A second built-in container holds a set of six different sized nozzles for different spray band widths.

The heart of any CDA sprayer is the spinning disc which produces the spray droplets. Typically this is powered by an electric motor run by

three U2 batteries carried in a special compartment at the top of the lance, handy for the operator. A set of long-life batteries should last for one day's spraying, but a rechargeable battery and charger is also available.

There are therefore only three controls: an on/off switch for the liquid through the feed pipe, a switch for the motor and a width controller on the spraying head to adjust the band being covered. The correct dose is also partly dependant on the walking speed of the operator. Although simple to use, CDA sprayers are not idiot-proof. Like all precision machinery, they rely on using the right pesticide for the job, correct calibration and proper use to get the right results. Most sprayers are robust in construction, though light in weight, and they should stand up to the rough-and-tumble of practical handling conditions.

For both recreational and industrial use CDA spraying is undoubtedly here to stay and one can expect further advances in the technique in the future.

♦ The author, Geoffrey Ellis, is an independent consultant and writer with some 30 years experience of the agro-chemical industry. He runs a small nursery specialising in the production of wild flowers.

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AD REF 386

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AD REF 29

When you first think of Sweden, you may not necessarily think of it as a leading golfing country. It might therefore surprise you to learn that Sweden boasts the biggest golfing nation in Europe outside of the British Isles when compared to its total population.

Sweden has a population of approximately 8 million people and right now there are about 325,000 golfers. There are around 320 courses, representing around 1000+ members per course, which is a very high number when compared with Great Britain. The first Swedish golf club was founded in 1902 and not surprising it was the British who first brought the idea of golf to our attention. The Swedish Golf Federation was founded in 1904.

The golfing season in Sweden

It will probably also surprise you to learn that several courses can be played year round on regular greens. Of course this is only possible in the southern part of Sweden and also on the western coastline up through Gothenburg. The latitude of the southern part of our country is about the same as that of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Conversely, the northern most golf course is about 2000 km north of that (approx. 1200 miles), the course being a 9-hole layout that sometimes does not open until the last week in June and closes during the first part of September. There is a bonus, however, in that on three such courses golfers can play 24 hours a day under the midnight sun.

In the north we find several problems in maintaining golf courses, educating greenkeepers and so on, since the circumstances are so very different. However, most of Sweden's courses are situated in the southernmost third of the country, where the golf season and maintenance programmes are most similar to northern Britain, rather than extremes found in north of Sweden.

Grass species

All the familiar species known to flourish in cool season countries may be found in Sweden. Looking specifically at our greens, we have a major problem with *Poa annua*, which we try to fight; live with, and fight again – but we still have it! We look toward traditional British greenkeeping practices in introducing more fescue and bent species on our greens, with the most popular mixture for seeding being approx. 90-95% red fescue and 5-10% bent grass. Creeping bent is sometimes used, but this is not as dominant as the mixture. We have also witnessed some courses being seeded with pure bent grass, and I guess in these cases they are convinced that they have used the only right thing!

Tees are generally seeded with fescue-bent and fairways either with fescue-bent or Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Rye-grass is not used very much, unless somebody wants to effect a very quick repair on some areas.

Machinery trends

Ransome, Jacobsen and Toro are the biggest brands, though of course we have many other machines, mainly imported from GB or the USA. Greens are usually mown with triplex ride-ons, though some greenkeepers use walk-behind mowers for big tournaments. Tees and aprons are also mown with triplex greens mowers or other fine cutting machines. Fairway are cut with Ransomes 350's or similar, though we now see quite a few courses changing over from 7-gang tractor-pulled fairway mowers to 5-gang self-propelled machines. The new generation of light mowers for fairways have also found their way into our country and these will no doubt soon find great popularity.

Machinery used on Swedish golf courses is generally quite new and modern. We are also fortunate in having pretty good storage buildings and workshops for maintenance. I think that Swedish

Golf 24 hours a day, in the land of midnight sun



STIG PERSSON on greenkeeping in Sweden

greenkeepers would rather ride than walk, so we have many transportation vehicles!

Crews, wages and the cost of living

Generally a 18-hole course will have between two and five full-time staff, supplemented in the season with temporary workers as an average 5-7000 working hours for a 18-hole course is quite right.

Working time in Sweden is typically 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. All other work is overtime and it is not unusual for several hundred hours of overtime to be logged annually in order to mow greens seven days a week, change the holes and all those other jobs that have to be done, not least on Saturdays and Sundays.

Working titles in Sweden are similar to those in Britain: We are using the English title for the head greenkeeper and use a Swedish translation for course manager. In addition, those persons known in the English tongue as greenkeepers are known similarly, though this also is translated into Swedish.

Wages in Sweden are, I think, more uniform than in Great Britain, though it is always difficult to relate wages and other differentials from one country to another, especially as tax programmes, insurance and many other things are different. One thing is very common though, everybody thinks they pay too much in taxes! Living expenses are high in Sweden, especially for the basics of life like food and beverages.

How is golf organised in Sweden?

Sweden has always shown a great interest in being properly organised, of that there is no doubt when one looks at how our golfers, golf courses and golf clubs are organised. Every golfer is registered as a member of the Swedish Golf Federation through their club; and we have no real municipal golf courses. The first pay-and-play course has opened close to Gothenburg and in the Federation there is a programme for expanding and/or creating alternative golf course constructions. These can be Par 3 courses, or driving ranges with possibilities for changing practising direction; length, and so on. The tables show how we are organised.

The Swedish Greenkeepers Association

In 1978 the Swedish Greenkeepers Association was formed, and everybody who works on a golf course can be a member. Today the SGA has

more than 700 members and is second only to BIGGA as the biggest greenkeepers association in Europe. Our SGA works very closely with the Green Section of the Swedish Golf Federation in all programmes concerning the education of greenkeepers, chairmen of green committees, constructors and so on. The Green Section has eight advisers/agronomists in different regions and every golf course in Sweden is entitled to at least one free visit from their agronomist each year. This is paid for through a subscription made to the Federation by every club member, a fee of about £10 per year. Our Swedish agronomists are also involved as teachers at those colleges which have greenkeeper education programmes, as well as giving lectures and presentations at conferences and seminars promoted by both the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and the Swedish Golf Federation.

Our own greenkeeping magazine

Greenbladet is a magazine for Swedish greenkeepers that is issued four times a year and has 56-60 pages, mostly 4-colour. The magazine was founded by me and I am the editor. The aim is for the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to head the magazine from 1993. It is, of course, written in Swedish and thus its only readership interest outside Sweden is in the Scandinavian countries. Each issue has a circulation of 3000 copies.

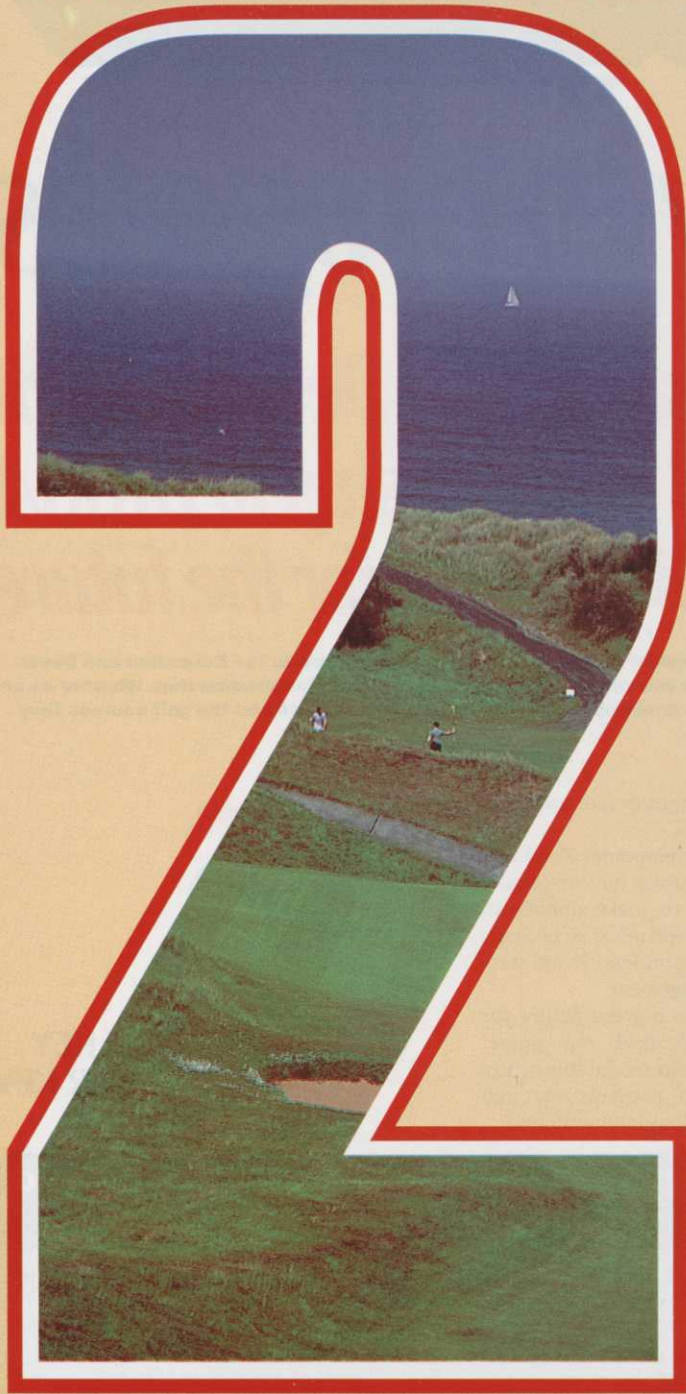
The international connection

We have found over the years that we have much to learn from British greenkeepers (maybe something to bring back), so we have tried to participate in your programmes at conferences and meetings. Not surprisingly, we enjoy a very close and positive relationship with BIGGA. We also try to get international speakers to our conferences and thus far we have enlisted the skills of Jimmy Kidd, Jack McMillan, Eric Shiel and Neil Thomas, all of whom have visited Sweden as speakers. We have also been represented several times at BIGGA conferences and we think this is a good way of transferring experience from one country to another.

In many ways we can see that golf course maintenance is very much the same – with the same joys and sorrows – all over the world. We all belong to the wonderful greenkeeping world!

◆ The author, Stig Persson, is the editor of *Greenblat*, the magazine for Swedish and Scandinavian greenkeepers.

There are now



You can now join **BIGGA** either through the usual subscription route or via the Education and Development Fund, as a member of the Golden or Silver Key Circle. Full details are outlined overleaf.

Membership benefits for either route include:

- ◆ Monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' - the Association's own high quality colour magazine and essential reading.
- ◆ Full Legal Advisory Service - including legal helpline card.
- ◆ Full employment cover, full personal injury cover, pursuit of civil claims by the insured for damages, specific performance or injunction arising from or out of: a) a contract of employment; b) death or personal injury of the insured from any claim.
- ◆ Personal accident cover - will provide the following capital sums: Death - £5,000. Permanent total disablement - £5,000. Permanent total loss of sight of one or both eyes - £5,000. Permanent total loss of hearing of both ears - £2,500. Permanent total loss of hearing of one ear - £500. Permanent loss of one or more limbs - £5,000. There is also cover for permanent loss by physical separation of thumb, finger or toe.
- ◆ Members suffering temporary total disablement in excess of seven days will receive a weekly income of £35 for a maximum of 104 weeks - options to increase benefits are available.
- ◆ Use the Association's Placement Referral Scheme, to keep up to date with the employment scene.
- ◆ Utilise **BIGGA**'s services for expert advice on financial management - our consultants will advise on mortgages, investments, life, household, private medical and motor insurance. Don't forget the **BIGGA** Personal Pension plan.
- ◆ Take advantage of reduced delegate fees at the **BIGGA** Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference as well as regional seminars.
- ◆ **BIGGA** is international - all items in the membership package are available to members both in the Republic of Ireland and internationally. (International users of the legal helpline card should note that advice will relate to either English or Scottish law. The card can be used when the member is visiting Great Britain, both for advice and in respect of any claims arising during or from such visits.)
- ◆ For all members - A **BIGGA** pen, car sticker and tax disc holder.
- ◆ All new Greenkeeper members joining in 1993 will receive an Association tie.
- ◆ **BIGGA** welcomes the ladies - lady members joining in the Associate category will receive a headscarf, a **BIGGA** pen, car sticker and tax disc holder to signify their membership in addition to the Associate membership card.
- ◆ The legal and insurance benefits are only effective following payment of subscriptions. Any delay in payment after 1 January could cause a problem - don't take the risk!

ways to join the **British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association**, or
to renew your membership*



*EXISTING MEMBERS: Do nothing yet - stand by your letterboxes for renewal information sent directly to you

BIGGA greatly values and appreciates contributions to the Education and Development Fund and accordingly wishes to give recognition to those contributing. Those supporting the Fund will become members of a 'circle' which will bring certain ongoing benefits:

Membership benefits of Golden Key Circle

Companies/Groups

- Listing in 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Key supporter – magazine profile
- Plaque
- Annual luncheon – BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Priority stand space – BIGGA marquee, Open Championship.

Contribution: Donations of over £3,000 annually

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 15% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of over £150 annually



Membership benefits of Silver Key Circle

Companies/Groups

- Listing in 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Plaque
- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine

Contribution: Donations of £1,000 – £3,000 annually

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 7.5% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of £75 – £150 annually

Join the inner Circle and ensure a great future for greenkeepers and the golf courses they manage and maintain.

The Next Step

is to complete and post the pre-paid Membership Request Card in this issue.

Existing Members: Do nothing yet – we'll contact you direct.

♦ Important – all greenkeeper members will be required to obtain a passport size photograph to validate their 1993 membership cards. The design of the card allows for the photograph to be sealed, thereby giving proof of identity and preventing any possible misuse of membership cards, particularly in relation to seeking courtesy of the golf course. Photographs are to be affixed by members personally on receipt of their card and should not be sent to Headquarters.

The BIGGA recommended minimum salary/wage scale

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary/wages scale, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff. Quoted rates apply from 1 January, 1993.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£18,230	£19,880	£22,250
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£13,160	£14,340	£16,040
First Assistant	£219.00 pw	£219.00 pw	£219.00 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£206.00 pw	£206.00 pw	£206.00 pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper (all courses) Age 16/17: £103.00 pw; Age 18: £128.75 pw; Age 19: £154.50 pw; Age 20: £180.25 pw; Age 21+: £206.00 pw.			

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations up to a maximum of 24% in the South East Region.

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the appropriate Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

Basic conditions of employment should include:

1. Where accommodation is provided by the Club, it should be rent free with heating/lighting costs borne by the Club. The Club should compensate for Poll Tax/Council Tax Liability.
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the Club, a suitable remuneration in addition to the above salary should be paid.
3. 40 hour week.
4. Retirement Pension Scheme.
5. Telephone costs on Club business.
6. Mileage allowance.
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.



New subs rate for '93

The Board of Management has approved the subscriptions for 1993 as indicated below:

	New Members In 1993	Current Members if paying before 31 Jan.93
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£55.00	£50.00
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£48.00	£43.00
First Assistant/Assistant Greenkeeper	£42.00	£39.00
20 years of age or under	£28.00	£25.00
International – all greenkeeping staff	£50.00	
Associate/Company (including one year's subscription to 'Greenkeeper International')	£48.00	
Associate/Company without magazine	£23.00	
Corporate	£550.00	

NB: The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper subscription rate should apply.

1992 members will be invoiced for subscriptions due prior to 1st January 1993. If you have not received your renewal notice by the end of December, please contact Headquarters.

Those enrolling in the Associate/Company membership category will be encouraged to play a full part in the Association's affairs. Associate members will be those having a close interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. As such this category of membership will be of interest to Chairmen of Green Committees, Club Secretaries, Golf Course Architects and Constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping. Company membership is available on an individual or corporate basis and will be of interest to those employed within the fine turf industries.

Individual membership cards will be issued and will entitle the member to participate in all national, regional and section events authorised by the Association.

Holders of Associate and Company membership cards are not entitled to use their cards to seek courtesy of the golf course.

Delegate fees at both the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference, as well as at Regional seminars, will be offered to Associate and Company members at a discounted rate. Whilst many members may wish to identify with a particular local section or region, members are able to participate nationally if they so wish. They will be allocated to the section covering the geographical area in which they reside.

All Associate/Company members (with the exception of those Associate members in the £23 category) will receive each month a copy of 'Greenkeeper International', the Association's official publication and essential reading for those involved with or interested in greenkeeping.

A special Corporate rate is available for those companies wishing to enrol an unlimited number of their staff as members of the Association and individual membership cards will be issued.



Christmas Gift ideas



Be on the ball this Christmas – settle all your present-buying problems with exclusive, top quality BIGGA merchandise! Fill Santa's sack with a whole range of goodies shown on this page. Choose a smart BIGGA blazer or perhaps a stylish rainsuit. You can buy with confidence because each item has the BIGGA seal of approval – and a BIGGA logo too!



£87⁹⁵ Inc. P+P

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Available in Navy (as picture), Light Blue or Green

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How about this for a great deal – a BIGGA Cap at the special festive season offer price of just £5.95 – that's a huge 35% off the normal price! But you'll need to hurry – only limited stocks available at this price! Colours: Navy, Beige, Black, Maroon.

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Blazer badges (Order No. BO9) ..£11.95
Lapel badge (Order No. B14)£2.45

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- Manual on Golf Course Construction, Turf Establishment and Cultural Practices (James Beard)£22.00
- Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity and Industrial Areas£12.00
- Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction, written by members of the USGA Green Section and edited by William H Bengeyfield£2.50

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Valuable

Ransomes

DAVID WHITE pays homage to the 'Greenkeeper's Mecca' – BIGGA supporter and an Education and Development Fund Golden Key Circle member, Ransomes Sims and Jefferies

When I first entered what was, for me, the new and uncharted field of greenkeeping, a field about which I thought I could write dispassionately and about which I fancied I knew something, there came a time, soon after the honeymoon was over, when the penny finally dropped: this editor was dead without the help, support and understanding of 'the trade'!

