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



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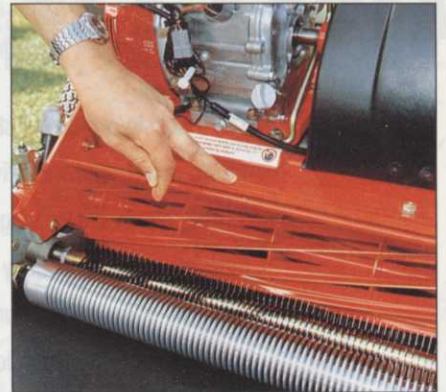
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GREENKEEPER International

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Around the Green

COVER PICTURE:

Jim Byrne, overall winner in another exciting Iseki Championship. Details and pictures, inside



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme is now recognised as the industry's most significant indoor event. Contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can take part.

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

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■ Ransomes has announced a key appointment within their sales and marketing department. Christopher McGowan will join the company as divisional sales and marketing director this month. McGowan joins Ransomes from Benford Ltd (BMC Group plc), where he has been the sales and marketing

director for three years.

■ Kubota (UK) Ltd, engines has appointed Glasgow based Duncan Rogers (Engineering) Ltd - DRE Ltd - as its new engine dealer for Central Scotland and Northern England. Diesel engine specialists for 17 years, DRE Ltd will service Central Scotland from their Glasgow depot. The company will be responsible for the sales, service and parts support for Kubota's extensive range of diesel and petrol engines - power output from 3hp - 100hp. In addition, Kubota has appointed Sutton based SES Engine Services Ltd as a replacement engine dealer for the South Eastern region, covering Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

■ De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, have invested £500,000 in remodelling the world-famous Brabazon Course, venue for next year's premier golf event, the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup.

The development improves spectator viewing and will offer the players a fresh challenge as 10 of the course's holes have also been transformed by the introduction of new tee positions or remodelled fairway and green bunkering.

Dave Thomas, one of the course's original designers and the man responsible for the alterations, said: 'It is very exciting when you can go back and do some of the things you would have liked to have done originally and I think the results of the latest work are absolutely marvellous.'

■ Greenkeeper International joins with the many friends of Bill McIntire in wishing him a healthy and happy retirement after 41 years of service at Whitefield GC.



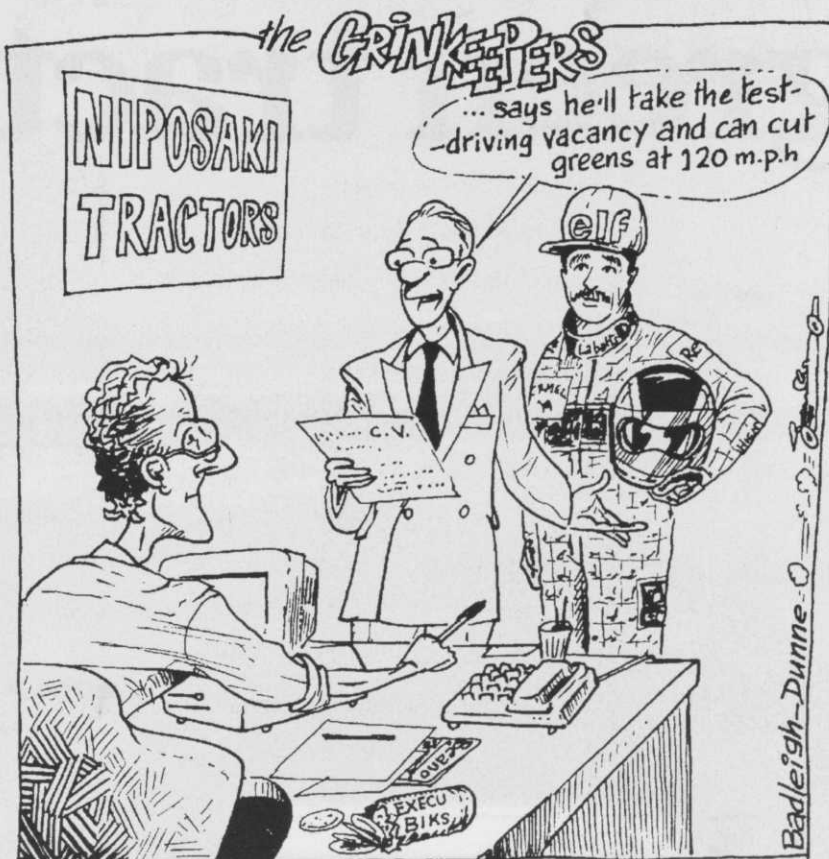
■ West Country Groundcare of Axbridge have appointed Steve Sheppard to set up their new workshops at Backwell, near Bristol. Steve has spent 21 years as service manager with Garden and Lawn Equipment of Bristol and has specialised in Toro and Wheelhorse equipment.

■ Course Care, the leisure division of Highspeed, have appointed David Smith as their new agent for East Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. David will provide advice on the maintenance and operation of turf machinery. Course Care provide a range of consumables which include high quality lubricants and greases, hydraulic oils and wetting agents; as well as a diesel fuel treatment to prevent black smoke from exhausts and to protect equipment whilst not in use. Free phone: 0800 590069.

■ Having started their partnership in July, McMillan-Shiels have succeeded in bringing their first course to the point of opening. The Wildwood in Surrey has 13 holes ready for play ahead of schedule and the remaining holes will be open in spring 1993. Jack McMillan and George Shiels have overseen the construction and growing-in and will continue to monitor its maintenance in the years ahead.

A second major project at Leek Wootton for the Golf Fund, a 45 hole complex, is almost complete and is scheduled to open in 1993, developed under their watchful eye.

As one course opens the partnership has begun to plan its next major project. Working with Tommy Horton and Bob Dalton, McMillan-Shiels are involved in the specification and project management of an 18 hole complex at Windlesham in Surrey. Work is scheduled to commence in the spring of 1993.



■ Readers should be suitably impressed by the splendid performances of George Brown (Turnberry) and David Whiffen (Dumfries & County) when representing Scotland in the Ford National Team Championships, held recently at The Belfry. Not only did these players perform with great skill in winning for Scotland, but they are two greenkeepers who won through to the finals from an original field that was whittled down from over 35,000 entrants! How many other professions, I wonder, could produce such a galaxy of golfing talent - well done Scotland, well done greenkeepers.

■ Jon Allbutt has indicated that plans are afoot for the staging of a refresher course - to be held in Surrey - aimed specifically at head greenkeepers, secretaries and green chairmen. The course will cover PA1 and PA2 training and testing for spraying. Interested parties should call Jon on 0959 575575 for details.

■ The recent highly successful GA European Open, staged at a gorgeously prepared Sunningdale, was overshadowed by sadness following the accidental death of Zarka Smith in a mysterious motorcycling tragedy, no other vehicle being involved.

Zarka, a young lady student member of the GCSAA, was on placement at Sunningdale under the watchful eye of course manager Lawson Bingham and was a hugely popular member of Lawson's crew. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Zarka's family in their tragic loss.

■ Five of the country's leading suppliers of turf care equipment and chemicals have joined forces to present a working demonstration designed to show visitors the latest developments in the maintenance of turf. The event, which has been organised by Lloyds of Letchworth in conjunction with Hardi Sprayers, Kubota (UK), Sisis Equipment and Vitax, will be staged at the ICL (North Herts) Sportsground, Letchworth on 21 October from 10.30am until 3pm.



■ GB Irrigation Ltd has moved into new offices at 20 Market Place, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1AW (Tel: 0425 473329). They are also expanding, and Roger Sunderland, (pictured), has joined the company. With over 24 years in the irrigation business, Roger brings a wide range of design, service, technical and administrative skills to add to that of the rest of the team.

The company, set up by Gordon Bennington in 1991, has already completed a number of projects. Those completed or in progress include Galashiels, Saltburn, Hawkstone Park, Winchester, Bristol, Oxford, Heathrow, Bournemouth, Work-sop, Manchester and Dorchester.

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by DAVID WHITE

The new STRI publication, *The Care of the Golf Course*, is a compilation of many of the articles written by members of the STRI advisory staff, the vast majority published over the last five years in bulletins and leaflets issued by the Institute.

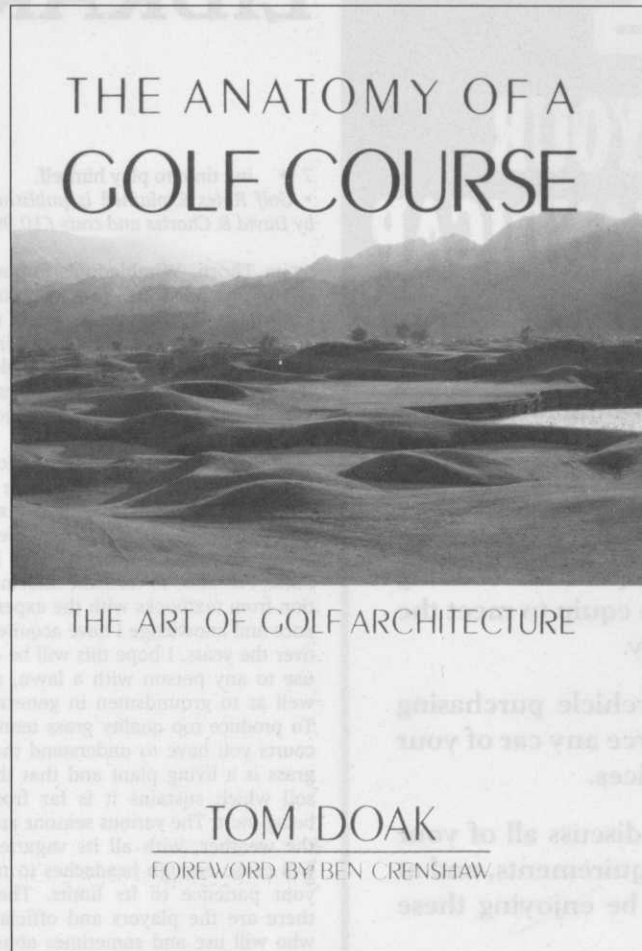
Thus it must be understood that there is nothing entirely new within its pages, though as a source of reference it will certainly find new and appreciative readers, including college students, those of mature understanding and those seeking to grasp the intricacies of greenkeeping.

In truth, the need for such a book is well overdue, for it contains all that the student, greenkeeper or green chairman will need to ensure that practical husbandry is conducted according to accepted and proven practice, leaving nothing to chance.

To quote from the introduction, "Much has appeared in print, but scattered through various books, greenkeeping magazines, scientific journals and conference proceedings. The greenkeeper or chairman of green seeking a comprehensive source of background information on golf course management has therefore so far been deprived of an obvious single publication. This present volume seeks to correct that deficiency and provide a ready reference which can hopefully be relied upon to provide answers to the innumerable questions which arise during the day to day care of the golf course.

"The above should not be taken as implying that no useful book on modern greenkeeping currently exists. A number of invaluable works have indeed been published and to give a comprehensive picture of available literature, an extensive bibliography has been included at the end of the present volume. As an outstanding work on the subject, one might cite as an example Professor James B. Beard's "Turf Management for Golf Courses", published by the USGA in 1982. From a British point of view however, the value of this definitive textbook is limited by the climatic, environmental and managerial differences which exist between the US and UK golf course scenarios, and a specifically British contribution to the literature is therefore an obvious requirement...

"The editors of the current work, however, feel that a general (and not too technical) book giving reasonably detailed information on the range of greenkeeping problems which arise in British golf course management will be of value to all individuals involved in this exacting



and demanding task".

In providing such a splendid compendium of articles – features that prove not only invaluable but offer ammunition that can disprove the many 'crackpot' theories voiced by 'knowledgeable members' – the editors have succeeded in doing just that, and as such the book can be thoroughly recommended.

If I have one major criticism, it is the tiresome (and inconsistent) misapplication of capital letters to place unqualified self importance on certain unnamed persons, eg. Members; Editors; Ladies; Chairmen; Green Committees; Ecologists; Conservationists; Architects; Agronomists and the rest, though greenkeepers and assistants (notably not head greenkeepers) apparently warrant no such elevation. I am an editor, you are course managers; head greenkeepers; greenkeepers or assistants, no capital warranted, the use incorrect. This anti-capitalist demands the return of 'capital' punishment.

• *The Care of the Golf Course* (262pp) is available from the STRI, Bingley, W Yorkshire. BD16 1AU. Price £17 plus £2.50 p+p.

The Environmental Health Officer (writes Jon Allbutt) is the inspector for golf clubs whose job it is to enforce aspects of environmental health. He/she has been given the power to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act and COSHH in

particular. From April this year he became responsible for enforcing the 'Pesticides Regulations'. This is a very new area of work and to help the inspector prepare for these new duties the Health and Safety Executive have prepared this excellent *Open Learning Course*.

The course is designed as a self learning package; set out in 17 sections of information with self assessment questions at the end of each section. It becomes a step by step guide to the Act and Regulations and would be ideal for the student, course manager, or indeed anyone who needs a good working knowledge of this important piece of Law.

The course manual contains flow charts, diagrams and charts that help with tricky areas – such as deciding which chemicals are subject to the Regulations; the routes for disposal of chemical waste and empty containers and the options available for the safe storage of pesticides.

The inspector will of course follow the detail of this course 'to the letter' – at least until he/she has enough experience to use judgement when conducting an inspection. This is potentially bad news for the club that is not conforming to the Regulations; has not completed staff training; does not have a sprayer that meets the requirements; no proper pesticides store that meets the criteria set out in guidance note CS19, and has not

completed Risk Assessments as required by the COSHH regulations.

This open learning package is not a substitute for the Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity Areas, rather it is a practical guide on how to comply with the Regulations.

• *The Open Learning Course* is available from HMSO bookshops and costs £16.

Many a 19th hole argument will be solved by searching the pages of the new edition of *Golf Rules Illustrated*, which is now updated to cover the new 1992 rules, revised in January.

An official publication of the R&A, this book presents the rules together with over 90 clear illustrations and is designed to provide an easier understanding of the rules. It concentrates in particular on those situations which cause most difficulty for the typical club golfer.

Obstructions, bunkers, out of bounds, lost balls, unplayable lies, water hazards, loose impediments, casual water – *Golf Rules Illustrated* will give a visual answer to these and many other problems. Quite simply, every golfer should be aware of the rules – why not carry a copy in your bag?

• *Golf Rules Illustrated* is published by Hamlyn at £7.99.

Golf Rules Explained, a highly acclaimed book now in its eighth edition, is widely acknowledged as the definitive work on the explanation and understanding of the rules of golf. This latest update includes commentary on the new 1992 rules.

'There are few games', wrote Country Life of the first edition, 'in which ignorance of the rules is so widespread as in golf. This is an observation on the game by one of its shrewdest observers and most gifted writers. He makes cogent comments and any golfer, however humble or eminent, could profit from reading it.'

The author enlivens his explanations (and warnings) with anecdotes from his long international experience, making 'Golf Rules Explained' an amusing and helpful aid to retain the rules in your memory. In his readable and enlightening clarification of the finer points of the rules of golf, Peter Dobreiner provides enough information to settle any dispute on the course.

Peter Dobreiner is one of our leading golf writers. He is equally well known in America as a correspondent of *Golf Digest*. In the UK he writes for *Golf World*. He travels the world reporting on major championship events, seldom hav- ➤ 8

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7 → ing time to play himself.
• *Golf Rules Explained* is published by David & Charles and costs £10.99

Jim Thorn, Wimbledon's famous turf specialist, has over 40 years experience in the preparation of grass tennis courts. His interesting little book *The Lawns of Wimbledon* may well be of interest to head greenkeepers, for it contains much that complements golfing turf.

He writes: 'All the information required for success in turf culture is already available in excellent textbooks, but no book applies itself solely to tennis. Bearing this in mind, I decided to combine information from textbooks with the experience and knowledge I have acquired over the years. I hope this will be of use to any person with a lawn, as well as to groundsmen in general. To produce top quality grass tennis courts you have to understand that grass is a living plant and that the soil which sustains it is far from being inert. The various seasons and the weather, with all its vagaries, will cause enough headaches to try your patience to its limits. Then there are the players and officials who will use and sometimes abuse your efforts. At Wimbledon we don't pretend to know everything: but we are professionals who take great pride in producing and presenting grass tennis courts which, in the world at large, are second to none.'

• *The Lawns of Wimbledon* by Jim Thorne costs £5.75 including p+p and is available from the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, Church Rd., Wimbledon SW19 5AE.

Keeping the best until last, the new book *The Anatomy of a Golf Course* by Tom Doak deserves an honoured place amongst the classics of golf literature, alongside such architectural masterpieces as Hunter's 'The Links', Simpson and Wethered's 'The Architectural Side of Golf', Cornish and Whitton's 'The Golf Course' and Fred. W. Hawtree's 'The Golf Course'. All these are accepted classics in a sector of golf literature miserably lacking in quantity, though thankfully compensated for by works of the utmost quality.

Readers in this country may be forgiven for asking 'who is Tom Doak?', though we may be assured that he served his golf course design 'apprenticeship' under the watchful gaze of Pete Dye's legendary architectural staff and is now a high regarded architect in his own right, having designed and built courses throughout the United States.

What is more important, he won a scholarship from Cornell University to study 'the great golf courses

of the British Isles' and spent time as a caddie on the Old Course at St Andrews, the better to understand the thinking behind this great layout. Tom visited 172 different courses in Britain all told, photographing and notetaking as he went. To give but one example, a chance conversation with Walter Woods led Tom to visit Holinwell and Walter recalls that the end result, a private showing of Tom's slides, showed every nuance of this fine course. "It was", Walter told me, "a most enlightening demonstration of Tom's ability to see beyond the mere layout, for he had captured the whole strategy and spirit of the place in a single visit".

I will not spoil the reader's pleasure by giving too much away, but as an appetiser consider the following from a chapter titled Fair Play: 'The most common example of unfairness is the course designed under the assumption that there is some magic distance at which fairway bunkers should be placed, based on the average driving length of the Tour professional or the average golfer of the day. No matter the calibre of player involved, individuals at the same overall level of skill hit the ball different distances off the tee. It is absurd to place fairway bunkers to penalise one player more than the other. The only fair solution to the positioning of fairway bunkers is to avoid any repetition of distances. To illustrate the point, imagine a best-ball match in which the reader and Jack Nicklaus are pitted against Nancy Lopez and Lee Trevino. In theory, this ought to be a fairly even match; if it was played on a course which required 200-yard carries from every tee, the reader would be at a disadvantage, and if played on a course requiring 240-yard carries, it would be unfair because only Nicklaus could drive that far. Does not the same consideration apply to a course where all the fairway bunkers are 225 yards from the tee? And if our fictitious match were played on a Robert Trent Jones-designed course, with fairway bunkers pinching the landing areas 240-270 yards from every tee, would not the reader cry 'foul' because the course does not allow his partner to use the driver?'

Knowing why a golf course is laid out is critical to how the course should be played. Knowledgeable golfers, would-be architects, indeed anyone who ever sets foot on a golf course, will find the book fascinating - don't miss it!

• *The Anatomy of a Golf Course* by Tom Doak is available in Britain from Grant Books, Victoria Sq., Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8DE, price £18 including p+p.

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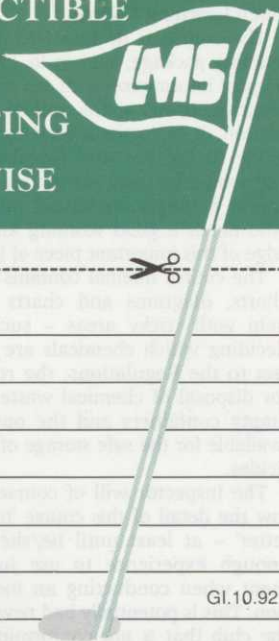
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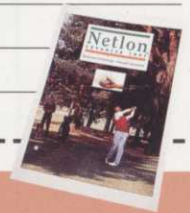
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The great water divide: the haves and the have-nots

Britain's greenkeepers are utterly divided. Not by accent; salary differentials; class; creed; religion; or the so called north-south divide; but by a quirk of geology that splits our great country into 'them that have and them that haven't' – abundant water resources, that is!

