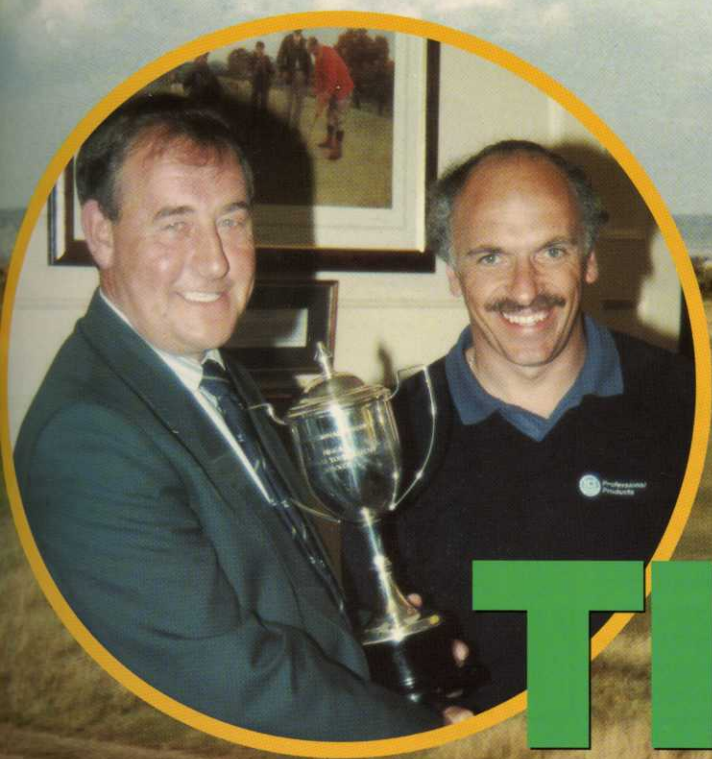


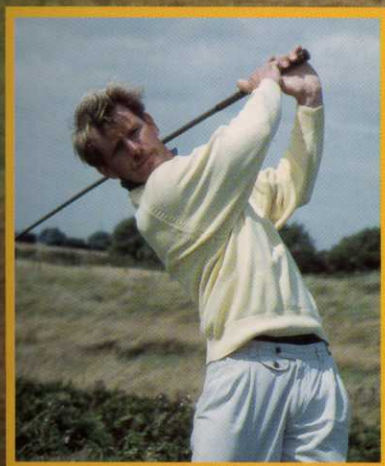
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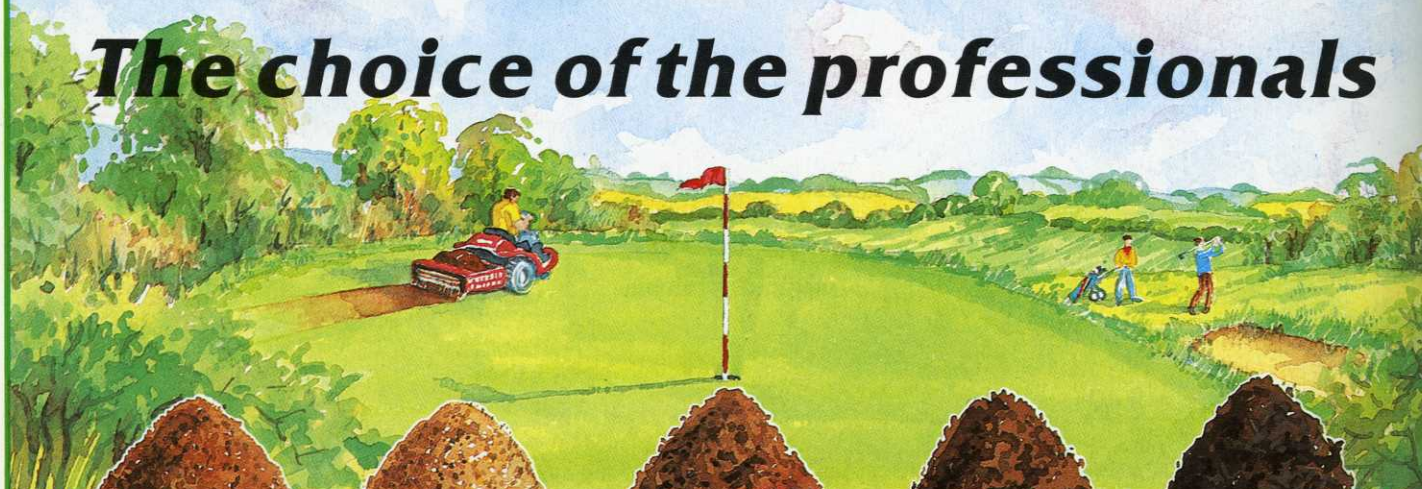
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Official publication of the
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
SEPTEMBER 1992



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GREENKEEPER

International

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

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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HARROGATE, JANUARY 20-22

Anyone who took a good look at the previous BIGGA Turf Management Exhibitions knows that this annual event is certainly an eyeful.

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



And for 1993, there's even more to watch out for. Space bookings are already up on this time last year for the record-breaking 1992 exhibition.

With all the names you'd expect plus a few surprises, you'll certainly be wide-eyed at the choice and variety of what's on offer at Britain's premier indoor event for the fine turf industry.



Bookings for stands from all sectors of the industry will continue to be accepted right up until the last minute, depending on space limitations. But to make sure of the best positions, you need to act quickly. Why wait until January to squeeze in your stand when this week you can plump for a prime site?

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



A very special VIP guest will open the 1993 BTME. More details soon, but make a note of the dates in your diary – this will be an event you won't want to miss!

A world class exhibition... the highest calibre education seminars... all at BTME, January 20-22, Harrogate.



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



■ Greenkeeper International is pleased to learn that the ever-cheerful Andy Cole has rejoined the STRI advisory staff as an agronomist, serving an area South of the Midlands and extending toward the Home Counties.

Andy, recently turfgrass lecturer at Warwickshire College, will be amongst the first of STRI's regionalised personnel, a policy of regionalisation being a recent STRI commitment.



■ Martin Galvin, formerly at East Sussex National and well known as one of David Blackmur's award winning turfgrass students at Plumpton College, has crossed the Irish Sea to take up his first head greenkeeping post at the new Botha GC in Cork. The recently completed course was designed jointly by Peter McEvoy, the Amateur Champion of 1977/78, and Christy O'Connor Jnr, the current British Masters Champion.

Martin Galvin was a popular finalist in the 1989 TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards.

■ Jimmy Richardson has been busy combing the grapevine, telling of a gaggle of promotions and movements in the North-East: Russ Black makes a promotional move from Ponteland to Westerhope, becoming their new head greenkeeper, John Rippon, latterly assistant at Whickham also takes promotion to Birtley GC, again as head greenkeeper. Internal promotion comes to Malcolm Latham, who has earned his spurs by moving from assistant to head greenkeeper at Hexham GC. Two other moves are Derek Cruddas, latterly head man at Birtley, who goes to Garesfield GC as head greenkeeper; and Craig Parkinson, assistant at Tyne-side GC, who has moved to Ponteland GC – good luck to them all!

■ David Norton, who as an assistant greenkeeper at Beverly and East Riding won the 1990 TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, has pulled off something of a coup in gaining the post of head greenkeeper at The Belfry, site of the 1993 Ryder Cup. David rang me and sounded overjoyed at the thought of working with course manager, Derek Ganning MBE, and in being launched on a major event from the very start. His first exposure to 'the big one' is the staging at The Belfry this month of the English Open. We all wish him well.



■ Kubota (UK) Ltd. has appointed Tony Fajak as engine sales co-ordinator. Based at the company's Thame headquarters in Oxfordshire he will be responsible for handling all engine specification and sales enquiries and will provide administrative and information support to the sales team.

Prior to joining Kubota, Tony worked both in the engine sales sector and in the hire industry.

■ Anthony Davies, course manager at Prestbury GC and winner of the 1990 ICI Greenkeeper of the Year award, has been involved in an unfortunate motor accident which I understand gave him a nasty blow on the head. Also travelling in the car were Anthony's wife and youngster, his wife receiving superficial though painful injuries. Anthony is out of hospital now and is on the mend, albeit slowly. We at Greenkeeper International send him our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

■ The chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, Joan Dudok Van Heel, has brought it to my attention that the golf course at Nunspeet in Holland, the

subject of my personal criticism in the July issue of Greenkeeper International, was not designed by any member of the BIGCA. In truth, I never for a moment believed that it was.



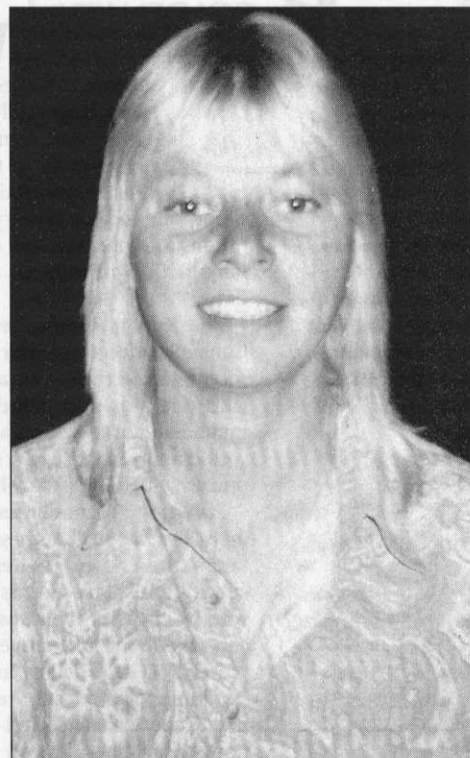
■ Chris Mardon, course manager at Kent's West Malling GC., is now wearing an altogether different bonnet, that of

West Malling's 1992 club captain. Not that he has deserted his greenkeeping duties for a single moment, for Kent's cognocenti tell me that despite horrific water bans 'imposed' upon that county and its golf courses, West Malling is held as an impressive example of good husbandry. Commented one observer, 'West Malling? It's a bloomin' picture!'.