Fortunately, help was not far away and came – almost by telepathy – by way of an invitation for me to spend a day at the Ransomes Sims and Jefferies plant at Ipswich, a place which I now think of as 'The Greenkeeper's Mecca'. My invitation, the very first I ever received in my new editorial capacity, was to witness at first hand the design, planning and construction of modern grass machinery – a slab of raw steel entering one end of the factory, a beautifully crafted machine rolling off the line some half mile distant.

Following my detailed tour I came away in awe, liking what I had seen so much that, like Victor Kiam of Remington fame, I would have loved to buy the company. Pipe dreams apart, I did buy into the company as a preferential shareholder – the first and only time I've ever dabbled in the stock market.

If all this seems just a little OTT, my opinion hasn't altered and I still think Ransomes are somewhat special – their staff training is second to none, their sales force the most technically expert I've ever come across (and the most cheerful), whilst the support I've received from the delightful Karen Smith, Ransomes PR specialist, has been unparalleled. Last but not least, Ransomes machinery is quality epitomised and they are and always have been innovators par excellence. From top to bottom the company reeks of class!

Greenkeepers will identify with Ransomes through their own favourite salesman (and, I'll be bound, with at least one piece of Ransomes, Cushman or Ryan machinery in just about every inventory), whilst for the purpose of this Gold Key tribute, I shall identify with two stalwarts of the company, John Wilson, the general sales and marketing manager for Ransomes grass machinery, and Richard Bishop, the company's sales manager.

Though Ransomes employ some 3000 people world-wide (including Kimber and Supreme Mowing in the UK, Ransomes SA in France, Ransomes GMBH in Germany and Steiner, Cushman, Ryan, Ransomes Inc. and Brouwer in the USA) the force at Ipswich has become somewhat stream-

lined compared with earlier times. This may be accounted for in part by massive infusions of high-tech equipment and certainly by high-tech management and high-tech thinking. Such modernistic planning serves to explain why Ransomes people are never stumped for an answer – they're all so well versed, so clued-up. That stated, the road to the top is almost always via the factory floor, a route followed with great success by John Wilson.

John joined Ransomes direct from school in 1949 and followed the time honoured route of apprentice training in every works department, whilst nurturing from the very beginning a desire to move into sales and marketing. "How did you get the break", I queried, "simple enough", he replied, "I asked for it"! By asking, John was given his first taste of sales, a spell of some three years in north London as a demonstrator and service engineer. "In those days, we used to undertake quite major repair jobs on site", he told me, "and business was slanted more on the farm machinery side, it was valuable experience and has stood me in good stead ever since".

Moving on, John became a 'salesman' proper in 1958, working in both home and export sales and concentrating on mainland Europe and Scandinavia – an example of the workload undertaken may be seen in a typical overseas tour: eight countries visited in three months, calling on prospects, visits prearranged through distributors, demonstrating the capabilities of Ransomes unique machinery. Again indicative of thorough training, it impresses me that any Ransomes man is capable of leaping on any Ransomes machine and making it perform miracles!

Pioneering is part of a salesman's make-up, and following his success in Europe John was away on the pioneering trail in Canada. Upon arrival he bought a truck, loaded it with Ransomes grasscutting machinery and began a countrywide tour, right across that great country. Those heady days in the fifties were certainly trail blazing, and John likes to think that his early invasions were in some way instrumental in forging the basis for what now is a flourishing N. American business for the company.

A further step up came in the early sixties when Guy Catchpole, Ransomes then sales manager (now retired) invited John to become his second in command, a very important upward move. For some twenty or more years, John worked alongside Guy, promoting world-wide sales

16

Valuable Ransomes



John Wilson, left and Richard Bishop

15 → and formulating marketing strategy in the grasscutting machinery sector, the high flyer in the company's range and successor to farm machinery as the anchorstone. When Guy was promoted to sales and marketing director, John was promoted to general sales and marketing manager. This was followed in due course by yet further promotion and the rest, as they say, is history.

Listening to John I soon realised that this man had wrapped his life around Ransomes, that it had become his life. To the stock question "what about your personal life, your hobbies?", he was quick to reply, "a little golf, an interest in photography, but if you *really* want to know what makes me tick, it's my work. Because our business is so fascinating, so absorbing, work doesn't seem arduous at all – Ransomes becomes your life" This sentiment was endorsed by Richard Bishop, and though I am jumping ahead in writing this, Richard's comments fit neatly into the story: "I know it sounds terribly corny", he said, "but corny or not, like John, I have Ransomes as my hobby..."

Richard Bishop, the man whose hobby is his work, is an Ipswich man born and bred. Unlike John, he didn't enter Ransomes via the apprentice route, rather as a twenty year old who had made a few false starts in other fields. Keen to grasp the opportunity that Ransomes offered, originally in production control, Richard likes to recall those heady days on the line, of first meeting up with Colin Gregory all those years ago in the late sixties, of all the good times that were enjoyed. Training by doing is Ransomes way, and when an opportunity to enter the buying department came about, Richard leapt at the chance. Following a highly successful year in buying, Richard moved into sales of electric trucks, sales being a sector he had been anxious to enter and this being the first rung. A further enlightening year came in PR, spent working alongside the great character that was Perry Crewdson, followed by the opportunity he'd really been waiting for – grass machinery sales.

Beginning as a demonstrator at a time when things were changing – grass machinery on the up, farm machinery demand in freefall – Richard soon gained promotion and was 'on the road', first as an area demonstrator in Sussex, then as area representative. In 1983, with business expanding, he was promoted yet again to field sales manager, travelling the country, looking after the business side of selling, nurturing salesmen, demonstrating, making things happen, if you like.

Now UK sales manager and controlling the grass machin-

ery team, Richard still spends time on territory, though increasingly his work brings him back to Ipswich and the deskbound life.

As a twosome, John and Richard tossed lovely quotable snippets at me – "we may be the oldest established company in grasscutting, but we are up to the minute with our ideas", said Richard. "Consider the following", said John, "we were the first company, in 1832, to introduce the lawnmower, the first with a motor lawnmower around 1900, the first with a mains/electric mower in the thirties, the first with a power driven gang mower – the Powerquint – in the sixties, the first hydraulically driven gang mower – the Hydraulic 57 – in 1967, the first all hydraulic ride-on in the late sixties, and the first with powered electronics – the GT – in the mid eighties".

A babble of cross talk now – "we are into evolution rather than revolution", ventures John, "we give the customer what he wants", chips in Richard, "and what the customer needs" adds John. I almost take these things for granted, seeing Ransomes as leaders in the business of making machinery that is both cost effective and commercially viable. I need no further convincing.

Of the BIGGA connection there is massive empathy, both with the cause and with the greenkeeper. Ransomes have been loyal supporters since the early days and indeed they like to think they were amongst the pioneers in our education revolution – "we were always close, our reps were giving lectures back in the fifties", John told me, "we welcome a strong Association and want to get even closer".

On the question of closeness, Richard urged me to tell readers of Greenkeeper International that his company positively encourages group visits – "we are one of the few companies with the ability to show everything we make in all stages of production – the slab of steel at one end, the finished product at the other". Having witnessed this show-piece of modern technology, I can endorse Richard's sentiments.

Let John Wilson have the final say: "We have long since brushed aside the 'grandfather image' and are a force to be recognised, we can with pride look to our slogan 'Ransomes for total turfcare', for with the acquisition of Cushmans and Ryan in 1989 we doubled our size and our design capabilities. Our design centres at Ipswich and in the USA are manned by a powerful group of development engineers, clever men who know that new products are our lifeblood". I'll endorse those sentiments too.



Water ways

MICHAEL BIRD investigates irrigation shutdown procedures

Preparation for the shutting down of a golf course irrigation system should start from the moment the system is turned on in the spring.

As with any piece of equipment that is required to work day in, day out without failure on a seasonal basis, one should be watching out for problems, wear and tear during the complete period that the irrigation system is in full operation. Indeed, faults which do not affect significantly the day to day running of the system, but which may be detrimental in the long term, are usually more easily rectified when the system has been drained down for the winter.

"The majority of problems can be picked up by good forward observation," comments Trevor Neale, technical manager with irrigation consultants, Philip York and Partners, Fordingbridge, Hants. "Our advice is to think and plan ahead so that remedial action can be taken as soon as the system is closed down for the winter months." Mr Neale says that this can be assisted by the establishment of a routine reporting procedure to enable green staff to note faults, problems and changes in system performance as and when they occur during the summer months. Then, when the pumpset is shut down and the system drained at the end of the season, the appropriate work can be carried out to ensure that the system is ready for the following year's start-up. However, ensuring that a sprinkler irrigation system is kept in good working order is more fundamental than simply rectifying problems ready for the new season.

The system must be correctly shut-down and left in a condition which will minimise risk of damage or deterioration over winter. The first action after closing the mains stopcock is to take a reading from the water meter. This reading should match that on the bill from the water authority and one should also ensure that the club is not being charged for sewage disposal based on the volume of water supplied. After all, none of the water applied to a golf course should find its way back into the main drains for treatment.

Any pipework between the main water stopcock and the holding reservoir or tank should be drained. This is particularly important on exposed riser pipes to ball valves, which are highly prone to frost damage. If the pipe is above ground and cannot be fully drained, always ensure that it is properly insulated and protected against the elements.

Insulation has a habit of attracting rodents and other pests, so don't assume that because a pipe was well insulated last year it is still fully protected one year on. A check now can save a great deal of time, money and inconvenience in a few months' time.

The majority of irrigation systems have some form of holding tank located close to the pump house. Unlined steel tanks should be drained and repainted if necessary. Those with a butyl lining should be drained sufficiently to leave the float valve fully open but still contain enough water to

provide tank stability and prevent the majority of the tank drying out. To minimise the risk of frost damage, place a piece of polystyrene, a large floating ball or a plastic container in the tank to absorb expansion caused by freezing.

Where the tank is left with water in, turn off the gate valve between the tank and the pump. If the tank is drained and the mains stopcock closed, this should be left open, as should all other valves in the system to assist drain-down. Maintenance work on the storage tank can usually wait until the rest of the system has been dealt with. However, it is important not to forget to keep the tank clear of leaves and other debris that can enter and on start up.

All too often, the storage reservoir for the system is hidden away out of sight and out of mind. One important item that should be checked regularly during the winter months is the level of the water in the tank. If it rises significantly, water is probably getting in past the mains stop valve and this should be dealt with promptly. Alternatively, if the level falls significantly, check for a leaking valve, or worse still, a perished or holed liner.

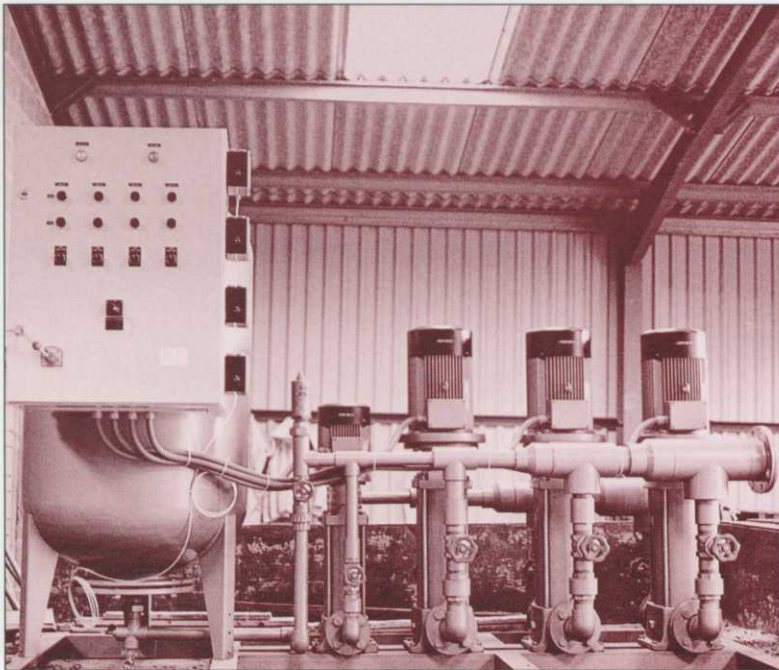
Pumps should be housed in a purpose-designed building complete with suitable insulation and thermostatically-controlled heaters to protect against freezing. In addition to checking that the over-winter protection is in place and functioning correctly, Mr Neale advises greenkeepers to keep the pump house securely locked against pilfering or vandalism – regrettably becoming increasingly

Clear the debris and grease

17 → common in places which are not under 24 hour observation. "Preventing human entry is one thing, but it is also advisable to protect the building against animals and the cold," he points out. "In summer, ventilation is needed to help keep the pumps cool. In winter, I recommend sealing air bricks and fan housings, not forgetting to remove the seals in the spring." The condition of the pump house also needs to be checked for deterioration to walls, floor, roof and windows which can let in cold, damp or rain, cancelling out the effect of any heaters or insulation.

Preparation for winter storage of the pump or pumps should start with the removal of the drain plugs at the base of each pump and the breather or pressure gauge on the top. This action will encourage the free movement of water out of the casing. If possible, position a container to collect the water or connect a hose to the drain point to prevent the pump house floor becoming flooded. All other drain valves should be opened to ensure that no water remains in the pipework between the gate valve and the pump, or on the delivery side of the pump. The majority of pump systems will incorporate one or more non-return valves. Maintenance staff must ensure that the pipework is drained on both sides of these valves and not trapped upstream.

Winter maintenance for pumps commences with the clearing away of any dirt or debris and lightly greasing of all exposed metal parts. Worn or flaking paint should be sanded down and retouched. Grease should be applied through any nipples fitted until the old grease is pushed from the gland seal. If gate valves are fitted on manifolds or between pump sets, they should not be



Closing down the pump system should be based on individual manufacturers' instructions. Basic drill includes draining inlet and outlet isolation valves, turn power-off but provide some form of 'protective' heating for the pump house.

Pictured: Grundfos pumps for the Toro 650 independent head control system used for the Berkshire club's 36 holes

left fully opened. A half-turn back will normally prevent sticking.

Filters also require attention. Removal, stripping and cleaning or renewal are advised in line with the pump maker's recommendations. Finally, once the pump or pumps have been prepared for over-winter storage, do not lock the door and forget them. A once-a-month check of

the pumphouse is an essential part of the maintenance programme as is the turning of the pumps by hand or by a momentary spin of their electric motors to prevent partial seizure in one position.

Submersible pumps installed in a reservoir should be removed from the water where practicable, drained and lubricated prior to winter storage. Because these are expected to work

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metal parts

Ensure that water has drained from within the head and clear any dirt or debris which may prevent the pop-up from closing properly

continuously during the summer in a hostile environment, it will be worthwhile having them checked over and serviced while they are away from their normal location. The result will provide greater peace of mind following year.

Because many modern motors and control panels contain anti-condensation heaters, it is often necessary to leave the mains electric power switched on over winter. Mr Neale recommends that pumps are isolated by removal of their fuses if they cannot be immobilised without turning off the mains switch. The fuse can then be replaced if the pump needs to be turned over during the winter months.

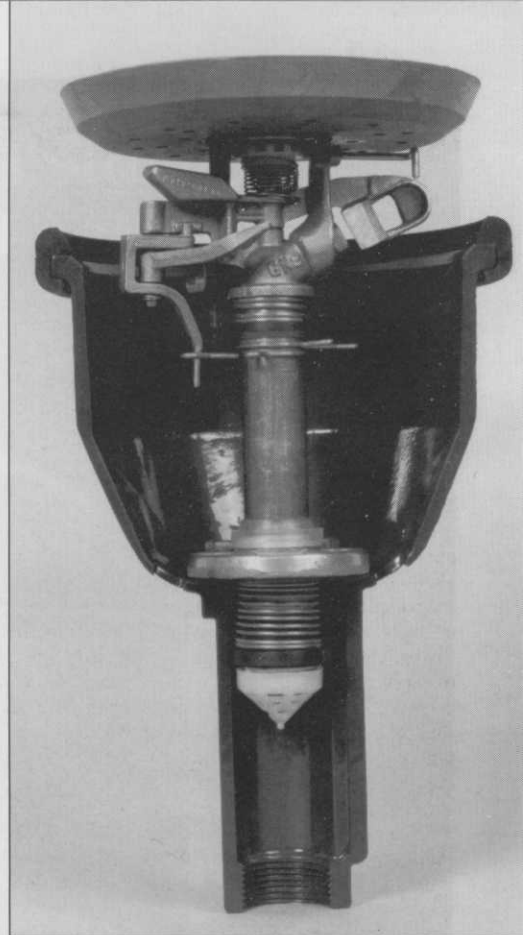
A pressure vessel is often located in the pump to provide a 'buffer' in the system and prevent the switching on when just a small quantity of water is drawn from the pipework, for example, when hand watering a green. The vessel should have its drain opened and this should remain open over winter. Similarly, any pressure relief valve or pressure regulating valve should be drained. Mr Neale points out that staff should be especially careful of pressure regulator valves which usually contain a diaphragm and control pipework in which water can become trapped. "Most regulators have a drain plug to let water out but it may also be necessary to disconnect the pipework to allow water and air to escape," he comments. "At this time, the diaphragm can be checked for cracks, perishing or dirt. After dismantling, it is most important that the assembly is reset to the correct pressure before start-up in the spring.

The majority of underground pressure mains feeding sprinkler irrigation systems are installed below 600mm depth, which will normally be ade-

quate to prevent freezing in all but the most Arctic of winters. Nevertheless, pipes do rise to the surface throughout the system so draining is vital if frost damage is to be avoided. Drain cocks should be positioned at the lowest points of the underground pipe system and these should be located (using the architect's installation plan if necessary) and opened to allow the water to escape. This can take quite a time and will produce a great deal of water when one considers that a typical irrigation system covering the greens, tees and approaches on an 18 hole course can consist of 7,000 metres of 80mm or 100mm diameter pipe. The total outflow could be more than 20,000 litres. As a result, Trevor Neale says it is important to check that the water can get away freely without causing a flood.