To illustrate this point, early in September I talked to a golf club secretary in Kent, who told me the problems that have bedevilled his part of the south-east throughout the growing season. In his case the club was forced (first by swingeing restrictions, then by a total ban) into a situation of having to purchase an additional tractor and a 1,200 gallon water bowser, at a cost exceeding £28,000, in order to transport final stage effluent (water one stage removed from domestic purity), bought at £5 per thousand gallons. He further explained that his club's location, just three miles from the Mid Kent Water sewage plant, made things somewhat easier in that he was able to employ just one member of the green staff to continually ferry back and forth and to distribute the effluent over the golf course. He pointed out that other clubs in Kent were less fortunate and were forced to rely upon contractors, often spending as much as £1,200 on effluent in a single week. As a result of such expenditure, some clubs have imposed an additional 'water levy' of a pound or two on all green fee paying visitors.

It comes as no consolation to those still banned clubs in the south-east to learn that the British trend is toward a wetter climate, with the 80s decade the wettest so far recorded.

The great water divide is, simply stated, one of distribution. From an imaginary line – say from Hartlepool to Weymouth – the north-west gets most rain, the south-east has more people, demands more water and has fewer suitable sites for reservoirs. It also gets less rain, even in winter.

Of even greater importance, the geological make-up of the north-west – high, hard and rocky ground sweeping down to deep valleys – provides ideal reservoir locations. The poor old south-east has softer rock – mostly chalk – which form the aquifers which absorb the lesser rainfall, storing it and eventually releasing it to rivers, boreholes and the like. About 17% of Britain's water comes from such aquifers, though our clubs in Kent, indeed much of the south and east, depend on aquifers as their only source.

To understand more fully the reasons behind continuing bans, we must set aside the fact that these are not causing problems *at the moment* just because rainfall has been abundant throughout August and September. Rainfall pattern records reveal that the east gets less rainfall in winter than in summer – period.

Grass and other plants need more moisture during the growing season (April-September) and any rainfall is voraciously absorbed, failing to recharge the aquifers. The drying out which occurs is known in scientific circles as a 'soil moisture deficit' (SMD), i.e. the amount of rain needed to soak the soil to a point where soil absorption is complete and aquifers can replenish.

Greenkeepers know that the SMD cannot increase indefinitely, for as the soil on golf courses dries out it becomes more difficult for turf to extract water and the playing surfaces begin to wither and die. There has been nothing typical in the recent south eastern pattern of SMDs, which in normal times begin to increase in spring, rising to something over 100mm in July, declining through autumn and (usually) ended by November to bring about a recharging of aquifers or reservoirs.

Rains from the Atlantic have of late tended to skip Britain



and the west-east shortfall has been added to by a lack of summer thunderstorms, resulting in SMDs that have lasted till early winter or even the following spring. In Kent and East Anglia, the SMDs of 1991 persisted throughout winter and the whole problem began again this spring.

The exceptional rainfall in early July and all of August has eased the problem – temporarily – and there are signs that reservoirs are being replenished.

There have been some unusual irregularities in past droughts, as witness those of 1975/6 and 1984. The first dealt a severe blow to southern England, with Devon, Cornwall and Somerset particularly hard hit as their reservoirs dried up. The latter affected the whole country for a few months, though the usually rain-blessed north and west experienced greater problems than the south and east. It was not until the heavy rains of early autumn that depleted reservoirs were able to replenish, having been down to as low as 30% capacity.

Talking to a National Rivers Authority official recently, I was told that despite the present drought there is more available water in the aquifers than in all of the reservoirs of England and Wales, though its use to supply golf courses and country gardens is decried as being a contributory factor in the decline of wetland areas.

Returning to those unfortunates from the south east, especially Kent and East Anglia, there can be but cold comfort in knowing the tendency for rainfall is to increase in winter, for very heavy autumn and winter rainfalls are vital in the next six months to lift the threat of water shortages next year. Clubs in the south east remain defenceless should the forecasters have their sums wrong and the meagre 1991/2 recharge rate is repeated.

If all this sounds unduly pessimistic, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. One safe and sure solution, *always provided access to winter water is available*, is winter storage for summer use. This is not without additional cost and should not be undertaken without early consultation with the NRA, who are developing considerable expertise in this field. Coupled with the taking of expert advice on building lakes or other catchment devices, this may well represent the only rescue package available.

DAVID WHITE

Last month Bernard Findlay took Greenkeeper International readers through the planning and preparation stages of the exciting new links construction at Portstewart Golf Club, culminating in the building of a pilot hole. Though much of the experiment was successful, there was to be a bitter learning experience...

Though the tee and fairway on our experimental hole proved a great success, the sand-only pilot green was a failure. This is where our lessons began.

First, a rather late sowing in September – especially in the north – would not allow sufficient time for grass to establish before the rigours of winter. With this in mind, it was deemed essential that further sowing should take place no later than the end of July.

Second, we had not sown the seed to a sufficient depth, which meant that if moisture was not continually available (which in the first several millimetres it wasn't), on emergence of the root hair the seed died. That seed which did germinate and live was 12mm or more below the surface.

Third, the lack of rainfall during the particular September in question meant that it was very difficult to maintain adequate moisture levels, especially with the type of hand-held irrigation we used.

Lesson one, therefore, suggested to us that before embarking on the establishment of any fine turf area – particularly on sand – it is essential that an adequate, preferably automatic, watering system is available, for a number of reasons:

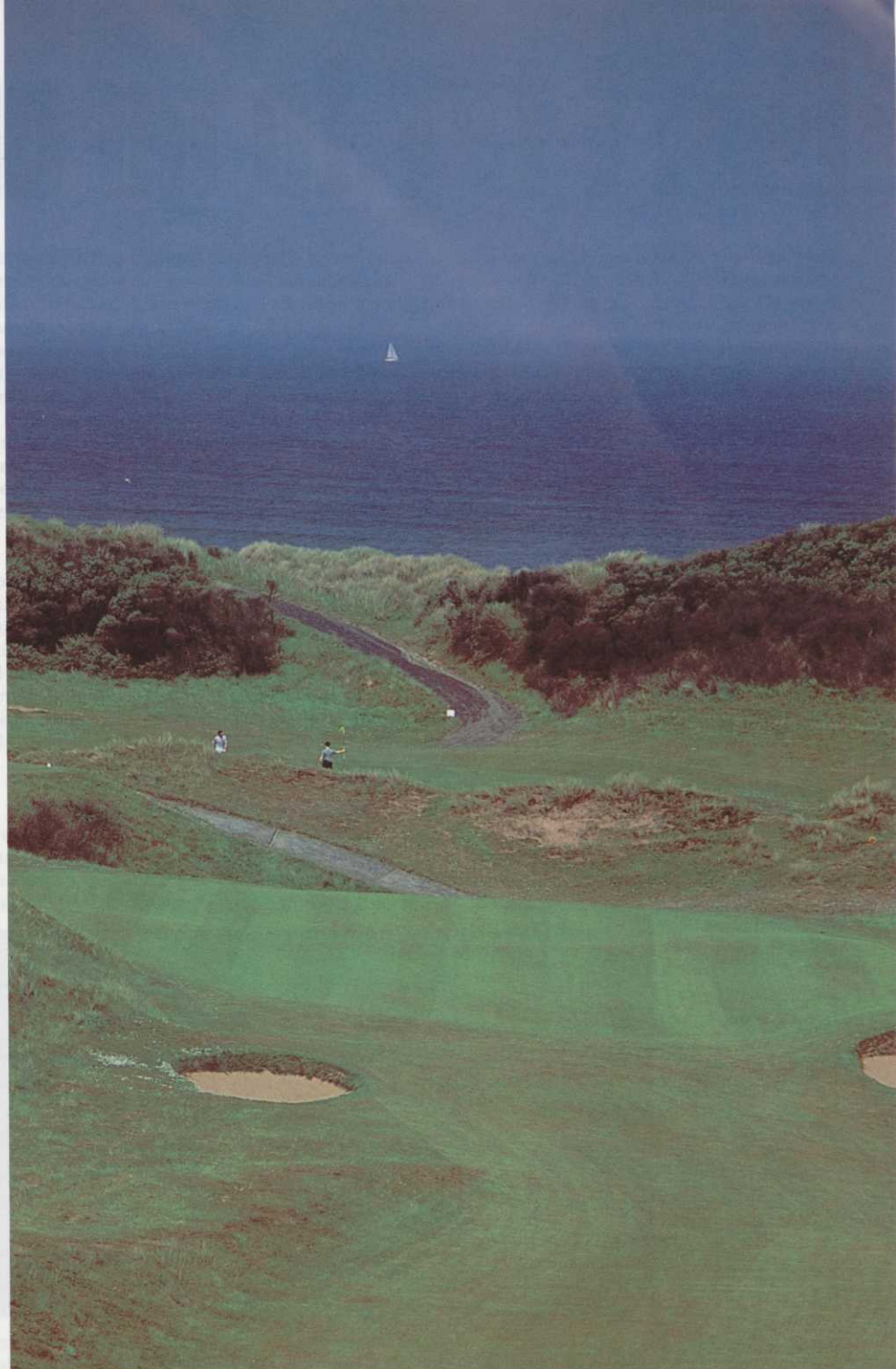
- Obviously, since 15 minutes direct sunlight on a sand growing medium can dry out the surface and produce dire consequences on emerging seedlings, it is necessary to ensure moisture is available continually.
- A regular supply of water imparts physical properties on the sand particles by holding them together, thus preventing the seed bed from being blown away.
- The regular application of irrigation water firms the seed bed and ensures cohesion between the sand particle and seed coat.

Our view in hindsight was crystal clear: Had sufficient rainfall fallen during that fateful September the new green would not have failed. Equally, had the rains been adequate, the pitfalls of sowing into pure sand would not have been realised!

Work schedule for the entire project

With valuable lessons derived from this exercise, confidence was gained to an extent that a full go-ahead began in April 1987, with all construction and sowing completed by the summer of 1989.

Work began on the greens, with extra labour recruited in order that our existing → 16



LESSONS learnt

Building a new links course – Part Two

Don't try to go one better

15 course maintenance programme might remain relatively unaffected. Four young men were provided through a Government-run employment scheme known as Enterprise Ulster, the newcomers supplemented by a couple of our green staff to offer local knowledge and essential greenkeeping skills. Financial outlay for these extra men amounted to nothing more than payment of National Insurance contributions in their first year, supplemented by 10% of their total pay during their second year.

Hired machinery requirements amounted to a tracked digger complete with an extremely skilled operator; a 7 tonne tractor with trailer and a tractor-fed soil grading machine. These were further supplemented by our own machinery and included a 4WD 4150 Kubota with front bucket, which proved most valuable.

Construction

Ten greens were built, each begun by a digger removing existing vegetation to expose clean dune sand. Nothing was wasted, for all this stripped vegetation was used to cover various less stable areas within the dune system. Once stripped, the required green contours were arrived at by constant consideration for the surrounding geography, much the same, I imagine, as our forefathers must have done, with no pre-conceived ideas for green shapes other than from a maintenance viewpoint. It may seem simplistic, but if the shape of the green looked right in its setting there was nothing more to be done!

I felt that the STRI suggestion of ameliorant applied at 70gmsm^{-2} was insufficient for the situation and with this in mind, previously well-composted and friable farmyard manure and black sandy top soil was being shredded and screened to add to the surface to a total depth of 8cms. Granulated Alginure was also applied at 150gmsm^{-2} . A tractor-mounted rotovator passed in three directions, thoroughly mixing this to a depth of 25cms to provide a sound growing medium. Though this method of rootzone mixing is perhaps not strictly according to Hoyle, in this instance it proved most successful, probably because of the friable nature of the materials used.

Following this, the tracked digger passed to and fro over the green to thoroughly firm up the surface. Any fear of compaction was dismissed – certainly it has not been encountered at Portstewart – thanks to the rounded shape of our indigenous sand particles.

Four or five men raked and then rolled the surface prior to fertiliser application and again prior to seeding at 35gmsm^{-2} , this to ensure full cover of the fertiliser. Finally the seed bed was raked and rolled, the seed covered to a depth of 20mm. Throughout, the seed mixture for our greens was 20% browntop bent, 20% slender creeping red fescue and 60% chewings fescue.

As there were no pre-conceived plans regard-

ing green shaping it was difficult to time the introduction of a fully automatic pop-up system, so to begin we had three full circle sprinklers fed by manual take-off points. As I have already written, the wind can destroy a perfectly good seed bed unless it remains moist, thus the temporary irrigation system led to some rather unsociable working hours during darkness.

Before the spring of 1988 the entire course was updated, using impact drive sprinkler heads controlled by a two-wire system. The advantages were clear to see, for a two-wire system allows for additions with minimal disruption at a later date.

Germination at first was a trifle patchy, perhaps as a result of uneven final raking of the seed bed and despite our vigilance in attempting to rake in a uniform manner. To eliminate this human factor in future, final raking should be done by machine to obtain continuity within each site. Notwithstanding that point, with localised overseeding and a lot of patience the end results were well worth waiting for.

Fairways and tees construction

As most of the tees were situated on elevations and therefore exposed to the elements, they were all turfed in the manner mentioned earlier. We have made considerable use of rail-



way sleepers in these areas for steps, seats and defining path edges. A D8 bulldozer was added to the list of hired machinery for this second phase, which started in October 1987.

The fairways were sown mainly on a very sandy growing medium, containing small particles of peat and topsoil, again to 'dirty-up' the sand. It would have been far easier to add large quantities of topsoil from an inland source to allow grass to germinate and establish quickly and though this would have been okay in the short term, problems associated with inland conditions would soon have been apparent, eg. poor drainage; invasion by coarse grasses and lush growth. We must remember that an essential for a pure links course is infertility – something not afforded to us by most inland soils and certainly not soil from building sites that hitherto may have been agricultural land.

However, the fact that these new fairways were sown on such impoverished ground did present us with problems, such as bare high spots and bare areas through bottle-necks. To solve this problem in an instant these areas were turfed, the resilient fibre building up through the rest of the new course and causing the bare and stressed areas to become far less frequent.

Nutrition and other chemical treatments

I have purposely left nutritional requirements for greens until now because they are worthy of detailed explanation. During their first full season, our greens received a complete fertiliser containing a seasonal total of 125 units of nitrogen per hectare with sulphate of ammonia; 100 units of phosphate with bonemeal and 100 units of potassium with sulphate of potash. This was applied in four separate applications through the growing season. In addition, an organic liquid – Abbeygrow – and iron sulphate were applied.

Three quarters of the way through the growing season of 1988 the new greens, particularly the fescues, developed a severe attack of corticium, indicating insufficient nitrogen. This situation improved once we applied the last nitrogen application (of the season) to the greens, though the corticium returned once the effects of this had worn off.

The application of Daconil turf fungicide and sulphate of iron kept the disease at bay through the winter months, though I was at a loss to know which move to take next regarding nutritional requirements for these new greens. At that time the STRI had published new information regarding nutrition of sand greens, suggest-

ing that between 250/350 units of nitrogen per hectare per season should be applied. I was prepared to use this lower figure as a nutritional benchmark and during the second growing season of 1989 the regime changed thus: 250 units of N per hectare using a slow-release fertiliser containing

IBDU; 100 units of K per hectare using sulphate of potash.

In addition, an organic spray, iron and Turfex were also applied, these in six separate applications throughout the growing cycle.

At the end of the 1989 season the bent grasses still had not made any significant advances. The fescue was still strong and no longer suffered from corticium, but small patches of *Poa annua* now colonised the greens.

An observation on my part suggested that the use of slow-release fertiliser, progress of which is out of one's control once applied, was doubtless a factor in the *Poa annua* encroachment, since *Poa* is able to profit from spring warm-up far earlier than the root systems of fescue or bent, which are still to receive the warmth of spring.

The seasons of 1990 and 1991, with the new course now in play, have seen a return to my using straight materials. If my observations suggested their use – and I stress the word observations – up to 250 units of nitrogen were applied in sulphate of ammonia form, spread over six applications through the season, together with sulphate of potash, sulphate of iron and a 100% organic spray.

than nature...

The sandy greens quickly became hydrophobic, but for the last two years the use of Turfex wetting agent at every opportunity has ensured this is no longer the case.

Again over the last two years, mechanical treatments have included scarification; verti-cutting and top dressing with 20% organic matter and 80% dune sand, each treatment carried out on all the greens in order that continuity may be established between old and new alike.

To ensure the establishment of the nitrogen cycle on fairways a product developed by Fisons – Sportsmaster Organic 4 – is applied. Acting as nature intended, this is 100% organic and has the advantage over synthetic slow-release formulations in not building up supplies of nutrients over which the greenkeeper has scant awareness and little or no control. Once sufficient nitrogen is within the cycle, the application of this product will cease.

To summarise, and to answer the title question 'Can you build a seaside links, or is that nature's job?', I think the answer must be yes, but with a number of provisos.

First of all, do not attempt to go one better than that which nature provided in these linksland situations. Bear in mind that one hundred years or so ago, man simply did not have the machinery available today and thus could not stray too far from the features provided by nature. Instead, he had to work with those fea-

tures. Many world-famous links courses have been the happy result.

Links courses cannot be built and brought to maturity in just a few short years – it has taken nature generations to achieve that. The varieties of grass species used on a links construction must be those native to the area, otherwise the characteristics most desirable in links golf will be lost. This point was quite evident at the most recent Ryder Cup venue of Kiawah Island, where the chip and run shot was non-existent because grasses with differing characteristics were used between green and fairway.

Don't get me wrong, the Ryder Cup at Kiawah was a marvellous spectacle and a great credit to those involved in its staging – but it was not a test of links golf in the traditional form.

Finally, none who are, or may become, managers of links courses should be tempted into prostituting these gifts of nature for a single event, for corny though it may seem; these gifts are part of our national heritage.

■ The author, Bernard Findlay, (pictured right) is course manager at the Portstewart Golf Club, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

■ The ultimate seal of approval for Bernard's work on Portstewart's epic construction and development programme came in August 1992, when the Irish Close Championships were staged over the new links. Players were unanimous in their praise, describing the course as 'unbelievably mature' and



'a new golfing paradise'. The chairman of the Ulster section of the Golf Union of Ireland, Peter O'Hara, wrote: 'I have not seen a better kept course, such that no rules decisions were called for throughout the tournament. You are to be heartily congratulated'.

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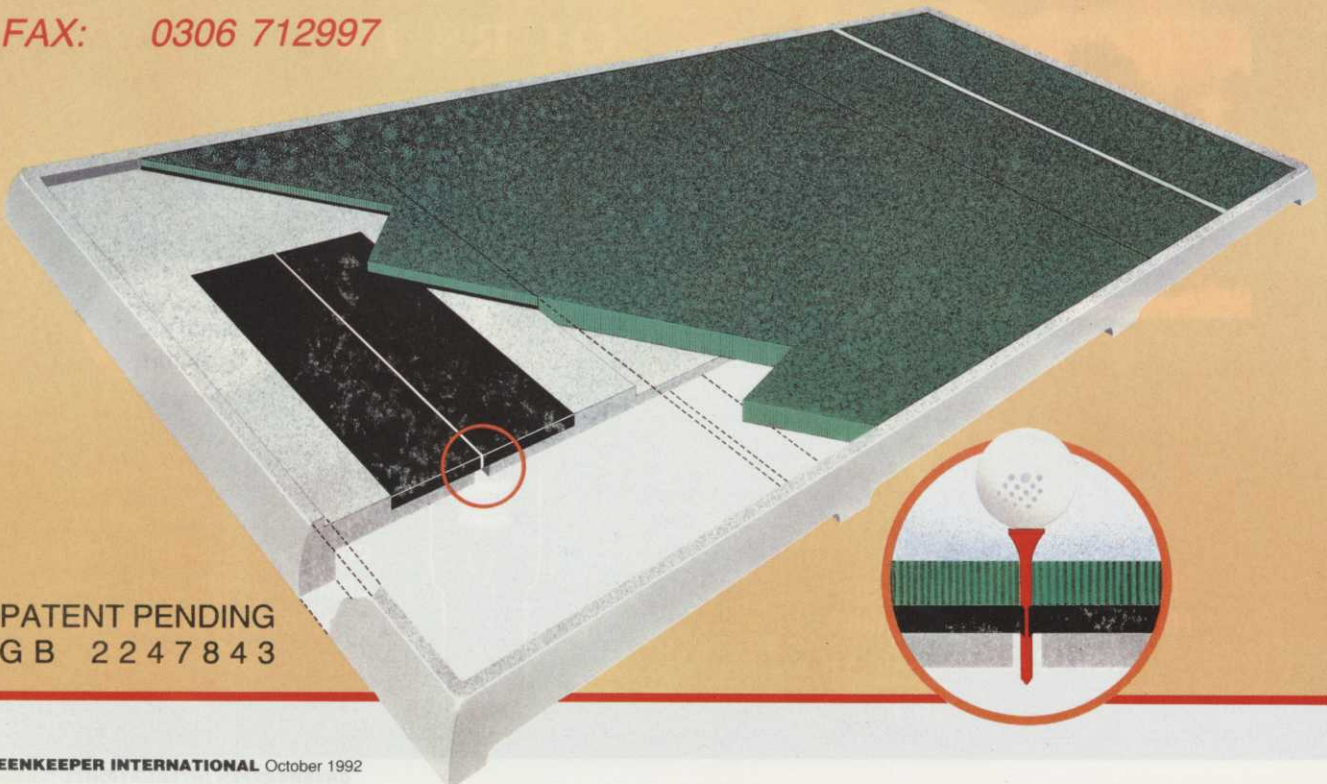
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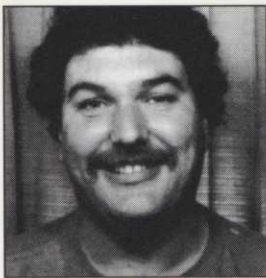
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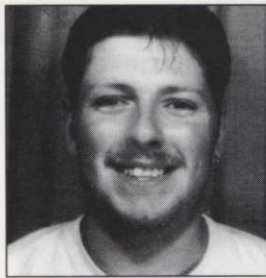


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André Woodings



Ian Whitehead



Paul Brannan



Matthew Horton



Mark Anderson

America awaits



Candidature for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year is surely the dream of every student greenkeeper, for the winning of such a coveted award can quite literally open doors and is often a stepping stone to wondrous career possibilities. Over the years many such candidates, the cream of the crop at their respective colleges, have progressed to positions of importance at famous locations.