■ Ian McMillan, course manager for Hankley Common GC, is pictured below explaining finer points of conserving heathland through stripping and replanting heather turf to experts who attended the recent 'Heathland Conference 1992'. The conference brought together heathland managers and scientists from as far afield as Aberdeen and the Netherlands. Delegates were also informed of other techniques used by Hankley Common GC to conserve this internationally important habitat, including the collection of heather seed for re-seeding through use of a Litamisa.

Hankley Common GC has recently been included within the Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SSSI, due to the high quality of its lowland heathland – the habitat now described in a new English Nature poster as Surrey's last wilderness. Further information on conservation of heathland and other habitats on golf courses may be found in the English Nature publication 'On Course Conservation', available by post from English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1, price £7.50.

• Photograph by Nick Baxter/Surrey County Council.



■ Colin Geddes, latterly at Hanbury Manor and now operating as an independent consultant under the CPG Associates banner, rang to broadcast the good news concerning one of our lady members, Tracy Ruane of Wortley.

Tracy, pictured, hit the headlines in Leeds newspapers recently by gaining promotion to head greenkeeper – yes, head greenkeeper – at Oulton Hall Golf Course, an 18 hole facility designed by Dave Thomas, with a further nine scheduled to open in 1993. This must be something of a coup for the likeable lass, who began her greenkeeping career as an apprentice with Leeds City Council some 12 years ago, progressing via the Temple Newsum and Gotts Park courses and gaining C&G Horticulture Stages I-III and C&G Management Stage IV along the way. Without wishing to start an avalanche of replies, I am curious – is Tracy the first female head greenkeeper in the country?

Brian's



DAVID WHITE
talks to another
supporter of
BIGGA's Education
and Development
Fund, Kubota's
BRIAN HURTLEY

When I first began to write about greenkeepers and greenkeeping my attention was inexorably drawn to the activities of Kubota UK Limited by a clever marketing ploy known as the Kubota Challenge. This, I was constantly reminded, was the match play team event, one in which every golfing greenkeeper nursed aspirations to represent their Association, playing over the world famous Belfry Brabazon course, site of Ryder Cup inspirations.

The Kubota Challenge was the inspiration of Sporting Concepts director, Peter McEvoy, though undoubtedly it soon became the personal darling of Brian Hurtley, Kubota UK's vice president and director. It was he who recognised immediately the potential for bringing together those who would appreciate Kubota's innovative machinery and sing its praises, albeit in a soft-sell situation.

First, quite naturally, came the greenkeepers: the practical men who know what they want and can recommend what is best – the end users. Next, those who have the power to specify and place orders, the golf club secretaries. Those who by virtue of their position in the higher echelons of golf can talk about innovative machinery are represented in the guise of EGU officials; and those who raise funds for the common good of golf are represented by the Golf Foundation. Kubota are involved additionally with the Golf Foundation – providing a tractor as a major prize – and huge sums

of money are raised for the Foundation by clubs around the country. It is a smart concept and identifies the company through charitable sporting links.

What is even more important, perhaps, is that BIGGA's golfing representatives have won the Kubota Challenge six times in nine years, a wonderful way in which our Association may blow its own public relations trumpet!

Those in greenkeeping know Kubota as the manufacturer of tractors; implements; attachments for golf course maintenance, and of many OEM Kubota petrol and diesel engines that power other makers machinery under separate trademarks. This is an important part of the company's British activity but there is much more, including construction machinery; excavators; pumps, generators and the like. World-wide the company are involved in pipeline for the supply and water industries; irrigation supply systems; vending machines and home utilities, to name but a few.

The subject of this sketch, Brian Hurtley, may well have become a pilot, for he had a yearning to fly and in 1948 joined the RAF with that goal in mind. Disappointingly for him his timing was a year or two adrift, for the authorities decided that navigators were in greater demand and his aspirations were thwarted. Aircraft navigation, he decided, was not his forte and he returned to civilian life and the continuation of his former career in the civil service.

Born of an Australian father, Brian had long aspired to travel to the Antipodes and an opportunity arose for him to transfer into the New Zealand public service. Cutting a long

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Challenge

story short, it was whilst studying for further accountancy qualifications that a grand chance presented itself – he was offered ‘double the pay’ to join the man who was training him! Brian recalled how his departure from the NZ Treasury Department was viewed with dismay and of his being summoned before the Prime Minister of New Zealand to explain his impending departure! For a young man searching for identity and new horizons it was a daunting moment, but he followed his convictions and became an accountant with JC Hutton, one of New Zealand’s largest meat packing concerns.

There was always a nagging doubt that accountancy – the desk-bound life – was not for him and soon the nag became a conviction: he had to get out and work under the beautiful blue skies, to feel free and unhampered.

What followed was a spell of various carefree tasks: stevedore; tobacco picker; painter; general handyman et cetera – indeed almost anything that brought in cash. Brian declares that he had then a need to get something out of his system and the desire to travel was uppermost. He signed on as a steward aboard ship, sailed around the North and South Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji, and spent many glorious voyages working alongside folk of many nationalities. “I found I could communicate well with all of my fellow workers”, he told me, “irrespective of race. This has stood me in good stead in my understanding of and working with people of different cultures – the Japanese, for example”.

Family bereavement caused Brian to return to the UK and in 1955 he joined Massey-Ferguson. His earlier skills acquired in matters financial were used to good effect and eventually he became General Financial Forecasting Manager, Massey-Ferguson Ltd, bringing together their annual business plans.

Further progress followed when he joined M-F’s main distributor – Eastern Tractors – as financial director. Through this, Brian became involved on the product side more and was charged eventually with the task of travelling to Africa, ostensibly to set up a subsidiary company and sell second-hand tractors in The Gambia, a developing nation. Though the idea was to sell larger M-F tractors, the need soon identified was not for leviathans, rather for compact tractors of the Kubota type. Brian’s skill in putting together a package of tractor; trailer; plough, harrow and so on – essentially based on Kubota’s compact range – proved successful with young Africans, who found the ease of operating such equipment to their liking. More important, their work was basic by western standards, often small paddy field operations, and the Kubota range proved a huge mechanical step-up from oxen or hand ploughs.

Brian’s task in The Gambia was never intended to be permanent and he travelled back and forth every three months to oversee the whole operation – transportation; distribution; dealer networks; hiring; training and ensuring an adequate spares network was in place and operating smoothly. As events transpired, Eastern Tractors were taken over by the Cowie Group and there was no place for a duplication of directors – Brian included – and thus came the necessity for him to seek new opportunities.

In life it isn’t always a case of being in the right place at the right time, but if you’ve the right background – an in-depth knowledge of distribution coupled with a financial background -wheels will run more smoothly. Approached in 1980 by Kubota’s UK managing director, Brian joined the company and quickly utilised his expertise in establishing a sound dealer network – he knew from past experience what proved attractive to dealers; how to set up training programmes, how to motivate a powerful sales force. He was



Brian Hurlley – one of BIGGA’s most ardent supporters

instrumental in recognising untapped potential, in perhaps turning Kubota’s attention in the UK away from the traditional agricultural use of tractors and moving toward the fine turf industry. Now some thirteen successful years down the road, Brian points proudly to the fact that there are dealers clamouring to get a piece of the action.

If all this seems too simplistic, it is merely because limited space cannot permit a blow by blow account of Brian’s success story. That stated, the casual visitor to the Thame headquarters of Kubota cannot fail but be impressed by the sheer efficiency of Brian’s operation. Everything is squeaky clean, computers abound on almost every desk, the place a quiet nerve-centre for a hugely successful marketing and distribution operation. Following Kubota’s own creed ‘Technology for the Needs of Tomorrow’ is the ambition of everyone at Kubota – and they are realising this goal.

This short portrait would be incomplete without reference to the BIGGA/Kubota connection. Brian is one of BIGGA’s most ardent supporters, his company fully endorsing this support in a practical way. Such endorsement has come by financially assisting – from the very onset of our greenkeeper training ideology – the management programmes run at Aldwark Manor. The Kubota Challenge has always been seen as a promotion in which greenkeepers play a major role and Brian, having over nine years known and negotiated with BGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA, records his pleasure at the coming together of these various factions in forming BIGGA – highly respected, very professional, and enhancing the status of greenkeepers everywhere.

One disappointment – he wishes that all greenkeepers were members of our organisation and suggests that perhaps overall strength will come through powerful regions and by those prepared to give freely of their time for the common good.