To clear the underground mains completely of water, compressed air can be blown through the pipework, although this will need to be done with care at various points around the system. Hand watering point valves - normally located in the control boxes - must also be opened to drain local water. Lever valves should not be left fully open to prevent water lodging in the valve mechanism and freezing. Similarly, solenoid valve boxes are extremely vulnerable to frost but can normally be drained completely, because they are installed at a shallower depth than the underground pipework.

One area which concerns Mr Neale is the construction and condition of the valve box chamber. "It is vital that the area be kept clean and free from water," he comments. "All too often we find installations with inadequate drainage below the solenoid valve. As a result, the solenoid and cable



joints may be sitting in water for much of the year." He says that the winter months are a good time to dismantle the chamber and install a drainage pipe and suitable drainage medium, such as gravel, beneath valve assemblies susceptible to flooding. Unless suspect or showing signs of wear and tear, the wiring to the → 22



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IRRIGATION CHECKLIST Your guide to manufacturers, dealers and distributors throughout the UK

Company Name	System/s Supplied	Manufacturer	Dealer/Distributor	Area UK	Other Countries	Spares	Repair/Service Maintenance	Telephone/Address
MJ Abbott Ltd	Buckner			South West		✓	✓	0722 716 361. Bratch Lane, Dinton, Salisbury, Wilts SP3 5EB
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd	All types, inc. Toro, Rainbird, Hunter	✓	✓	All areas	Europe	✓	✓	0772 812433. 160 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank, Preston PR4 6AE
Aquaflow (Irrigation Systems & Service)	Weathermatic	✓	✓	W. London/Home Counties		✓	✓	0831 380627. 43 Ludlow, Bracknell Berks RE12 4BZ
Aquaplast	Prime Watermen and Javelin		✓	Bucks/Berks/Oxon UK mainland		✓	✓	0772 813571. 109 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, Preston PR4 6RU
Aqua Pump Services	Toro		✓		Eire	✓	✓	1-337777. 26 Casino Rd, Marino, Dublin 3, Eire
Bell Turf Irrigation Services	Toro supplied Others serviced		✓	East Midlands Lincs/Leics/Notts/Humb		✓	✓	0777 817410. Milners Holt, Everton Doncaster DN10 5DR
British Overhead	Pop-up sprinklers (Buckner, Hunter, Toro)		✓	All areas		✓	✓	0932 788301. Upper Halliford Green Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8SB
	CIC 1 and 4 Zone controllers/decoders	✓	✓					
	Hard-wire controllers		✓					
	Self-travelling sprinklers	✓						
C.I. Irrigation (Drilling) Ltd	Toro		✓	Channel Islands		✓	✓	0534 57013. Wayside, Rue de Samare, St Clement, Jersey
Flanderblade Ltd	Irrigation lagoons, Impact sprinklers		✓	Southern		✓	✓	0903 724545. 20 Whiteacre, Littlehampton W. Sussex BN17 7JA
GB Irrigation	Gear driven. 2 wire, 3 wire control systems		✓	All areas	Spain/Italy/Germany Greece/Turkey/Hungary	✓	✓	0425 473329. 20 Market Place, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1AW
Glen Heat & Irrigation	Buckner/Hunter		✓	All areas		✓	✓	0775 722327. Spalding Rd, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs PE11 3UE
Hortech Systems Ltd	All systems		✓	All areas		✓	✓	0406 26513. Station St, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs PE12 7LF
ILS Irrigation Systems	Watermation/other		✓	S. England/Mids/E. Anglia		✓	✓	0832 272450. Oundle Rd, Lutton, Peterborough PE8 5ND
Irrigation Technical Services	Toro/Hunter/Weathermatic		✓	All areas	Europe Scandinavia	✓	✓	0202 874216. Moulin, 43 Pinehurst Rd, West Moors, Dorset BH22 0AH
Irri-Serve Irrigation Systems	Toro		✓	N. West	Europe	✓	✓	0772 601534. Unit 9, Twin Lakes Ind. Pk, Bretherton Rd, Croston, Preston PR5 7RF
Irritec Ltd	Rainbird/Hunter		✓	Ireland		✓	✓	01 8404033. Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin, Ireland
ISS (Irrigation Contracts)	Toro		✓	South/S.West/Home Counties Channel Islands		✓	✓	0722 412510. Unit 6, The Bourne Centre, Salisbury Business Park, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2NY
Landscape Irrigation Systems	Any automatic system		✓	All areas		✓	✓	0425 473790. River View, Salisbury Rd, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1AS
Jersey Farmers Trading Union	Toro		✓	Channel Islands		✓	✓	0534 33277. 20 Commercial Bldgs, St Helier, Jersey.
Midland Irrigation Systems	All systems		✓	All areas		✓	✓	021 358 1246. 2 Fairdene Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5JS
Mist Irrigation System Controls Ltd	Own 2 wire system	✓	✓	All areas		✓	✓	0425 474614. Unit 18 Hightown Ind Est, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1ND
North Staffs Irrigation Co.	Wright Rain/others		✓	Midlands/N. West/Central, N. Wales/Lake Dist.		✓	✓	0785 812706. Ivy Mill, Longton Rd, Stone, Staffs ST15 8TL
OCMIS UK Ltd	OCMIS/others	✓	✓	All areas	Ireland	✓	✓	0460 41939. Higher Burrow, Kingsbury, Martlock, Somerset
Par 4 Irrigation Ltd	Toro		✓	N.E. England/N. Lincs/N. Mids		✓	✓	0765 602175. Unit 18, Camp Hill Close, Dallamires La, Ripon HG4 1TT
Prime Watermen Ltd	Weathermatic		✓	All areas		✓	✓	050 278 481. Wangford, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 8AX
Pro-Turf Irrigation	Toro		✓		Eire	✓	✓	51-77659. 16 Ballinakill Court, Ballinakill, Co. Waterford, Eire
SJS	Weathermatic		✓	N. London/Beds/Bucks/Cambs Northants		✓	✓	0836 643877. 5 William Smith Cl, Woolstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AM
Sports Ground Irrigation	Hunter	✓	✓	All areas		✓	✓	0858 463153. 6 Stuart Road, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9PQ
Sports Turf Services	Toro		✓	Scotland		✓	✓	031 333 2345. Newbridge Ind. Ext. Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 8LE
T.I.L. Irrigation Ltd	Toro		✓	All areas	Europe/Africa Middle East	✓	✓	0425 476261. Unit 7 Millstream Tr. Est, Ringwood, Hants
Turf Irrigation Services	Toro		✓	S. East/Mids/N. Eng /Scotland/N. Ireland/Wales	Europe	✓	✓	0477500255. Love La, Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 0TS
Watermation Sprinkler & Controls Ltd	Watermation	✓	✓	All areas	Worldwide	✓	✓	0252 336838. Tongham Rd, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4AA
Weathermatic	Weathermatic	✓	✓	All areas	Europe/Middle East	✓	✓	0202 897781. 17 Moorlands Rd, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0JN
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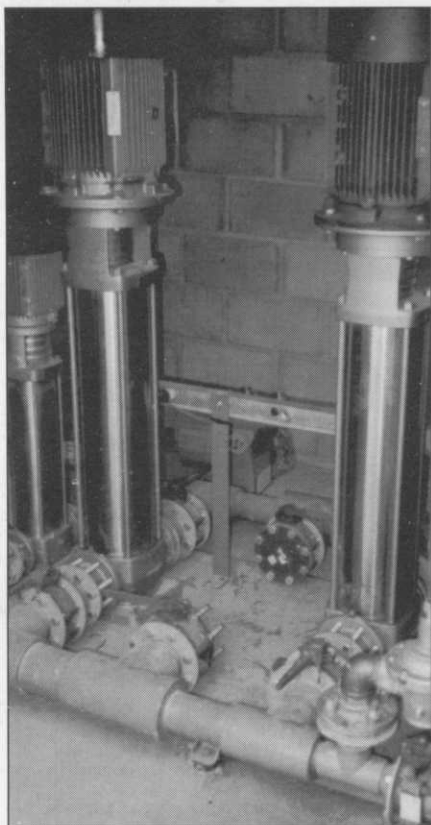
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AD REF 356

Keep controller unit warm



Use the winter months to remove and service system components which have shown signs of wear and tear or reduced performance. Pipework left exposed should be sealed against dirt and moisture.

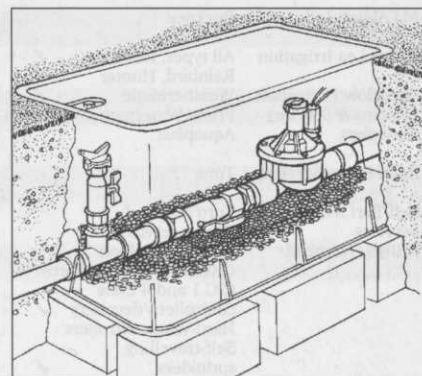
Picture: Cumulus Pump Sets

19 → solenoid valves should remain untouched.

Sprinkler heads normally require little maintenance. If problems do occur, they usually happen during the watering season and will need to be attended to immediately. One point which is often overlooked is the fact that the sprinkler head usually includes a non-return valve to retain water and prevent lateral pipework draining down when the pressure drops.

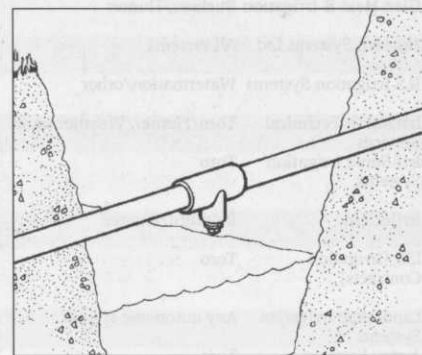
"This retained water will not drain out when the system drain cocks are opened," Neale points out. "There may be a risk that it will freeze and damage the sprinkler head." There are two possible courses of action. One is to unscrew the sprinkler head to allow the water to escape. This will require a great deal of time and labour. The other is to feed low pressure compressed air into the system. Connection points can be fitted to a smaller system later, usually within the pump house, but a large system split into two or more separate circuits may require several inlet points around the course. The consequence is that most greenkeepers keep their fingers crossed and hope that if it does freeze, no damage results.

One part of the irrigation system which must be left for the attention of the supplier or installer is the controller. The unit must be kept dry and warm, ensuring that heaters are functioning properly. Apart from occasionally running the controller through its cycle during the winter months, check with the supplier as to any specific shut-down advice for the unit. The same applies to the rest of the system. All reputable suppliers and installers should provide a plan of the installation together with suitable information for its winter close-down and start-up in the spring. Most will also offer a contract to carry out these operations each year. It is in the greenkeeper's interests not only to become familiar with his system and its components and capabilities, but to ensure also that the supplier and installer provides full guidance on its operation and maintenance.



For maximum over-winter protection, it is recommended that the top of electrical solenoid valves be removed complete with soil assembly, diaphragm and spring, wrapping the parts in polythene.

Illustration: Wright Rain Ltd



Open all drain valves in the underground pipework, not forgetting those crossing streams or ditches which are highly susceptible to freezing.

Illustration: Wright Rain Ltd

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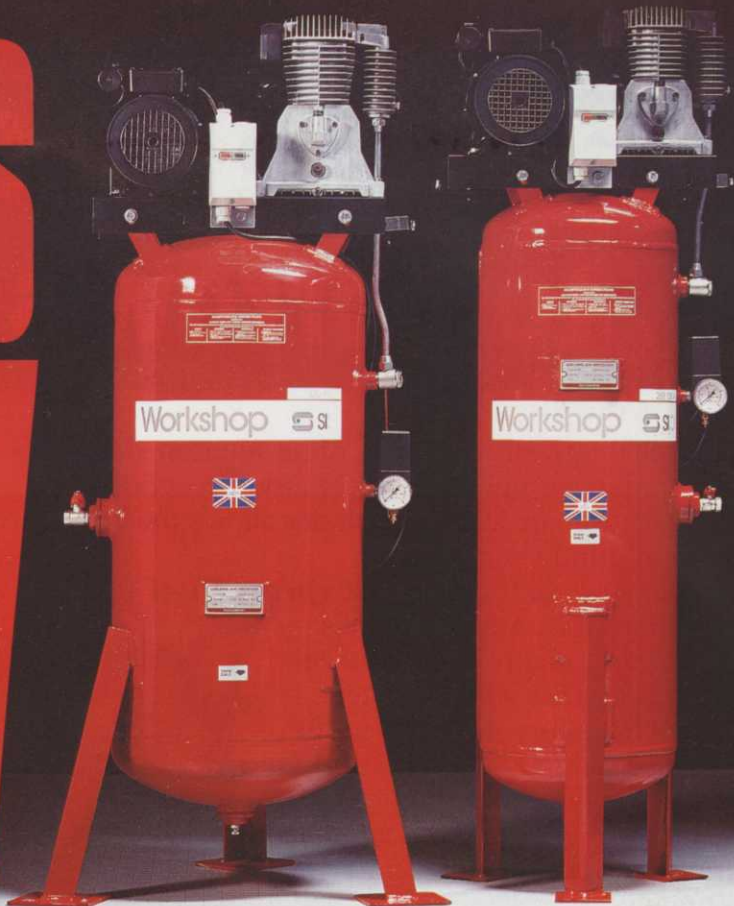
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WHAT'S NEW



MICHAEL BIRD

tracks down some of the latest workshop equipment ideas and innovations designed to make the service engineer's task that little bit easier



Left: The Retractor auto-rewind hose reel can be supplied with hose suitable for delivering water, air, gas, steam, oil or grease.

Above: Vertical compressor design from SIP saves space and improves pump cooling in confined or cluttered areas.

Every workshop needs at least one clean, firm, level surface where hand tools, small machines and assemblies can be inspected, serviced and made ready for another day. Although a spotless and uncluttered surface might be the ideal situation, it is not unusual to find the workbench used also as a table for coffee mugs, and as a place where discarded service components accumulate 'because they might come in useful one day', and where spanners and sockets lurk beneath a pile of cleaning rags and other items.

If you recognise the scene, then the answer might be to let your work bench (with a little tidying) remain as a storage area and invest

in one of the new free-standing benches which can lift equipment from ground level to a suitable working height at the touch of a button. Operated by air, hydraulics or electric motor, these benches are expected to become an essential part of workshop equipment in the coming months for, as workshop equipment specialists, R+R (UK) Ltd point out, employers will have to satisfy important requirements under new Health and Safety legislation coming into force at the beginning of 1993. They include the avoidance of hazardous manual handling operations and the need for employees to bend or kneel or have their working position dictated by the job being carried out.

From the employee's point of view, he or she will have the right to insist on mechanical assistance when lifting and to be equipped with a work station that can be varied to suit one's personal requirements. In basic terms, employers will have no defence against any claim made by an employee injured at work due to inadequate or insufficient lifting or handling equipment. Having specialised in work benches since the mid-eighties, R+R believes that the incoming legislation should not be the sole dictating factor for investment in a new powered-lift work bench. The company points out that the equipment has proved it can improve both the efficiency and the quality of work,

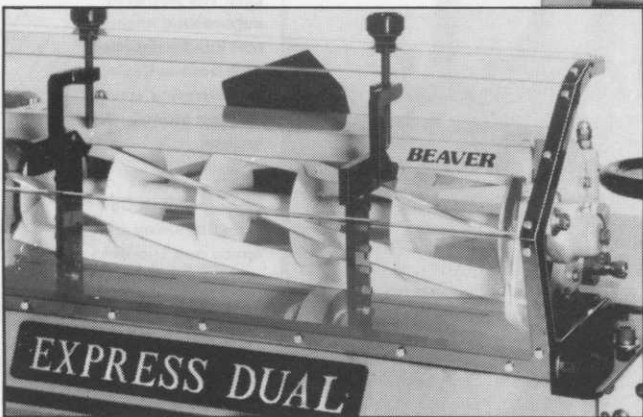
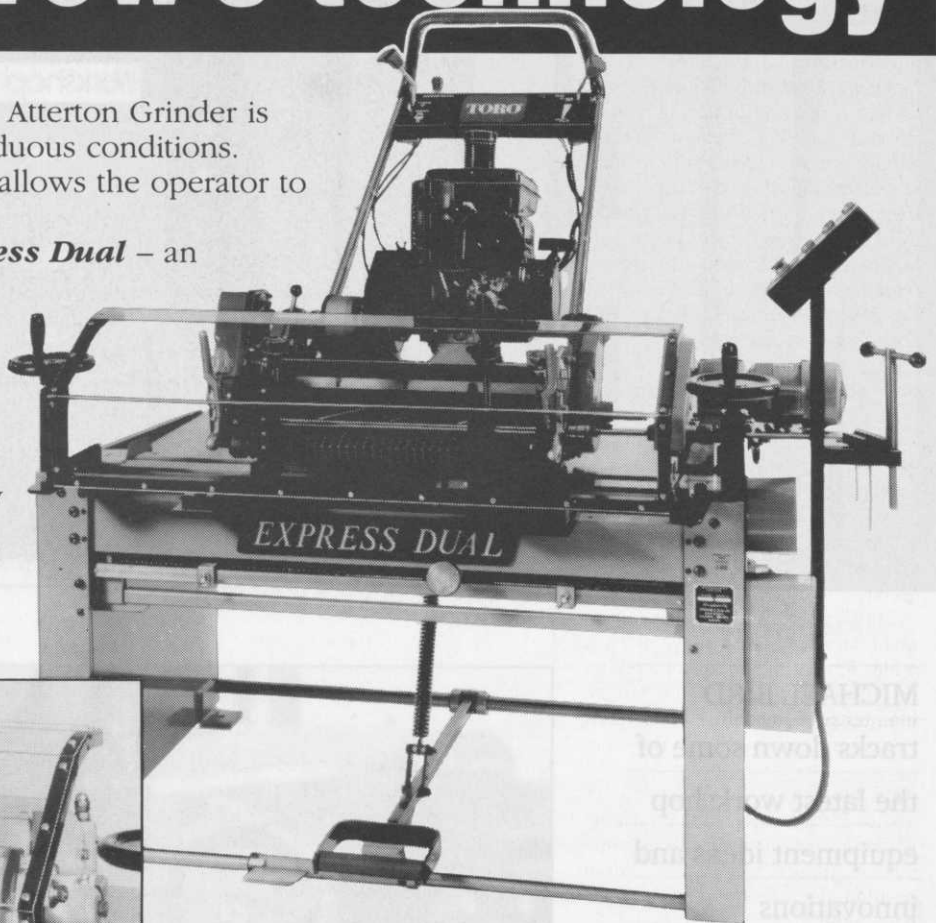
improving staff morale and the speed at which a job is completed.