Though there can be but one winner, each candidate can feel justly proud at having forged his

way through to this final. Selection alone denotes excellence - in written college work; in observation; in grasping and mastering practical skills and, above all, in being the chosen ambassador for their college.

One such ambassador will be rewarded with the title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, the accolade winging him across the Atlantic to enjoy a Toro sponsored expenses paid visit to the USA, along with residential student membership of the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers at the Uni-

versity of Massachusetts. Previous winners have said they learned more in six weeks than they could possibly have imagined.

Learning the intricacies of tournament course management and set-up will be the prize for two others, who will accompany the PGA European Tour's support team at two specially selected Tour events in 1993.

Following panel interviews at Aldwark Manor on October 12th, results and photographs will be published in the November issue of Greenkeeper International.

THE CANDIDATES

André Woodings - nominated by Reaseheath College

Thirty year old André may well be considered a mature student, for he has been involved in greenkeeping for 14 years, working his way steadily up from humble beginner through assistant greenkeeper to his present task as head greenkeeper at Rothley Park, a position he has held for the past two years. Under his direction, Rothley Park has, in the opinion of members, gone from strength to strength. He considers this his greatest achievement and is proud that his course has been chosen as the venue for the IMS Championships in 1993.

For over 12 years André relied on practical experience alone before the lure of education finally took him to Reaseheath (on block release) and a course in Greenkeeping Management. His future aspirations lean toward achieving Master Greenkeeper Certification. Course tutor, Denis Mortram speaks highly of his practical skills and of his determination to succeed. In summary, Denis is sure that André's nomination will uphold the traditions of previous nominees.

Ian Whitehead - nominated by Askham Bryan College

Twenty two year old Ian has been a greenkeeper for seven

years, entering the profession as a YTS trainee and working now as first assistant to the talented Gordon Brammah at Hallamshire Golf Club. His chosen college course, City & Guilds Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, has meant considerable travelling from his home in Sheffield to Askham Bryan, but the discipline has clearly been worth while.

Quite apart from academic successes achieved thus far; Ian is not content to rest on his laurels. His immediate plans include taking supervision and management modules at Askham Bryan, this as part of a planned career path that will lead to his becoming a head greenkeeper.

On the golfing front, Ian is well known in Sheffield circles as a solid nine handicap player who on four occasions has taken top honours in section tournaments. He has twice qualified for the Iseki finals.

Paul Brannan - nominated by Langside College

In telling us about Paul, college tutor Colin Urquhart wrote "Paul has entered greenkeeping after completing a three year craft level apprenticeship and training in Amenity Horticulture. Since Glasgow District Council Leisure and Recreation Services bestowed

upon him the honour of helping to care for and maintain the city's municipal golf courses, Paul has returned to the School of Horticulture determined to prove that he is as good a greenkeeper as he is a horticulturalist.

"His diligence and quiet but positive manner brings an assured, competent air to all the challenges of college and superb SNC results prove his genuine abilities in his chosen field. Paul's mature, friendly ways make him a popular student with both college staff and his student greenkeeper peers. Paul intends to further his academic career in our new HNC in Golf Course Management".

On a practical front, Paul has recently spent time learning of the installation and control functions of an automatic irrigation system and is involved in building a new green. Though only twenty, his long term aspirations lean toward managing a championship golf course and at some point becoming involved in course architecture.

Matthew Horton - nominated by the Welsh College of Horticulture

Twenty three year old Matthew has just gained promotion to head greenkeeper at Builth Wells GC, well deserved when one considers his splendid academic achieve-

ments. He began his career as an apprentice groundsman, during which he sat C&G Phases I&II in General Horticulture. This was followed with a one year NCH in Amenity and Landscape at Pershore College, resulting in a pass with distinction.

Moving to Builth Wells in 1984, he became an assistant greenkeeper and attended the Welsh College to sit C&G in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Phase II - he finished as top student in both years! Promoted to head greenkeeper this year, he now plans to sit Phase III Management and, when qualified, would eventually like to work abroad.

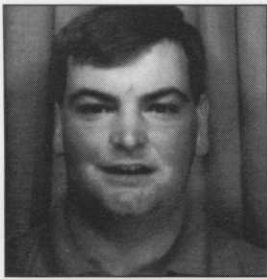
His college tutor, Graham Wright, wrote in glowing terms of Matthew's rapid progress, a feeling shared by Matthew's club secretary and chairman of green. Graham is particularly pleased that Builth Wells are responding to the advances within the golf industry, eager to be in the forefront of golf provision in Wales. As he rightly asserts, should Matthew become Student Greenkeeper of the Year, it will make Welsh clubs sit up and take note of 'The Way Forward'.

Mark Anderson - nominated by Sparsholt College

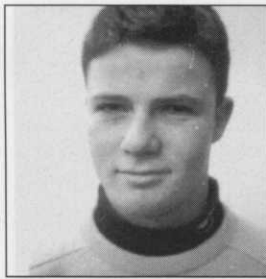
Well could tell by the comments of Sparsholt's tutor, Bob Young,



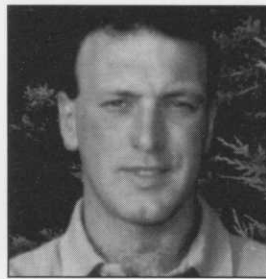
Andrew Nice



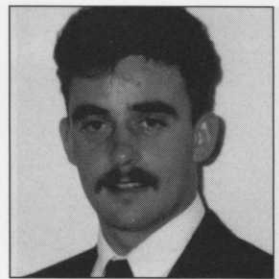
Barry Neville



Martin O'Rawe



Anthony Gooch



Adrian Porter



THE CANDIDATES

that he holds thirty one year old Mark in high esteem. From a career which began as a young entrant in the Army, one which took him to Central America, Germany and Northern Ireland, Mark had the misfortune to be disabled in a training accident and he was invalided out of the Army in 1985.

New career training began with a spell at St Loyes College for the Disabled, studying horticulture, followed by rewarding work experience on a golf course. Though there were to be other work experience sorties it was in golf that Mark found his forte - and he joined Broadstone GC as a trainee greenkeeper.

Bob Young told Greenkeeper International that Mark meets every criteria for his deserved nomination, which came from both peers and tutors alike. He has worked hard to complete his Phase II Greenkeeping and now plans to progress to Phase III Greenkeeping Supervision.

Mark, now an assistant greenkeeper at Broadstone, is dedicated to his new career and is a highly respected member of the club's professional team. He is a 'dab hand' with a shotgun, having won several trophies for clay pigeon shooting.

Andrew Nice - nominated by Plumpton College

Thirty year old Andrew is now supplementing a wealth of practical experience acquired at three golf clubs with the off-the-job training he is obtaining at Plumpton. His position as first assistant at Fernwell easily allows him to pass on his acquired know-how to others on the workforce - an experience he is savouring.

Course tutor David Blackmur told us that Andrew has a real thirst for knowledge and that coming straight onto the Phase II option proved no stumbling ground whatsoever. Andrew is

looking forward to continuing the learning process next year with the Phase III course and, in David's words, is a thoroughly deserving student to take the mantle as Plumpton's chosen representative.

Andrew joined his present club as first assistant and was delighted when they willingly sponsored his college entry - "to provide me with a theoretic base to back up my practical experience" - as he put it. Undoubtedly his college course has brought him one step nearer to his ambition of becoming a head greenkeeper.

Andrew enjoys running and has competed in several half marathons - no doubt he will don tracksuit and sneakers for early morning sessions at Aldwark Manor!

Barry Neville - nominated by Oaklands College

Barry began his golf career in 1987 whilst still at school studying for A levels. The golf centre where he now works as an assistant greenkeeper did not exist when he commenced his part time work, though he thoroughly enjoyed the involvement of construction work on land that hitherto had been nothing more than arable farmland.

After gaining eight O levels and two A levels he went to Polytechnic, but soon found the outdoor life more to his liking and began full-time employment at the golf centre, which now boasts a complementary 18 hole golf course.

After just one year at the 25 bay golf centre Barry decided that his particular way forward was to become fully qualified and he wisely opted for a course at Oaklands, where he has just completed Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. Not content to rest on his laurels, he will continue studying next year, taking a Business Management

course as the next stage to his ultimate aim, one of becoming a head greenkeeper at a top class golf course.

Barry, now 22, enjoys cricket and golf, as well as being a keen photographer.

Martin O'Rawe - nominated by Elmwood College

Like so many young greenkeepers, Martin began his career as a YTS student. He joined the world-famous Royal Dornoch and as a result of his excellent work, both on the course and at Elmwood, was offered an apprenticeship.

Attending Elmwood on block release, he has recently completed his three year National Certificate in Greenkeeping course, gaining all modules with ease and winning the coveted St Andrews Trust Award for Best Practical Work, earned during the years of 1991-92.

Though he is only 20, Martin recently moved on to take up the position of greenkeeper at the South Course at Wentworth, the first stage of his declared ambition: working on a course that stages Tour events. From this base Martin aspires to working around the world, eventually moving into course construction and finally retiring to Scotland as a rich man!

Martin is a grand golfer who plays to a handicap of seven - he won the Most Improved Golfer award at Muir of Ord Golf Club and has played to single figures since his teens.

Anthony Gooch - nominated by Cannington College

Tony Gooch has been nominated for this award not just as a result of his tutors choice but as the choice of his peers. In the words of his lecturer, Nick Ridden, "Tony represents in many ways the model greenkeeping student. He is highly motivated towards his job and his Phase II Greenkeeping/Sportsturf Manage-

ment course, producing a standard of work that has been consistently high. He plans to proceed toward Phase III Greenkeeping Management this autumn.

"Although he has been in greenkeeping a comparatively short time the world of golf is one with which he is entirely familiar, for he has been a member of Torrington for 10 years and has served on committee. His opportunity to manage Torrington, a 9 hole heathland course characterised by its dry acid soil, came just two years ago.

"A nine handicapper who has won his way into two national finals, 31 year old Tony is able to perceive the job of preparing a golf course from the players point of view.

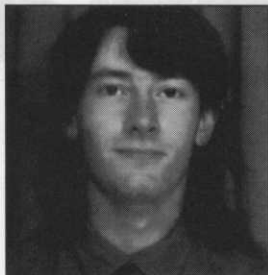
"He is especially interested in the constructional aspects of golf courses and produced an excellent college project on modern greens, tee and bunker construction".

Adrian Porter - nominated by Warwickshire College

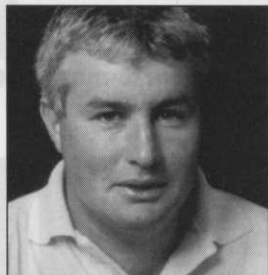
Adrian began his career as a landscape gardener, travelling the country installing cricket pitches. This led to his being appointed as a gardener and gave him his first taste of golf course work when he became involved in construction work at Western Park Golf Course. The decision was made - move into golf course maintenance proper - and this led him to his becoming assistant greenkeeper at Scraftoft GC. Now, some two years later, he is deputy head greenkeeper and enjoying every minute of his new found career.

Having already achieved C&G in Horticulture, Adrian recently completed Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management under the tuition of Andy Cole and he plans to take Phase III this autumn.

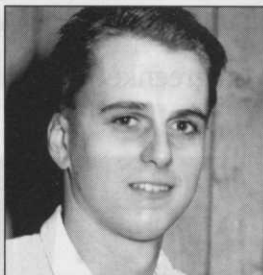
Paul Rabbich, his current lec-



Gary Tusler



James Timmins



Chris Chapman



THE CANDIDATES

turer, had this to say: "Adrian has a very questioning, thorough mind in that he requires to understand 'why' rather than accepting facts on face value – an attribute which keeps staff very much on their toes. He has consistently achieved very high marks in written and oral exams and demonstrated an excellent understanding and background knowledge of greenkeeping and the game of golf.

"He always produces project work of an extremely high standard exhibiting his key virtues of enthusiasm, conscientiousness and hard work with that sparkle of innovation which separates him from his colleagues. These traits, combined with his sense of humour and easy going personality, make him a fine ambassador for the profession and an ideal candidate for this award".

Adrian, an avid golfer, has won several section events and represented his region in the 1991 Iseki Championships.

Gary Tusler – nominated by Oatridge College

Twenty one year old Gary began his golfing career as a YTS trainee at Murrayfield GC, remaining for two years before spending a brief spell in the Royal Navy. On his return to terra firma he immediately joined Uphall GC as an assistant greenkeeper, a position he has held for nearly three years.

Attending Oatridge Agricultural College on day release over three years to take Scotvec National Certificate modules in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, he has pleased his tutor by consistently giving total commitment and producing very high standards of both written and oral work. These exceptional standards have resulted in his gaining top college honours of Best First Year Student, Best Second Year Student, and Best Overall Greenkeeping Student (practical) in 1992.

In providing Greenkeeper International with observations of Gary's project and assignment work, course tutor Steve Miller had this choice comment to make: "Gary, a very able and diligent student, possesses the necessary attributes to make it to the very top of his chosen profession." Praise indeed.

James Timmins – nominated by Teagasc National Botanic Gardens, Dublin

It could be said that James has greenkeeping in his blood, for having grown up in the shadow of his greenkeeping father, he has followed in his Dad's footsteps to become a greenkeeper in his own right. In James's case, there was never any doubt that he would follow the calling and he joined Courtown Golf Club straight from school. Courtown is an 18 hole course located by the sea in County Wexford – God's own country. It's a busy course with over 1,000 members and employs three greenkeepers year round, supplemented by three extra assistants in the summer months.

Apart from his activities behind the triplex, James is an accomplished golfer who has won several competitions, including Intermediate Scratch and All Ireland Daily Mail Foursomes, representing Ireland at Royal Porthcawl.

Pat Suttle, tutor at Teagasc, is fulsome in praise of James as a student, telling us of his splendid progress in Phases I&II Greenkeeping & Sportsturf Management. Now these hurdles are safely crossed, James, aged 30, intends to continue with further education, progressing to Phase III Management, no doubt with a view to becoming a head greenkeeper.

Chris Chapman – nominated by Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture

Twenty four year old Chris Chapman is something of an outdoor enthusiast, being an active participant in football, badminton and numerous other leisure activities.

Not content with spending his leisure time outdoors, Chris has been working on the golf course at Rochdale Golf Club for some seven years, three of those as first assistant to Karl Buckley.

His studies have taken him to Oldham College and thence to the Lancashire College, where his efforts have been rewarded by his being acclaimed as 'Student of the Year'.

Chris, who gains great satisfaction from his career at Rochdale GC, nurtures ambitions to become a head greenkeeper at a championship golf course.

FLYING DIVOTS

Another Scot strikes lucky

◆ **Not all activities at The Open** were centred around golf, as witnessed within the extremely 'liquid' marquee manned by members of the Golf Club Stewards Association. One such activity, which raised a splendid sum for the charity SPARKS (Sportsmen Pledged to Aid Research into Crippling Diseases) was the draw organised by Northwood GC steward, Peter Walsh. The good news, notwithstanding the funds raised, was that Willie Blair, secretary of the East of Scotland section of BIGGA, won first prize, a full set of Sundridge carbon shafted golf clubs. This follows the trend set in 1991 by Jim Paton, with yet another lucky Scot leaving The Open better equipped than on arrival.

◆ **Your editor shares the concern** expressed by members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors (BAGCC), raised in their recent press release which decried adverse publicity generated in the 'popular' press regarding some golf developments.

'The majority of successful developments', say BAGCC, 'do not receive the same publicity as that generated by the high profile failures, resulting in the appearance that banks seem unwilling to look at golf as a business'.

The BAGCC membership have indicated their willingness to meet with bankers and discuss the many examples of successful developments with which they have been involved. They issue the challenge to bank financiers to 'consider golf on business grounds rather than on purely emotive terms'.

With the country in deep recession, the BAGCC argues that golf development over the past four years has continued to produce excellent businesses, some so successful that several golfing millionaires have been created. They are deeply upset by rumours that some banks have issued a hidden 'no to golf' edict.

The BAGCC, which employs over 3,000 people in all aspects of golf development, fear this negative attitude may lead to staff cutbacks at a time when the construction industry is severely depressed.

Permitting myself the luxury of theorising on banks and bankers, having personally tried and dismissed all five of the 'High Street Banking Mafia' as ill-equipped to meet even my modest demands, I believe that bankers – especially those at high street level – are lost souls floundering in a sea of their own incompetence. At a higher level, where the idea of demoting or sacking an obvious blunderer just never occurs, one is left to wonder who will eventually pay for such monstrous 'gaffs' as the loaning of irretrievable sums to Third World nations; aiding and abetting Robert Maxwell; the Canary Wharf white elephant, or their abortive and foolhardy stock-broking escapades.

◆ **Jon Allbutt has brought my attention** to recent reports regarding two chemical substances that could be encountered in some vehicles. Fluorolastomer or Veton is a material used to make some brake and oil seals and fuel pipes. There may also be a number of other, as yet unidentified, rubber/plastic substitutes now being used in vehicles.

These substances become highly dangerous after they have been burnt – ie. in a vehicle fire, when they melt and turn into highly corrosive Hydrofluoric acid. If this acid comes into contact with any bare skin it cannot be removed, other than by amputation. It also remains dangerous for a minimum of two years. Therefore, when dealing with a burnt out vehicle, gloves must be worn.

Electric ignition modules also contain dangerous substances which, when in contact with the skin, could cause cancer. The rule must be not to open ignition modules and if a vehicle has been damaged by fire or accident, take great care.

Jon's rider suggests that members should not handle burnt vehicle components without specialist assistance. Such an operation comes directly under COSHH regulations and will require an assessment before any work can be started.



Stuart Cameron - Under 21s winner

DAVID WHITE reports from Coventry
on greenkeepers' favourite tournament

ISEKI
CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

REVVED UP FOR GLORY

History buffs will know that the city of Coventry can boast more than its fair share of power and glory. It is therefore fitting that a city which is immortalised by the escapades of a publicity-seeking Lady Godiva, which continues to revel in the splendour of Jaguar's winning ways at Le Mans a decade or so back and which has always been at the forefront of Britain's technological superiority, should proudly boast the staging of the 1992 Iseki Championships - the favourite championship of BIGGA greenkeepers everywhere.

Fitting too that this final of finals, the last to be staged under the Iseki sponsorship banner, should have been a total rip-roaring success.