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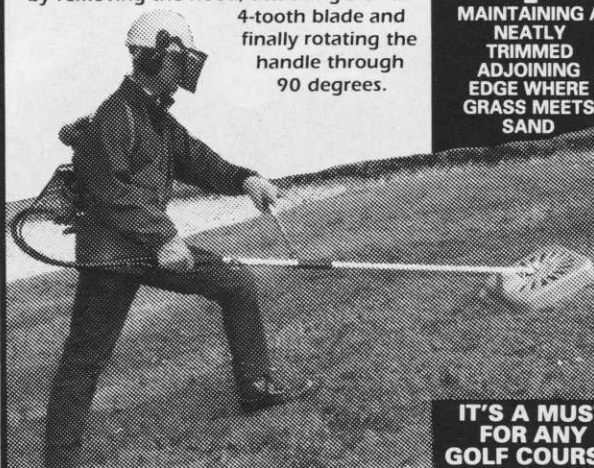
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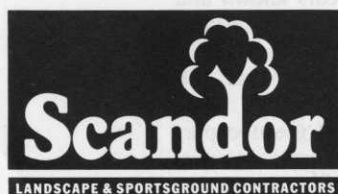
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Environmental health officers: 'armed' and ready for crackdowns



by JON ALLBUTT

From April this year the responsibility for enforcing the Pesticides Regulations passed to the environmental health officer for the local authority.

Environmental health officers (EHOs) have just completed the excellent Open Learning Course for FEPA (available from HMSO, price £16) and are now 'armed' and ready to do battle! This new responsibility is added to their other duties to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act; The COSHH Regulations and of course the Environmental Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations. Your local inspector is now able to take a broad look at the workplace with his enforcer's eye; so what will he be looking for with his FEPA/pesticides hat on?

The inspection is going to be 'by the book' as most EHOs will not have much experience of the use of pesticides on the golf course. They are likely to take a more severe view of even small points than the HSE Agriculture Inspector and have powers to issue Improvement Notices giving a number of days (usually 30) to carry out the improvements or else!

Because the Regulations place a duty upon the employer to protect staff and the environment from any hazards arising out of the application of pesticides, it would be wise for the employer to have a formally written policy setting out the club's position. The inspector on reading this will be in no doubt that the club accepts its responsibilities and has taken steps to meet them. The policy will set out how the club intends to meet the main requirements of the Regulations, these being set out in the Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides (copies from David Golding at BIGGA HQ, for £12 inc. p+p).

The inspector will want to see details of the training and certification of staff, which should include office copies of the certificates and details of the training carried out. If the training and testing was carried out more than three years ago, there should be details of revision courses carried out or proposed. Just having certificates is not enough: staff must be kept up to date on the many changes that are taking place in product labelling, application techniques, etc.

The storage of pesticides is important. The inspector will want to see the store, the inventory, spill clean-up procedures, empty container storage and disposal arrangements. There are changes in approvals for some pesticides: some are being withdrawn (simazine and atrazine 1992/3), others are being discontinued. Make sure that all the products in store are up to date and approved.

The pesticides applicators will be inspected and the inspector will look at the general condition of the sprayers: are they clean; do they look clean; are there any worn or chafed hoses, is there a clean water tank for rinsing of containers and operators to

wash after mixing a batch of pesticide out on the course.

The pesticide application records are important too. The Code of Practice has a suggested format for a record of pesticides application. The records must be kept for at least three years and may be important for health monitoring if staff have been using organ-phosphorous or carbamate chemicals.

The issuing and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will also be looked at. The new PPE Regulations (to be published shortly) will form a part of inspection. The first question to be answered is whether the PPE is 'suitable for the purpose'. Are there data sheets showing the equipment has been tested and is suitable for protection against the pesticides in use. Is the equipment clean, in good condition and stored separately from other clothing where it can dry? If respirators (RPE) are in use, they must have the correct filter fitted, they must be stored in a sealed bag and be in a clean condition. Many respirators are supplied with dust filters as standard, so when buying respirators it is wise to tell the supplier what they will be used for and make sure they are supplied with data sheets showing that they are suitable.

If a club has made a good start by implementing a policy, has good storage arrangements, has trained staff and good equipment and is keeping good records, the inspector will be much less likely to go into print on what improvements he requires. But if no effort has been made then beware, the inspector will not be amused and may well add a lot of improvement items under health and safety legislation as well.



The Open Championship was properly a time for jubilation and cheering from golfers throughout the land. As Britain's highest profile annual golfing event, we wouldn't expect or want it any other way. One group of greenkeeping professionals, however, did not necessarily cheer, rather they prepared themselves for a guaranteed onslaught from tyros who, having witnessed Messrs Faldo and Cook in full flow on TV, instantly wanted to emulate the posturings of the professionals. I refer, of course, to those whose job it is to care for the needs of the multitude of would-be golfers who literally invade public courses in their thousands following The Open.

This information is straight from the horse's mouth, or more specifically from the lips of Ian Holoran, the talented and infinitely patient head greenkeeper at one of Britain's busiest council run courses, the 69,000 rounds per annum (and rising) Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Course, a facility with almost uninterrupted bookings every seven minutes, dawn to dusk.

The decision to build a 'golf for all' municipal course was taken in 1965, a move regarded at the time as somewhat speculative. Progress toward construction was a case of dragging feet, but work finally commenced in 1973 over some 120 acres of land farmed by the local council, land which produced wheat and turnips to the very end of its arable life. The council worked to a design prepared by golf course architect J Hamilton Stutt, though the firm had no part, advisory or otherwise, in the construction, this being carried out by local authority staff under the direction of the assistant parks manager. In hindsight it may now be assumed that written specifications were at best a hit and miss affair, but the course nevertheless has stood the test of time and constant bombardment.

It is interesting to note that in 1976 the soil was described by a senior council official (also a farmer) as free draining 'sandy loam' and that grasses selected were 'essentially of the fine-leaved variety'. The recommendation before opening was to apply lime so that the grass could be 'thickened-up' and that a head greenkeeper be appointed as soon as possible. An interest in statements nearly 20 years old sharpens on listening to Ian Holoran in 1992, who says "the greens, like the rest of the course, are on heavy clay and present a major compaction problem, the grass cover is mostly *Poa annua*" – one is left to ponder the ethereal disappearance of the sandy loam, whilst fully understanding the grass species change!

Since completion, the intake of players has been substantial and has risen steadily from a first year total of around 40,000 to the 1990/91 figure of 69,400 – in the past five years the course has been closed for just a handful of days!

Returning to Ian, he told me that his two greatest difficulties are compaction and wear, which go together like peaches and cream. The course is 6411 yards par 71, with greens occupying 13740 sq. metres, though tees are a miserly 6040 sq. m in total, since no one in 1973 envisaged the golf explosion that was to come. As one might imagine, there are more divots removed per year than a JCB could move earth in an hour, working flat out! Only by using pre-germinated seed mixed with top soil can Ian hope to achieve some head-start on repair work and the problem is a battle with nature and against pounding feet. He uses a Vertidrain whenever funds allow and regularly hollow-tines, followed by top dressing.

The problem of overworked ground is compounded by lack of funds following Compulsory Competitive Tendering. CCT can, as everyone knows, guarantee only the least cost and not nec-

It's all work and all play

**DAVID WHITE catches up with
IAN HOLORAN, head greenkeeper
at one of Britain's busiest
municipal courses**



essarily the best quality or value for money. To give credit though, Middlesbrough certainly are giving value, having won the CCT contract after specifying that all leisure facility provisions be under one tender, which made bidding by private companies difficult if not impossible. CCT in a nutshell states that tenders must be competitive and show a profit – a tall order. That stated, once the contract is won the inflexible restraints of fixed costings must be strictly adhered to, creating tight belts all round and making for a leaner and meaner set-up.

To achieve success, each job is described, ie. 'golf tee/replace all divots' and dimensions are carefully measured. Times and frequencies are scheduled, targets are set and these must be achieved! In the case of greens and tees cutting, this often means dodging the golfers and flitting hither and yon, wherever a gap appears.

Another problem, perhaps more common to municipal courses than their private counterparts, is vandalism. As Ian pointed out, the Middlesbrough course is surrounded by a housing estate and a school, a breeding ground for spoilers.

Despite the employment of course rangers they lose flags and poles almost daily – in Ian's words, "I think by the end of 1992 every kid in Middlesbrough will have his own flagpole". Compounding the difficulties, the fourth green has a bunker which is "well placed as a BMX track, such that it attracts the bikers after sundown". Bunkers must be raked but they dare not leave rakes out – they just disappear. The bunkers also attract children, who delight in using them as sand pit playgrounds, making repair and renovation constant – it is to Ian's great credit that the course remains in such fine fettle.

Ian, who is 35, is no newcomer to local authority work, having worked for some 19 years in the Parks and Sportsgrounds division, starting straight from school and entering an apprenticeship which covered bowling and cricket, soccer pitches and other fine turf areas. The training was thorough, he learnt well and was soon second in command at Stewarts Park – Middlesbrough's finest – complete with bowling greens and a miniature golf course. His rise has been progressive, to say the least.

The opportunity arose in 1987 for Ian to move into golf proper and in 1989 he became head greenkeeper (or contract foreman, as he is titled in council terms) – since which he hasn't looked back. In reviewing his greenkeeping career, especially from the time he became involved 100% in caring for golf course turf, Ian gladly acknowledges the guidance and encouragement offered by such stalwarts as George Malcolm (Middlesbrough, Brass Castle), Bruce Burnell (Eaglescliffe)

and Roger Shaw (Brancepeth Castle). At the onset he was modest enough to admit that he had things to learn and these men from BIGGA or BGGA as it was then, were beacons on which to steer his particular ship.