To further improve the ease of working on pedestrian mowers and other walk-behind machines, R+R has extended its range with the Unilift 380 workbench from the USA. Capable of lifting 200kg to more than 1m high, the unit can be tilted to any angle enabling convenient access to virtually any exposed part of a machine strapped to the work table. The Unilift's platform is raised and lowered on a threaded shaft driven by vee-belt from a 0.5hp electric motor. A control switch automatically stops movement of the work table at the top and bottom of its travel or it can be stopped manually at any convenient

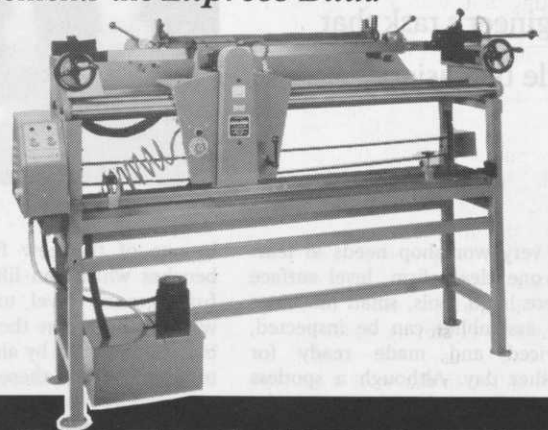
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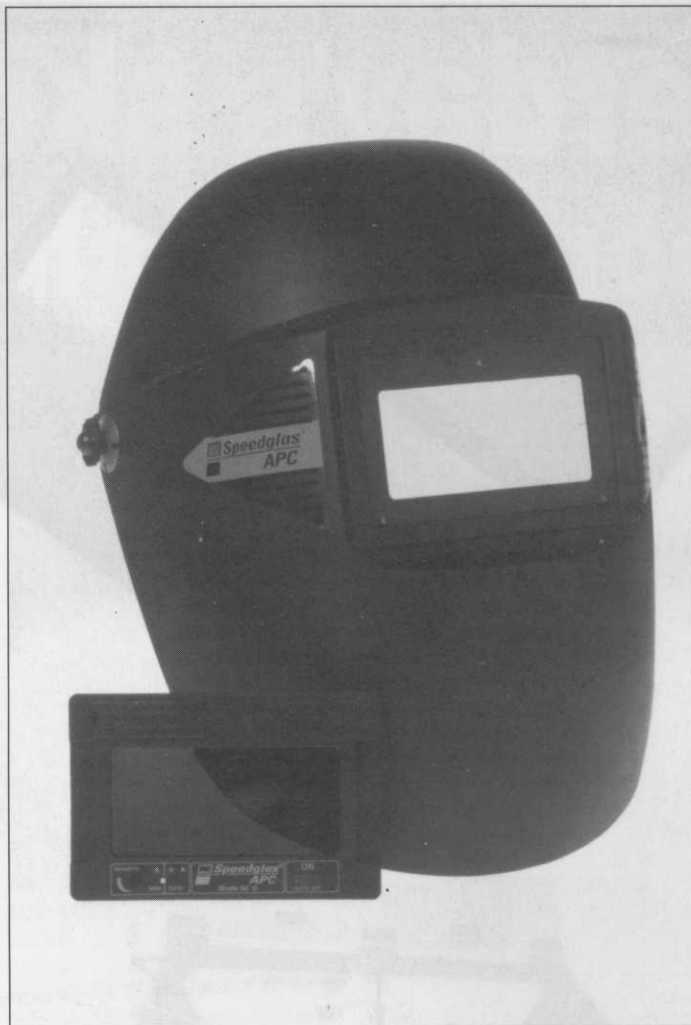
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The filter in the Speedglas welding helmet darkens the instant that light reaches it from the welding arc, leaving both hands free while giving full protection to the eyes



WHAT'S NEW

23 → point in between. Other standard features of the £699 Unilift include a 300mm by 965mm (12in by 38 in) opening in its platform to allow direct access to the underside of pedestrian machines, movable wheel channels to prevent equipment sliding when the platform is tilted, and a large tray to carry tools and parts. In addition to its range of work benches, R+R distributes a number of other useful items suitable for golf course workshops.

Of particular note is a 90 degree drive adaptor for power drills giving improved access for a number of jobs while also enabling the drill to be used more easily with grinding, sanding or buffing discs. Costing £8.95, the adaptor is suitable for 1/4in and 3/8in drills only and gives a 2:1 increase or reduction in speed.

British manufacturer, Sisis Equipment, also produces a range of work tables for use by engineers working on grass-cutting and other course maintenance machinery. Powered by compressor, the company's three model range Pneumate pneumatic work tables can handle equipment up to 500kg (1000lb) at variable working heights, secured for safety by a mechanical lock at the required position. Soon to join the range is a new version of the company 'S' model, currently still under development but designed very much with the golf course workshop in mind. It will have a larger platform than the existing unit, with access ports for easier work on the underside of machines. Lift capacity is to be upgraded to 750kg (1500lb) making it suitable for most triple ride-on greens mowers. Air pressure requirement is 7bar (100psi). Price of the 'S' model is expected to be announced in December.

Suitable for hoses delivering air, water, gas, oil, grease or steam, the Retracta auto-rewind hose reel from Redashe is a neat, tidy and convenient way of storing hoses both in and out of use, promoting maximum safety in the work area. The hose reel is supplied complete with up to 15m (50ft) of hose suitable for the intended purpose and a wall/overhead mounting bracket. For optimum ease of use, the Retracta has a low recoil tension to full extension while a two position switch provides latching at one metre intervals or can give a completely free run to suit requirements. Redashe can supply two auto-rewind air hose reels for use with compressors supplying hand tools, pressurised air lines and

equipment such as powered work tables. Designated AR100 and AR200, the former has 15m of 3/8in internal diameter hose and comes with 3/8in BSP female inlet and 1/4in BSP male outlet fittings. The AR200 model has 12m of 1/2in ID hose and 3/8in BSP female inlet and 3/8in BSP male outlet fittings. Both models have reinforced PVC hoses and can be used at working pressures of up to 16bar (230psi). For delivering hot or cold water at high pressures, the Retracta range now includes model WHPI00 suitable for water to 207bar (3000psi) at 95 degrees C. Hose lengths of 12m and 15m can be specified, both with 3/8in BSP male outlets suitable for guns and lances. A useful optional item for use with the company's complete range of retractable hose reels is a bracket which can be bolted to a work bench or floor for increased portability.

Workshops are now turning increasingly to compressed air as a safe, convenient and portable means of powering hand tools and other service equipment. Portable and fixed compressors are available in a wealth of outputs to suit applications from paint spraying to drilling and rivetting. Loughborough-based SIP offers one of the largest ranges of British-built fixed and portable air compressors. Available to suit single or three-phase supply, the electric motor versions are conveniently pre-wired to a mounted starter incorporating thermal overload protection.

In common with their electric stable-mates, SIP's petrol-engined compressors have twin cylinder monoblock pumps with aluminium alloy mainframes for rapid heat dissipation and cast iron cylinder liners for maximum durability. An interesting variation is SIP's vertical unit with the drive motor and pump sitting on top of an upright receiver vessel. Designed for use where space is at a premium, the vertical air compressor can be had with receivers of 100 and 150 litre capacities suitable for single or three phase electricity supplies. Maximum pressure is 150psi at a piston displacement of 14.3cu ft/min. Apart from its ability to fit into tight corners, the SIP vertical compressor has excellent cooling characteristics in cluttered conditions.

Those who are moving away from electricity as a power source for reasons of safety, limitations on reach and, in some cases, cost of installation, will welcome a petrol-engined pressure washer due to be introduced by SIP in the coming weeks. Weighing just 4.5kg but, says SIP, suitable for all commercial applications, the washer produces 145bar (2,100psi) at a flow rate of 10 litres/min (2.2gal). It will be supplied with a full lance with adjustable nozzle.

The surge of interest in compressors as a safe, convenient and cost-effective means of providing power within and outside the workshop has been reflected by the range of

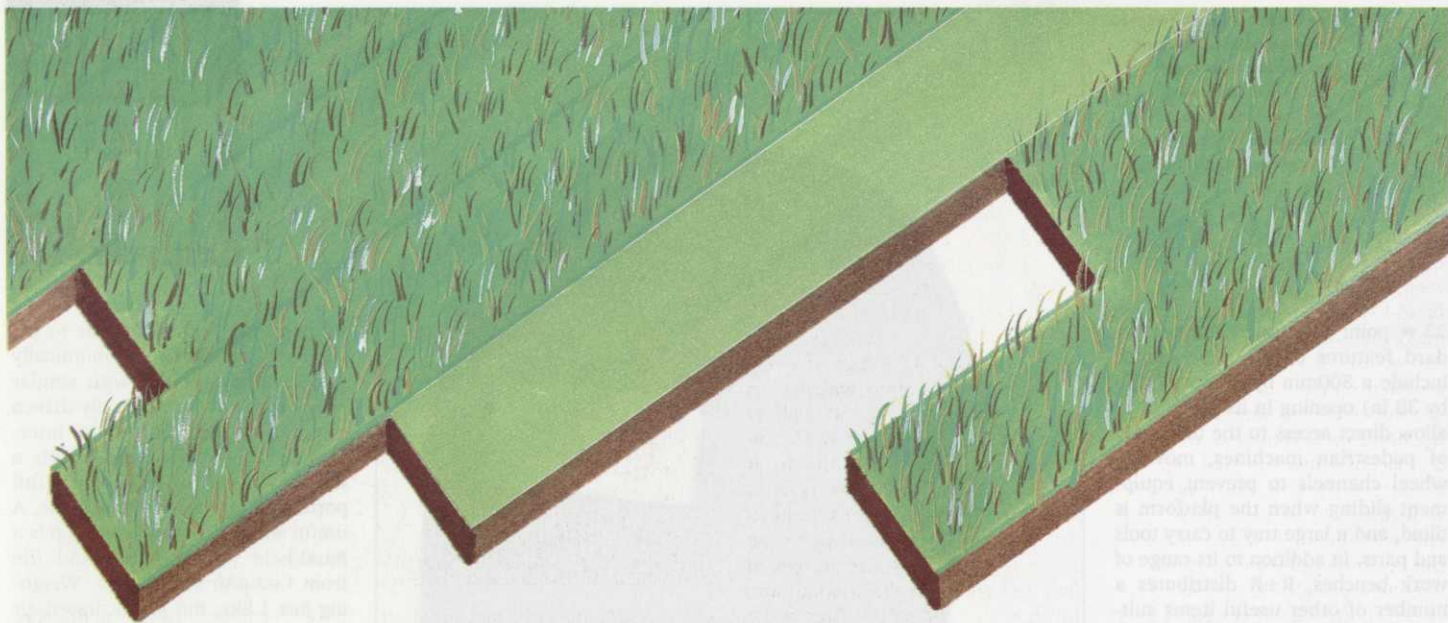
air hand tools now available to the service engineer. Economically priced in comparison with similar specification electrically-driven tools, they can be easily interchanged and, when used with a mobile compressor, provide full portability around the golf course. A useful addition to any workshop is a hand-held powered saw and file from CompAir Autopower. Weighing just 1.8kg, this pistol-shaped air tool can accept mini hacksaw blades and files for rapid metal repair or assembly work. The finger trigger activates a 20mm cutting or filing stroke giving a cutting speed of up to 2.5m/minute.

For repetitive work tightening or removing nuts and bolts in tight or awkward spaces – for example, those retaining scarifier or aerator blades – Harboran's air-powered mini ratchet provides a compact rapid solution available with either 1/4in or 3/8in square drive for use with standard sockets and extensions. Maximum bolt size handled is M6 revolving at 200 rpm. Price is a competitive £70.60 for either drive size.

Tractor tyre removal for puncture repair usually means calling in a specialist unless one is prepared to expend time and effort using a sledge hammer, wedges and tyre levers to 'break' the bead holding the tyre to the rim. Now, with the aid of Bead Buster, one person can repair punctures in the workshop, without even having to take the wheel off the tractor. The device, which weighs just 4.5kg, is inserted between the tyre and its rim. A few turns on the ratchet handle produces 10 tonnes of pressure – enough to break the bead and push the tyre into the rim well, from where the tube can be removed, repaired and replaced. Cost of the Bead Buster is £125 plus VAT, delivered.

Welding is an area which has seen some considerable advances in equipment and techniques over the past 20 years. With safety a prime concern in the majority of service and repair workshops, it is appropriate that BOC, a leading supplier of gas for welding purposes, should have produced a video on the subject. Costing £11+VAT, the video provides a concise guide to safe operating procedures for welding and cutting using oxygen and gas. Copies are available through BOC suppliers.

Metal Inert Gas or MIG welding is becoming increasingly widespread due to the improvements it → 27



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system, fully enclosed canopy that reduces noise and dust levels to a minimum and safety cut out devices that allow the operator to leave the machine whilst on automatic operation with absolute confidence.

For a demonstration and further details contact:— Linda Adams



WHAT'S NEW

25 → can bring to work rate and the finished job. These benefits arise from the fact that MIG welding uses continuously-fed wire from a reel, eliminating both the stopping and readjustment necessary with a hand-held welding rod. Another major difference between MIG and Arc welding is that instead of using a coated rod, gas is used to protect the weld from the atmosphere, leaving no residue. Although it is easier and cleaner than Arc welding, MIG is more expensive. However, it is well-suited to welding thin sheet and, with different wires and gasses, can be employed for mild steel, aluminium and stainless steel using the same equipment. Because gas is used to 'shroud' the weld, MIG welding is not ideal for use outside where wind can upset the process. However, a hybrid combining the best features of Arc and MIG welding is now available, eliminating this problem.

Gasless welding, as the system is known, employs a continuously-fed wire which is cored with a solid flux, similar to an Arc welding rod, which prevents the metal reacting with air. Simple, relatively inexpensive and ideal for use outside, the technique is suitable for bonding all mild steels without the need for a separate gas supply. Gasless MIG

welding equipment is available from Clarke International and SIP. The latter also produces a combination MIG/Gasless machine for the ultimate in versatility.

Many engineers who do not weld regularly – and many who do – will appreciate the new Speedglas welding helmet from Spaldings, allowing completely hands-free welding. In simple terms, this £160 helmet enables users to see the work and welding rod clearly until the arc is struck. The moment light reaches the helmet filter it darkens, protecting eyes against harmful radiation and the damaging consequences of intense light from the welding arc. Invented in Sweden, the filter in the Speedglas helmet uses polarisers and liquid crystal cells working in conjunction with photosensors which react immediately to changes in light intensity.

The welding filter is powered by a standard 12 volt battery with a lifetime of about 1,000 hours. It turns off automatically after 20 minutes. As a fail-safe measure, the welding filter reverts to a dark condition if the battery fails while in use. Because the helmet can remain permanently in the 'down' position, the manufacturer recommends the addition of a respirator unit for those carrying out extensive welding



Baelz mobile fuel retrievers are designed for the safe removal, storage and refilling of petrol and diesel. Earth leads eliminate risk of sparking

tasks. A belt-mounted motorised air filter unit provides a supply of clean air to the helmet, preventing condensation and expelling excess carbon dioxide.

For those who need a supply of cleansed air to the complete work area, a fully-portable filter extractor from Electac will be the answer. Available in a range of sizes, the unit extracts welding and other fumes through a flexible pipe and nozzle, returning clean, electrostatically-filtered air in its place. Quiet running, the extractor can be supplied with standard, high efficiency or charcoal filters and includes 3.75m of 45mm or 65mm extraction

hose, depending on the model chosen.

The ability to cut metal cleanly and accurately, without gas or reciprocating blade, will appeal to all involved in fabrication or repair work on mild or stainless steel, aluminium, brass or copper. Air plasma cutters combine the heat of an electric arc with the force of compressed air to cut through most metals of up to 30mm thick, and greater. Machines from Welding Star and SIP feature pilot arcs for easy starting on painted surfaces, with no pre-preparation necessary.

The use of air to force the arc ('plasma') through the metal → 28

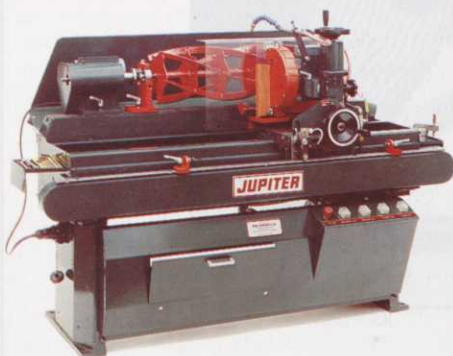
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WHAT'S NEW

27 → and to cool the work means that the cut is extremely clean, with virtually no distortion, even on very thin metal. Murex has introduced a highly portable unit suitable for single phase electricity and with an air pressure demand from 5-10bar (70-150psi). Weighing 20.5kg, the Sabre-arc 40i has a cutting capability of 15mm at 40amps, said to be almost double that of most 40amp plasma cutters. The result is safer working with reduced power consumption and an extended working life.

The handling and storage of diesel and petrol is causing increasing concern to Health and Safety officers, particularly when draining equipment tanks prior to major overhauls or repair work. Mobile fuel retrieval equipment from Baelz, a division of James H Vickery, is designed to facilitate the draining of fuel tanks in accordance with latest H & SE and COSHH legislation. Available in three sizes - 50 litres, 135 litres and 2 x 135 litres - the retrievers enable petrol and diesel to be withdrawn, stored and replaced with maximum safety and convenience. All retrievers feature an anti-flash device, earthing straps, braked non-spark wheels, shut-off valve, anti-theft device and contents gauge.