We can now cast our minds back over five successful Iseki championships - all held at exquisite courses of undoubted repute and all masterminded (save the final of finals) by the ebullient Colin Gregory, whose vision of a championship incorporated players of every standard of ability competing at all levels (sectional, regional, national) and bringing together in the spirit of competition those whose paths ➔ 24

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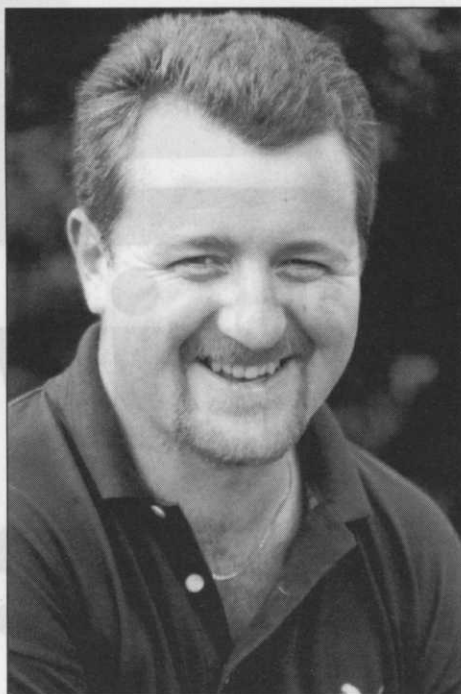
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Stuart Taylor – Best Gross



Jim Cassidy – Winner, Category Three



Alan Carter – Winner, Category One

ISEKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

RESULTS

The Iseki Trophy and winner on handicap:
Jim Byrne, Eire 106.5

Best gross:

Stuart Taylor, Scotland
113

Over 55s:

Owen O'Connor, Eire
111.5

Under 21s:

Stuart Cameron: Scotland
113

Category One:

1st: Alan Carter, South
East 109
2nd: Tony Burke, Eire 110
3rd: Michael Gunn,
Northern 111 (countback)

Category Two:

1st: Owen O'Connor, Eire
111.5 (countback)
2nd: Mike Coultas,
Northern 111.5
3rd Stuart Cameron,
Scotland 113

Category Three:

1st: Jim Cassidy, Midland
113.5
2nd: Kevin McGuire,
Scotland 114
3rd Leslie Hallett, SW & S
Wales 115

Team Prize:

1st: Midlands 926.5
2nd: SW & S Wales 931.5

Nearest the pin:

Ollie English, Eire

Longest Drive:

Pat Devine, Northern
Ireland

'Minor miracles' clear the way for an event to be remembered

22 → might not otherwise cross. For all that this last Iseki event was tinged with sadness, we are certain that the sponsor's original aim – to be identified, recognised and remembered – has been reached and surpassed, and that the Iseki Championship will be recalled with affection for decades to come. Iseki, we salute you!

The cries for rain that echoed through the land must surely have been heard, for during those days leading up to the final the heavens opened – literally – and many parts of England were submerged – roads turned into rivers, golf courses closed, fears of tournament cancellation or curtailment uppermost in many minds.

Finham Park did not escape the deluge but we need not have worried, for John Bayliss and his crew performed minor miracles in removing surface water and the course at Finham Park was looking – and playing – at its best. From the very back medal tees (step back and fall over!) John laid out a challenge that demanded solid striking and length – no run on the ball on damp fairways – and accurate target play to clever pin positions: full marks for this very proper examination!

Space limitations will not allow a ball by ball account of play, but suffice to say that the cream of the crop – including players from Northern Ireland and Eire – were on tenterhooks and fidgeting with putting strokes when Scotland's Stuart Taylor answered the command of starter Bert Cross to "play away." His drive was perfection, followed by 27 holes of immaculate play which brought him the coveted low gross award with a score of 113. It was left to another Scot, Stuart Cameron, to produce the best Under 21s score of 113 nett and team captain Harry Diamond must have been very proud indeed.

The men from Eire were in scintillating form, with a perpetually grinning Owen O'Connor delighting in steady play to win the Over 55s and the handicap award in category two, bettered by Jim Byrne's wizardly play in taking the premier award, this off a reduced handicap and demonstrating his mastery of the putter – sliding

'em in from every direction! They were to leave Coventry as the happiest of men, with Tony Burke also gaining a sound second place in category one.

In any championship there is always the "dark horse", though the Midland's Jim Cassidy proved his rock steady play was no fluke by pulling off a coup with a score of just 113.5 for the 27 holes in category three – bringing jubilation to the Midland camp.

It is left to the low handicap players to produce fireworks, and in Alan Carter the South East team had a winner – he fired off shot after immaculate shot to win the first category, proving Norman Exley's prediction that he was the "main man"!

Let's hear it for the mighty atom – Welshman Les Hallett, who though beaten into third place by Scotland's Kevin McGuire in category three was at one point leading the field – nett 32 for the first nine holes in the afternoon – a spirited performance from the "wee one".

The Iseki Championship is also about team performance, and the fact that winning team Midlands produced a total of 926.5 to win should not be regarded as a walk-over. Runners-up SW and S Wales were a man short when poor Tony King was hauled off to hospital with a collapsed lung (we heard later that he was "comfortable" and would be up and about in a few days) and they are to be congratulated. In fact, the final team scores were the closest for many a year, just 11 strokes separating the first four teams.

To end on a really upbeat note, it gladdened my heart to hear Hugh McLaughlin describe this Iseki Championship as "the best four days of my life." He further expanded by saying, "I'm 42 years old, I've never been further than Dublin before now – and I'm having a marvellous time. I hope the spirit of good fellowship in such a competition can continue and that perhaps another sponsor will recognise the potential for such a wonderful way for us to meet – and occasionally beat – our fellow greenkeepers."

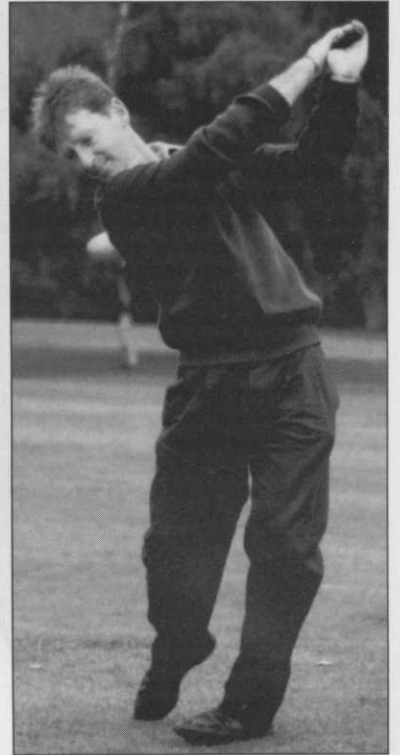
A sentiment echoed by us all.



Winners all: Jim Byrne, left, with the Iseki Trophy as overall victor, with Owen O'Connor, winner of Over 55s Category and winner of Category Two.



Les Hallett - the 'mighty atom'



Pat Devine - Longest drive

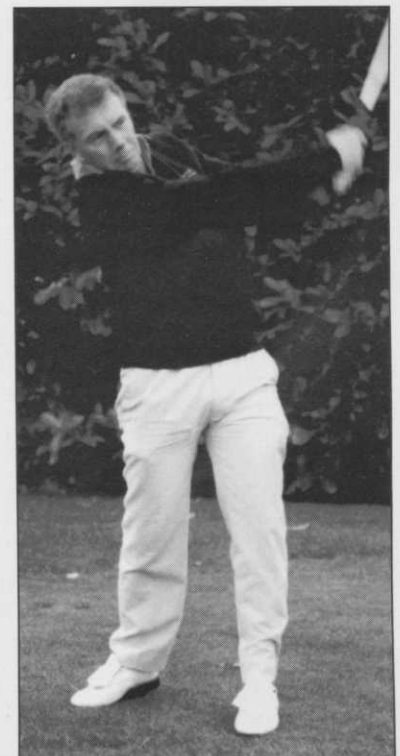


ISEKI

CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

Left: Our sponsors: Iseki's Ian Pogson and Peter Powell.

Below: Iseki's Bill Murton, left, with Under 21s winner Stuart Cameron and BIGGA Chairman Roy Kates



Ollie English - Nearest the pin

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Looking for a new greensmower, yet overwhelmed by the range on offer? MICHAEL BIRD discusses the facts and highlights some of the latest innovations designed to produce the ultimate finish on your greens

Greenkeepers need to keep an open mind about the type of machine they select to cut their golf greens, stresses Steve Isaac, agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute. "There is little doubt that both the pedestrian and ride-on greens mower have a role to play at the majority of golf clubs in Britain today," he comments. "Experience has shown that those courses which concentrate solely on using just one type of mower usually achieve poorer results than those which adopt a combined approach."

On most new and existing golf courses, time and labour availability have become the major factors dictating the ultimate choice of machine. With increasing constraints on both the quantity and quality of green staff, the ride-on triple mower has taken the lion's share of sales in recent years.

However, there is a growing conflict of interests between those who want to see all → 29

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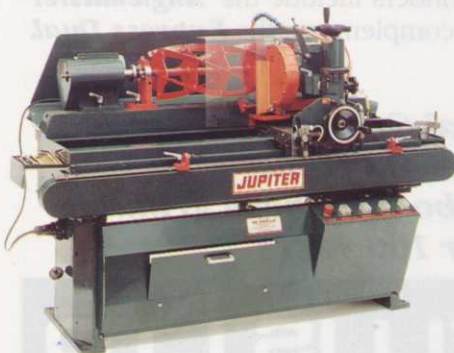
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- Ely City Golf Club
- Gleneagles Hotel
- Goring and Streetley
- Hags Castle Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Leek Golf Club
- Lingfield Park
- Massereene Golf Club
- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
- Omonde Fields Golf Club
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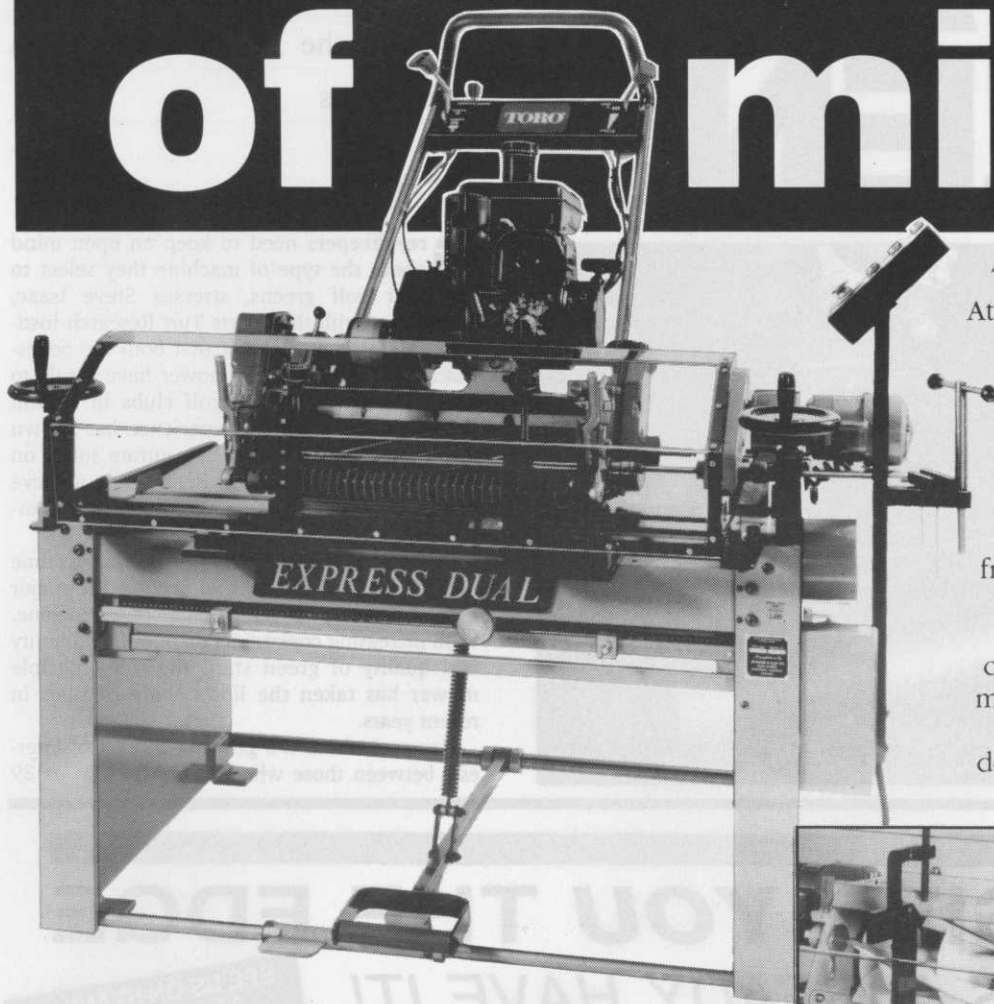


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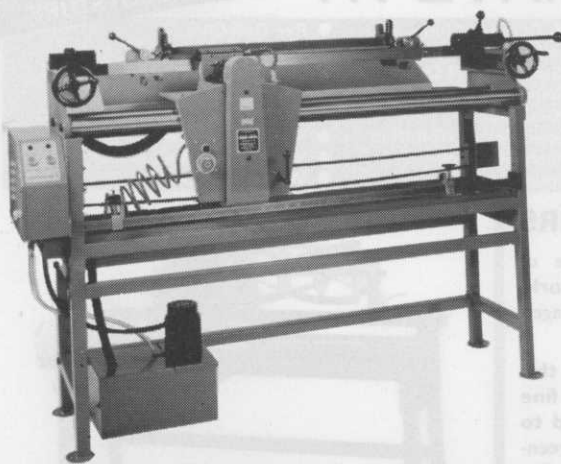
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'Inadequate instruction is probably the major factor for poor hand mowing results'

27 ➔ greens cut in advance of golfers stepping onto the first tee in the morning and those who expect their course to resemble those featured in televised tournaments from around the world. Such is the power of the commentator, camera and satellite dish!

As Steve Isaac points out, there are few courses with sufficient staff and machines available to hand mow every day, and complete the task in good time. "However, working in partnership with a ride-on triple, it is certainly practicable to use pedestrian mowers to give the greens that special finish before an important match or tournament," he says. It is this ability to give greens an "ironed" appearance, enhanced by the narrower roller stripes, that has brought pedestrian mowers back into the limelight over the past few years. In addition, says Mr Isaac, they can help the greenkeeper keep a closer eye on the condition of the whole green, often providing earlier warning of disease, thatch build-up and turf pests than is possible with the more remote ride-on.

There is also a growing reluctance on the part of a number of clubs to pay the price demanded of some ride-on greens mowers – an understandable reaction when one considers that the necessary complement of pedestrian machine for an 18 hole course can be had for as much as £15,000 less than one ride-on triple.

That sum, they reason, will go a long way towards paying the wages of another member of staff who will then be available for work on the whole course when the hand mowing is completed.

Steve Isaac comments that there had also been recent problems in the development of the triple mower, with reports of powered grooming attachments and grooved rollers causing damage to the turf when perimeter cutting a green. "Steering mowing heads appear to have largely overcome this problem, but users should beware of over-compensation when turning at sharp angles, resulting in missed areas."

That stated, Mr Isaac believes that a correctly set ride-on triple is still more likely to give a better overall cut than a walk-behind mower. "There is definitely a greater likelihood of variation in cut across a green from a pedestrian machine which has to cover



Ian Howard, Dennis's sales director, demonstrates the ease of removal of the interchangeable cassette head on the new FT510 mower

a far greater area at a single, narrower width," he says. "And one should not forget that the human foot causes more compaction than any mower." For these reasons, Mr Isaac advocates thorough training of all greenkeepers in the correct use and setting of their pedestrian mowers.

"Inadequate instruction is probably the major factor for poor hand mowing results," he points out. "Turning to the ride-on machine, training is also important and the greenkeeper must ensure that the mower provides good visibility, that the grass catchers can be removed easily and that there is sufficient engine power to get round the whole course without labouring."

This last point is particularly important with the increasing availability of all-wheel drive, power steering and attachments such as groomers and verti-reels which have greatly extended the versatility of the triple greens mower.

One company aiming to achieve

a similar feat with the pedestrian machine is Dennis, whose new FT510 mower is available with a range of interchangeable cassette head options. Offered with a choice of five- or nine-bladed 20in wide cutting cylinders, light or heavy scarifiers, a verti-cutter and brush, the FT510's cassette heads can be changed in less than a minute without a spanner.

Ian Howard, the company sales director, says the machine was designed and built first and foremost as a mower. "The various cassette options have not compromised its mowing qualities," he points out. "What they have done is extend its versatility to help the greenkeeper with his seasonal turf maintenance programmes in a more cost-effective way."

Available with a 5.5hp Kubota or Honda engine, the FT510 features independent rear roller and cassette head drive, fully floating handle bars and infinitely variable drive speed, giving a cut rate from 150 cuts/yard upwards. It costs from £1,695.

The latest addition to Jacobsen's greens mower range is the walk-behind Greens King 422 offered with the company's Turf Groomer as an option. This tournament standard mower has an 11-bladed reel giving a cutting frequency of 213 cuts per yard down to 5/64in (2mm). An interesting feature of the mower is an adjustable weight system which allows the operator to remove weight from the frame to maintain a constant balance irrespective of whether the machine is fitted with the Turf Groomer or a solid or grooved front roller.

To reduce wear and down-time, the 422 has an automotive-type clutch assembly which has been bench-tested for more than 700,000 operations – equivalent to 70 years of normal use, according to Jacobsen.

Other components designed to minimise maintenance time include a Kevlar-reinforced three belt drive line, Teflon-lined bearings and a reel, bedknife and traction roller which drop out for service in a couple of minutes.

Powered by a 4hp Honda engine, the Greens King 422 has a 22in cut width, a choice of three different bedknives and safety interlock to prevent start-up if any drives are engaged. It is priced at £3,360. The Turf Groomer option costs £870.

While the user of the walk-behind 422 may have few worries about oil leaks, it is a different story when it comes to an all-hydrostatic ride-on. For that reason, Jacobsen now offers its GreenSentry leak detector as a £360 option on the Greens King IV mower. This attachment incorporates a separate tank to allow for the outflow of oil when filling hydraulic rams before the alarm sounds.

Toro fits its Turf Guardian oil loss detector as standard on its latest ride-on triple – the Greensmaster 3100. This mower is said to be the lightest on the market at about 948lbs, as well as having very low noise and vibration levels.

According to David Boothby of distributor Lely UK, these benefits come primarily from the use of a carefully-mounted and designed Vanguard petrol engine which offers remarkable economy at around 0.5gal/hour. "We have not noticed any resistance to the fact that we do not fit a ➔ 31

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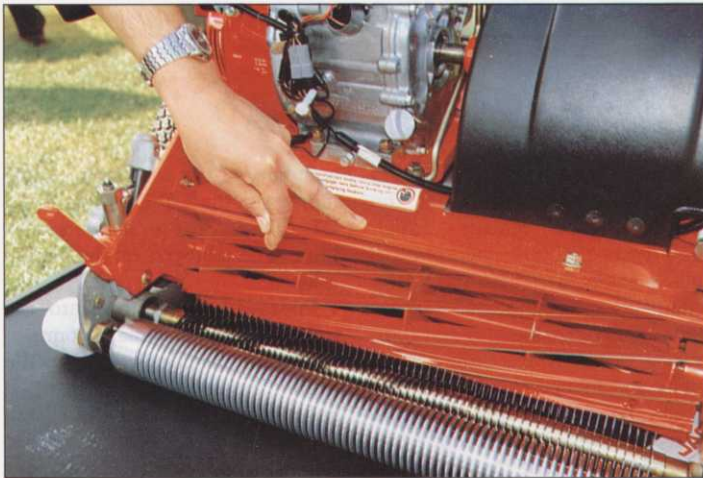
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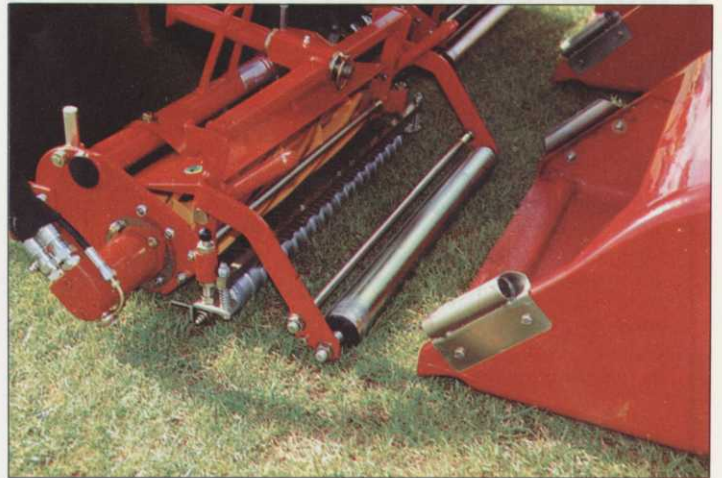
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'There's no doubting the pedestrian mower's ability to produce optimum appearance'



Removable weights on the Jacobsen Greens King 422 walk-behind mower enable the operator to maintain balance when using different front rollers or with the company's Turf Groomer fitted



Huxleys are now fitting an additional front roller assembly to the 358 Greens Mower. The hinged roller takes the weight of the grassbox off the cutting unit, keeping the box at a constant height above the ground

29 ➔ diesel engine in this particular mower," he comments.