Listening to him now it is apparent that he is not only a man of knowledge properly acquired in the field, but a deep thinker who analyses every question thoroughly before answering – you can sense his mental gears slipping into over-drive. He's been the proud chairman in the North-east region for some two years, having progressed from early committee work to regional rep. and thence to vice-chairman. He believes fervently in putting back more than he has taken from the profession and is a vigorous campaigner for the BIGGA cause.

Above all, Ian is proud. Proud of his course, for he believes that at £6 for a mid-week round it represents fine value for money, proud of his dedicated team, especially second-in-command, stalwart John Coles and proud of the standards he sets. He took up golf on entering 'the profession' and plays twice a week over Middlesbrough and campaigns his 13 handicap in BIGGA section events whenever time allows – locals tell me he's a hard man to beat!

He's always looking for new ways to improve the Middlesbrough course and has some pretty strong views on winter golf. "None of my winter greens are 'temporary' in the sometimes accepted sense of just close cutting an adjacent patch and sticking a flag in", he declared. "I prepare proper winter greens year round and they play like proper greens".

"What about winter tees", I asked. Again a thoughtful pause – "People just don't like playing off artificial tees, which is surprising as they happily accept them at driving range bays. I believe the problem is one of acceptance of a proper base and clean material, one that it big enough, clean enough and sound enough: not a filthy pad surrounded by a sea of mud – manufacturers should really be applying themselves to solving this difficulty. We do our best with limited space and we are extending tees wherever possible and plan to lay paths with wood chip or similar materials. The biggest problem is getting golfers to accept that a summer route cannot necessarily be a winter one. Believe it or not, we stake and wire off routes and yet still see golfers lifting their pull-carts over what is an unbelievably difficult hazard".

Our talk was constantly of standards, and in closing Ian had this to say – "If there is a yardstick for municipal golf – and it's certainly my yardstick – it is that we must get away from the lesser image portrayed and seek always to produce a standard that will have them clamouring to come back for more" – No doubt about it, the times, they are a changin'.

'We must get away from the lesser image portrayed'

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

Letters

■ An Open thank-you ■ Credit where it's due ■ Get off the bandwagon

■ On behalf of all the officials and members at Muirfield, I wish to place on record our appreciation of the efforts of the BIGGA staff and volunteers who gave up so much time to ensure The Open Championship ran smoothly.

Having been a BIGGA member for 21 years, I was very proud to be able to share with my fellow members what was for me a very special week.

Once again, many thanks.

CHRIS WHITTLE

Course Manager, Muirfield Golf Club, East Lothian, Scotland

■ An otherwise excellent article (Hawthorne & Driver on Environmental Assessments, August 1992) was marred by the unethical failure to mention my name as the golf course architect who designed the Meon Valley course, used as a 'how it should be done' example on all three photographs featured.

The reader is left with the impression that either Hawthorne or Driver were the golf course architects, or that the features shown were always there and merely preserved.

Actually, the greens, lakes and most of the trees were planned by me on what was largely very flat, featureless farmland. Even the wild flowers shown in the rough areas were sown down using a British Seed Houses specially prepared 'Hamilton Stutt Wild Flora Seed Mixture'!

The fact that features at Meon Valley look as if 'they have always been there', I take as a compliment as it shows that I have succeeded in one of my two prime design aims – to provide beauty of a natural kind. The other is to provide the opportunity for enjoyable golf for all standards of golfer.

J HAMILTON STUTT
Poole, Dorset

■ Whilst readily acknowledging the generally high standard of contributions to Greenkeeper International, I am forced to observe that a few articles are in effect merely vehicles to bring some product or name to the readers' attention.

In greenkeeping we have our share of ecology fanatics. The arti-



cle on Environmental Assessments is all too typical of those leaping onto the conservation bandwagon, giving themselves airs and authority by implying that they are first on the scene. This is hard to bear when some of us have been carrying out such surveys for 20 years and more, parallel to those surveys assessing feasibility and viability, partly because we are genuine conservationists and partly because we need to have the answers to planners who frequently have objected to golf courses on grounds of their environmental impact, not just today but for the past 30 years! The correspondents' expertise can be assessed in their advice to "avoid the use of bunkers if possible or locate them where they will be unobtrusive".

Doubtless we shall seriously (in contrast to the April fool's joke earlier this year) be asked to dye the sand green. Clearly the writers (are they golfers?) fail to understand that bunkers should be sited strategically to catch long drives from the best players, which stray off line, but are sited so far off the tee that poorer players never reach them with their drives and hopefully carry them with their second shots.

But it is the article on watering techniques to which I and many others take most exception. It is full of demonstrably untrue statements supporting a false theory. We have had all this before!

Watering more heavily but less

frequently may appear to work in the laboratory but it does not in practice. One statement with which we all agree is Al Radko's comment that "over-watering is the cardinal sin of greenkeeping". Equally we must agree that it is essential to keep the capillary connection between top and bottom of the root zone. Thirdly, there can be no argument that a combination of deep frequent routine aeration and proper root zone specifications to ensure good drainage comply with sensible moisture and nutrient retention is essential for efficient irrigation techniques.

We must assume that management techniques are capable of sensible water control – withholding water in spring until soil temperatures warm up (cold wet greens start growth later than cold dry ones) and then making sure water penetrates fully by juggling longer irrigation periods and aeration. Once that is achieved, the proper method is to water sparingly every night in dry periods to maintain that capillary connection, without over-watering.

Ask yourselves – what is better for grass, periodic torrential thunderstorms or a nice drop of rain at night, every night?

Consider also the practical side. With systems set to apply say up to 10 min/night on full circle (6 min on greens only) on say 19 greens, 18 approaches and 36 tees, it takes an early start to finish the cycle over the night time

period – especially with golfers queuing to start at crack of dawn.

Reducing the argument to absurdity, watering once a week heavily means you have a choice. If it takes 6-8 hours to complete the cycle on a nightly basis with a weekly interval the irrigation period would be 42-56 hours! Even allowing the unproven saving of 20-40% this is still 25-44 hrs. Even watering twice a week means nearly a day and a night. Furthermore, since greens could not possibly take for an hour at a time virtually monsoon conditions, it means one has to devise three or four cycles over the period – obviously impracticable.

What do we do, close the course completely for a day, or water say 6 greens on Monday, 6 more on Wednesday and 6 on Saturday? Thus, six greens would be waterlogged and saturated; six would be drying out and six would be rock hard. How do you play such greens? How do you get the water to penetrate next time on greens which have dried out, except by deep aeration.

Furthermore, suppose you do water heavily as suggested early in the week and by mid-week, we get an unexpected thunderstorm? Gross over-watering is then inevitable, – the essence of good irrigation being finger tip control, efficient weather forecasting, accurate timing and luck.

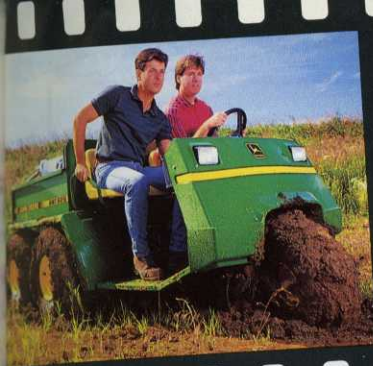
I agree that "many will scoff at this suggestion". We have heard it all before and I had hoped that the unarguable logic and knowledge of practical men would by now have routed laboratory boffins, some of whom do not even know how to sample greens to measure root-depth and permeability!

Well-constructed and well-managed greens with proper root zones will in fact suck the water down and all we need to do is to top-up each night and make sure what is applied penetrates by routine slitting before it evaporates next day.

Finally little and often is the way all our best courses are irrigated, so your correspondent is apparently the only one of the Army in step!

J H ARTHUR, B.Sc.(Agric.)

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■ At a time when a number of important atrazine based total herbicides are to be withdrawn from the market, the news that an alternative is already available will be welcomed by those responsible for vegetation management.

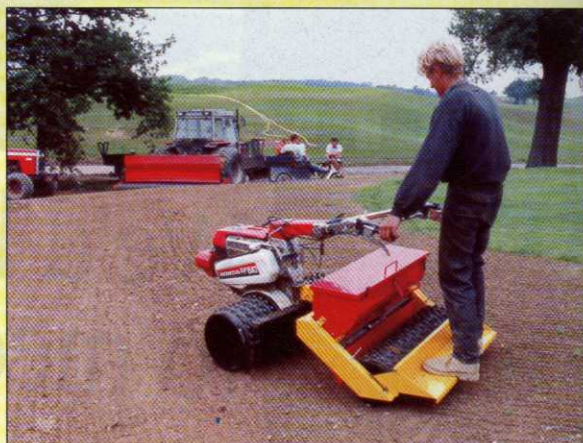
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BUILDING A

David White introduces BERNARD FINDLAY, course manager at Portstewart, who explains in this first part of a two part feature, how man can work with nature to produce a seaside links course that is, in our words, 'a golfing delight and a wonder to behold'

When Bernard Findlay, the 35 year old course manager at Portstewart, sat down after delivering his paper at Cirencester College on the building of a new links course, the consensus was unquestioned – a new star had been launched upon the greenkeeping lecture circuit. Acclamation for the absorbing tale he told was real enough, the essential thrust being one of marriage between man and nature, of empathy with God's acres and of meeting impeccable criteria *without* breaking the bank! Having now played over the new course I am happy to declare that the visible result – nine new holes of blissful linksland – is a golfing delight and a wonder to behold.