No article on workshop equipment would be complete without some mention of cylinder grinding. Describing back lapping of cylinders in many areas of the UK as 'a hit and miss affair using a variety of home-made concoctions', Derek Cooper of Garfitts International points out that the practice is a must for most greenkeepers in the USA seeking high performance from their machinery. Hoping to redress the situation on this side of the Atlantic, the company has now introduced to Britain an American-made back lapping compound. Described, rather medicinally, as Garfitts reel sharpening compound, it is available in ready-mixed 2kg tubs in fine, medium and coarse grits. A booklet produced by its American makers describes in excellent detail the reasons for and methods of back lapping cutting cylinders. It is hoped that a copy of this booklet or its contents will be provided to each purchaser of Garfitts' compound.

Relief grinding of cylinders is advocated both within this booklet and by Eric Hunter, managing director of the machinery company which bears his name. His single blade grinding technique produces a relief angle of between three and ten degrees on the cutting edge. This is achieved by approaching each



Up to 10 tonnes of pressure is produced by the **Bead Buster** to help remove tyres from rims without the use of hydraulics, pneumatics or very large sledge hammers

less damage to the grass than with rounded edge or badly ground cylinder blades.

For single blade grinding, the cylinder is removed from the mower and mounted in tailstocks on the grinder, where it is held within bearings while the grinding work.

Of real interest to greenkeepers is Supreme Mowing's introduction of a 4" relief grinding attachment for their range of grinders, which enables the user to impart a healthy relief angle on small diameter multi-bladed cutting cylinders like the Ransomes GT or the Jacobsen Greens King.

Those wishing to grind cylinders 'in situ', still mounted in a pedestrian mower or within the cutting head in the case of a ride-on machine or gang mower, should consider the Supreme Mowing 'Leader', a free standing frame with a cast iron bed and 2" precision ground guide rails that ensures an accuracy of less than 0.005" in 30" in straightness, whether grinding in situ or out of frame.

Alternatively, they can choose from the Atterton and Ellis Express Dual standard or Professional models. Using the spin grinding technique, these machines can also be used as a separate cylinder grinder.

blade from slightly below centre with the grinding wheel. The benefits of accurate relief grinding are many fold, according to Mr Hunter: "It is often quicker than the conventional spin grinding technique in Britain", he says.

"However, from the engineers' viewpoint, creating a relief angle on each blade has many advantages. These include reduction of drag created by excessive metal contact with the bottom blade, thereby minimising friction and increasing working life, fuel economy and the time between adjustments".

Other advantages, points out Mr Hunter, include the ability to mow in very wet conditions and, because the cutting action is cleaner, cause



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We face a daily barrage of statistics. For example, earlier this year the English Golf Union reported that there were almost as many planning applications for new golf courses (1,890) as there are existing courses. Nearer to home, the greenkeeping market in the UK was recently estimated to be a massive £187m per year.

Not wishing to be left out, I too have some statistics for the readers of Greenkeeper International. Think of the M25... that's if you can bear to! It runs round Greater London and its suburbs, an area of land which roughly equals the total area covered by golf courses in Great Britain. It is a substantial area indeed and is one which is managed by greenkeepers.

Returning to other people's figures: a few years ago the then Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) the nation's advisor on conservation matters, published findings concerning the loss of wildlife habitats. These made disturbing reading. In the years since the Second World War Britain had lost 95% of its flower-rich meadows, 60% of its lowland heathland and around half of its ancient woodland. The losses were the result of agricultural intensification, industry, housing and road development. Although these losses have slowed down in recent times, due to a combination of agricultural recession and government policies designed to reduce over-production whilst lessening the impact of agriculture on the environment, they still continue. Needless to say, Britain's wildlife needs all the help it can get in the face of such an onslaught and that is where golf courses come in.

Before we continue, consider the following tale. Among the wildlife frequenting the golf course is the greater-spotted-golfer (*Homo golfus*) of which there are over 2 million in Britain. This species depends almost entirely on golf courses for its existence, where it can be seen foraging on golf courses during daylight hours hunting for small, spherical objects either singly or in groups of up to four individuals. Greater-spotted-golfers are, by and large, harmless creatures, though greenkeepers are advised to approach them with care as they have been known to become aggressive under certain conditions (eg. in inclement weather). The species is breeding well in Britain and its numbers are growing steadily, in fact golf courses architects and constructors are working hard to create new habitats for the increasing population. So far the story is a happy one. But what if the unthinkable happened and 95% of the greater-spotted-golfer's habitat disappeared. The two million individuals which now range across 2,000 courses would have only 100 sites on which to live, and a single golf course would be unable to sustain the needs of 20,000 individuals. If this ever happened, not even St Andrews miracles could save the greater-spotted-golfer!

The above may only be a story, but it is said that truth is stranger than fiction. There once lived in Britain a creature known as the large blue butterfly (*Maculinea arion*). It was a beautiful butterfly and could be seen on bright summer days flying among the meadows where it lived. However, as the meadows started to disappear, so did the large blue. It became extinct in 1979.

Extinction is forever... and that is why conservation is so important. Golf courses can be a valuable resource when it comes to nature conservation and already make a significant con-



tributions to our natural heritage. This fact was acknowledged by Ian Dair the communications director of English Nature (EN) (England's successor body to the former NCC) who highlighted the environmental responsibilities of greenkeepers in a recent August edition of Greenkeeper International.

He also stressed that the public perception of the impact of golf on the environment was an important issue that needs addressing. Like many of my colleagues, I am frequently asked the question "What's ecology all about?" When faced with such a question I am often tempted to reply "Oh, just life, the universe and almost everything". It is precisely because the environment is so big that we, all of us, tend to be somewhat overawed by it.

But it needn't be so. The environment works according to a few basic easily understood concepts. Nature has its own economy and budgets accordingly. All living things operate through a series of checks and balances, cycles and networks. The skill of an environmental manager... and here I include the greenkeeper, involves understanding something of how the environment functions so that one can work with it rather than against it.

In the course of researching, writing and helping to promote the NCC/EN publication 'On Course Conservation' and its follow up document on environmental management planning I have seen some many instances where golf courses are managed for wildlife to the benefit of golf and the environment.

Still more can be done to improve nature's handicap. Your course needn't have a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or some other recognised designation to be of value to wildlife, just keep on managing with good golf and conservation in mind

and let your course continue to be one of Britain's unofficial nature reserves.

There's a great deal of conservation potential within the average course. Take water features, for example: lakes and stream are not only of landscape and strategic benefit, they are also a focus of attention for wildlife in the absence of the scores of village and farm ponds which have been drained. Hedges within and around the course are also good places for wildlife many of which do a good job on the course in keeping down pests including worms and leatherjackets.

Conservation requires planning and forethought-just like any other management project. With this in mind, does your course have a conservation management plan? Does it have a tree planting or agrochemicals policy? Do the members know about the wildlife on their course? Likewise, do they know of the work you are doing to protect and enhance the environmental value of their course?

Greenkeepers have a great deal to be proud of as custodians of golf's living heritage and a lot to live up to too. So keep up the good work... and keep golf green!

◆ The author, Dr Anne-Maria Brennan, is a biologist with research interests in the environmental aspects of golf. If you have any questions, comments or examples of the greening of golf we would like to hear from you... just write care of the editor.

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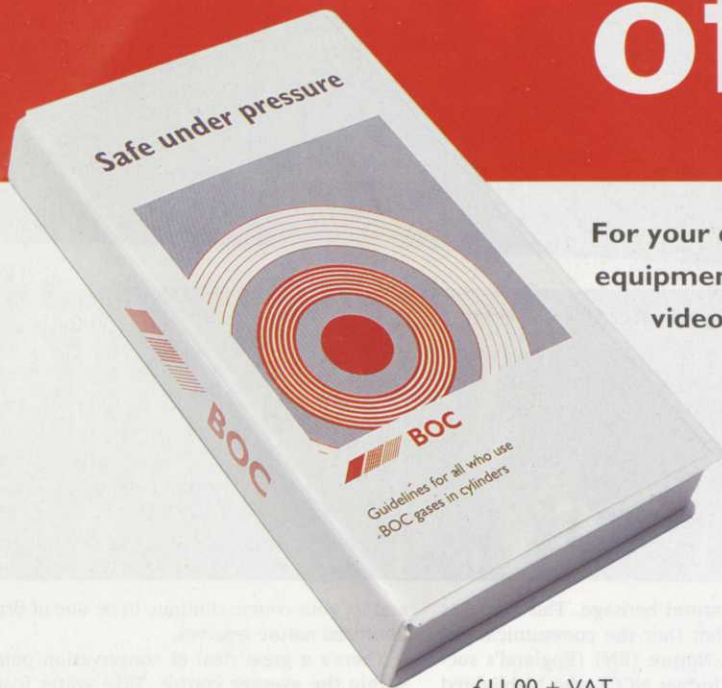
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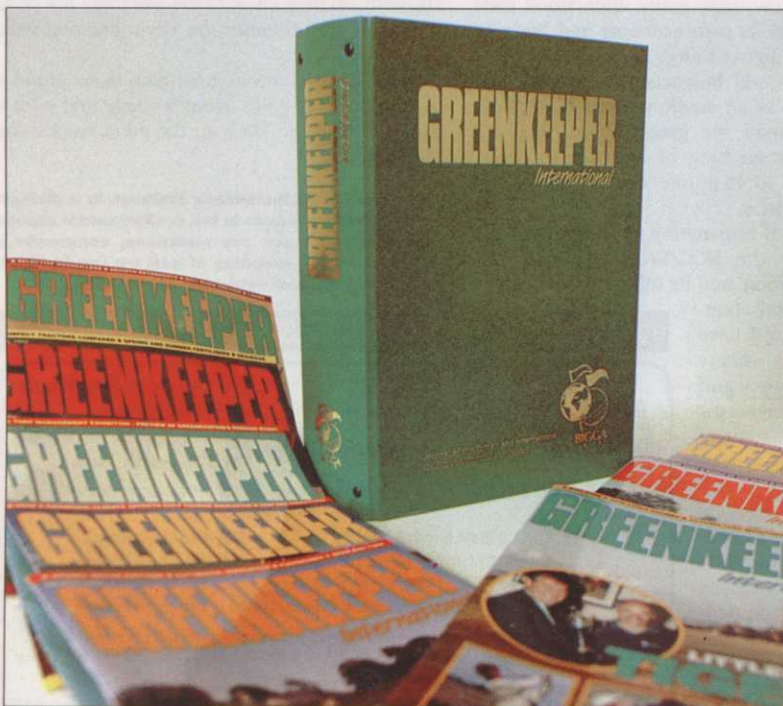
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LETTERS

Through the columns of Greenkeeper International I wish to raise a subject which I hope will merit a reply from some of our chemical manufacturers and suppliers. I refer to the apparent discrepancy in the way in which some chemicals are registered.

One such chemical regularly used is Vinclozoline, used as a treatment for Fusarium Patch. In a one litre bottle marked 'For Agricultural and Horticultural Use Only' - but with no grass or turf recommendations - it costs just £25. The same chemical from the same manufacturer - in a 'Golf Course Supplies' bottle costs £44.95. The same appears to be true of selective weedkillers most commonly used on golf courses.

Are the suppliers making a killing by manipulating registration and labelling of chemicals, or are there good reasons for these anomalies?

SANDY BROWN

Crieff Golf Club, Crieff, Scotland

It was with considerable interest that I read in your September issue of the appointment of Tracy Ruane to the position of head greenkeeper at the Leeds Municipal golf course of Oulton Hall, Rothwell.

In the second issue of Golf Greenkeeping that I published back in November 1982, Tracy was featured as a 19 year old apprentice greenkeeper working on the 36 hole Temple Newsam course under the then head greenkeeper, John Rushton. Even then her enthusiasm for the outdoor life was unbounded and it was reflected those ten years ago when she was utterly convinced her promotion path was headed towards becoming a head greenkeeper.

The fact that Tracy has achieved her ambition gives me a great deal of pleasure.

I wrote then - 'Tracy is a big girl, with big ideas, who is certain to go far in the world of greenkeeping. Her sparkling personality, enthusiasm and love of life, coupled with a determination to make a success in a career she feels absolutely right for, will carry her a long way.'

To hold down a greenkeeper's job in a traditional man's world will be no easy task. To excel in the skills of agronomy will be that much harder, but there is no doubt: Tracy Ruane, The Leeds



Outdoor Girl, can do it.

Anyone who sings whilst riding a motorbike to work, must make a success of their chosen career.'

JOHN LELEAN

Former editor, Golf Greenkeeping

To David Golding,
Education Officer, BIGGA

I write to express my gratitude and thanks for the two day 'Public Speaking' course that you organised, which I attended recently. Having had limited experience in presenting one or more talks at various conferences it was enlightening to discover various methods to make the task easier, by correct structuring etc.

Frank Newberry should be congratulated on the way in which he instilled such confidence in the group that attended. I would wish for you to convey my appreciation. Hopefully, no one that he has enlightened will let him down when presenting talks at future conferences. If they do, I can assure you it is not a reflection of his teaching technique.

I would reiterate my comments that I felt the course should be extended to two and one half days, if only to give Frank time to sleep!

Despite this, an excellent educational event, and one that should be continued, and supported.

DAVID JONES Area Course Manager,
Country Club Hotels

Another marvellous course at Aldwark Manor. Five of us on a

public speaking course given by Frank Newberry.

The three day course gave us an insight into many things, from telling a simple story to presenting a paper at a National Conference. Frank taught us how to structure talks properly and gave us confidence to deliver them. I came away with much more confidence about public speaking.

The content of the course was excellent, including the building of a US specification green, annual meadow grass control and even a 'walk on the wild side', covering conservation.

What struck me about the course was the camaraderie between greenkeepers, with nobody wanting to see a colleague fail.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Frank Newberry for a most informative experience, my fellow students for an interesting three days, and last but not least the people at HQ for making these courses available.

PHILIP TAYLOR Course Manager,
Alwoodley Golf Club

Similar letters of appreciation were received from other attendees, but space limitations prevent publication of them all.

I would like to thank Howard Evans, BIGGA's 'financial man', for his time and help in arranging my re-mortgage. Though we were hundreds of miles apart - he in South Wales and me in North Scotland - he talked to me over the telephone, assisting me and

keeping me fully informed throughout every stage.

The wide and varied services that BIGGA offer make it very professional indeed and a must for all greenkeepers.

Any member requiring assistance need only pick up the 'phone or drop a line to Howard Evans. I am sure he will help in the same way.

Once again, Howard, thank you very much for a splendid service.

IAIN MACLEOD Head Greenkeeper,
Tain GC, Scotland

I write to thank everyone for the really good time I had at the BIGGA/ICI National Championships at Littlestone. This was my first BIGGA event and, as you know, I was lucky enough to play well and win some very worthwhile prizes.

My family and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, met some very fine people and now look forward to the next event, subject to my being in the 'Old Country'.

I would add a big thank you to all of the sponsors, especially ICI Professional Products, for making the event such an obvious success.

PAUL CORFIELD Golf de Rimaison,
Brittany, France

I write to express my thanks to everyone involved in organising an excellent two day stay at Coventry for the Iseki finals.

Iseki staged this event at considerable expense, providing accommodation, meals and event team sweaters for all competitors, and must be thanked for their generous hospitality throughout our stay. I am confident that my sentiments will be echoed by everyone who took part.

Events like this provide an opportunity to converse with fellow members of the profession on a social basis whilst, I believe, being of educational value. Iseki are to be congratulated for providing such a platform for both sporting and educational purposes.

My thanks also to John Bayliss and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition, despite heavy rainfall before and during the competition.

JAMES HUNTER Course Manager,
Goal Farm GC, Pirbright, Surrey
Similar letters of appreciation were received from competitors at both the National and Iseki events - for which many thanks.

One step away from GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR



Professional Products

ICI Professional Products, described on numerous occasions as 'that close and caring organisation', are again demonstrating just how close and caring they can be by their continued support and guidance in sponsoring again the 1992 ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year awards.

ICI Professional Products means different things to different people: to the working greenkeeper it means technical superiority, professionalism and innovation in the fine turf care field, whilst to golfing greenkeepers it also represents that most exciting of golf events, the ICI sponsored BIGGA National Tournament.

All these, massive and hugely successful though they are, pale into insignificance for the two previous winners of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year award, Anthony Davies and David Whitaker, who will tell all who care to listen that winning the ICI Premier Greenkeeper award literally changed their lives. Each will relay stories of personal satisfaction and progression in their already rising careers, stories of achievement, pleasure and pride that are guaranteed to quicken the pulse of the candidates here listed.

By a process of elimination the five finalists have already leapt the first hurdle, but they will remain on tenterhooks until December, when a select panel of judges will meet at Aldwark Manor to grill them further - this before announcing one proud greenkeeper as 'The Winner'. It will all seem hugely worthwhile, for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of 1992 will join the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in America's Anaheim and San Diego in January 1993. For the runner-up there will be a 'swanky' week-end for two in London, tickets to a major golf tournament and seats for a West End show; with for third place a weekend for two at Old Lord Walsingham's place, the delicious Aldwark Manor. For all five contestants it will be a time to remember - with great pride - forever.



Iain McLeod



Kevin Green



Iain McMillan



Iain Harrison



Dean Cleaver

THE CANDIDATES

IAIN McLEOD

Iain is currently head greenkeeper at Tain Golf Club on the southern shores of the Dornoch Firth in North Scotland, a post he has held since 1978. He is also the North Scotland section secretary and is married with three children. He started his greenkeeping career at Nairn in 1973 and after a two year spell in Coventry at the Grange Golf Club, where at Tile Hill College of Further Education he sat his Grass and Greenkeeping UEI Examination and achieved a first class pass, he returned to the North of Scotland to a job at Tain. He is a firm believer in education, attending seminars and workshops whenever possible, and is currently trying to find the time to work through the Accreditation of Prior Learning Modules at Elmwood College, Fife.

A keen golfer playing off a three handicap, he has represented the Association in the Kubota, Jacobsen and Ransome finals, with proof of his golfing prowess indicated by his winning the Head Greenkeeper's Trophy at the Scottish Championships three times since 1983. He works very closely with his committee at Tain, serving on both the green committee and the finance and general purpose sub-committee.