On the pedestrian front, Mr Boothby says that there has been an 80% increase in the sales of Toro's Greensmaster 1000 model, led by demand in the USA for greens of the highest quality cut and appearance. "There is no doubting the pedestrian machine's ability to produce the optimum appearance," points out Mr Boothby. "However, I would agree with Steve Isaac that there is a place on many courses for both types of mower."

John Deere, in common with the other major manufacturers, also offers ride-on and pedestrian machines. Having stolen the limelight with the launch of its offset cut 2243 model with steerable cutting units, the company has now made available a kit which increases by 1.5in the transport height of the two front cutting units.

Designed to reduce the risk of grounding or scuffing in transport and when turning off the green, the £250 kit has been developed by John Deere dealer, Groundcare

(Lincoln).

With demand growing for increasingly lower cut heights, new low cut bedknife support has been introduced for the John Deere 22in walk-behind greensmower. The support enables cutting heights down to 3/32in to be achieved without scuffing the turf, says Deere.

Minimising turf wear and compaction is the principal aim of a new floating roller-carrier assembly for the grass collectors on Huxleys' 358 ride-on greensmower. Positioned ahead of the existing front roller, the carrier removes the weight of the grass boxes from the cutting units and ensures that each box remains at both a constant height above the ground in work and level when the units are raised.

Huxleys have also introduced as options a headlamp, towbar, flag holder and steering wheel extension.

Three-wheel drive has been available on the Huxley 358 since 1989. Now, Jacobsen is evaluating the system in prototype form on its Greens King while Lesco,

distributed in the UK by CDC, launched its 300D Three Wheel Drive Greensmower at the IoG Exhibition, Peterborough.

Powered by a Kubota 16.5hp diesel, the machine has constant drive to all three wheels and transmission braking to prevent over-run on down slopes. The unit includes an electronic differential lock system, applied by a foot or hand switch, to prevent the back flow of oil from any wheel motor and thereby eliminate slip on

steep or wet surfaces. The new mower costs £12,318 and, in common with the other two machines in the Lesco range, can be equipped with a redesigned grooming attachment, verti-cut units, powered rear roller brush and choice of solid or grooved front rollers.

Also built in the USA, the Beaver T92 triple greens mower from Hayter is receiving a major push to gain attention in the UK with a massive price cut of ➔ 32

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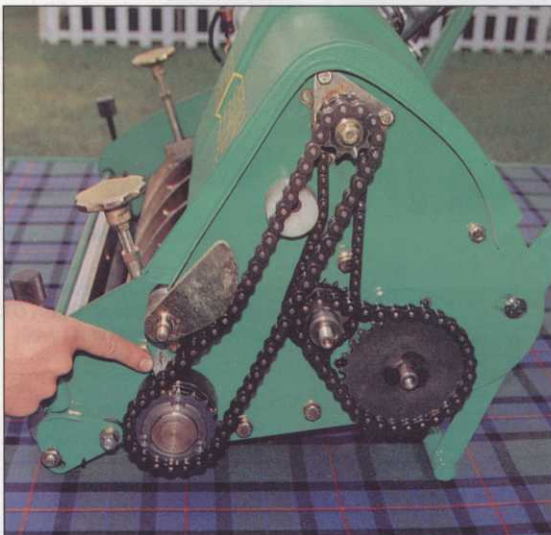
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Revised drive design on the latest pedestrian mower from Greens has produced a 2in reduction in the front to rear roller distance. An electromagnetic clutch (indicated) is fitted to disengage cylinder drive when moving from green to green



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'Extra blade on the greens cylinder produces

31 → almost £3,000. Robin Boyes of Hayter says that the diesel-powered mower, which now costs £12,000, incorporates many of the best features of the competition and deserves a closer look by greenkeepers. It has individual lock-up of the three cutting units and independently-mounted grass boxes. A demonstration revealed that the T92's centre box is certainly one of the easiest on the market to remove and replace.

The latest pedestrian greens-mowers from Ransomes, the Greenspro 51 and 56 (20in and 22in), have a cradle-mounted grassbox for simple handling with the cradle frame acting as a carrier for an out-front dew brush. Both cutting height and cylinder to bottom blade adjustments are by spannerless hand wheels and the mowers can be supplied with Ransomes' Verti-groom attachment.

To help eliminate any risk of scuffing on perimeter cuts, steering arms are now fitted as standard on the cutting units of the

company's two ride-on triple mowers – the GT Champion and GT Classic. These mowers also have hand adjusters on the cutting units.

Improved grass flow into the collector and convenient compensation for cylinder wear are the aims behind an extended polyethylene deflector plate with aerofoils now used on the Allett Supershaver and Tournament pedestrian mowers. The material, which can be formed by hand to mirror the curve of the cylinder, is bolted in position and is said to resist grass sticking.

Both mowers have a cut frequency of 180 per yard down to 3/32in. The principal difference between them is the fitting of a powered spiral brush between the cylinder and front roller on the Tournament. Apart from helping to keep the front roller clean for a constant height of cut, the brush can be moved up and down to alter the action on the turf and promote the lifting of horizontal growth for a more thorough cut.

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a noticeable improvement in cut quality...'

The 20in Tournament costs £1,995, while the Allett Super Shaver (20in or 24in) costs from £1,450.

Lloyds first introduced its Paladin pedestrian mower in 1961. The 1993 version has an up-rated (4hp) Honda engine, a choice of nine or five-bladed cutting cylinders and a front roller on an adjustable eccentric shaft to compensate for wear in its support bushes and the bottom bar.

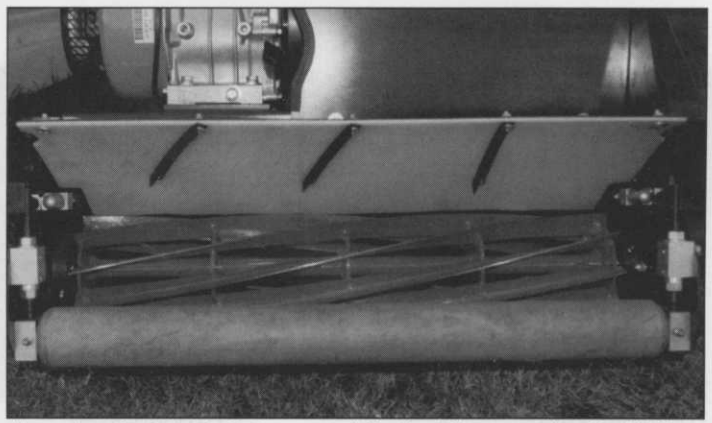
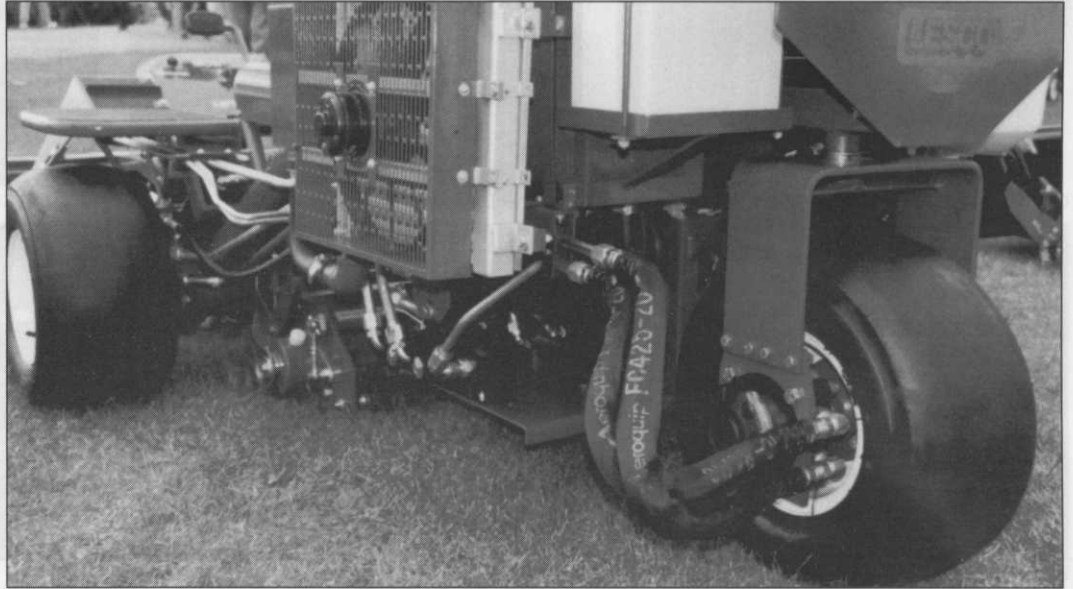
Clive Nottingham of Lloyds comments that the change to the use of steel with added boron had enabled the company to adopt a welded construction for its new cylinder. "The hardness of the material is unaffected by welding," he explained. "In addition, the extra blade on the greens cylinder, giving 16 more cuts per yard, has produced a noticeable improvement in cut quality," he points out.

Options for the 1993 Paladin include transport wheels, comb and verti-rake attachments and a grassbox cover.

Developed from the Zephyr pedestrian mower, the new walk-behind machine from Greens has had extensive surgery to its roller and cylinder drive system to enable the roller to roller distance

to be reduced by 2in. The result? Improved contour following and better balance, according to Greens.

The 10 bladed cylinder gives a consistent cut frequency at 165 per yard irrespective of drive roller speed and minimum height of cut is 1/16in with knife blade. Priced at "around £1,600", the mower has a Honda engine and optional brush and comb set and powered transport wheels.



Above: An extended polyethylene grass deflector plate now used on the Allett Supershaver and Tournament pedestrian mowers can be shaped by hand and gives improved grass flow into the collector.

Below: New for 1993 is an all-wheel drive version of Lesco's diesel-engined greens mower. Priced at £12,318, the mower has a fan-assisted oil cooler and features the company's electronic diff lock system to maintain full traction at each wheel

New health and safety regulations affect all golf course employees

Regulations to implement the European Community (EC) Framework Directive on the introduction of measures to improve the health and safety of workers at work were laid before Parliament in September.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, will come into force on 1 January 1993, following wide consultation.

The new regulations are the first in a series to implement six EC directives. Other regulations on workplace conditions, safe use of work equipment, manual handling of loads, personal protective equipment and display screen equipment will follow.

The Framework Directive sets out general principles of EC health and safety law. Some provisions in the directive are

already implemented through existing health and safety legislation, notably the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The Management Regulations introduce those additional health and safety measures required by the directive.

The new regulations set out broad general duties which apply to almost all work activities and are aimed mainly at improving health and safety management. They make more explicit what is required of employers under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The main requirements are on employers:

- To assess risks to the health and safety of their employees and others who may be affected in order to identify the measures needed to comply with relevant health and safety law. Employers

with five or more employees will need to record the significant findings of the risk assessment.

- To make arrangements for implementing the health and safety measures identified as being required by the risk assessment. Arrangements for planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review will need to be covered. Again, employers with five or more employees will have to record arrangements.

- To appoint competent people (either from inside the organisation or from outside) to help with the implementation of the health and safety arrangements.
- To set up emergency procedures.

- To provide information to employees which can be understood, as well as adequate training and instruction.

- To work together with other employers sharing the same workplace.

Some of these duties, such as the duty to assess risks, also apply to the self-employed. There are also specific duties on employees to use equipment only in accordance with the training received, and to report dangerous situations and any shortcomings in their employers' health and safety arrangements.

Copies of 'Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992' are available from HMSO and booksellers. price £2.30. An Approved Code of Practice to accompany the regulations will be launched at a press conference later this year. Details will appear in Greenkeeper International as soon as this is made available.



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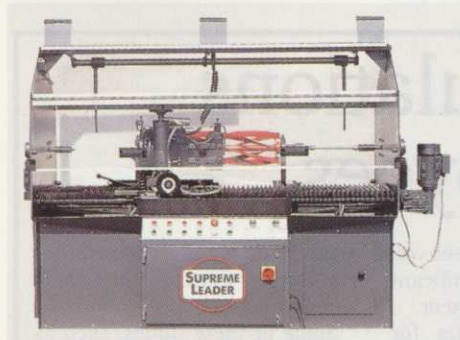
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■ Kubota (UK) Ltd. launched a new 18hp ride-on front mounted mower – the F1900. Developed to meet commercial needs, the F1900 provides the operator with high levels of machine manoeuvrability, efficiency and comfort. A multi-purpose ride-on, the F1900 can tackle long and wet grass and because of its lightweight – 400kg – it can also undertake fine turf and lawn work without crushing grass. With a short wheel base of just 850mm, the F1900 achieves very tight turns around trees and other obstacles or can leave an uncut area of 650mm diameter. The F1900's side discharge cutting decks – 48" or 54" – are shaft driven off-set mowers with a three blade cutting action to allow trimming of wide swaths. In addition the hydraulic PTO brake immediately stops the mower blade when the PTO clutch is disengaged.

The one lever operation of the deck's hydraulic power lift means raising and lowering of the mower deck for maintenance is quick and simple. The F1900 features cruise control which reduces operator fatigue by freeing up the driver's foot whilst working in wide open spaces or on long distance work. The control panel, instrument panels and operating levers are conveniently located to the side of the driver giving clear visibility and easy operation. The adjustable, fully padded high back seat and four position tilt steering wheel ensures operator comfort throughout the working day. The F1900 48" S/D deck is priced at £6,750 (54" £6,850) and will be available in the spring of 1993.

■ Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, Trilo Manufacturing of Holland have produced the SG 700 Grass Collector. Launched at IoG, the new SG 700 – especially designed with the golf course application in mind – drew wide approval from greenkeepers. The combination of the powerful vacuum and a 2m brush unit inside a free floating head means that leaves and grass cuttings can be easily be collected.



In addition the machine has options such as a 2m tripartite scarifier which enables greenkeepers to scarify and collect in one pass, and a 6m wander hose to enable those difficult to reach areas, such as ditches, to be cleared. Additional uses include the collection of litter and clearing hollow cores (a service already offered by D&E Turf Maintenance Ltd using the Mini Sweep). Although multi-functional and with an enormous 7m³ capacity, the SG700 weights in at under 1300kgs. It can be supplied with extra wide 19x17 tyres. Telephone: 0223 355796.

■ Shelton Trenching Systems, specialists in sportsturf drainage machinery, and Boral Lytag, the aggregates manufacturer, have joined forces to launch a leaflet on machinery and materials for efficient and effective sportsturf drainage. Infor-

Top dressing firm puts £350,000 into its future

A top dressing supplier is bucking the recessionary trend with a £350,000 investment in its future.

Abcon North East Ltd, based in Blaydon, Tyne & Wear, have been trading since the early 1960s, supplying the construction industry with sands and gravels. With expansion and diversification, Abcon are now also serving the green-keeping industry. They have what they believe to be a unique computerised and sterilised blending and mixing plant.

Their north east location is ideally placed to supply northern England and Scotland, but the company also intends to extend their operation nationwide.

Expansion to date has been rapid. A spokesman told Greenkeeper International that they have enjoyed an increase of over 60% in clubs supplied with their product range of top dressings, root zone mixes, sands and screened soils.

Newly appointed sales manager Wilf Tucker and sales director Grant Taylor are the men behind Abcon's growth, reporting to managing director Alan Taylor.

As well as supplying more and more golf clubs, Abcon has also won the contract to supply Durham County Cricket Club with individually specified mixes for their new HQ ground and complex at Chester-le-Street.

Contact Abcon on 091 499 0555 or by fax on 091 414 1544.

mation is given on the various techniques that may be used to improve drainage where ground has become waterlogged or where water is perched on the surface. The Shelton range of drainage equipment available to overcome these problems is outlined.

The use of lightweight aggregates in drainage schemes is gaining in popularity. A table setting out the results of hydraulic conductivity tests with various materials shows the outstanding characteristics of Lytag in this respect. With several grades available from sand through to 12mm., this manufactured material is now available all over Britain. The advantages over conventional materials are enumerated. This leaflet should be in the hands of all involved in sportsturf drainage or those contemplating such work. Copies from Shelton Trenching Systems. Tel: (0732) 833647 or Boral Lytag. Tel: (0889) 583446.

■ Developed by Allen Power Equipment Ltd for their popular 18" hover mowers, their latest innovation, the Tri Cut Pro Blade, has been designed in response to requests for improved cutting performance whilst maintaining the need for maximum possible protection for the operator. The new blade uses the normal height of cut adjustment and is fitted to the 218 Tecnamotor and 218Si Suzuki powered 18" machines.

The metal disc carries three free swinging blades, manufactured from Nylon 6, which cut grass with the efficiency of metal but offer operator and machine protection if solid objects are encountered. The blades can be simply removed and replaced when worn or damaged, quickly and easily.

The new Tri Pro Blade is a result of exhaustive testing and improvements and Allen believe this new blade is the most efficient nylon cutting blade ever designed for a rotary mower.

■ The debut of the Jacobsen LF3810 Fairway Mower complements the company's LF100 (2.5m) and ST5111 (3.4m) machines to complete the Jacobsen fairway range. The 3810 has five cutting



cylinders, a working width of 3m (10ft) and the same styling as the recently announced ST5111. The 38hp diesel engine is mounted between the axles to provide an exceptionally low centre of gravity for safe working on banks. Drive is hydrostatic with stepless forward/reverse speeds.

The control lever is conveniently placed, together with the Synchronshift control which is used to raise or lower three, four or all five cutting cylinders to allow cross-cutting of fairways to be undertaken quickly and easily. The cylinders have 10 blades and are arranged so that they precisely follow ground contours. Cutting heights down to 1cm (3/8in) are possible, and working speeds can be up to 7.5mph. For easy servicing the complete operator platform can be lifted clear to provide access to engine and drive line components. Other features of the new LF3810 include power steering, adjustable steering wheel and quality suspension seating to provide an exceptional level of operator comfort for long periods of working.

■ The new high performance Ransomes Fairway 300 is a 5 unit ride-on fairway mower which offers many additional features and benefits over the current competitive lightweight fairway mowers. Already exhibited at the GCSAA → 36





35 → show in America, this machine has received wide acclaim, designed as it is to cope with all grass growth conditions. Powered by a 38hp Kubota engine the 300 has excellent fuel

economy, low exhaust emissions and low noise levels – which make it very friendly to the operator and the environment. Designed to enhance operator efficiency is a new style console which includes a tilting steering column with all the controls immediately to hand and system monitoring dials for regular maintenance checks.

The 300 is fitted with new hydraulically driven 26" cutting units which are based on the successful Motor 180D units, offering a total cutting width of 114". Both the height of cut and the cutting cylinders can be adjusted without the need for tools. It features 4WD with wide turf tyres which offer exceptional traction with low ground pressure and enhance its stability and ease of operation when working on fairways. When cross cutting fairways all five units can be raised in a single operation, enabling fast turns and ease of manoeuvrability.

■ John Deere's versatile new 1800 utility vehicle takes a range of sprayer and turf maintenance equipment for professional turf care applications. This heavy-duty, four-wheel vehicle features an



18hp petrol engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering. Load capacity is 907kg and the Softrac tyres give excellent traction combined with low ground compaction.

The two-person adjustable bench seat tilts forward to provide easy access to the Kawasaki liquid-cooled V-twin engine. Ground speed is infinitely controlled in low and high ranges, for working and transport applications, from 0 to 11.5mph. A console-mounted lever provides easy speed and direction control. Stability and manoeuvrability are enhanced by the 55" wheelbase and 66" overall width. Overall length is 1 02". The vehicle can be fitted as standard with a Hardi sprayer with 66 or 132gal capacity tank and 20ft wide boom. An optional universal frame enables it to carry a variety of other turf care and maintenance equipment. Prices start at £6,400.



■ Lamborghini – the new 'force on the course' – has introduced a range of compact tractors in a bid for the golf course market. The Lamborghini range in the UK now spans 25 to 165hp in 15 models.

Called the 'Runner' series, the new compacts are available in three models; the Runner 250 with 25 DIN hp diesel engine; the Runner 350 with 33 DIN hp diesel engine, and the Runner 400 with 40 DIN hp diesel engine. All models are equipped with an advanced 12 forward, 12 reverse speed shuttle transmission, 4WD and load sensing power steering as standard.