The reader should understand that Portstewart's new nine are not in isolation, nor can they be seen as anything other than utterly natural, for they appear now as if they have *always* been there. The Club's plan from the onset was to integrate them into the championship course, which hitherto had been nine holes of pure linksland and nine holes of a more traditional inland style. Whilst giving the 'forever there' appearance, of minimal disturbance, this was not necessarily so, as the reader will discover...

This writer is not about to steal the thunder of Bernard Findlay the course builder, for he has his own tale to unfold. However, before venturing into his construction debut, let us first look at Bernard Findlay the individual.

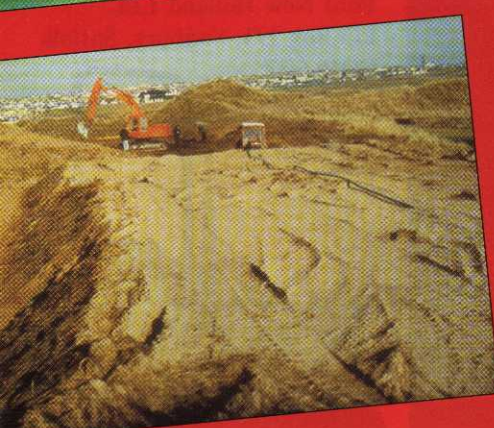
Born in South Norwood, a suburb of London that just creeps into Surrey, Bernard became a greenkeeper immediately upon leaving school. He joined his elder brother Joe, who headed the team at Shirley Park, and learned well under Joe's expert tutelage. It is no secret that Bernard disliked school and was no academic, he'll tell you that himself. On discovering greenkeeping however, he positively blossomed and found his forte. Fortune smiled again when he joined Crowham Hurst a couple of years after his formative training with brother Joe, this time working under George Brown, a Scot.

From the onset Bernard declared his intentions: "I want to be your first assistant". George nurtured him, persuaded the powers-that-be to release him for higher education, and in two years he had mastered City and Guilds Greenkeeping Management at Merrist Wood College, won top student honours in Phases I & II and majored in Horticultural Machinery. By sheer hard work he earned his declared position as George's number one. In his own words, he "loved every minute, had a positive flair for it" and grew in both stature and skills.

Crowham Hurst was also where he met his wife Debbie, and armed with the confidence that marriage often brings, at the age of 21 he felt ready to make his mark as a head greenkeeper. An opportunity arose to manage a small course – Hurst in Berkshire – and with the added attraction (for him) that the course was not without difficulties, had severe drainage problems and therefore offered the chance to be involved in course rebuilding, especially new greens – he could hardly contain himself. Six years of personal growth, of climbing the learning curve, of mastering the skills of course husbandry and reaching management maturity were the end result.

Moving to Northern Ireland, to the seaside town of Portstewart, was yet another milestone in his career. Bernard, then 29, crossed the Irish Sea with Debbie and his young sons to begin a new era, to join what for them both was a different culture and for him the heaven-sent opportunity to manage one of Northern Ireland's most attractive links complexes. He was hired because he was a proven, trained greenkeeper, one who could bring to the Club both practical skills and technological excellence. For Bernard the initial attraction was management of 36 holes and his carrot – yes, there was one – undoubtedly was the proposed new nine! He inherited a staff of essentially practical greenkeepers, indeed he made the point when I visited of impressing upon me that their practicality is outstanding and he sang their praises loud and clear. It speaks mountains for his man-management skills that in his seven years at Portstewart not a single greenkeeper has left and the crew remains a tight, well knit team in every sense.

There were, indeed still are, problems and one can almost sense these being an added attraction for Bernard: an extra nettle to grasp, so to speak. In essence the two courses (one is pay and play and a valuable source of revenue, the other a members course of championship status) were in good order, though some earlier imprudent use of uncharacteristic ryegrass seed for divoting on landing areas has left unsightly patches that are totally out of character. Interestingly, I saw the same ryegrass tufts just a couple of miles away at Portstewart's famous neighbour Royal Portrush, and I'm sure Phil Baldock, formerly of Hankley Common and Portrush's relatively new course manager, is experiencing the same problems of eradication. I'm left with the wicked thought that perhaps the same seed merchant peddled his doubtful wares to both Clubs, blatantly disregarding or (perhaps more likely) failing to com-



NEW LINKS COURSE

prehend the necessity for native species.

It is symptomatic of Bernard's nature that he appears to revel in such problem areas – "after all", he told me, "if you've a bad area you can only improve upon it, show members how it should be, it's a great challenge". How then, did he deal with this little thorn in the side? For Bernard the eyesore has been contained by the continual use of Ransomes 171s with verticutters, then Ransomes 180s with boxes fitted, followed by scarifying the daylight's out of the stuff. Cut reasonably short, the lies have improved beyond measure but the rye still returns in time. The use of a systemic weed killer will probably be tried as an experiment, perhaps when the turf is browned by sun and drought, followed later by overseeding.

This feature is not about course maintenance however, no matter how fascinating the subject may be at Portstewart. It is about the building of a new links golf course and it is time for Bernard Findlay to take up the tale, which he has titled *Can you build a seaside links – or is it nature's job?*

The courses of Portstewart are situated on both sides of the port, the championship course being adjacent to a range of dunes and located between the River Bann estuary and the Atlantic Ocean at the northern-most tip of the Province.

Before attempting to answer the question posed, I will relate my experience of such a task. To begin, it would be worthwhile to establish the criteria of a seaside links. The dictionary definition is given as: *flat ground near the sea, often laid out as a golf course.*

The foundation of links and dune areas arose from the accretion of wind-blown sand particles from sandy beaches being colonised by grasses such as lyme grass, sand couch and marram grass. The biological story after the initial accretion of these sand particles is one of increasing stabilisation by plants such as sea sparges, sedges, mosses and lichens to a point that when sufficient humus (and thus moisture) became available, a variety of plants – including fescues – were able to form a dense, grassy sward.

The evolution of such coastal areas is on-going if left alone, but the fact that man has found them desirable areas upon which to play golf means that these transitional zones have been halted by mowing.

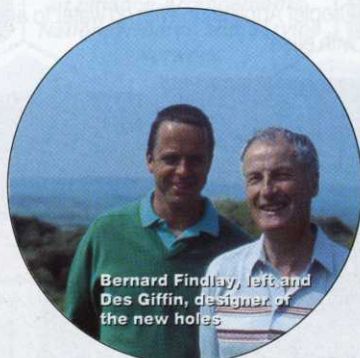
So, what were the characteristics that golfers found so appealing? First of all, these areas required very little attention for their intended purpose. The grass was kept short by grazing animals and it was slow to grow in such infertile



conditions. The ground was free-draining and therefore reasonably free from disease. Such treeless landscape meant that shedding leaves never interrupted play and if minor alterations were to be made the light, sandy soil was easily worked.

Dune ridges in many cases provided seclusion between holes and ideal sites from which to 'tee-off', thus providing a vantage point to survey not only the scenery but the hole to be played.

Portstewart Golf Club were extremely fortunate in owning the range of sand dunes known locally as Thistly Hollow, which were adjacent to the existing championship course and where there was room for the development of several holes.



Bernard Findlay, left and Des Giffin, designer of the new holes

As a result a Thistly Hollow Committee was formed, their brief being to produce a plan to build new golf holes within Thistly Hollow that would become an integral part of the championship course and thereby release some of the weaker holes on the back nine, which in turn would become a nine hole course of its own.

The most active members of this committee, under the chairmanship of Richard McCorduck, were secretary/manager Michael Moss, professional Alan Hunter, my green convenor and designer of the course Des Giffin, and myself.

After repeated tours and at times heated discussions a plan was conceived between us, one

that would highlight the beautiful features of this quite wild area and at the same time would not stretch construction or engineering requirements beyond either the pocket or what was reasonably practical. The plan was to build nine holes in Thistly Hollow, two of which would be par threes.

The total cost of the project has remained under £100,000, principally because additional drainage was unnecessary, a professional architect was not employed and our own staff and machinery were used.

Having established a plan it was necessary to seek approval from various bodies, including the Historic Monuments Society (this because some five thousand years ago the dune system had been home to a neolithic settlement), the National Trust, who are immediate neighbours, and the local planning department. Largely because of our open approach and flexibility toward these groups, we found no hostility to our plans.

It had always been the committee's intention to keep the membership abreast of proceedings, and with this in mind tours of Thistly Hollow and updates on the notice board were a regular occurrence throughout the project.

At this point I thought it prudent to have a feasibility study carried out on the site and invited the STRI to do this. In July 1986 we received the study, which supplied us with suggested methods of construction for greens, tees and fairways. This study also highlighted some of the obstacles we may have encountered regarding erosion once sand had become exposed.

After an EGM the Club members agreed that my staff and I should construct one hole – from tee to green – by way of a pilot and to see what obstacles might be encountered. It would also enable us to estimate labour needs; machinery requirements; materials, time-scale and cost.