Iain has been an active member of the BGGGA, SIGGA and now BIGGA since 1974. He has also been a member of the BIGGA support team at The Open since 1984.

KEVIN GREEN

Kevin became interested in turf management whilst working with the turf department at the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, studying for the Wisley Diploma. On completion he was awarded Best Overall Student for the course and also gained City & Guilds, including Turf Management stages I & II.

Having spent some time at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, this before being offered a position at Wentworth Golf Club, he spent six years working mostly on the West Course and being involved in the course preparation for major tournaments, including the PGA Whyte & Mackay and Suntory World Matchplay Championship.

He has held the working head greenkeeper's position at Filton Golf Club for nearly five years. This north Bristol parkland course is situated on heavy clay, hence the need for great emphasis on compaction relief and aeration to counteract the effects of over 55,000 rounds annually. In the last year he has been involved in overseeing an interesting project to obtain a private water supply for both irrigation and aesthetic purposes. This involved drilling a bore hole, which now feeds two excavated lakes.

He is an active member of BIGGA in the South West region and as a long term aim would like to hold the position of course manager on a course hosting a major PGA event.

IAN McMILLAN

There can be few greenkeepers who are unaware of the illustrious name of McMillan in the field of greenkeeping, for Ian's father, Jack, latterly course manager of Sunningdale and now a highly respected turfgrass consultant, has earned and enjoyed a reputation that is second to none. Like father, like son is a term that can certainly be applied to Ian, for he has been in greenkeeping since leaving school some 15 years ago, 11 of those years as head greenkeeper and latterly as course manager at Hankley Common, one of Surrey's most prestigious courses. Prior to Hankley Common, Ian was head greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club for two years and before

moving to Finchley he was head greenkeeper at Datchet, having served his apprenticeship under his father's watchful eye at Bush Hill Park in North London.

A strong supporter of BIGGA and its objectives, Ian has spent six years serving on greenkeeping committees, finishing as chairman of the Surrey section.

In his leisure time he enjoys being with his family, Callum aged three and Hanah aged one, and playing golf when time allows.

IAN HARRISON

Ask Ian Harrison for his views on golf course architecture and he will wax poetic on the delights of Darlington Golf Club, a delightful parkland course designed by that doyen of all architects, Dr Alistair Mackenzie, who he regards as some sort of hero. Pride springs to mind as the overriding aspect of his maintenance of Mackenzie's fine course, which enjoys distant views east to the Cleveland Hills and views west to the Pennines, and he nurtures the 90 acre course and nine acre practice facility as though both were precious antique gems.

Ian began his greenkeeping career as an apprentice in 1978 and in 1980 became the first assistant at Darlington, working at different times under the wing of two course managers with very different approaches to perfection. One, an old Scottish traditionalist, taught Ian how to respect nature and the tried and tested methods of generations past, whilst the second brought modern greenkeeping philosophies to the fore and provided Ian with an excellent contrast upon which to base his own style and management techniques. He was rewarded by being made Darlington's course manager in 1984.

Educated at Durham Agricultural College, Ian earned his City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management Certificate with a Distinction, following this with regular attendance at BIGGA management courses during 1989-1991. Married, with two children, Ian enjoys spending his leisure time with his family, but still finds time to play golf.

DEAN CLEAVER

Thirty four year old Dean Cleaver couldn't have chosen a better place to start his career in greenkeeping than The Leicestershire Golf Club, for in 1974 he came immediately under the care of course manager Paddy McCarron, latterly chairman of BIGGA and a hugely talented exponent of the art of greenkeeping. Well taught and primed for further exploration into the management field, he joined Rugby Golf Club in 1978, still only 21, as a head greenkeeper and enjoyed caring for this course and his members needs for some nine years.

In 1987 he moved to Stratford Golf Club for a further five years before joining his present club, Gay Hill Golf Club, as their course manager. In his own words, 'a challenging period lies ahead'.

During his time in greenkeeping Dean has always been a firm supporter of the Association and he has in turn been both treasurer and chairman of the East Midland section, and is presently secretary of the Midland section, which boasts some 240 members.

That he also believes in the value of education for greenkeepers is indicated by his being regional education chairman, and it is in this important sector that he gains most satisfaction.

Married and with two children, Dean lives in the small town of Alcester on the edge of the Cotswolds and his interests are playing and watching golf, the former to a handicap of fifteen.

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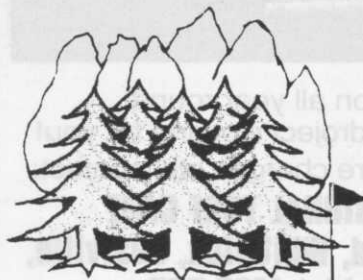
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AD
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Using TREES not losing them

by MICHAEL HONEY

Television viewers who witnessed Nick Faldo win the European Open last September were privileged to watch an excellent display of golf played in an idyllic woodland setting. Despite weather that was not always conducive to exhibiting the course at its best, Sunningdale did not disappoint traditionalists who prefer to see golf played in a landscape with natural aesthetic appeal. Established championship courses such as Sunningdale were designed and built in an era when optimum heathland locations were still available. Time is also on their side; their many years of existence has enabled them to develop an established tree cover and to blend in with their environments. Despite these advantages the positive image they portray of golf as a rural land user should not be ignored by those wishing to develop new courses.

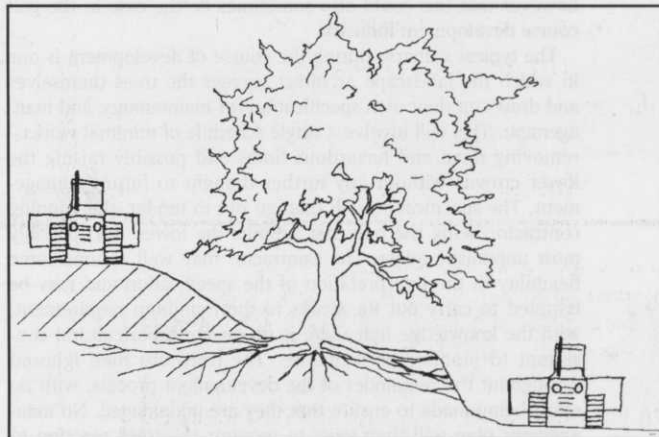
Similarly other established courses on heath, forest and park landscapes should, like Sunningdale, be aware of the responsibility of caring for and the problems involved in maintaining such treescapes.

The building of new golf courses poses a potentially greater challenge for modern golf course developers and architects, with a whole range of political economic and environmental problems to consider. Golf has become a political issue as a result of the pressure on rural land for the development of new courses. This pressure has developed through lower land prices, lower economic returns for farming and a demand for golf that has been quantified as a need for 700 new courses by the year 2000.

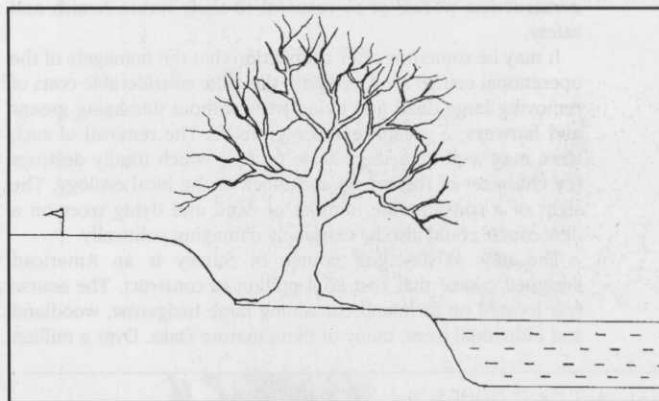
The response to these market conditions has been a subject of public debate covered extensively by the media as the rush by developers, farmers and land owners to cash in on the golf boom has led to many ill conceived projects, some of which were little more than money making speculations. Many such schemes never gained planning permission, but the damage may have already been done in terms of bad publicity for the golf industry. The opposition view of golf as an artificially imposed and selfish land use began to take credence in the public mind.

There is no doubt that although some excellent courses have been built in recent years, mistakes have been made both economically and environmentally. The recession of the 1990s has not left the golf industry unscathed and it has become evident that many of the more extravagant and ostentatious developments judged the market incorrectly. Smaller, lower cost and lower impact schemes, not aimed at Britain's limited market of millionaires, have proved considerably more resistant to recession. The damage done by some of these over ambitious schemes is not just a loss of financial confidence. Many of the projects had little thought for the environment as they imposed their grandiose schemes upon the landscape.

These developments, often American in design, ripped through the countryside like green motorways, often shifting



Soil heaped on one side of a mature tree causes compaction of the root system. Excavation to create a lake on the other side of the tree causes root severance and changes in water content of the soil, results in the death of the tree after two or three years



motorway quantities of soil in the process. Their construction involved radically altering the relief: lakes and ponds were excavated and trees were felled, isolated or bullied into the new design, which on completion bore little resemblance to what had existed before and indeed exists around the course.

Most new golf courses are set in rural landscapes that contain a large number of trees. These trees are crucial to the character and form of that landscape and should therefore be used to help define the character of the new course. On a landscape of bland topography, existing trees with new plantings can be used to provide depth, direction and interest. Trees can separate tees, greens and fairways, whilst individual trees can break up the monotony of a particular fairway. The treescapes can therefore give the hole and course its identity without resorting to man made hills and lakes: as golf course consultant Jim Arthur argued recently, golf is not a watersport.

TREES

35 ➔ By carefully implementing a landscape of trees into the design, rather than destroying them, the course can develop and benefit the local environment. Obviously ideal heathland locations are now in short supply and some alteration of sites that exist may well be necessary, however a sympathetic approach to the surrounding landscape is still possible. This can be best achieved by recognising the value of the existing tree cover and commissioning expert advice on tree care and maintenance.

An arboricultural consultant should therefore be brought in at the beginning of a golf development process to work with the team designing a new course and should remain with the project through to its completion and beyond. All too often the existing trees on site are left entirely in the care of the landscape architect. Few are qualified arborists and they rarely have the budget commitment or knowledge needed to formulate a proper long term management plan for existing trees. Without the advice of an arboricultural consultant, large scale earth moving may well change soil and water levels around trees, damage roots or cause compaction and alter drainage, all of which can condemn trees to death.

Such tree damage is still widespread in the construction industry, whether it be the building of new houses or office, commercial and infrastructure development. Despite the efforts of arborists it is well known that trees may still be a long way down the list of priorities of certain developers, it is inexcusable however that this could also sometimes be the case in the golf course development industry.

The typical scenario during the course of development is one in which the landscape architect surveys the trees themselves and draws up their own specification for maintenance and management. This will involve a single schedule of minimal works – removing dead and hazardous limbs and possibly raising the lower crowns without any further thought to future management. The specification will then go out to tender, the winning contractor being the one that submits the lowest and possibly most unrealistic quote. The Contractor may well assume some flexibility in the interpretation of the specification and may be tempted to carry out the works to the minimum requirement; with the knowledge that there is no on-site arboricultural consultant to monitor performance. The trees are then ignored throughout the remainder of the development process, with no effort being made to ensure that they are undamaged. No management plan will then exist to monitor the trees reaction to construction works, or to respond to their future health and safety.

It may be sometime after completion that the managers of the operational course are faced with the quite considerable costs of removing large dead and dying trees without damaging greens and fairways; a greenkeeper's nightmare. The removal of such trees may well be a large scale process which totally destroys the character of the course and much of the local ecology. The sight of a considerable number of dead and dying trees on a new course could also be extremely damaging politically.

The new Wisley golf course in Surrey is an American designed course that cost £5.4 million to construct. The course was located on farmland containing large hedgerow, woodland and individual trees, many of them mature Oaks. Over a million

cubic metres of soil was shifted and nine lakes were created. A high priority was attached to integrating the landscape with the surrounding countryside. Planting was extensive and most of the existing trees on site were retained, the aim being to enhance the wildlife and ecological value of the area. The course has now been open for nearly a year and already there are conspicuous groups of dead and dying mature Oaks and other large individual specimens which are clearly in a state of terminal decline. The general ecological and environmental motives of the developers cannot be doubted, but what must be questioned is the actual level of expertise and financial commitment devoted to the most valuable assets of the landscape. Such tree failures highlight the difficulty of integrating existing tree cover with large scale changes in relief and drainage without an enormous amount of effort, money and expertise.

An arboricultural consultant would assist in implementing any golf course development scheme whilst minimising damage to the valuable tree cover or causing long term tree problems. Just as important, however, will be the consultants recommendations concerning the long term management of the tree population. Such recommendations can save money and avoid expensive crisis management: neglected trees that are damaged by storms may require costly removal or expensive remedial works.

The same principle applies to established courses, where storm damaged neglected trees may require expensive restoration works. Such neglected trees may also require dramatic remedial surgery because they have gradually become hazardous or totally unsuitable for their location.

Trees are not static entities, but dynamic living growing organisms and as such can constantly change the golfing characteristics of each hole. The sudden realisation that a tree or trees is blocking the fairway or severely encroaching upon the green may necessitate drastic pruning or even tree removal. Any such drastic remedial action imposes a severe and sudden strain on administration budgets, but will also be a strain for the tree – possibly sending it into a state to decline. An arboricultural consultant will formulate an on-going management plan that would keep each pruning operation to the minimum and this will be achieved by schedules over a number of years, allowing the tree to adjust gradually. This is healthier for the tree and allows the golf course manager to budget for tree works more carefully, spending a smaller amount of money over a defined period of time.

Trees around greens may cause shade related problems to the greens themselves. Diseases such as Fusarium Patch will often thrive in a shaded moist environment with poor air flow. Moisture control to avoid humid surface conditions will help prevent disease attacks such as Fusarium patch. Rather than trying to cure the problem by chemical means, which will invariably produce a resistance to the treatment from the disease within the green, better long term results may be obtained by altering the surface environment. On a well wooded course with heavy tree cover around diseased greens an arboricultural consultant can best advise how to increase aeration and reduce shade and moisture. This may involve removing less valuable and suppressed trees, whilst carefully thinning and reducing the remaining specimens.

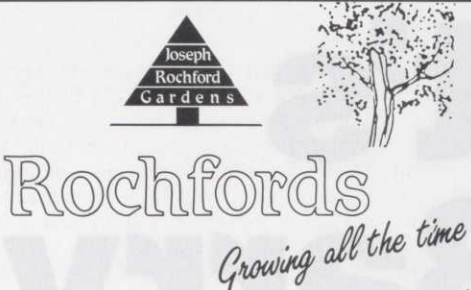
With the estimated loss of over forty million trees in recent years through storms and disease, leaving a severely reduced national tree cover, many arborists believe that we are facing a tree crisis in Britain. This has led to a move towards closer involvement with the golf leisure industry as custodians of a large percentage of national tree cover. Trees are both valuable assets to the nation and an essential part of the form and characteristic of most golf courses. The golf industry could therefore become an integral part of the national tree policy, enhancing the industry's image as a legitimate user of rural land. This, however, requires the commitment to work closely with arborists in the design and development stage of course construction. Such involvement should lead to courses being designed to integrate with the landscape and its trees rather than impose design upon them. The involvement would also lead to a proper long term management approach to the care of golf course trees.

◆ The author, Michael Honey, is a tree surgeon and arboricultural consultant.



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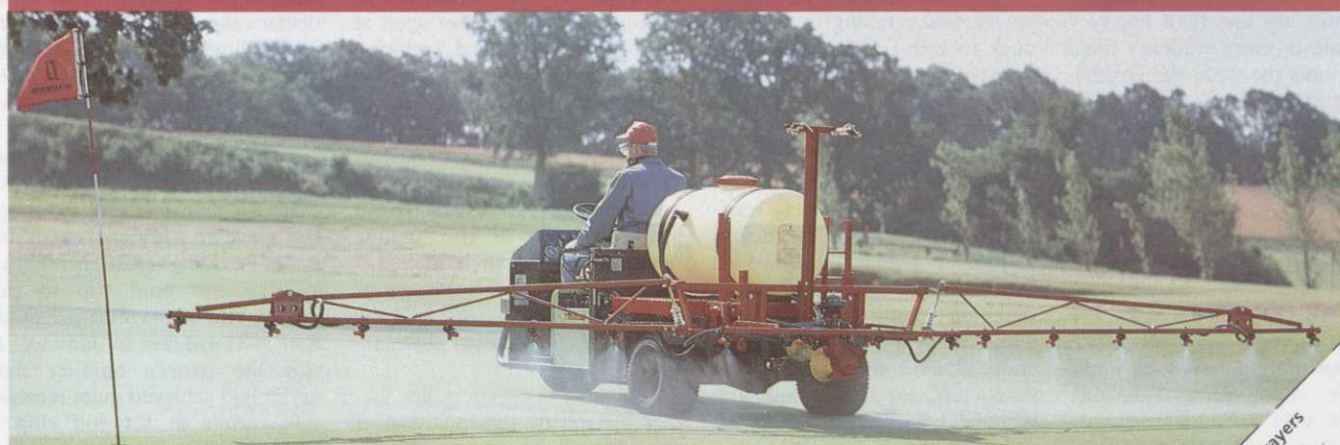


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It's Barry!

In the typical tradition of show-business, an Oscar winner always feigns surprise when his or her name is announced as 'the winner'. We know it's all an act when they step on the stage and that secretly they have come well prepared – with a speech rehearsed and a long list of people to thank...*'without whom I would not be here today'*.

The sponsors of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year have their own devilish method of staging a 'cliff-hanger', with a span of some eight hours covering interviews from first to last – in themselves somewhat daunting experiences and not for the faint-hearted. Still on tenterhooks and still sizing up the opposition, the thirteen candidates then are kept dangling until the witching hour, when cocktails are served at 7pm followed by a dinner of some magnitude. Sometimes one senses that candidate appetites are less than hearty – after all, in every student's mind there lurks the wish, the possibility even, *that tonight I will be proclaimed 'the winner'*. Such a thought can turn a healthy man-sized appetite to one the size of a canary!