Power units are Mitsubishi. The 350 and 400 models have the same 1490cc four-cylinder engine to which a turbocharger is added for the 400 model to provide the power increase to 40hp. It also gives the Runner 400 a significant advantage in terms of improved combustion and fuel efficiency. The small-

Video shows tough turf facts

A new video from Netlon Limited – Rootzone Technology – stronger by nature – illustrates the benefits this unique self-cultivating rootzone offers in the construction and reconstruction of tees, and greens. Designed with golf course management and greenkeepers in mind, the video details the Netlon Advanced Turf System, a unique combination of natural turf and a stabilised rootzone. The system has proven itself on a number of prestigious courses including Woburn, which is one of the projects highlighted in the video. The video also includes a trial at the Royal Agricultural Showground, to assess the system's load bearing characteristics. This will interest courses with grassed overspill car parking, access roads for television coverage and across fairways and frequently trafficked buggy paths.

Comprehensive technical details including the principle responsible for the system's inherent self-cultivating action responsible for the system's inherent self-cultivating action are also detailed, as is a summary of an independent research programme carried out by Dr James Beard, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Texas A & M University. For a copy please contact Netlon Limited free on 0800 585012.

est model, the Runner 250, is powered by a Mitsubishi three-cylinder engine with 1118cc capacity. The Road Runner 350 compact is priced from £9,650 and will be available shortly.

■ ICI Professional Products have launched a free collection and disposal service for their UK amenity customers. The service is a co-operative venture with Envirogreen and follows the introduction of new (April) laws on special waste. The Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 requires anyone who has the responsibility for controlled waste to take all reasonable steps to ensure its correct disposal. The free service is offered on all empty pesticide containers carrying ICI Professional Products labels. • Option 1 – Free collection and disposal of ICI Professional Products empty containers in batches of 200 litres or more. • Option 2 – One annual free collection of batches of empty ICI Professional Products containers under 200 litres.

ICI have also launched the new ICI Professional Products 'Guide-to-Excellence', which attempts a fresh and innovative approach to customer communications. Combining technical substance, commercial purpose and industry relevance, the Amenity Guide has been specifically designed to interest the reader by being both educational and entertaining. The result is a fully illustrated 84pp guide segmented into defined areas, designed to allow each of these segments to become stand-alone guides in their own right.

Each section includes a brief overview of the use for which the product is being recommended, with appropriate photographs, illustrations, diagrams, graphs and charts to aid a more thorough understanding. Following each product use area are tables, which provide all the essential and relevant information of product application, rates of use, timing and area coverage. Where appropriate chemical active ingredients and MAFF numbers are included.

■ The new 4ft (122cm) SISIS Multislit is a deep slitting aerator for relief of compaction, increased drainage and improved root development – six inch (15cm) or eight inch (20cm) slitting



tines can be fitted. The Multislit has been developed from many years experience with the highly successful AO/4S. There are five tines fitted to each larger diameter tine plate to give more slits and a shorter slit length on the surface. The tine plates have a wide rim to reduce surface marking when operating at full penetration.

The Multislit performs without the need for VPF variable pressure frame although it will operate with one, making it a versatile aerator suitable for attachment to a wide variety of tractors and power units.

■ The new Charterhouse Lawnsystem is a unique concept specifically aimed at the renovation of lawns, tennis courts, bowling greens and cricket squares. The machines consist of a pedestrian spiker, pedestrian scarifier and top dresser/fertiliser spreader. All the units are located on a purpose built trailer and each machine has been designed with three main points in mind. The first is simple operation, the second high manoeuvrability to gain access in difficult areas, the third robustness to withstand heavy use. Though aimed at the hire market, the system is such that it may well anticipate acceptance from the greenkeeping profession.

The system comes complete with a leaflet on how to renovate turf areas, written by Jim Thorn, remembered by all as head groundsman at Wimbledon. Jim is not the only high profile member in our industry to endorse the system, for Steve Tingley, head groundsman at Wembley and Jack McMillan, latterly head greenkeeper at Sunningdale and now an international consultant, have given the system their full support and endorsement.

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AD REF 312

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

EAST SCOTLAND

The 'Willie Wood Memorial Trophy', held at Swanston GC on 6 August, brought with it a smaller than usual entry. Normally held in October, the competition was brought forward as an experiment and I regret this decision backfired on us. However, our grateful thanks to the captain and committee; to the catering staff, and to head greenkeeper Chris Yeaman and his team for the excellent condition of the course. Our grateful thanks also to our sponsors, Sports Turf Services, with our apologies for the small turn-out. The trophy was won by Dunbar GC.

An old friend of the section, Laurence Pithie, graded our company with his presence and though it's a number of years since Laurence left his native Scotland he hasn't lost his Scottish touch. He presented the section with a bottle for our raffle and won it himself! Needless to say, he sportingly asked for it to be re-drawn.

As yet I cannot confirm the rumour that Richard Dugan is retiring from Glencourse GC. Dick has been a stalwart of the section and attends all of our events. As soon as I have confirmation (or denial), I shall let you know.

One person confirmed as retiring is Duncan Herd from Longniddry GC. Duncan has been a member of the section for many years and under the SIGGA flag was committee member, section chairman and Scottish chairman. During the past few years he has kept a low profile due to back injury and the ill-health of his beloved wife. Naturally, our best wishes go to him for a long and happy retirement, as also they do to another retiree, Jimmy Renton from Gifford GC. Our heartiest to you both!

A sub-committee has been set up to organise the social side of the BIGGA National Tournament to be held at Dunbar in 1993. We are looking at accommodation; the organisation of day trips for the ladies and, of course, planning the banquet festivities.

Those planning to attend this tournament may be assured of a very warm East of Scotland welcome, for we shall do everything in our power to ensure that lasting memories of the event remain with every visitor and competitor. The course at Dunbar is of the highest category: forget about Muirfield; Gullane; Luffness etc., Dunbar is number one. Players will not be disappointed and they may bet that the accommodation and social side will be every bit as good as the golf.

Membership in the East of Scotland is at its highest ever, though nevertheless it could be still higher. The question must always be asked 'why, with so many new members joining us, are we still losing past members'? I would be delighted to know the answer to this puzzle, for BIGGA is the finest thing ever to hit greenkeeping! Let's hear from past members, who are invited to call me on 031 443 3214, or write, explaining reasons why.

Forthcoming events scheduled include the skittles night; AGM on the 25 Nov.; the Annual Dance and winter lectures etc. etc. A full programme will be in your hands shortly.

WILLIE BLAIR

AYRSHIRE

My apologies to section members/readers for the absence of published news over the past few months. To begin, may I take this opportunity of thanking Duncan Gray for being our magazine co-ordinator for the past couple of years. With Duncan's move to a new job in the south of England (and again a time for good wishes for his success), I shall now be handling the magazine contributions. Needless to say, if you have anything of interest for the magazine,

'phone me or write: Jim Paton 1 North Road, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9AQ Tel: 0294 823210.

On the move is one of my staff members, Stuart Hogg, who having completed his apprenticeship at West Kilbride GC has been appointed first assistant at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC. Stuart will be missed by us and I'm sure he will be a great asset to his new club.

Just along the road from me at Ardeer GC, Neil Turner has taken the head greenkeepers role, moving back to Scotland from England. Good luck to them all.

I have received 'phone calls from two young greenkeepers looking for employment. One is presently employed by a council (working on bowling greens), and wishes to return to golf course work. The other youngster has just completed a full-time greenkeeping course at Elmwood. If you can help either, please call me and I'll put you in touch.

I was talking to Turnberry's esteemed course manager recently and I'm glad to say he has completed his abdication. He has renounced his English citizenship and become a Scottish International - yes, George represented Scotland (playing for Turnberry) in the Ford National Team Championship. This was staged at The Belfry and George contributed to an outstanding Scottish victory - vanquishing all comers to lift the title. Nice one, Mr Brown! Now all we need to work on is the accent, we'll have him saying "it's a braw bright moonlicht nicht the nicht" in no time. Seriously, congratulations on the Ford result, George, and on your success at the BIGGA National Tournament. You must have won enough to keep your 'tour card' for this year - beware the veterans tour!

I would like to thank all members who sold raffle tickets - the efforts made were greatly appreciated by the committee, who are now looking into the possibilities available for winter events. The winner was George Morison from West Kilbride - George worked for me during the summer and I bullied him into buying two books - he won first and third prizes!

As I wrote earlier - please keep the information or gossip flowing for this column.

JIM PATON

NORTH WALES

Once again winter is upon us and it is time to organise those winter lectures. Times and dates for such events will be announced at our Autumn Tournament on 14 October at Chirk G&CC, but we hope to have our first lecture either on the second or third week of November. Members who are not playing in the competition may contact David Proctor or Terry Adamson for further information.

On 28 October Lindum Turf will be staging a demonstration at Abergele GC. All are welcome; so please come and support.

Many congratulations must go to Alan Sharp (and his staff) at Chirk G&CC for finishing second in the Northern Section of the I.C.I. Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award.

At the Welsh College of Horticulture prizegiving held on 9 July, four students received special awards: Graham Parker (Best 1st year on Phase II) The Gem Professional Prize, Martin Howell (Best 2nd year on Phase II) The Frazer Turf Prize, John Edwards (Top Phase III student) the Mommersteeg Merit Prize, and Matthew Horton (2nd year greenkeeper achieving the overall best marks) The Rufford Top Dress Cup. This year the C&G Phase II proved particularly successful, with two students awarded distinction in both exams and five others receiving

one distinction and one credit - well done to them all.

Finally on a more personal note, the committee would like to thank Mark Proctor for his help in starting our section some three years ago. We take this opportunity to wish Mark and his family the very best in their new venture in Germany.

DAVID PROCTOR

MIDLANDS

We are again holding our Regional seminar at the Warwickshire College of Agriculture, Moreton Hall, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, this time on Wednesday 25 November. Our speakers and their subjects this year are:

- Jeffrey Taylor of Johnson Seeds on 'Grass Seeds and Wild Flowers'.
- Andy Cole, formerly with the Warwickshire College and now returned to the STRI, on 'Agronomy, are we on the right lines'.
- David Golding, BIGGA's education officer, on "1992 - the most important year for Greenkeeper Training?"
- John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design Ltd on "British Specifications for the construction of golf greens?"
- Richard Minton of ICI on "The understanding of fertiliser".

Seminar programmes and application forms have been sent out, so if you have not received a copy and would like to attend, please contact me on 0455 283053. We are holding the cost of the tickets at last year's price of £20 per delegate, which includes coffee on arrival, a buffet lunch and afternoon tea. We are limited to approximately 120 delegates and with a Midland region membership of over 600 it would be wise to return your application forms as early as possible.

ROGER WILLIAMS



EAST ANGLIA

Just a quickie lads, for even greenkeepers have holidays (mostly, it would seem, in August, for only 15 turned up at Colchester!).

Well done to those who played on Keith Chinery's patch, which Sam tells me was in good condition. By the way, Keith won the Victa Autumn Cup and will now get a 'proper' handicap!

I'm told there was a bit of dangerous play, just the odd loose shot, no doubt.

However, the chairman of green was struck on the foot by a wayward ball whilst innocently driving from the tee some two holes away (I'll bet the culprit was Keith!).

There were only two prizes: first the aforementioned Keith Chinery with 37 points and second, Quitewaters man Phil Robinson with 35. Personally I think there should be three prizes, but I won't say who should have the extra award. (Nevertheless, it was a good shot from two holes away, if you ask me).

Many thanks to Colchester GC for their hospitality both on and off the course and to Parkers; Kings; ICI; CMW and Rigby Taylor for raffle prizes - hope there will be less holidaying next time.

Had an AARVARK aerating machine on the course recently - very good it was too. It's the latest controlled air-pressure aerator designed to relieve compaction and leave greens in one piece. I'm glad to say this machine did its work remarkably well and if you get a chance to see it in action, do so - it is very impressive.

As they say at the end of all good cartoons - that's all folks!

MIKE LATHROPE



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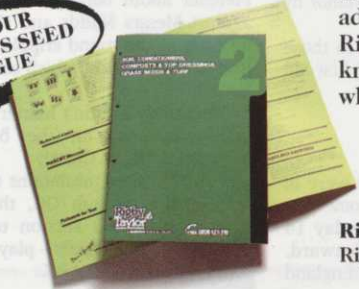
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CLEVELAND

Our Autumn Tournament will be held at Middlesbrough Brass Castle – details later.

Graham Pyle's course extension is being carried out by Graham (with the help of a contractor from his club) and the greens will be built to USGA Spec.

Ian Harrison, head greenkeeper at Darlington, reached the regional round of the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year award – congratulations, Ian.

Pleased to hear of Bob Upton's appointment at Romanby GC, Northallerton, N Yorks. This is a large acreage and I think water features are to form part of the course – details later.

Anthrax disease can be grown out in the growing season – more tricky later.

Autumn programme of events is being arranged for October; November and December and a newsletter (from Roger) will be sent to all members. Roger's recent addition to the family – a son, Andrew – was born on 23 March and weighed in at 8lbs 11 ozs.

BRUCE BURNELL

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting will again be staged at the very popular venue of Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday 9 December. As is usual, members will play a greensome format for the PJ Flegg Trophy during the morning, with the usual course inspection offered to non-playing members. This year our after luncheon entertainer will be Tank Sherman, who comes very highly recommended by our local talent spotter! Numbers will be restricted to 80, so please make sure you return your entry form to me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. All members who plan to travel on next year's regional trip to

BTME at Harrogate should have returned their forms (with deposits) to Gordon Child. If this has slipped your mind, call Gordon tonight – there may be a few places left.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Regional news of great importance concerns our forthcoming seminar, which will be staged next month (Tuesday 3 November) at Cannington College. This well established annual event is sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products, the cost being £10 for members and £15 for non-members, inclusive of lunch.

A packed programme will begin at 9.25am with an introduction by Rod Feltham, of Avoncrop Amenity Products, followed by ICI's Richard Minton on 'Understanding the use of fertilisers'.

This year sees an earlier and highly satisfying trend extending still further with the presentation of papers by no less than three of our own greenkeeper members, all making their appearance on the Cannington rostrum for the first time.

In order of appearance they are Jason Hampton (at Sparsholt College on a National Diploma course), who will talk on 'The golfer – making him less green', Neil Macintyre (at Cannington taking Phases II and III) talking of 'Wear and tear on the golf course', and Guy Woods (Finalist, Student of the Year 1990) on 'Managing *Poa annua* greens successfully'.

Additional speakers – each an acknowledged master of his chosen subject – include Roy Brighton of Time International, discussing 'Management'; our own education officer, David Golding, talking on 'Greenkeeper Education – what is available', and the famous golf course architect, Donald Steel, discussing 'Golf Course Architecture'. In both morning

and afternoon sessions ample time will be allotted for questions.

This is an event not to be missed and places may still be booked by calling me on 0803 844056.

GORDON CHILD

SURREY

Billy McMillan, already celebrating the recent birth of his daughter, kept 'it' in the family by winning the trophy that carries his family name – The McMillan Tankard – at Sunningdale GC with a Stableford score of 37 points. Jeff Chambers finished second and Cameron McMillan (yes, another one!) placed third. Cameron also made the costly mistake of achieving a hole in one and afforded the tradition of

AROUND THE GREEN



drinks all round in the clubhouse!

Thanks go to Sunningdale for granting courtesy of the course, to the green staff for course presentation and to Sunningdale Artisans Club for their hospitality.

Will any section member interested in the proposed free transport to BTME at Harrogate please contact a committee member.

Dates for the diary: Autumn Tournament at Worplesdon on 29 October (closing date for entry – 16 October). South East Regional seminar at the Embassy Conference Centre, Colchester on 2 November.

Congratulations to Ronnie Christie of Addington Palace GC on his recent marriage. We will be watching to see if this new status affects his 3 handicap rating!

ROGER TYDEMAN

SOUTH EAST

The South East Region seminar will be staged at the Embassy Conference Centre, Balkerns Hill, Colchester on 2 November, commencing at 9.30am. The seminar is open to all members and to those who have an interest in modern golf course maintenance and management.

The meeting will be chaired by Roy Kates, BIGGA's national chairman, and the following speakers will present papers: John Dyer on 'Trees on the golf course', Ray Burniston on 'The relationship between golf club secretary and course manager', Ian Merrick on 'A broad look at greenkeeper education', a staff member of the NRA on 'Water resources', and Robin Burton on 'Fertilisers and other things'.

Ample time will be provided to pose questions and an Open Forum will form the finale of what promises to be an extremely interesting and informative day.

The cost is £11.50 and includes morning coffee and lunch. Those interested in participation should contact Michael Peters, 18 Saxmundham Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5PE (tel 0728 452143), or Sam Sylvester, 7 Park Lane, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5HL (tel 0728 452215).

MICHAEL PETERS

SOUTH WEST

It is my sad duty to inform members of the sudden, untimely death of Nigel Gange, 38 year old deputy head greenkeeper at Enmore Park Golf Club, near Bridgwater, Somerset.

Nigel was the victim of an unfortunate accident at work – an innocuous slip – which led to him falling down a grassy slope, hitting his head as he fell and drowning in a shallow stream. Despite being resuscitated he slipped into a coma and passed away ten days later in Musgrove Park Hospital. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

On a much happier note, our congratulations go to Kevin Green of Filton GC., Bristol, on winning through to the national final of the I.C.I. Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Nominated by yours truly, who was very impressed by the high standards found at Filton since Kevin's appointment, Kevin is now down to the last five greenkeepers and will be grilled at Aldwark Manor by judges later this year.

Finally, let's have some replies to those invitations for the spraying and first aid courses.

PAUL WORSTER

NORTH

I said in my last report that winter lectures were in the process of being formulated. Here are some that can be penned into your diaries: • Wednesday 14 October (start approx.7.30pm). Eddie Seaward, N.D.T.; F.Inst.G. Head Groundsman The All England

Lawn Tennis Croquet Club. Wimbledon. Venue:- West Bowling Golf Club.

• Wednesday 18 November: Nu-Trel soil analyst, also Boral Lytag. Venue:- West Bowling Golf Club. I shall enlarge on the above in the next report. • Wednesday 2 December: visit to the John Deere tractor plant (in association with Mitchells of Nottingham). • Christmas golf competition, followed by AGM at South Leeds GC. • Wednesday 13 January 1993: A first aid course. • Tuesday 16 February: Joint IoG/BIGGA meeting and quiz, plus David Hannan talking of his experiences in Switzerland. Venue: Yorkshire CC County Ground, Headingley, Leeds. • Wednesday 17 March Lloyds Workshop. Venue, Cleckheaton GC. All evening meetings start around 7.30pm.

We wish Les Kirkbright a long and happy retirement following his work with Scarborough College and at South Cliffe GC. Les is an active member and represented us in the Battle of the Roses.

The only move I am aware of is that of my ex right-hand man, Nigel Graham, who has moved on to take the head greenkeeper post at Sedburgh GC up in Cumbria. The best of luck to you, Nigel.

Invitation Day at Northcliffe G. C. was a great success and even the sun came out for us, ensuring that those attending had a very enjoyable day. This event was again sponsored by our friends Yorkshire Mowers, to whom our many thanks for their continued support. I must also thank our colleague Ken Christie and his team for preparing an excellent course for this event and the committee of Northcliffe GC for making us welcome and granting us courtesy of the course. The results:-1st R Emley/J Fletcher, 2nd K Christie/R Bell, 3rd R Smith/C Harland, 4th G Potter/A Hayo, 5th G Wilson/GD Wilson, 6th C Garnett/JG Jeffs. Putting competition: 1st R Spencer, 2nd R Emley. Booby prizes: G Walker and A Hardie.

The Battle of the Roses took place at Stockport GC., Cheshire, though despite my four or more hours of 'phoning members in attempting to raise a team, I was unsuccessful. Thus I must thank the nine players who represented our Northern section, playing for Yorkshire against Lancashire. The players were Gary Potter (Skipton), Colin Robinson and Norman Towse (Scarborough South Cliffe), Les Kirkbright (Retired), David Collins (Pontefract), Colin Geddes; William Binner and Kevin Townend (all Moor Allerton), and Andrew Smith (Woodsome Hall).

Despite losing the match we had a enjoyable day at Stockport, with both teams offering compliments on both the condition and preparation of the course, for which we extend thanks to Paul Pearse. Thanks also to Patissons for their sponsorship of this event.