Having received the STRI feasibility study I felt obliged to at least try out their recommendations, which were as follows:

On many inland courses faced with the problem
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL September 1992 17

lems of heavy soils, constructional methods usually involve expensive topsoil removal and amelioration with suitable sand to aid drainage. Also before replacing topsoil it is necessary to introduce pipe drainage systems capped with proper drainage layers. In your case we are dealing with an exceptionally rapidly draining material which is virtually pure sand. True top spit loam soil is virtually non-existent and I think can safely be completely discounted as far as value is concerned. The construction of your greens, therefore, will largely consist of simply scraping, burning or weedkilling, (followed by) shaping of the final surface using the material already exposed.

It is well nigh impossible to establish grass by normal seeding methods on pure sand and in this particular case such difficulties would be best overcome by ameliorating sand on the putting and surrounding areas with a product known as Alginure. This would be applied at the rate of 70gm² and afterwards the material would be carefully raked into the surface 50mm of sand. You must appreciate this product does not stabilise the surface but will act as a suitable supply of micro-nutrients and its highly organic nature will help it to hold moisture long enough to ensure suitable grass seed establishment. During the actual seed bed preparation – which involves meticulous heel treading and careful raking – you should apply a general pre-seeding fertiliser which could well comprise Evenrun (12:6:6) at the rate of 35gm².

After all amelioration, seed bed preparation and sowing out, the surface of the soil on the putting greens, surrounds and approaches should be stabilised using a proprietary stabilising material. There are several of these on the market which have been tried by various authorities with varying degrees of success and one or two of

BUILDING A NEW LINKS COURSE

these have been tried at Bingley. Possibly the most successful of all is that referred to as Dunebond.

Prior to stabilisation the seeding should be carried out at the rate of 35gm².

In view of known difficulties of seed establishment under these circumstances it is more or less essential that you organise the work in such a way that a proper watering system is available before you sow the greens and the seed beds should be kept well irrigated until proper establishment has been completed.

On with the pilot hole

The green, being of immediate importance, was built first, along the lines suggested by the

STRI and this was completed on September 5 1986. The surface was kept damp using a hand-held hose on at least 4 x 30 minute sessions each day.

The tee was constructed on a height, using a tracked digger and employing the cut and fill method. Topsoil covered the surface to a depth of 150 mm, which was then turfed.

By the end of October 1986 the D8 bulldozer had exposed some 5,000m² of sand to form the desired shape of the fairway. Previously stripped vegetation had been stockpiled and was replaced on exposed faces of shaped dune by the digger. The exposed sand was ameliorated, using a slurry from a nearby farm and this also made a good stabilant during the interim. Although the slurry undoubtedly contain some *Poa annua* seed, this proved not to be a problem because the area was to be turfed. A small amount of screened topsoil amounting to 5% of the growing medium was applied to 'dirty-up' the sand and peat applied at 70gm² was then peg-harrowed into a depth of 100mm.

Turf laid on the prepared surface came from an extensive practice area and was cut thinly to encourage re-growth and thus negate the need for over-sowing. No pre-turfing fertiliser was used as it was thought that there would be sufficient nutrient available in the slurry.

This particular operation required eight of our green staff cutting, carting and laying the turf, labouring continuously over ten working days. A relatively short time, considering that what had been created would be there for many years to come. On completion, we quite rightly felt a sense of achievement at having finished what seemed an awesome task.

■ **Next month:** The lessons learned from the pilot hole construction ...and applying them as the entire project goes ahead.

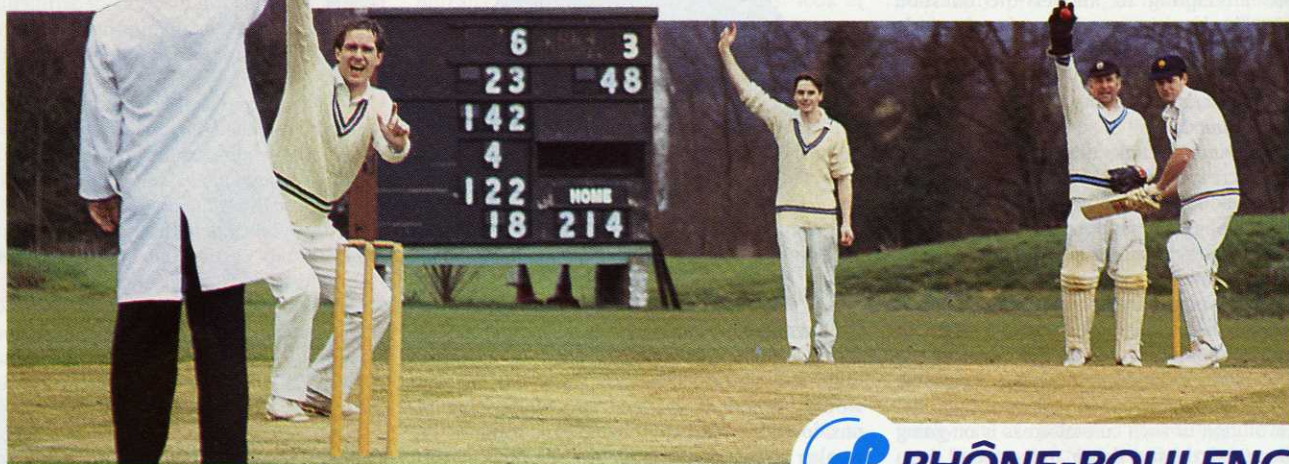
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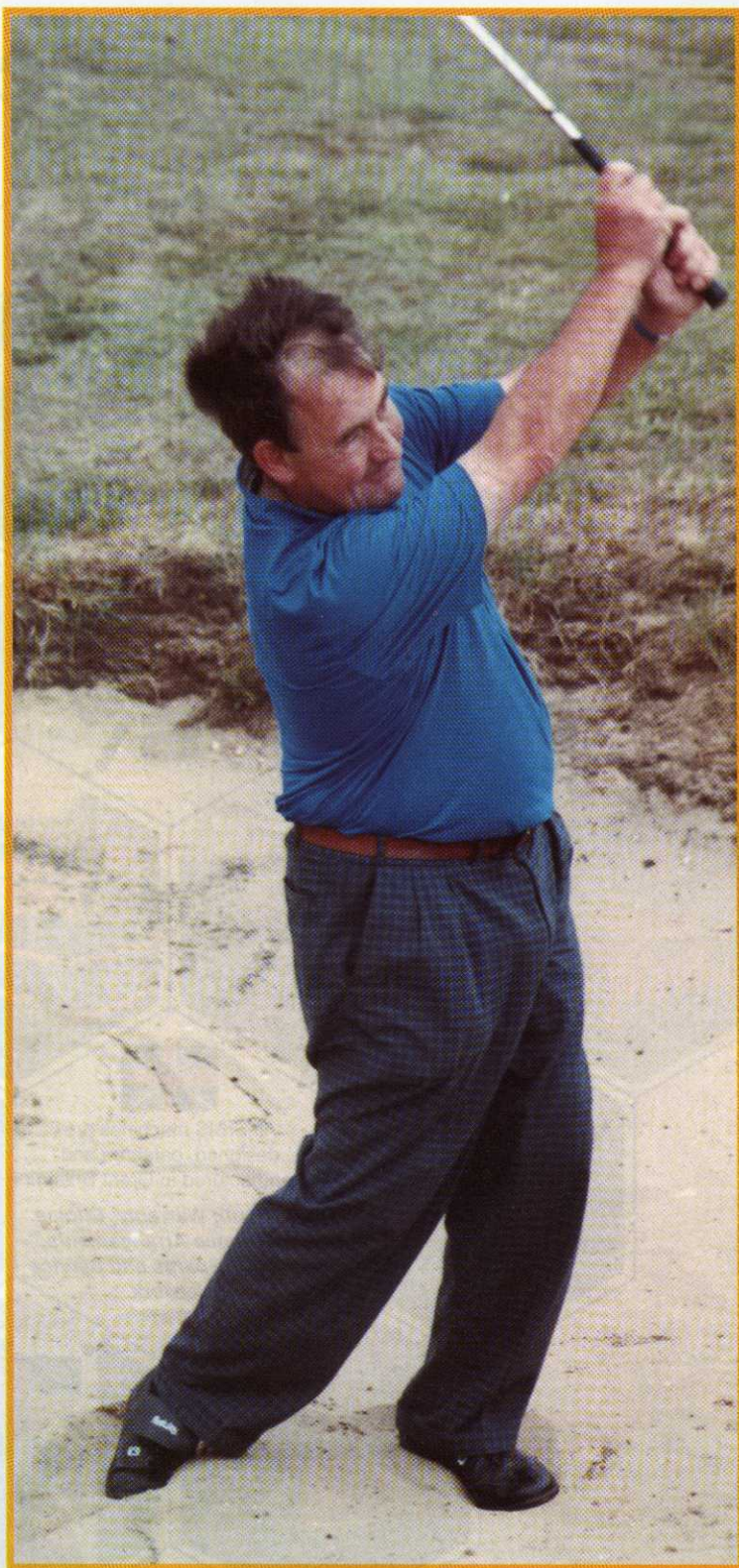
The BIGGA



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NATIONAL
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TOURNAMENT

'Competition may be fierce, but it is beyond argument



Pictures, clockwise, from top left: Malcolm Grand, Littlestone's course manager, receives a tankard from David Siddon, ICI's national sales manager;

George Brown - at the battle of Bunker Hill;

Paul Corfield - ICI Professional Products winner 15-28;

Andy Toomey celebrates - with the David Royle Memorial Trophy

It's a BREEZE!