Come the final crunch, results are dramatically announced in reverse order and – unlike those hardened Oscar nominees – the winner is always genuinely taken by surprise. So it was with Barry Neville, representing Oaklands College, who having learned that Tony Gooch (Cannington) and Paul Brannan (Langside) were to share the second place PGA European Tour prize, was literally dumbstruck on hearing of the singular honour bestowed upon him – The 1992/93 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year!

In truth, we expected him to say more on receiving his coveted award, but as Barry told me later, when I quizzed him on his first reaction, he was candid enough to



Prize guys: from left, André Woodings, Paul Brannan and Tony Gooch

admit that he didn't think he would win and his reaction was one of total shock! From this the reader may deduce that Barry is a most modest person, quiet and unassuming, though his modesty hides a clever brain and a very positive attitude.

Barry has been a greenkeeper for six years, taking to it like a duck to water after deciding at the age of 18 that his two 'A' levels and 8 'O' levels would be better directed toward a practical career, this following a brief flirtation with full time college life and training in manufacturing engineering. His head full of theory, he took the plunge and asked his then part-time boss, the owner of Whitehill Golf Centre, Keith Smith, for whom he had worked on the course during vacation and week-ends, for a full time job. Whitehill boasts an 18 hole layout and a 25 bay driving range, it is busy, the membership is full and it is positively thriving. Barry saw that his future lay in becoming fully qualified and he completed Phases I & II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, with plans to take Phase IV in Business Management in the coming year.

Of his future, Barry remain modest and will stay loyal to Whitehill, certainly in the immediate future, though long term one can certainly see him progressing,

perhaps to headship and eventually, who knows, to management of a championship layout – certainly he has the talent.

The year of '93 will see Barry reaping the full benefit of his glittering prize: six weeks at the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers at the University of Massachusetts, a further spell at the Toro Irrigation and Technical Design Complex at Riverside, California, and practical tours of top class golf and country clubs in the USA – ten weeks in all. If he was dumbfounded by his win, he will most certainly be further awed at the magnitude of this unique opportunity. We shall look forward with interest to his report and observations appearing in the pages of Greenkeeper International.

Student greenkeepers are further blessed by the inclusion of two equally stunning prizes, awarded by the PGA European Tour. The two winners, Tony Gooch and Paul Brannan, will gain huge benefit from joining the Tour, working and gaining valuable experience as members of the regular support team that visit and advise at PGA European Tour events. For Tony, who manages single-handed the nine hole Torrington course in Devon, and for Paul, who is an apprentice with Glasgow District Council; working



Sponsors Graham Dale, left, MD of Lely UK, Toro machinery distributors; and Mark Gunter, technical sales manager, Toro Irrigation Europe and Middle East

at Linn Park Golf Club, the experience will be an eye-opener to end all eye-openers, with visits to Portugal for a conference in January, to Gleneagles for the Bell's Scottish Open; and to mainland Europe for one of the premier PGA European Tour events – all these to put the icing on their particular cake. Both are keen golfers and both will find the opportunity to work at the sharp end – where players of international repute will be battling for supremacy – an exhilarating experience that will greatly enhance their careers.

For the first time ever the sponsors made an additional award, to André Woodings (Reaseheath), an all expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate in January. It was the panel's opinion that André had achieved quite remarkable results at his golf club – Rothley Park.

Though there were but three winners, the thinking behind this unique award system is that education counts – we can look now at the career progress of previous winners and see just how important the winning has been in furthering their professional status; and we can give three rousing cheers for our generous sponsors, the foresighted trio: Toro Irrigation Limited, Lely UK Limited and the PGA European Tour.

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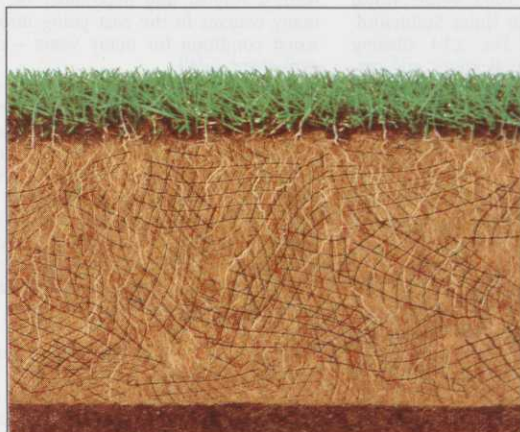
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AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition. Details as follows:

Date: Wednesday 2 December 1992. Venue: Royal Winchester Golf Club. Format: 18 Holes Stableford. Teeing Off: 10.30am onwards. Fee: £14. Closing Date: 23 November 1992. All applications and correct fee to: Mr J Burdett, 40 Church Street, Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0NY Telephone 0747 811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery Limited who are sponsoring this competition.

Following the above the section AGM will be held at 4pm. I am hoping that our national chairman will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

The section committee must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and has a proposer and seconder. Resolutions and agenda items are also invited, please submit before 23 November.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the section's Christmas Dinner which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £12.50 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk has been arranged for Wednesday 13 January 1993 at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester, starting at 2pm. Mr D P Haley of Lloyds of Letchworth will be talking on Grass Care Equipment. Refreshments are being kindly provided by the company at 3.30pm. Please support this meeting with your attendance.

In the annual match against the South West Section at Wells GC in September our team managed to halve the match – yet again! Ours was a 'mixed' team of section members, one trade representative and a SW member. This was the result of members promising to play but not turning up. However, Paul Drodge, captain of our team, managed to ring around and eventually produced a team who had a very enjoyable day. Our thanks to officials at Wells GC for their help and support.

BOB DENNIS

EAST SCOTLAND

Monsoon conditions greeted us on our arrival for the Annual Autumn Tournament at Newbattle GC. A steady downpour throughout the night and day made conditions tough to say the least, but thanks to Steven Dixon and his staff we somehow managed to continue with the competition, although it is fair to say that many of us chose the warmth of the clubhouse instead.

Our grateful thanks – as always – go to the captain and council of Newbattle for the courtesy of the course, to the catering and bar staff for excellent victuals; and to Steven and his merry men for getting the course playable in the first place.

In the absence of our chairman, who was on holiday, the speeches were made by our vice chairman, Peter Ormiston. May I say what a fine job he made of thanking everyone associated with making this the great day it was – despite the weather. The prizes were presented by the Newbattle green chairman to the following rainsoaked players: Scratch - S Melville, Lothianburn. 1st Class - G Ferguson, Duddingston. 2nd Class - I Bell, Duddingston. 3rd Class - W Hudson, Liberton. Veteran - J Neilson, Murrayfield.

One piece of very important news is that due to a mix up of dates, the Annual Dance will now take place at Ravelston House Hotel, Musselburgh, and NOT at Turnhouse GC as previously indicated. Tickets for this event are going well, so if you have yet to book, please do so now.

The golfing season is at last coming to a close and for once I am glad to see it over. Very dry conditions during May and June have been followed by the wettest August and September on record – with many courses in the east going into winter in the worst condition for many years – all due to this excessive rainfall.

I have just heard that a very prominent member – Ralph Bullock from Seahouses GC – is retiring early in 1993. Ralph has been an ever-present member at tournaments; lectures, etc., this in spite of travelling long distances. We wish him a long and happy retirement and send our best wishes to his charming wife Grace, who has had more than her share of illness over the past year. We hope her recovery is rapid indeed, in order that she may also enjoy retirement.

Stuart Crawford, first assistant at Ratho Park has moved to Broomieknowe GC – our best wishes to him.

Finally, please note that the section AGM will be held on 25 November at Kingsknowe GC. A full programme has been devised and this will be in the hands of members quite soon. This year the programme will be sponsored by Sports Turf Services, who will also be staging a lecture and machinery demonstration.

WILLIE BLAIR



SUSSEX

For our Autumn Meeting the section visited Bognor Regis GC on a day of fairly kind weather, there being only the odd shower or two. The turn-out was still somewhat low, with only 27 members and guests taking part. PLEASE – more members for the Christmas Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC on 16 December.

Returning to Bognor, the prizes were donated jointly by Roffey's and Parker's, the results being: Morning medal - 1st Peter Ray (Haywards Heath) nett 68. 2nd Alistair Cale (Ham Manor) nett 72. Guest - D Bell nett 69. Nearest the pin – Jim Coppin. Afternoon Stableford – 1st Andy Paynter (East Brighton) 39 pts. 2nd Stewart Shelford (Ifield) 37 pts. Guest - R Elderfield 36 pts. Nearest the pin – Dave Ranger.

Many thanks to Bognor Regis GC, to Jeremy and his staff; and to the caterers for a superb meal. Roland Hughes also deserves a mention for his sterling waiter service!

Best wishes to Mike Butrymowitz on his retirement from Lingfield Park GC – we hope he will continue to attend our future meetings.

MARK WILTON

SOUTH WALES

Our Autumn Meeting for the President's Shield was held on 9 September at St Mary's Bay GC, Bridgend. This was a new venue for the section, with the course only having been open for a few years. The course was a bit soft in some places but I'm sure we can all relate to this problem, especially with all the rain that has fallen over the month of August and beyond.

We were lucky with the weather, the rain holding off, and the results were: Presidents Shield – Ian Ellis (Rhondda GC) 69 nett (winning a carriage clock, donated by our sponsors, Frank Sutton's, John Deere Tractors, and Raglan. Low gross - Mike Jones 81 (Carriage clock/ Frank Sutton's). 2nd nett – Phil Swain, on countback, 71 (rechargeable torch/ Frank Sutton's).

A raffle was held to help swell section funds, the winners being Leslie Hallett and Dougie Donne, with prizes donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products.

Congratulations to Malcolm Davies and wife Roberta on the birth of a daughter – Laura Jane, also

to Michael Stokes (Dennis Archer's deputy) and Jane, who will now have their hands full following the birth of twin boys.

Colin Reilly of Pennard has returned north-west to the Pleasanton GC near Blackburn, taking up his appointment on 8 October. I'm sure I speak for us all in thanking him for his help over the past three years in assisting with seminars and lectures – even staging one at his own club. Colin's deputy at Pennard, Peter Lacey, is now in charge and we wish them both all the best for the future.

Tony King has also moved recently, from Mountain Lakes to Virginia Park Golf and Bowls Club at Caerphilly, whilst a new member to our section, transferring from Scotland, is Robert Johnston, who has taken over at Newport GC., Rogerstone – we wish them the very best for their future.

The next competition is the Christmas meeting, followed by the AGM, at Pyle and Kenfig GC on 16 December. Please try to attend and if you cannot make the golf at least make an effort to attend the AGM – there are changes planned for 1993 and you will have only yourself to blame if you don't know anything about them!

PHIL SWAIN

EAST ANGLIA

Our happy band of waifs and strays turned up for golf at my place on a damp and dreary morning in September, including one stranger in the camp – David White – who came to sample the rustic air, which he then proceeded to pollute with his pipe. We are not complaining, however, for it made a change from certain well known fertilisers...

It seems that it is further from Essex to Norfolk than from Norfolk to Essex – perhaps it's uphill! The Essex men were noticeable by their absence, but it was quiet without 'HG' Wells (only kidding Dave) and come to think of it, it was a long way for him to travel.

Well, I hope those who attended had a good day. Certainly we old 'Eatonians' had great fun getting the course ready – if only to prove to our members what can be done when management allow us get on with it!

The Cromer Crabs came inland and cleaned up yet again – well (spit, spit) done. The prize winners were:- 0-18 Roger Plumber (Cromer) 37 pts, 2nd Steve Freestone (Eaton) 34 pts. 19-28 1st Steve Piggot (Cromer) 33 pts, 2nd Steve Davidson 31 pts. Trade – K Taylor. Prizes were donated by Pattison, Rigby Taylor, Colliers, ICI and Haynes.

In writing of 'the trade', our deepest sympathies go to the family of Ken Sterns, who died recently after a long battle with cancer. Ken was a good friend and a cornerstone within our section – he will be sorely missed.

On the matter of BIGGA golf at Eaton, I do hope the aforementioned event will not be the last on our present site and that money doesn't have the last word – to be a greenkeeper one has to be the eternal optimist.

MICK LATHROPE



DEVON & CORNWALL

Our section wishes Tony King (South Wales section) a speedy recovery following his recent illness during the Iseki Final, and congratulates all members of the Regional team who battled away to finish second in the team event once again. Our best wishes also to Mike Pike for a speedy recovery following his recent operation – one which Mike had rather too long to wait. We all look forward to seeing Mike in the near future.

Many of you have read over the last few months

articles by Jon Allbutt informing us on the legislation covering COSHH and FEPA and warning us that our local Environmental Health Officer will be armed with all the information and ready to crack down on golf clubs. How many of you think that because your club hasn't been visited by an inspector over the last decade they have forgotten about you? Well I can inform you that a club in Cornwall has already been visited and has undergone a full inspection. Make sure you have made the necessary assessments and if you haven't there can be no better time to do so than now. If you feel that the section should run a course covering assessments etc., please let me know and I will try to arrange something.



RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

Our Autumn Outing was held at Kingussie GC by kind permission of their management committee. The course was in fine condition, reflecting all the hard work put in by Mike Wilson and his staff in Mike's first year in charge. Thanks must also go to the bar and catering staff who don't usually cater for such large parties but did so admirably.

A total of 80 members and guests were present on the day with 75 golfing. The prize list was as follows. 1st Scratch - A Williamson, 74; 2nd - G Tough, 75. Class 1 (0-6) 1st-P Murphy 74-5=69. 2nd-A MacLaren 76-6=70. 3rd-I Carson, 79-6=73. Class 2 (7-12) 1st-D Sinclair 79-10=69. 2nd-T Harris, 79-9=70. 3rd-S McBain, 80-9=71. Class 3 (13-28) 1st-K Wood, 97-28=69. 2nd-M Clark 86-16=70. 3rd-W Morrison 89-18=71. Veteran 1st - A Walker 91-16=75. 2nd-G Hampton, 79-Scr=79. Apprentice-J Stewart 82-11=71. Trade-R Aitken, 91-18=73. Guest- N Donaldson, 76-4=72. The Maclean Trophy was won by A Williamson; who also won the M&M cup for Veteran aggregate score. Meldrum Memorial - P Murphy, Toro Trophy - A Walker, Committee Trophy - A MacLaren. Longest drive was won by G Robbins and nearest the pin at the 15th was I A MacLeod (even though he missed the two foot putt for a birdie!)

The lucky winners of our 200 Club were as follows:- May (£30) no 115 - John Muir, 34 MacDonal Road, Dornoch. June (£30) no 188 - Arthur Williamson, 38 Kingswell Terrace, Perth. July (£40) no 53 - George Geddes, 14 Meadowbank Place, Turriff; and August (£100) no 164 - Gordon Moir, 9 Cannon Place, St Andrews. The winner of the BIGGA blazer was Abbey Walker from Stonehaven.

We welcome new members to the section - Ian Gunn, "Fairways", Inverness. John Sturrock, Dundee District Council. Derek Chisholm, Kingussie and James Stewart from Strathpeffer.

We certainly breed our greenkeepers tough up here, as witness a story filtering through of one such stalwart in the Aberdeen area who suffered two heart attacks on a Sunday but was back at his work by Wednesday!

Finally, it was nice to see so many of our patrons at the Autumn Outing, most of them actually playing on the day. We welcome you, thank you for your support, and hope to see you all again next outing. North Scotland Seminar News:

This month sees the second One Day Conference staged by the North Scotland section. This year it has been put together in conjunction with Dundee College of Further Education, where it will be held on Friday 27 November. The conference committee, made up of three North section members and college tutor Mr G Carr, started work on the project back in September last year and put together a programme of first class speakers from the golf and greenkeeping world.

The morning begins with a talk by one of our sponsors, Mr S Gough from CSC Amenities, titled "Let us Spray". It is a guide to operator and environmentally safe golf course spraying. We then have Mr N Baldwin from STRI talking on "Turffgrass Pests and Diseases in Scotland". After a coffee break Mr J Souter of Souter's of Stirling will give us a talk on "Golf Course Construction in the North". We then have the secretary of the R&A, Mr M Bonallack with "The Role of the R&A in Greenkeeping Education". Rounding off the morning will be Mr D Golding, BIGGA Education Officer, with a talk on "Education and the Master Greenkeeper Certificate". There follows a question and answer session and lunch. First up after lunch is Mr P Lloyd from the Scottish PGA to give us a light hearted look into "Life on the Profes-

AROUND THE GREEN



sional Side". Mr A Murray from the IoG is next up with a talk on "Golf Course Maintenance from a Local Authority Point of View". There follows a break for coffee and then last but certainly not least we have Mr E Shiel, the executive consultant of the Joint Golf Course Committee, who will discuss "The Way Forward, an Update", which should be very interesting. To round off the day we will have another question and answer session.

We feel this will be a very interesting day for anyone connected with the golfing/greenkeeping world. The cost for the day is £10 for BIGGA members and £12 for others. This does not include lunch which is available in the college for around £2 for three courses. Space is limited to 170 delegates, so anyone interested in going who hasn't received a brochure should contact Mr A G MacLaren on 0479 3365 immediately to see if there are any spaces left.



IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH WALES

A note in your diaries for section members: a seminar will be held at the Welsh College of Horticulture Northop on Wednesday 18 November where guest speakers will be D. Jones of St. Pierre, D. Green of Royal Liverpool, D. Golding BIGGA Educational Officer, and N. Park of Lindrick. A fee of £1 will be charged for the seminar, so please come and support us. I'm sure it will be an excellent and informative afternoon, the start of which is approximately 12 noon.

Many congratulations to Mr. E. Owen of Dolgellau Golf Club, who has qualified to play in Lamanga Spain in the Rover Golf Challenge. (Must keep an eye on his handicap).

On the education front, congratulations to ex-greenkeeper now trade member Phil Davies of Mommersteeg on passing the National Intermediate Diploma in Turfculture. He has also received two I.O.G. Awards, the Frank Goddard Memorial Award for the best examination performance and the W. Bill Bowles Memorial Award for the most promising student (rather mature type). It must be possible to teach an old dog new tricks!