Two seminars have been arranged: 14 October at Askham Bryan College and 16 October at Reaseheath College. Details: Bob Lupton (tel: 0274 590463).

If members can contribute news, will they please 'phone me on 0274 568128, or write to 49 Cornwall Rd, Gilstead, Bingley W. Yorks. BD16 4RL.

PAT MURPHY

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Not much going on, but thanks again to Mark Barthelmie of Risborough Turf for putting on an excellent invitation day at Maidenhead GC. Results were: 1st Les Witham (West Berks) 2nd Brian Woodhouse (Little Chalfont) 3rd Tony French (Lambourne GC) Wooden Spoon Ian Lupton (Lyneham GC).

The Rigby Taylor Fourball Trophy is well under way, with most first rounds played. Results so far: J Textiera and D Buckley beat S Robinson and S Grass. J Bevan and R Kates beat A Thomson and T Brown. J Nudds and S Horwood beat H Tribe and R Fletcher. D Porter and S Aldrich beat D Hurworth and M Long. B Holt and S Richens won (by default) against B Woodward and C Mitchell.

A little word of warning to Messrs Tribe and Fletcher about bad sportsmanship. In their match against Messrs Nudds and Horwood they delivered an early in the round crippling shot with a wicked 3 iron to John Nudds, which caught him sharply on the knee.

Apparently it didn't matter, for he seemed to play better after being hit (they breed 'em tough at Gerrards Cross!).

Congratulations to Dave Childs of Ellesborough GC, the only qualifier from BB&O section to win through to the Iseki finals – play well, Dave.

RAY CLARK

Wise up for winter

Prevention, they say, is always better than cure. It is certainly cheaper! Never is this adage better confirmed than in early autumn when preparing a course for winter. My comments are based on the knowledge gleaned over more than four decades from practical men, who in turn probably learned their skills not just in the hard world of experience but from their elders, so that some of this lore may well go back in direct line to the early years of this century.

Early in my advisory career I was taught much of my practical greenkeeping by a quiet and immensely wise Aberdonian greenkeeper, Frank Smith, who in the early thirties left Cruden Bay, then almost rivalling Turnberry as a holiday and railway hotel course for rich Glaswegians, to take charge of the plots at the newly established Research Station at St. Ives, Bingley. He it was who, with immense patience, corrected not just my enthusiasms and follies but in later years those of my fellow advisers – if they would listen – passing on his unique knowledge of seaside grasses and links management. Never was he more needed than today!

Recording such comments is meant in no way as trying to teach experienced men how to suck eggs, but it may be useful, both to guide those starting and also to remind others of facts which may have been forgotten. If it proves anything, it is firstly that nothing basically changes in sound greenkeeping, since the grasses and their needs do not change, and furthermore that there are no instant cures, but plenty of instant problems.

It was Frank Smith who impressed on me that 'you don't apply fertilisers after the end of July'. Remember that the temptation to try and speed up recovery from war time neglect and abandonment of golf courses in the autumn of 1945 was enormous. The wiser heads stressed mechanical aids; fools rushed in with fertilisers; and some today are still rushing, though perhaps even they have learned not to use nitro chalk – or have they?

This ban applied equally to all fertilisers, even those containing little nitrogen. To start with, there is virtually no need for phosphates on any fine turf at any time – the demand is minimal and the existing supply in the soil more than sufficient, in most cases, for the next century let alone this. Soluble potash merely goes to the drains in autumn and nitrogen stimulates lush growth, which promptly goes down with *Fusarium* patch disease at the least provocation.

This does not mean that it is anything other than sensible to use sulphate of iron in the autumn. Apart from it being a mild fungicide and discouraging annual meadow grass, it has the great advantage of greening up turf – for the benefit of those who confuse colour with quality – without making it lush. The old greenkeeping term was that 'it hardens the turf'. In passing, a moment's reflection will prove that what impresses the non-expert viewer of turf, be it a lawn or a putting green, is uniformity – and iron does produce a uniform colour!

A vitally important facet of disease control is the 'management' (i.e. removal) of shading vegetation. Shaded greens suffer not only from never seeing the sun in winter, but in staying frost-bound longer, and from lack of air from thorough ventilation. As soon as the leaves fall, get in with scrub clearance and removal of shading trees around greens and tees. Blame the clearing on

the equinoctial storms if you like, or christen your chain saws 'Thunder' and 'Lightning', as does Patrick O'Brien of the USGA Green Section, but do it! Remember, there is no way of putting it back, but you need the support of allies.

Remember also that such scrub clearance is good conservation – akin to coppicing – which resulted in former years in carpets of wild flowers, which would otherwise be smothered under bramble and scrub. Get some air flowing through the greens and you will get much less disease; much healthier turf; drier, firmer putting surfaces and happier golfers. After a week, very few will be able to remember what it was like before the clearance.



Jim Arthur, a retired agronomist who for two decades was consultant to the R&A Championship Committee, is a serving member of the working party (technical panel) of the Joint Golf Course Committee. Currently he is instrumental in the establishment of new acceptable European standards for golf course green construction specifications.

Another precaution that can be very effective is also linked with keeping surface humidity low, and that is to avoid smothering the turf. Sometimes smothering is inevitable – as with snow – but some can be prevented, notably in avoiding top dressing – especially heavily – when there is no growth for the turf to absorb it. In my early advisory work it was common practice, as soon as winter came – and that meant the cessation of almost all play save for a handful of expatriate Scotsmen – to go onto winter greens and literally smother the main greens with one heavy application of 'compost', burying the grass so completely that it took a week or so for it to show through. The inevitable result – especially when allied to the ubiquitous autumn fertiliser – was all too often a crop of 'snow mould' that defied treatment and left scarred surfaces until growth resumed in the spring.

Today, not least because winter play is almost as heavy as in summer, we adopt a 'little and often' procedure, in the growing season so that the fine screened top dressing is absorbed, almost within hours rather than days, by the growing grass.

Something else can be done to help greens stand up to a sustained winter assault and that is to leave plenty of grass on them! The vogue for shaving to produce faster greens (which has already ruined the greens on some of our famous courses) seems to be waning, but if you are unlucky enough to have one of these shaving fanatics in charge, you are going to have a battle. I personally would never mow greens closer than 3/16th, (though I might allow a dispensation for very special events if closer mowing were not prolonged for more than 10 days), because we can speed up greens in other, less damaging, ways and in any case it is the grass species which has

the greatest influence on speed. Certainly we should never cut closer than 3/16ths in September or October and raise the height, as well as lengthen the interval between cuts to help the grass put something back into the roots while soil temperatures are still high enough.

Severe scarification used to be a routine autumn task, but again this has always been condemned by experienced men, on the grounds that one should never tear the hell out of turf unless it was growing actively and could quickly recover. The advent of power scarifiers made it that much easier to remove huge quantities of surface growth or thatch, often encouraged twenty years ago by mismanagement (over watering and over feeding) which thankfully now seems less common. Far better of course to correct the thatch problems by deep routine aeration and other preventative treatment.

Talking of prevention, it is worth observing that routine spraying with systemic fungicides is an expensive non-solution to chronic disease problems. Such fungicides must be absorbed by the growing plant and have to be applied in anticipation of an attack and so can often be wasted if the attack does not materialise. Far better to cure the basic cause, when there will be no disease anyway. If a series of unplanned events does cause an attack, better to deal with it by contact fungicides before it gets a hold.

If your course suffers from poor drainage of greens – perhaps they were built without under-drainage or on heavy clay soils – then early autumn is the time to deal with the problem – for example by Vertidrainage early when the subsoil is still relatively dry and friable – and the greens firm enough not to wheel mark. This sounds fine – but the golfing calendar extends so late into the autumn today that operations, which must be done in early autumn to be effective, are postponed until so late in the year that damage and poor results are inevitable. Thus one preventative measure should be taken months earlier – education of the management and the members into accepting some slight inconveniences and disturbance, so that essential work can be done when it should be done and not left until the competition season is over.

Another preventative measure which must be planned ahead – especially regarding the 'education' of members – is to stop all irrigation after the end of August, no matter what the weather is like in September. The basis of sound irrigation is to start late and stop early. The idea is to go into winter with dry greens. Since none of us is blessed with the power of infallible weather forecasting (though some are better at guessing than others), the chances are that the gambler who acts on his belief that the autumn will stay dry will get caught in monsoon conditions, and nothing winters worse than sodden turf. But all this needs explaining to golfers – who are apt to assume that 'if it isn't green it's dead' and base their standards on the course being in perfect order on the day they want to play, never mind any other times.

There are of course many management tips on minimising winter damage, and especially the effects of concentrated wear, such as banning trolleys or at least requesting members to demonstrate their virility by carrying their clubs – or seven of them, but that is another story for another day.

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An overall view should be taken on upgrading work, particularly with drainage system improvement

DRAINAGE DECISIONS

Now is the time to start planning for drainage improvements. Wrong end of the winter period? Not at all. The recent wet weather has brought back for many the easily forgotten memories of heavy going which, for some, date back to real winters of several years ago.

There is nothing to beat a good monitoring period over the winter when areas can be marked on an accurate plan and studied for possible causes. Vital bits of kit include a spade for the bold or a turf repair implement for the tentative, with a dutch auger to examine soil conditions to depth. Oh, and of course two coat hooks, watering can, bin liner, and wellies (waders?) to men-

tion but a few of the specialist instruments of the trade. Wellies to get you into the ditches or water-courses where everything starts or finishes, depending on your point of view; the bin liner to leave a tidy turf surface; a watering can to crudely study sub-surface permeability. Coat hooks? - easily fashioned into an amazingly informative drain detector (send sae for details!)

An occasional examination, noting as much as is reasonable on what happened where and when following heavy rainfall or steady drizzle can be invaluable to the detective work that determining the cause of a problem can often become.

→ 44



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Types of problem

On an established course, the first question asked should be 'are we dealing with an increased usage or similar surface condition problem, or with a deeper problem? Or both?'

Draining a straightforward compaction problem caused by many more feet passing over the surface is a waste of time, as is spiking turf over a high water table. One is a soil problem, the other a water problem, although inevitably one affects the other. Pipes do not last forever: they block with soil, roots, dead rats even! They settle through subsidence or soil shrinkage, or may be damaged, shallow clay tiles especially. They become overloaded as additions are tagged-on over the years. This overloading or surcharging can cause a problem some distance from the source. For instance a new surface drainage system which intercepts what was surface run off into the pipe could cause headaches as gradients fall.

Water flow or hydrology can change, although recently the tendency has been for these effects to reduce – with springs or seepage lines disappearing, though not forever. Rising water levels at the main outflow end, due perhaps to sedimentation on or off site or increased run-off upstream are more likely offenders. Suffice to say that a wide ranging approach is needed at the problem examination stage if the resulting options are to be in any way reliable.

Planning a scheme

Whether the proposed work is large or small in scale, careful planning is always worth the effort. Much may be at stake, not least the reputation of those involved in organising on behalf of the club or management.

Timing and logistics should be thought out in detail to minimise



Quick and painless: with good planning, drainage improvement is not such a major job after all.

Picture courtesy of White Horse Contractors Ltd

DRAINAGE DECISIONS

the inevitable disruption which must occur to a greater or lesser extent with any work. Various 'windows' in the usually busy annual calendar of a course can be identified and those occurring at the favourable times of year earmarked. Unfortunately the best conditions for work and the busiest time of the year often coincide. Let us not forget also that the best laid plans of mice and men are always at the complete mercy of the weather.

We can at least attempt to make any drainage work as efficient as possible from the organisation and design point of view. Without going too deeply into the design aspects, it is worthwhile taking a look at how design can affect installation unfavourably.

There are only rare occasions when there is really only one option available to either solve a problem or lay out a new system. Finding the right one is not always a simple question of cost: it may be more to do with minimising disruption in terms of time taken to do the work

or the effect on the course itself.

Design

Take for instance trenching, the core of most schemes. Width, depth, and excavation difficulties need to be addressed. All displaced soil has to be handled, probably removed. Anything which can be done to reduce volumes involved helps efficiency, eg. smaller pipe size = narrower trench. Designing for minimum volumes, both of soil removed and permeable fill brought in, is very important; but it cannot be of any detriment to the required drainage capacity of the system. Additionally, when 'trimming' a design, a thought must always be given to the equipment that is going to be installing it.

You may be specifying a system which requires several machines where one would do, or a machine which is not easy to locate. Digging-wheel type trenchers have a width and depth restriction, generally 50-75mm and 600mm respectively. Chain trenchers similarly cannot

generally go much less than 80-100mm wide, or much more than 150mm. At the greater widths and depths it is not easy to find a machine which can elevate soil directly into a trailer and thus soil handling becomes a problem. Deep drains, sometimes necessary for seepage lines, represent such a problem. The author has seen an ex-NCB loading shovel make an almost perfect job of lifting soil from a turf surface, following deep drain installation on a fairway, but who has the nerve to recommend this on their course! To avoid this type of problem the design might be adjusted. Is it possible to install two 150mm outfall points rather than one 300mm? Once out of even a large trenchers' capacity, a simple job can become a civil engineering exercise.

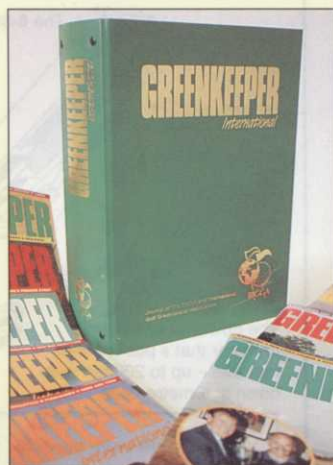
Design must carefully take into account gradients too. It is possible to 'grade-through' a hump or hollow, but the trenching depth capability becomes critical, as does an accurate means of levelling, ie. with well set-out boning rods, or ➤ 46

Magazine binders: good sense and great value

A well-worn phrase borrowed from the world of antiques and collecting – today's disposable is tomorrow's collectable – is really a warning not to throw things away. If you doubt such wisdom, think how valuable an early version of the simple hand mower is today.

But there's more to the whole question of keeping things than mere profit. For writers, researchers, lecturers and all practical exponents of business; art; craft or science, the most valuable source of information is the magazine, especially those from days long past.

This applies equally to the magazines of today, and a visit to the office of most head greenkeepers will usually reveal well-



thumbed copies of even the most current issues of trade magazines, often stacked neatly with the good intent of keeping them

for posterity.

Sadly, these copies often get mislaid, damaged or 'taken away' and what began as good intent can end as infernal frustration.

With that thinking in mind, and conscious of the fact that the bulk of serious articles appearing within the pages of Greenkeeper International offer the means by which greenkeepers may return to a feature of particular interest – perhaps to refresh the memory on a well established though perhaps little-used technique or to merely confirm an understanding of a given method or philosophy – your Association have commissioned binders for your copies of Greenkeeper International.

This move to provide additional services to readers and

members can be witnessed in the provision of these clever binders, produced in the Association's green livery, stylish and convenient, and emboldened with the BIGGA logo on the spine.

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Take a leaf from the antiques world, save it while you've got it, collect your copies of Greenkeeper International in these binders, complete with a useful index card for you to personalise. In doing so you will make them the basis of a useful reference library, whilst creating a collectable for future generations.

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44 → (now more probably) with laser equipment linked to the hydraulics of the machine.

Many mistakes are made on the backfilling stage, often resulting from the design or specification. It is not necessary, for instance, to lay a normal drainage pipe on a bed of gravel or to support it on either side. I view this as a waste of effort and materials. It is not always necessary to fill a trench up to the same level with permeable fill. Up to the surface where surface water interception is required; at 100-150mm deep where connection with the topsoil layer, or a slit-groove system may be useful; perhaps none at all where the pipe function becomes water carrier rather than water collector. Remember too that it is possible to get unperforated pipe for this function, where sediment and root ingress is a possibility.

The topsoil finish to a drain presents difficulties too. Most excavating equipment has to remove all soil and replacing a proportion of that soil means most probably a separate operation, placing what is essentially subsoil on the surface – this is not desirable! A sand finish is often chosen over the permeable fill but many do not like the effect during dry weather, with drought induced yellowing lines appearing easily.

DRAINAGE DECISIONS

Furthermore, check bridging factors to avoid sand migration.

Summarising on the design aspect suggests a simple logical sequencing of what, how and when, thus avoiding the embarrassing if not disastrous afterthought.

Installation

I begin this section with an announcement to new course developers: put the most comprehensive system in now whilst the shackles are off, it pays in the long term. Big machines can be used with impunity, high work rates, low costs. The so-called trenchless drainage option is there, materials can be hauled around the site with regard only to caring for soil conditions.

Once the course is sown or (even worse) being played, material carting can become a nightmare. Excavating the turf is strictly taboo, interfering with the status quo, albeit a damp one, out of the question. Well okay, that's a bit strong, but better to avoid such problems at the construction stage. Even without

this there are often quick, effective ways to install remedial or new drainage systems which avoid the protracted struggles of green chairman and greenkeeper alike. The techniques and equipment do exist for all sorts of apparently unusual conditions, situations and requirements.

The actual installation work is made much less traumatic if everyone knows what to expect: what is involved, how long it will take, when will the after-effects be gone etc. Weather unfortunately could be the biggest and unavoidable trauma of all. Provisional plans for alternative access routes, material drop-off points, lower ground pressure equipment, are sensible for critical schemes. The budget should also cover other weather effects such as standing time: hire costs; extra transport costs, even track-laying or returfing work.

Hopefully this article has clarified the position to some extent. Drainage work is pretty straightforward if planned properly. There is nothing wrong with the piecemeal

approach – of phasing work and gradually intensifying a system, patching up as required – in fact there is much to commend it. But if this approach is taken in hope rather than through calculation you may just possibly be prolonging the agony unnecessarily.

The benefits? Better turf wear, less disease, happier golfers, confident greenkeeper, less input/ higher output, bulging coffers! Well perhaps not bulging, but the financial potential is there.

Finally, as a last general comment, take a step back from the course occasionally and look objectively at the potential for major improvement work. Look at drainage; bunkers; landscaping; landform, tees and greens – and ask yourself if piecemeal improvement is the best way to raise the profile, to fend off competition or improve finances?

Highly skilled though most greenkeepers are, there comes a point where development plans outstrip staff capacity. In these cases, short-shrift could be made of such plans with the effective use of outside help.

■ The author, David Hemstock, is an independent consultant specialising in golf course development and upgrading.

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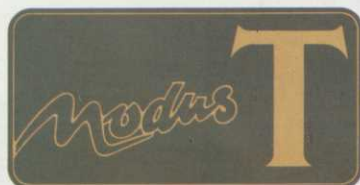
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Top Dressing

HARDWARE

Most golf courses use a variety of top-dressings for their greens, these varying greatly in moisture content and particle size and thus in their 'flowability' and ease of application. In addition there are a number of other materials, such as salt, grit, fertiliser and seed which may need application and which can be spread by specific machines. However there is always the danger of seeking a 'jack of all trades' machine which may be 'master of none'.

As with any machinery purchase it is vital to establish priorities, be they price, accuracy, longevity, low ground pressure or any other feature, and to establish which materials need to be spread, with what accuracy and at what volume and rate. Having set these goals it becomes easier to select or reject specific machines. Prices of spreading machinery vary from a low of around £500 – if you are prepared to accept the limitations of a spinner broadcaster – to £11,000 for a state of the art Turfco LA2 Mete-R-Matic.

Spinner broadcaster machines range from the simple single disc tractor mounted machines such as the Amazone EKS through to trailer spreader models of which the Charterhouse Bulk Dresser is an example. There are also many other makes of broadcaster with single or double discs. Critical appraisal may be needed with the former, ensuring that there is adequate agitation, but the latter in trailed form and designed or adapted for spreading volume material should be cost effective for high outputs.

More conventional for top dressing are machines such as

those produced by Sisis, Huxley, Modus T, Turfco, Charterhouse, McConnel and Ransomes. These machines place the material over a fairly narrow well defined band, often assisted by a rotary brush to break up and impel the dressing into the ground. They are available variously in fully mounted, semi-mounted (with rear support wheels) and fully trailed versions. Prices range from about £2,000 upwards. A number of machines, such as those from Sisis and Modus T Systems, are available in mounted or trailed versions and are easily converted – as is the Amazone spinner broadcaster. The most suitable form for specific situations will depend upon a number of factors, such as the prime mover available and capacity required.