DAVID WHITE reports
on how our golfing
greenkeepers met the
challenge of a wild and
windy National Golf
Tournament

that the championship provides a perfect base for camaraderie'



Pictures, clockwise, from top left: Barry Heaney – Over 55's winner;

Mike Hughes – nearest the flag;

Paul Loffman – winner of the Maxwell Hart Trophy;

A winner's smile – Richard Barker;

Happy to be second – Peter Solski

Local wags resident along the breezy English Channel coastline of Kent seem to take perverse delight in their particular brand of weather. 'One thing that can be relied upon', they say, 'is that it can never be relied upon: it's predictably unpredictable!'

Well, we didn't believe them on Sunday August 9, when a calm and sunny day gave practicing contenders for the BIGGA/ICI National Championships little cause for concern. Good scores came easily, balls flew prodigious distances, egos were massaged, hopes soared sky high. One contender went so far as to voice what others were merely thinking: "If it stays like this I'm gonna murder the little 'B'!"

Meanwhile, watching on the sidelines, Littlestone's talented course manager, Malcolm Grand, just smiled. There wasn't a scrap of malice in his knowing grin, but Malcolm always contended that Littlestone needed no trickery to sort the men from the boys: any little breeze that begins on the French coast as powder-puff gentleness can reach a fair rate of knots by the time it hits our shores – wind that makes pure links golf so utterly fascinating, so totally challenging and so damnably difficult!

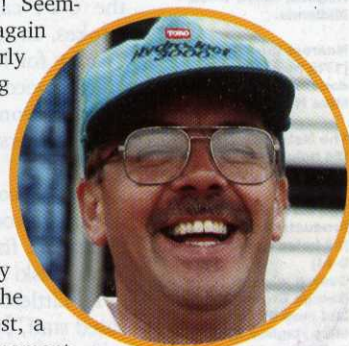
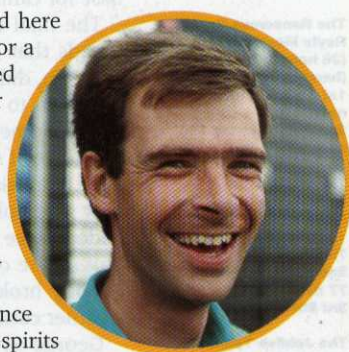
The tournament opened and the wind blew – not quite a gale but registering around 20mph on the club's wind speed indicator. It was enough to make scoring difficult and the game plan – for everyone – had to be 'keep the ball in play'. Though the fairways at Littlestone are generously wide, the rough is pretty rough to say the least and golfers ventured into the jungle at their peril – the highest individual 'lost ball' score on this pipe-opener was 13 – an omen, somebody quipped!

It is to the credit of our experts that many were indeed able to master the conditions, with greens that were deliciously accurate and made faster than they looked by drying winds. Whilst some left the 18th shaking their heads in dis-

belief, the good scores of the leaders (recorded here in nett form) gave indication that we were in for a grand battle. The course obviously suited Richard Barker, who gave notice of yet greater play to come by posting a 70, with a dark horse in the shape of Paul Corfield following closely on 71. There were still more who felt 'quietly confident' after having finished well and the hunt for a supreme champion, nay *champions*, was anything but a foregone conclusion.

The opening hole at Littlestone is a confidence booster. At 297yds it is a par 4 that gets the spirits surging, and to begin the second day, Bert Cross opened the proceedings by splitting the fairway. A modest, almost benign breeze was fluttering – but not for long! Seemingly within minutes the big blow was back, again recording a steady 20mph in a south westerly direction, the movement coming in swirling gusts. We were in for another of 'those days'.

From the pack came five handicapper Paul Loffman, scoring 71 to win the Maxwell Hart Trophy. This score, added to his previous 79 also placed him second in the 0-14 division for the 36 hole David Royle Memorial Trophy, beaten only by the skillful play of Andy Toomey who, with a total of 146, was four strokes to the good. That irrepressible campaigner Ted West, a player who has never missed a National Tournament, showed his worth with a splendid 73 (count-back) to place second in the Maxwell Hart, matched by another senior, Sheffield's Barry Heaney, whose 73 gave him a total of 165 and victory in the over 55s competition, decided over 36 holes. This seniors title was, as ever, a tightly contested fin-



The BIGGA



Professional Products TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Longest Drive:
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Monday - Steve Sullivan
Tuesday - Mark Smith
Weds - Roger Glazier

The Fison's Bowl - Played on Monday:
1st - Richard Barker 74-4=70
2nd - Paul Corfield 87-16=71
3rd - Andy Toomey 82-9=73

The Maxwell Hart Trophy - Played on Tuesday:
1st - Paul Loffman 76-5=71
2nd - Edwin West 82-9=73 (on countback)
3rd - Barry Heaney 81-8=73

The Vitax Putting Trophy:
Winner with 33 putts - Simon Haynes

Over 55ss Award (36 holes)
Barry Heaney - 156 nett

The Toro Trophy (low gross 36 holes)
Richard Barker 156

The Pattisson Trophy (36 Holes) (Handicaps 15-28 inc.)
1st Paul Corfield 145 nett
2nd Peter Solski 157 nett

The Ransomes David Royle Memorial Trophy (36 holes) (handicaps 0-14 inc.)
1st Andy Toomey 146 nett
2nd Paul Loffman 150 nett

The William Hargreaves (Sisis) Cup - Final Day:
1st George Brown 75 nett
2nd Neil Whitaker 77 nett
3rd Steve Wood 78 nett

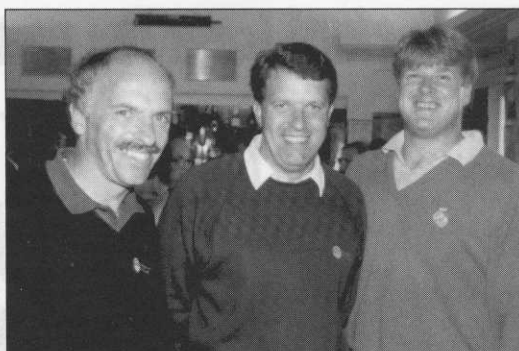
The Jubilee Team Trophy Winners, with a 54 hole nett score of 701:
Paul Loffman, Mike Hughes, Steve Wood - Midlands.

Nearest the Pin (17th hole) (Award donated by Jim Fry)
Mike Hughes

The Netlon Trophy (54 hole gross)
Winner - Richard Barker

The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett/handicap 0-14)
Overall winner:
George Brown 225
2nd (hcp 0-14):
Mike Hughes 231
3rd (hcp 0-14):
Paul Loffman 232

The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett/handicap 15-28)
1st Paul Corfield 231
2nd Peter Solski 240
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The ICI Professional Products Team and, left, the Midlands Team, receiving their prize from BIGGA Chairman, Roy Kates

ish with Gordon Payne just one stroke adrift in second place.

Meanwhile, having a second good day, Paul Corfield added a 74 to his total to take the Pattisson Trophy (36 holes) by the comfortable margin of 12 strokes from Peter Solski.

For the 36 hole gross Toro Trophy, the ever dependable Richard Barker had been busily chipping away and in tough conditions recorded a creditable 78 to win by two strokes in a tightly contested battle. Just how close was the battle for the premier ICI Professional Products Trophy 54 hole award? Barker was leading by two at 148, with George Brown and Loffman tying second on 150 and Mike Hughes and Mike Sheehan both on 151 - a battle royal was brewing for the grand finale!

To their eternal credit, the field found sufficient energy (and enthusiasm) at the end of a tough day to compete for the Vitax Putting Trophy. It was won with just 33 delicate strokes by Simon Haynes.

It has all been said before, but the generosity of ICI and their many trade and business associates knows no bounds. It must be applauded. The banquet was a delight and the awards table positively groaned under a profusion of silverware. Fittingly, Malcolm Grand was presented by ICI's David Siddon with a special award, this in gratitude for his preparation of a course that could not be faulted. Competition may well be fierce, but it is beyond argument that the championship, its venue and the banquet provide a perfect base for camaraderie amongst peers - long may it continue.

The final day was a time for higher mathematics! Wind speeds that at times gusted to over 30mph, coupled with fine rain, did nothing to aid scoring and at times it was difficult even to maintain balance, leave alone make a graceful swing. Somehow it didn't seem to matter, for greenkeepers are made of sturdy stuff and the stalwarts battled on regardless. It speaks mountains for their ability to stick at it, for only seven players failed to complete all three rounds. As an added piece of useless statistical information, the average gross score of the field on the final day was 98 strokes and nobody broke 80. What does this prove? Simply that the weather conditions were appalling.

George Brown took 80 skillful blows (the day's lowest gross score) to clinch overall first prize - The ICI Professional Products Trophy - his nett 225 for three rounds in the 0-14 category beating Richard Barker by just two strokes. In addition, George won the William Hargreaves Trophy for low nett (75), Neil Whitaker and Steve Wood placing second and third respectively. Not to be outdone, Richard won the highly coveted low gross Netlon Trophy with runners-up in this class being Mike Hughes and Paul Loffman.