Anybody interested in going to the BIGGA show at Harrogate next year please contact yours truly, on 0248 713490. We are hoping to get a coach trip together if the numbers will allow. DAVID PROCTOR

EAST MIDLANDS

The Autumn Tournament this year was held on 7 September at Willesley Park where we were pleased to have the editor of Greenkeeper International, David White, as our guest for the day.

Of the 47 competitors, few managed to overcome the blustery conditions, as was reflected by the scoring and the bluster in the clubhouse afterwards. The overall winner was Matthew Buckley, whose 74-4=70 was the only round to trouble par. Section winners were Dave Leatherland (81-9=72), Jamie Bedford (88-16=72), and Ian Dunmore (99-24=75), with the Associate prize being won by the club secretary, Neil Jones. Dave Flavelle hit the longest drive and Graham Arnold was nearest to the pin - no mean feat on a day where 'nearest the green' might have been more appropriate.

Many thanks to all at Willesley, particularly Ken and Pam Turney for providing us with a most enjoyable meal. My thanks are also due to Joe Barsby, a man with food never far from his mind, for his kind gift to myself of six jars of mustard piccilli. I don't know what the stuff does to your insides, Joe, but it makes a wonderful poultice!

The section is pleased this time to welcome as new members André Woodings of Rothley Park; and

Neale Venters, currently training at Gedney Hill, Lincs. Our next meeting will be the AGM Tournament, to be held at Kirby Muxloe GC on Wednesday 18 November. Any member who can't make the golf or the meal is cordially invited to the AGM itself, which should commence around 6.30 pm.

Finally, as another year in the life of the section draws to a close, I would like to thank on your behalf the members of this year's committee for their help in organising section activities, and particularly our retiring chairman, Richard Barker, for two years of excellent work representing and promoting BIGGA East Midlands. TONY HOWARTH



MID ANGLIA

The Mid Anglia AGM will be held on Wednesday 25 November at Arkley GC, Rowley Road, Barnet (situated two miles west of Barnet off the A411). For those wishing to play golf, the tee is booked from 2pm onwards, followed by the AGM at around 5pm.

Entry forms for the Texas Scramble, to be held at South Beds GC on Thursday 3 December, are now available from Gerald Bruce (secretary) Tel: 0442 876765, Chris Brook Tel: 0462 442488 or Paul Lockett Tel: 0525 402550. PAUL LOCKETT

NORTHERN

By now you all should have received a copy of our winter lecture programme for 1992/93. If you do not have a copy, or require extra copies, please give me a call.

The first aid course scheduled for 13 January seems to be attracting a lot of interest, so if plan on attending, get your name down as soon as possible. This will help me get an idea of how many are actually attending and to plan arrangements accordingly.

The Autumn Tournament took place at Scarborough South Cliffe GC. Unlike our Invitation Day at Northcliffe GC, when the sun shone, it was the exact opposite with rain falling until the late afternoon - just as the prizes were being presented the sun dared to show itself! Despite this soaking, everyone had a most enjoyable day, sponsored by our friends Chaplins. Many thanks to Michael Chaplin and Bob Mitchell for their continued support to the section. I must also thank our colleague Colin Robinson and his team for preparing a first class course for the tournament; and the committee of Scarborough GC for making us warmly welcome and giving us the courtesy of their course.

The results: Division 1 - Scratch Cup S Midgley, 1st G Potter, 2nd D Collins. Division 2 - Scratch Cup A Gamble, 1st A Smith, 2nd D Cockburn. Under 25 Shield - M Lealman. Over 50's Cup - L Nelson. Stick of Rock - N Towse.

Don't forget to get names and deposits in for the Christmas Golf at South Leeds GC on 9 December. PAT MURPHY

MIDLANDS

On Wednesday 9 September our Autumn Tournament was played at Harbourne GC. The course was presented in excellent condition, thanks to David Dorrell and his team. The course proved to be difficult on the day, with scores well grouped, that is apart from Mark Cutler who finally won by some 8.5 shots with a final score of 103.5 for 27 holes. Second was R Pullen with 112 and third was T Dorrell with 121. The Gross Prize was won by M Hughes with 121 and the Trade Prize was won by I Toon with 120. Many thanks are due for the excellent way in which we were looked after and to the many people who helped make the day so successful.

On 9 December we hold our Christmas Tournament at Beau Desert GC with the closing date being 15 November. The event will combine our AGM and this year we hope that many more members will attend. The AGM will take place late in the afternoon, following the golf, and members not playing are invited and indeed encouraged to attend.

On 25 November the region will hold the Annual Seminar, again to be staged at the Warwickshire College at Moreton Morrell. Members should have received details, complete with application form, but those who may have been missed and would like to attend are urged to contact me on 0789 762912. DEAN CLEAVER



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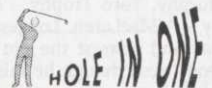


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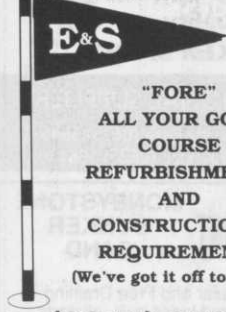
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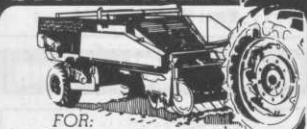
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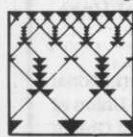
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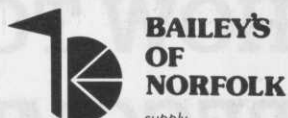
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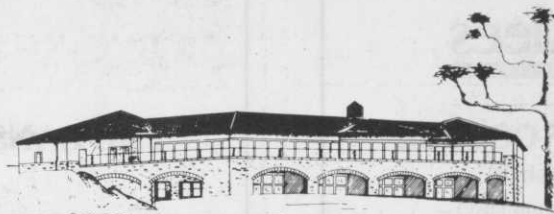
The new GTC Training Manual is designed to support students embarking on a career in greenkeeping. It comes in personal organiser format, with a gold blocked cover and contains 120 pages.

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For more information on Greenkeeper Training, call David Golding on 03473 640

Contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee, c/o BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF for an Application Form, or telephone 03473 640



NORTHAMPTON

Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The challenging position on this new course which has been in play for 2 years requires appropriate qualifications and experience in all aspects of modern course management.

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

An excellent salary will be offered to reflect the qualities required and the importance of the position.

A 3-bedroom house is also available at the Course.

Written applications including a full CV should be sent to:

The Secretary

Northampton Golf Club

Harlestone

Northampton NN7 4EF

Adare Manor Golf Club



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AN EXPERIENCED

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FOR 18 HOLE PARKLAND COURSE AT
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The successful applicant will be appropriately qualified and experienced in all aspects of golf course management and machinery maintenance.

Ability to motivate, lead and work with existing staff essential.

Salary negotiable.

Replies with full CV on/or before
Friday, 11th December, 1992 to:

Tom Healy, Hon. Secretary
Adare Manor Golf Club
Adare, Co. Limerick, Ireland

Colony Club Gutenhof, Vienna, Austria

36 hole complex,

have the following vacancies:

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Must have qualifications in greenkeeping and experience with new golf courses. Salary: £600 net per month, paid 14 times per year. Three-bedroomed apartment available to share with two English greenkeepers already on the staff.

Both positions carry five weeks holiday per annum, with a paid flight to Austria, and full club membership.

All accommodation is free and would suit single applicants.

Send full CV by fax to:

Gary Moseley Fax: 010 43 2235 8805514 before the end of November, enclosing a contact telephone number.

Interviews to be held in Birmingham during NEC Golf Trade show.

If you have any problems you can reach Gary on:

010 43 2235 88055 Daytime

010 43 2235 8805544 Evenings



Kirklees
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(Huddersfield, West Yorkshire)

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(Contract Supervisor)

£37 Hours p/wk, £15,669–£16,710 p.a. (all inclusive)

A Head Greenkeeper is required to supervise the maintenance and continued development of this outstanding municipal complex, comprising an 18 hole Par 70 course, a 9 hole Par 3 course, a driving range and ancillary features.

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For further details and an application form, please ring the 24 hour answerphone: (0484) 443696, quoting the vacancy number LSV 1828. Completed applications returnable to: Leisure-Recreation Services, High Street Buildings, High Street, Huddersfield HD1 2NQ no later than 30th November 1992.



THE LANSDOWN GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This is a key appointment to an established Golf Club celebrating its centenary in 1994.

The successful applicant will be a fully qualified, experienced Greenkeeper, with managerial skills.

He must demonstrate sound knowledge and practical experience of good greenkeeping, equipment maintenance, staff organisation, supervision and motivation and a proven record of Golf Course management.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Please telephone the Secretary (0225 422138) for a Job Description/Application Form.

Silvermere Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required to maintain this 18 hole parkland course with driving range.

Applicants must be suitably qualified, able to motivate a team and be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping.

A competitive and attractive remuneration package will be available for the suitable candidate.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Doug McClelland
Silvermere Golf Club
Redhill Road
Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EF



Wilderness Club

wish to appoint a

1890 COURSE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the NEW position of Course Manager. Applicants should hold qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management, greenkeeping, and presentation.

He/she should have the ability to manage and motivate staff, work within agreed budgets and be fully responsible for maintaining the course to the highest standard.

In addition, applicants should have experience of the maintenance of machinery and irrigation systems.

The remuneration package includes a three bedroom detached house, and salary will be negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

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Keith Monk, Secretary/General Manager,
Wilderness Club Ltd, Park Lane, Seal,
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The Managing Director, Farmura Ltd.
Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent TN27 9DU
Tel: 023376 241/581

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required from 1st April 1993 for new Golf Course (Architect Dave Thomas).

Please reply with full CV (in confidence) to:

Box G.I. 11.1

BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF



The Caldly Golf Club Ltd.

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping methods, have a practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems.

- Ability to motivate a small staff essential
- Salary is negotiable
- Accommodation not available.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Caldly Golf Club, Links Hey Road,
Caldy, Wirral L48 1NB**

Hurtmore Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

for their newly opened 18 hole pay as you play and members course. Applicants must be experienced in sand/peat greens and have the knowledge to maintain this Peter Alliss, Clive Clark designed course.

The successful candidate should have a minimum of 2/3 years experience and be conversant with all aspects of greenkeeping and modern machinery.



**Applications in writing to the Directors of
Hurtmore Golf Club, Hurtmore Road,
Hurtmore, near Godalming, Surrey GU7 2RN**



IFIELD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

City & Guilds certificate together with sound knowledge of machinery required.

Salary negotiable. Accommodation available.

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**The Manager, Ifield Golf & Country Club,
Rusper Road, Ifield, Crawley, W. Sussex RH11 0LN**

HONITON GOLF CLUB

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT to the HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified and have sound practical experience and the ability to motivate staff. Excellent prospects with modern machinery for young, enthusiastic applicants seeking career progression.

Salary negotiable, no accommodation.

Apply with CV to:

**The Secretary, J.L. Carter, Honiton Golf Club,
Middlehills, Honiton, Devon EX14 8TR
Tel: 0404 44422**



CHIPPING SODBURY GOLF CLUB

require a

EXPERIENCED QUALIFIED HEAD GREENKEEPER

Salary negotiable – no accommodation

Apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary
Chipping Sodbury Golf Club
Chipping Sodbury, Bristol BS17 6PU**

NORTH WEST

The annual match between the North West section and the Golf Club Stewards was held at Wigan GC, Arley Hall. The course, which is nine holes, is a gem which played twice works out at just over 6,000 yards. As you might imagine, there are some fine holes to be played. The clubhouse is Arley Hall itself, which was built in the 1300s and is surrounded by a moat which is stocked with rare and beautiful water-fowl, making the perfect backdrop to a well maintained golf course. The result was a win for the stewards, mainly because some team members failed to turn up despite making promises – nevertheless a day to remember and enjoyed by all who attended.

Now that winter draws in our thoughts turn to winter lectures. As soon as I have completed the programme I will ensure that members receive a full fixture list covering the winter period. To start the ball rolling an interesting talk by Clive Heginbotham of ICI on 'Nutrition of Fine Turf' will take place at Bury GC on 25 November commencing at 7.00pm, followed by our AGM. Please make every effort to attend and support your section.

One piece of news I am very happy to report is that Anthony Davies and his family are all making a good recovery following their motoring accident.

Any news, views or comment – please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

EAST OF ENGLAND

To be given a jewel is always worth a wait, however long, and our return to Kings Lynn GC was certainly worth the two year wait.

On the last occasion we experienced a cloud-burst and play was abandoned for the day, so we were really looking forward to this fixture. The Rigby Taylor Trophy was played on this superb course set in birch and heather. The fairways proved a little narrow for some of us and the 'give' underfoot was something many of us had not experienced for a long time.

The prizes, which were greatly appreciated, were donated by our sponsors and trade friends. Steering a straight course paid off for Michael Wood of

AROUND THE GREEN



Thorpe GC and he is now the trophy holder for 1992/93. Following him closely came the evergreen David Salisbury of Burghley Park, with further prizes being won by G MacDonald, G Patrick and D Wells. As Aussie Macklin wasn't with us to retain the raffle prize, his 'boss' David Salisbury was lucky – again!

The hospitality of Kevin and Liz Morgan in the clubhouse made our day complete – many thanks.

To club secretary Mr G J Higgins go our grateful thanks for the courtesy extended to us.

The Toft GC (Bourne) fixture on 4 November will have taken place when this report appears – a report will follow.

COLIN SWINGLER

SURREY

On 24 September the Surbiton GC hosted the Parker's Salver and despite several days of monsoon-like rainfall, Tony Witt and his crew managed to present the golf course in top class condition. The results were: 1st D Box 39 pts. 2nd W George 38 pts. 3rd R Christie 34 pts, with Brian Wilmott (32pts) completing a hat-trick of trade prize victories.

Thanks to Surbiton GC for allowing us courtesy of their course, to the catering staff for their hospitality and, obviously, to the green staff for a job well done. Special thanks are also due to Ron Jobson for his continued help at golf days with starting, score cards and the like.

Don't forget to contact a committee member if you are interested in the free

travel to Harrogate for the BTME this coming January. The Turkey Trot and AGM will be held at Effingham GC, 19 December.

ROGER TYDEMAN

LONDON

The section's third and final summer competition was held at Hatfield & London CC on 11 August. A field of 32 players enjoyed the golf – but not the odd cloud-burst that threatened to ruin a good afternoon – however, the rain held off and most players completed a dry round. Thanks to Peter

and everyone connected with London & Hatfield for looking after us so well. The competition was well supported by our trade friends: CMW; Parkers; Sta-Brite and S&G Landscapes – our thanks to them.

Results: 1st Tony Dunstan (Mill Hill GC) 45 pts. 2nd Ted Dickinson (Hatfield & London) 41 pts. 3rd John Jackson (Wanstead) 38 pts.

On 17 September and our Autumn Competition, held at Upminster GC. A disappointing turn-out but not surprising considering how busy everyone is at this time of the year. Only 16 players enjoyed what was a good day and a clear winner emerged in the form of Jimmy Jay of Brent Valley GC, with 80 pts over 36 holes, a long way ahead of second place man Douglas Smith of Thorpe hall Gc on 69 pts. Steve Paterson of Abridge GC came third with 68 pts.

Our thanks to Pattissons; Sierra; Fisons; Vitex; Rhone Poulenc; Agrimaster and to Dennis Smith of T Parker and Sons for organising all the prizes and presenting the winning shield. Our thanks also to Pat and all at Upminster for allowing us to play.

Our London and SE representatives at the Iseki finals were John Jackson and Norman Exley and though neither brought home any silverware they were both proud to be part of the SE team – and of London, naturally.

Please contact me with any news on 081 4413216.

Finally, a couple of movements around the section: Brian Moggeridge leaves Mill Hill GC to take his first head greenkeeper post at Royston GC; whilst Darren Burdis takes over as deputy head at Brookmans Park GC, moving from Hadley Wood.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

NORTH EAST

Stocksfield GC was the venue for our Autumn Tournament held on 10 September. Richard Creane, our chairman, thanked the captain and committee of Stocksfield for giving us courtesy of the course and for the hospitality extended to us all, also to head greenkeeper, Tommy Harrison, and his staff for preparing the excellent conditioned course so well.

Our thanks go out again to the usual donating companies: Rytan Gravel Co; Shorts; Maxel Construction; Fisons; Stewarts; Rigby Taylor; Thompsens and Rickerby's, with a special thanks to Abcon (Top Dressing) for their very substantial donation. The following golf clubs also provided donations: Tyneside; Alnmouth; Newcastle United; Whitley Bay; Whitburn; Beamish; Arcot Hall; Parklands; Prudhoe; Warkworth and Northumberland.

Results: Best gross A McLure 71. Best nett (Ransomes Cup) N Parkin (Hexham GC) 74-4=70. Handicap 0-11 Best nett (Greenley Cup) B Wilson (Stocksfield) 77-5=72 (on countback). Handicap 12-28 Best nett (Foresters Shield) R Bell Slayley G&CC 96-19=77. Other leading scores – I Johnson (Stocksfield) 83-11=72. I Hutton (Consett) 77-3=74. J Richardson (Whickham) 80-5=75. I Cairns (Closehouse) 86-9=77.

Congratulations to Michael Gunn of Tyneside GC on finishing third in his category in the Iseki finals.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

RECRUITMENT

RAC Country Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

No accommodation.

Please write or telephone for details and an application form to:

Mr K Symons, Estate Manager,
RAC Country Club, Woodcote Park,
Wilmerhatch Lane,
Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7EW
Tel: (0372) 276311

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All replies with full CV to:

The Secretary, Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Queens Park Avenue, Stock, near Billericay, Essex CM12 0S

COMING UP

October 19–November 27: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York

November 2: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Colchester Centre, Essex

November 3: BIGGA South West Region Seminar – Cannington College

November 11–12: IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland

November 12–14: Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Monte Carlo, France

November 24–26: Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey

November 25: BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College

November 27: BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College, Angus

December 7: ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York

1993

January 18–22: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

March 25–28: Golf Asia 1993 – Third International Golf Exhibition and Conference, World Trade Centre, Singapore.



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