The options for the prime mover range from (compact) tractors to turf maintenance vehicles (TMVs), such as Hydromain or Cushman. However there is a growing range of such machines, including those from Huxley, Jacobsen, Hauler, Kawasaki and John Deere. Compact tractors may need a more expensive trailed type of top dresser, as many are too light to be stable when the implement is fully loaded. For non-linkage, non-PTO prime movers, such as ATVs, a bogie or chassis with an independent engine is available, capable of carrying virtually any mounted implement including spreaders and sprayers.

Three types of drive are common for spreaders and top dressers: ground wheel drive, PTO or hydraulic. The advantage of ground wheel drive is that distribution is ➔ 50

HUGH TILLEY
reviews the
latest
hardware and
equipment for
top dressing

Pictured:
the Charterhouse
Bulk Dresser



Amazone Ground Care - GS15 dresser



Cushman Turftruckster fitted with fifth wheel attachment



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Top Dressing HARDWARE

49 → related directly to the area covered irrespective of engine speed or gear ratio, the disadvantages being a danger of wheel slip, an impracticality for mounted machines, and spread cannot be instantly instigated or altered without forward travel.

PTO output is dependent upon gear ratio – double forward speed and you halve application rate – this being both an advantage and disadvantage. Most PTOs are now independent, thus making it easier to start and stop the run without having to stop forward travel, but perhaps the greatest advantage is that PTO drive is simple and inexpensive. A few tractors (such as some M-F 35s) have a ground speed PTO which forms an even more certain ground related drive. Hydraulic drive provides the most flexible system of operation, as speed can be infinitely adjusted within the limits of prime movers flow and pressure, and is equally easily stopped and started. Several machines use the PTO to drive a hydraulic pump for the implement's own closed circuit hydraulics. Hydraulic drive is also gear ratio dependent, but because of the system of pressure control it may be remarkably little effected by variations in engine speed, thus the operator may even be able to increase spreading rate or density by reducing engine speed.

Spread rate is normally controlled by either metering the dressing with a feed roller (or belt), or by using an adjustable gate. Some machines use both methods. Adjustment can be made by changing the speed of rotation of the roller (or belt) or by widening the feed gap or both, according to model. Some machines are easier and quicker to adjust than others. The feed roller system should give the most positive output and the ability to crush lumps, while a gate feeder has the advantage of equalising out the feed rather better. Rates with both types will vary according to the consistency and moisture content of the material being spread, thus if accurate rate control is needed then calibration is essential.

Some machines cannot achieve

very high or very low rates with certain materials, whilst others, such as the Modus T, have an optional fine material kit available for dry sand. Specific models may offer greater flexibility if pulleys (or sprockets) can be interchanged, thus reducing or increasing belt or roller speed. Some machines need the roller or belt to be clean in order to work with damp materials, but the fast rotating brush common to most top dressers has the double advantage of cleaning the belt/roller and 'flicking' the top dressing down into the turf. Damp materials also need a hopper design which prevents bridging, or a machine with an effective form of agitation. Not all machines offer agitation: on some it is optional, stoppable or removable, and this must be ideal (assuming that it is needed at all).

Most brochures give dimensions: weight, height, capacity, hopper opening size etc. Height and opening size will tell you how easy it will be to fill and how it will fit with existing or proposed manual or mechanical handling equipment. Mounted models may be difficult to fill with a large loader bucket and high sided models are not popular for filling by hand from bags – although it is usually possible to build a ramp or load from a trailer. The Charterhouse Easy Spread is unique in its ability to scoop up its own load.

Weight and capacity data provides several useful indications, while tyre size is important where compaction is a problem. Capacity can be equated very approximately as one kilogram per litre of capacity. Limited capacity can be compensated for if re-filling is quick and easy, say by fast travel speed or proximity to the heap, or filling from the trailer etc. Ease of cleaning, maintenance and servicing are other features which have values in terms of time, trouble and length of life, and which are thus worthy of consideration before you buy. On-site demonstration and the testimonial of a colleague (another greenkeeper) with experience of the machine are other 'musts' before committing cash.

Buyers' Guide

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Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Crieff Golf Club. Applicants should have a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship and several years' experience with a golf club. Experience in the control and management of staff would be an advantage, as would BIGGA membership. Salary and conditions are negotiable. No accommodation is provided. An appointment is expected to be made by 1st March 1993.

Apply in writing to:

The Secretary, Crieff Golf Club Ltd.
Perth Road, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 3LR

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Please reply with CV to:

Box No. G.I. 10.1, BIGGA,

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF



LAKESIDE GOLF CLUB

require an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

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Salary commensurate with Qualifications/Experience

Application with CV to:

The Secretary, Lakeside Golf Club

Rugeley Power Stations

Armitage Road, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1PR



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CV in first instance to:

M. Firman, Head Greenkeeper

Olton Golf Club Ltd

Mirfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1JH



Ratho Park Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping maintenance and have a good knowledge of modern machinery.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Ratho Park Golf Club, Ratho, Newbridge,

Midlothian EH28 8NX

Tel: 031 333 1752

Hadley Wood Golf Club

require

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

with minimum 5 years experience. He/she will be joining a young enthusiastic team at a prestigious golf club.

Salary £10,500 per annum. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary/Manager, Hadley Wood, Golf Club,

Beech Hill, Barnet, Herts EN4 0JJ

HIGHGATE GOLF CLUB

requires a qualified

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have experience of modern machinery and greenkeeping practices. A good salary plus regular overtime will be payable but no accommodation is available.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Manager

Highgate Golf Club

Denewood Road, Highgate, London N6 4AH

Coombe Hill Golf Club

applications required for a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

With a minimum of four years on course experience.

BIGGA rate applies.

No accommodation.

Applications with full CV to:

The Course Manager

Coombe Hill Golf Club, Off Coombe Lane West

Kingston, Surrey KT2 7DG

LEE PARK GOLF CLUB

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

With a view to taking over as Head Greenkeeper. Salary negotiable. House available on the course.

Full CV to:

The Secretary

Lee Park Golf Club Ltd, Childwall Valley Road,

Gateacre, Liverpool L27 3YA

NORTH SCOTLAND

We welcome two new members to the section, Ian Wakeman from Brora GC and Caroline Ross (our second lady member) from Royal Dornoch. In writing of Dornoch, now that Robert Patterson and his staff have the famous links back in top condition, major work is under way on the second course – The Struie. The greens are being returfed, with fairways Vertidraind and overseeded. Remaining in the area, work has begun on Peter De Saveray's course at Skibo Castle, just south of Dornoch. The main problem here, perhaps, will be the control of a large rabbit population.

Congratulations to George Paterson, head greenkeeper at Fortrose, who has won the inaugural North Order of Merit for his consistently high places in competition throughout the area this season.

Older members will be saddened to learn of the death of retired member George Cranna, of Kemnay, near Inverurie. Our thoughts are with Mrs Cranna at this time and we wish her well.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH COAST

In pride of place this month is Kerran Daly, head greenkeeper at Salisbury and South Wiltshire GC. Kerran successfully gained the Master Greenkeeper Certificate this summer and is the first member of the section to obtain this prestigious award. Congratulations, Kerran – no doubt other members will be inspired to follow your example.

Your secretary needs a response from section members! First aid training, now a vital part of staff development, can be provided by the section, this taking the form of (from) a half day to four days of training. Please let me know if you are interested, so that a programme of training can be provided.

Secondly, the provision of coaches to BTME at Harrogate in January and Westurf in April. A coach to both these events could be provided if required. Again, let me know if you are interested in making a trip to these events.

Summer Meeting – Basingstoke Golf Club

The South Coast section should be proud indeed of the support from our greenkeepers and their guests, for a field of 56 came to Basingstoke GC to participate in the Summer Tournament. Again, this year the prize table was sponsored by T Parker & Sons (Turf Management Ltd) and Roffey Brothers Ltd., with additional prizes supplied by Avoncrop Amenity Products, Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, ICI Professional Products and through the personal generosity of Ian Rickman, head greenkeeper at Basingstoke. Ian had manicured the course to a very high degree, which was appreciated by all who played and showed in the very high scores attained. The captain of the club, James Buchanan, joined the members for a wonderful meal supplied by Val Keddie and prizes were presented by chairman Ken Lodge and representatives of the sponsors with David Haskell of T Parker & Sons presented the Parker Shield to the winning pair.

Results: Parker Shield – John Flavell and Alan O'Neill (Parkstone) 47 points. Runners-up: Bob Dennis and Henry Janes (Alresford) 46. 3rd: Shaun White and Eddie Robertson (Ferndown) 46. 4th: Ian Rickman and Chris Maltby 44. 5th: Phil Wentworth and Barrie Pemberton (The Army) 44. 6th: Darren Miller and Steven Stroud (Alton) 44. 7th: Adrian Archer (Broadstone) and Eddie Hadgkiss (East Dorset) 44. 8th: Paul Jackson and Basil Oakley (Ferndown) 44 points. Nearest the pin (3rd hole): Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park), Ditto (17th hole): Fred Deamen (Alton). Longest drive (4th hole): Barrie Pemberton (The Army).

Section programme for winter lectures:

- 4 November '92 at Alresford GC (7pm) Mr A Betts on Trees and Grants.
- 2 December '92 at Royal Winchester GC (4pm) Section AGM.
- 13 January '93 at Came Down GC (2pm) Lloyds Grass Care Equipment.
- 3 February '93 at Dorset College of Agriculture (2pm) Mr Jim Arthur on Commonsense Greenkeeping.
- 3 March '93 at Alresford GC (7pm) David Harrison on 'The Way Forward'.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

Once again the Patisson Trophy is in its rightful place – with the North West section! The reason?

AROUND THE GREEN



The section beat the Northern section at Stockport in what has become known as the 'Battle of the Roses'. Not only did we win, we whitewashed 'em, and as the results poured in I do believe I could hear the ghostly sounds of Mick Hannam sobbing his heart out in the upper reaches of the M62!

To be fair, the Northern section was unable to field a full team, but we made up five matches and everyone enjoyed a good day of golf. The course, a magnificent parkland creation, was in perfect condition – thanks to Paul Pearse and his staff.

I would like to thank Stockport GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course, also the catering staff for looking after us so well. Last but not least, thanks must go to Patissons for sponsoring this tournament each year, as indeed they have for many years.

In August I managed a few days away to compete in the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone on the south coast. I had a great time and can heartily recommend participation in the next one (at Dunbar GC) if you get the opportunity. The North West was well represented and Peter Solski (Daveyhulme GC) found himself deservedly amongst the winners.

The section AGM will be in late November and full details will appear in the November issue.

BERT CROSS



KENT

You will all probably have read the report of the National Tournament at Littlestone in Greenkeeper International. No words are adequate to describe the quite horrendous weather conditions on the last day. I can quite honestly say that I hope never again to venture on a golf course – if venturing means I must play under such howling gales and torrential rain!

The gales of the first two days seemed to pale into insignificance compared to the final day. The course was superbly presented by Malcolm Grand and his staff and many felt it was quite possibly the highest quality turf they had the privilege to play on.

The golf from our meagre band of Kent stalwarts was in the main fairly unremarkable, though we all completed card scores every day – some achievement. To put this into perspective, the first (and probably easiest) day of blustery conditions saw seven 'no returns' from other competitors. Many of us cringed as Lord Deedes informed us at the dinner that 'mere slips of gels' playing in the Ladies Amateur Stoke Play Championship the week before were shooting gross 66's!

There was considerable success for two former Kent members however, from George Brown (formerly of Prince's and Broome Park) and Andy Toomey (formerly of Bexleyheath).

If putting up with the weather conditions on the course during the day was not bad enough, Andy, yours truly and our families had to put up with it overnight too – in a caravan on a wet and windy site at Dymchurch – what fun!

On the whole it was a super event and our thanks to our gracious hosts.

Our AGM and Turkey Trot will this year be held on 9 December at West Malling, commencing at 11.30am. When you receive entry forms do please come along and air your views – or just for the pleasure of a meal and good fellowship. With this in mind we also hope to send a questionnaire in order that we may establish some idea of the needs of our 'sleeping' membership. At the last count we had 116 members. A First Aid course to be held at Weald of Kent GC on 18 November. Full details are available by phoning David Wood on 0342-850875.

Many have pulled my leg over the 'plugging' of BIGGA Financial Services man, Howard Evans, but was it my imagination, or did I see photographs of

David Wood advertising tee mats and Willie McConville astride a motorised fine turf roller? I wonder if they receive royalties for such appearances?



Finally, I have now moved house and would ask that you note my new 'phone number – 0322 664547.

PAUL COPSEY

SHEFFIELD

The season is now coming to a close, with skies looking ominous and the leaves beginning to fall. We shall all be soon Vertidraind and hollow tined and, no doubt, incurring the wrath of our members.

The greenkeepers have seen yet another year of competitions pass – and all credit to the teams of dedicated staff who make such events possible. Hallamshire G.C. have been host to the first Sheffield Amateur Scratch Open, with a full field of 72 top players from around the country. The competitors were complimentary about the course and condition – well done Gordon Brammah and his team.

The section welcome new members and look forward to meeting them at the winter lectures held on the first Thursday of each month at Rotherham GC (from Oct-April) at 2pm. Please try to support these lecture meetings, for they offer an opportunity to meet other greenkeepers and trade members in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Committee are very impressed with the effort our members have made in conforming to the dress rules – especially the younger members who have excelled themselves.

If any Trade member is interested in sponsoring a mail shot to the members – please get in touch with me 0298-813374.

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and John Holt for arranging a most enjoyable day of golf at Whitefield GC, Manchester, in August. The day was a tremendous success with good company; good food and a superb course. The bloody par threes were hard? Thanks to Brian Booth for his invitations.

JANE RYAN



COMING UP

- October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – Aldwark Manor, York**
- October 14th: BIGGA Northern Region Seminar – Askham Bryan College**
- October 14th-15th: KUBOTA Challenge – The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire**
- October 16th: BIGGA Northern Region Seminar, Reaseheath College**
- October 19th-November 27th: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York**
- November 2nd: BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Colchester Centre, Essex**
- November 3rd: BIGGA South West Region Seminar – Cannington College**
- November 11th-12th: IOG Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland**
- November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Monte Carlo, France**
- November 24th-26th: Golf International 2000 – Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey**
- November 25: BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College**
- November 27: BIGGA North Scotland Section Conference – Dundee College**
- December 7: ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York**

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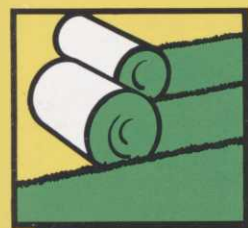
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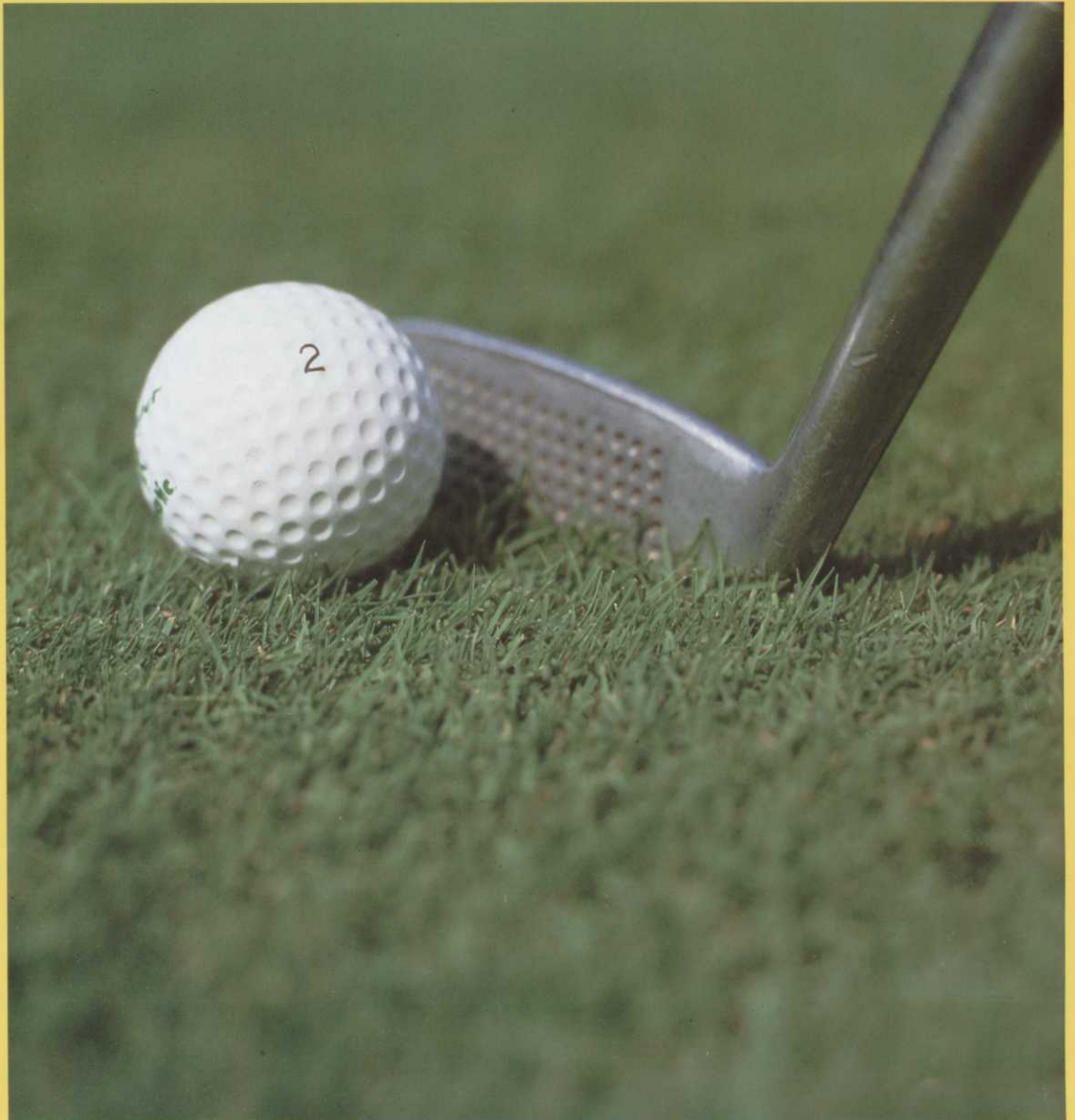
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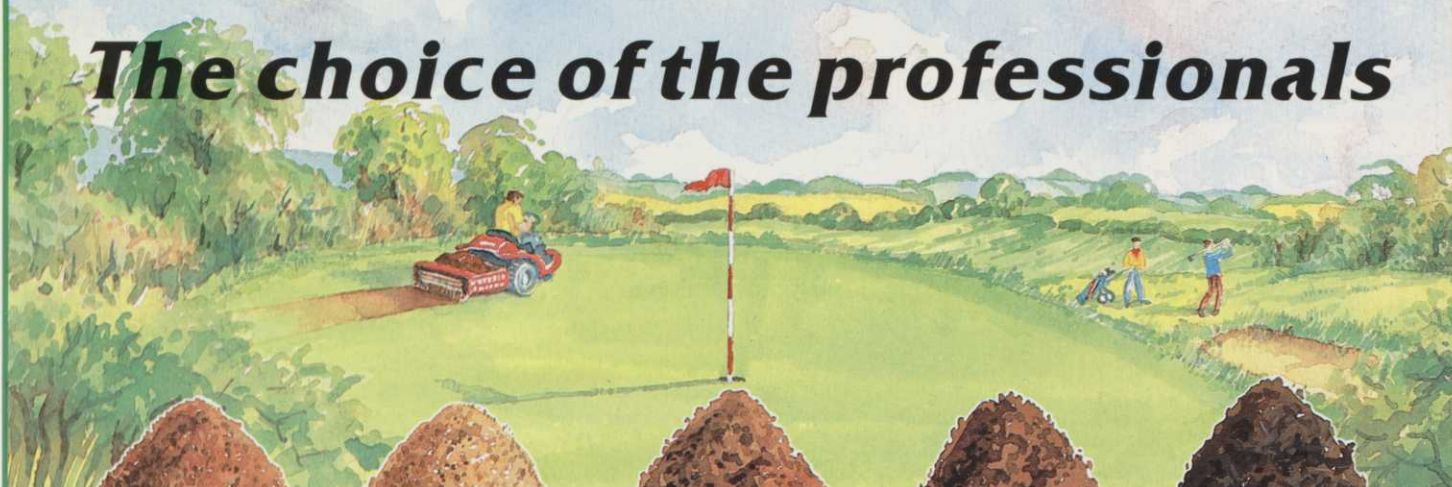
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