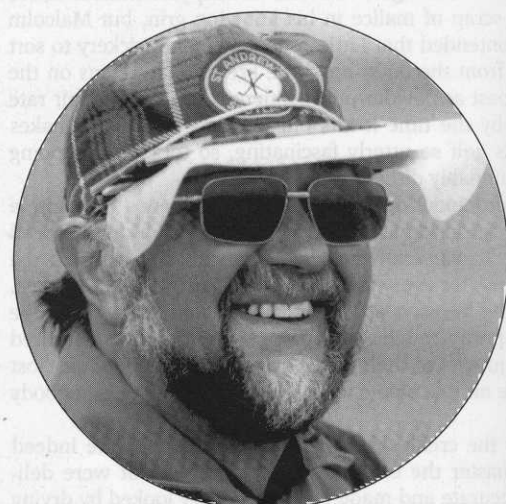
In the second division (15-28) the winner of the ICI Professional Products Trophy was Paul Corfield, who despite a nightmare final round succeeded in beating second placed Peter Solski by nine strokes!

To Littlestone Golf Club, Malcolm Grand and his dedicated staff, our generous sponsors ICI Professional Products, and to their many contributing colleagues, our most sincere gratitude. Safe in the knowledge that 1993 will bring a whole bevy of battling greenkeepers to Dunbar Golf Club, we hope we shall meet you all again. The BIGGA/ICI National is a great event, of which our Association has become exceedingly proud.

'The BIGGA/ICI National is a great event, of which our Association has become exceedingly proud'



Simon Haynes - a talent for putting



Sartorial elegance, wet weather style - Peter Biscoe

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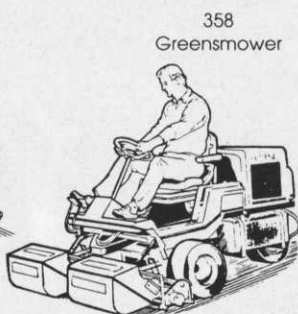
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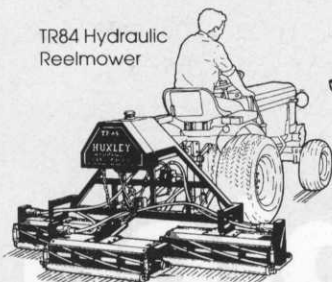
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The Club with the knack of picking winners plans its next success

Golden future

Opinion suggests there are just three essentials in the building of any new golf course. They are, in order of priority, location, location and location! The good members of Minchinhampton Golf Club, whose ancestors made the first smart move in 1889 in forming a Club to play upon the immensely pleasurable Minchinhampton Common high in the Cotswolds, have every reason to be pleased in getting their priorities well sorted. Rightly so, for having tired of growing disruptions from an ever increasing motorised population, including week-end picnic parties that encroached upon bunkers and greens, they have mastered the art of moving house.

The old common is still in play and indeed continues to delight its many devotees, but for the greater number of Minchinhampton Golf Club's 1,400 members, home is now a mile or so from the common at the delightfully attractive setting of Avening. Here they have a Fred Hawtree designed layout of some 6,600 yards, construction of which began in 1972 and opened for play in 1975. It affords essential privacy, a fine test of golf and often breathtaking views that look toward three counties. It is high, wide and handsome.

Soon their pleasure is to be further increased, for plans have been approved for another 18 holes on adjacent land and construction will commence in 1993. Once again, constructors will be working to a detailed Hawtree design, though this time it is Martin Hawtree who is the architect, continuing proud family traditions that span four generations.

Moving house is never without trauma, but in one essen-

tial respect the Club have been blessed with true leviathans in the field of course management. They have the unique knack of picking winners, a skill which first began when they secured the services of Tom Lindsay, the younger half of a father and son team – Lin-Hire – responsible for constructing the course. It speaks volumes for the high regard that Tom earned as course manager, for upon his untimely death the Club erected a memorial in his honour.

Of the next incumbent, Laurence Pithie, there is little that has not been said or written. He was Britain's first Master Greenkeeper, is a writer and lecturer on turfgrass management, a skilled; meticulous and above all essentially practical exponent of the art of greenkeeping. It has been suggested that Pithie is a tough act to follow!

It is my firm belief that following tough acts present no problem for Minchinhampton's new course manager, 35 year old Paul Worster, who has only very recently taken over the reins following Laurence's move to Candover Holdings. Far from it, Paul has all the skills imaginable not to be overshadowed by his formidable predecessor. He is articulate, immensely skilled in greenkeeping technology and has the distinct bonus of having 18 years practical experience culled entirely in local conditions within the county of Gloucestershire.

Paul began in the time-honoured way as an apprentice greenkeeper at Cirencester, rising through the ranks to become deputy head after just four years. He joined Lilley Brook in 1982 and soon took over from then pro-greenkeeper Forbes Hadden as their head greenkeeper. Lilley ➔

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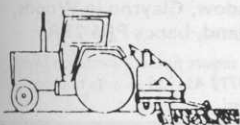
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'Being a golfer gives me a sympathetic insight into players' needs'

Brook under Paul's management was always the pride of Cheltenham and he now brings to Minchinhampton this same wealth of expertise, coupled with one unmistakable extra, a masterly touch with a golf club. Gloucester folk know him as a solid three handicapper and remember with affection his colt days when he was a force to be reckoned with in the Gloucester County Under 25s. There is little doubt he could have made the professional ranks as a player and he can certainly recall giddy moments (and a lower handicap) when contemporaries who are now touring pro's – the likes of Andrew Sherbourne and Gordon Brand Jnr. – often fell victim to his playing prowess. Further, Paul is the highly respected secretary of the BIGGA South West section, a burgeoning group of greenkeeping professionals that has grown from a mere handful to over 170 under his astute leadership.

In conversation with Paul I touched on the playing aspect of course management. "Being a golfer gives me a sympathetic insight into the needs of players" he declared, "a recognition of those often insignificant touches that make all the difference to the conclusion of a good round. One thing is certain, there will be few if any changes made with regard to the management regime instituted by Laurence, my job essentially will be a case of 'business as usual' in that respect, for what took place before was practical, sound husbandry. If anything, I guess my job will come down to a little fine-tuning, but even that will only come in the light of what I might find".

We talked about the differences between Lilley Brook, a course with a heavy clay subsoil, and that of Minchinhampton, which is constructed directly upon a carpet of Cotswold limestone. Paul explained: "to understand the principal differences, Lilley Brook is heavy in winter and comprises bent and *Poa annua*, whereas here water runs straight through to the limestone brash, which is like a blotting pad. The grass here is a mixture of fescue and *Poa annua*, for bent grass



Paul Worster, left, and the Minchinhampton team

does not grow well where a high pH (in the region of 7.5 – 8.00) prevails. You could say that greenkeeping at Minchinhampton is almost at subsistence level – a most careful and economical use of fertilisers – as it is so easy to tip the balance away from fescue and toward *Poa*. The greens were constructed with local sand and top soil and this is rather gritty in nature. This causes somewhat shallow rooting of both active species and as a result water is vital in maintaining growth. Perhaps one priority might be to improve our irrigation system- which appears to need upgrading – and certainly we need to increase water availability. We have a borehole, though this doesn't meet even current demand and thus we need more storage. When mains water is called-for to fill storage tanks it deprives the clubhouse, so in the main it's a non-starter.



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'If there is one trick worth repeating, it is to leave plenty of grass cover going into winter'

Plans are afoot to build an irrigation lake and work will commence this winter. This will be topped-up from the borehole and thus provide a buffer or reservoir. Though it will serve both courses, this is a separate undertaking rather than being part of the new construction. Digging it will be a problem, for with limestone below; anything over six feet in depth will need Semtex explosives rather than a digger – so it will probably end up being large and fairly shallow”.

The new course is certainly high, wide and handsome, but there remains one insuperable problem: lack of soil depth. Minchinhampton has a top soil cover of just 3”-4” and is brashy (gritty and abrasive) by nature. Growth is further impoverished by virtue of the high pH value and drought on this -indeed any- hilltop site can be a constant worry. Gazing upon the course in late July, at a time when rain had fallen abundantly over several days and where fairways looked green and lush, one could be forgiven for overlooking that this was an area bleached near white by sun and lack of moisture just a month previously. The recuperative power of

grass remains one of nature’s miracles.

Talking of his upcoming autumn maintenance programme, Paul began by stating: “if there is one trick worth repeating, it is to leave plenty of grass cover going into winter. The greens have never been cut below 3/16” and there is no thatch at all – anywhere. This is largely down to the nature of the soil. In addition, groomers on greens mowers take care of any lateral growth”.

Moving into autumn sees the beginning of a well-established maintenance programme which is based around regular aeration. Assuming the ground is not too dry, Paul will begin the onset of winter and the slow-down of growth by both solid tining on fairways and making a single pass with a Varicore hollow corer on all greens and tees. Two weeks are written into the schedule for this activity and the Vari-core will be set at 3” spacings and core to a depth of five inches. There can be no aeration of green surrounds, for the brash is too close to the surface, further compounded by irrigation pipes that also are too close (sometimes as near as 3”) to allow such luxuries.

Coring completed, the greens will be dressed with a seaweed/meal supplement, overseeded with a fescue mix and finally top dressed with an 80%-20% dressing. In addition, some four fairways are dressed each year with a sand/peat mix, essentially to aid in gradually improving the depth of the growing medium. Uncommonly, a problem peculiar to Minchinhampton greens is the original construction material. This comprises a very angular grit mixed with local top-soil and has an impacting effect which severs roots when



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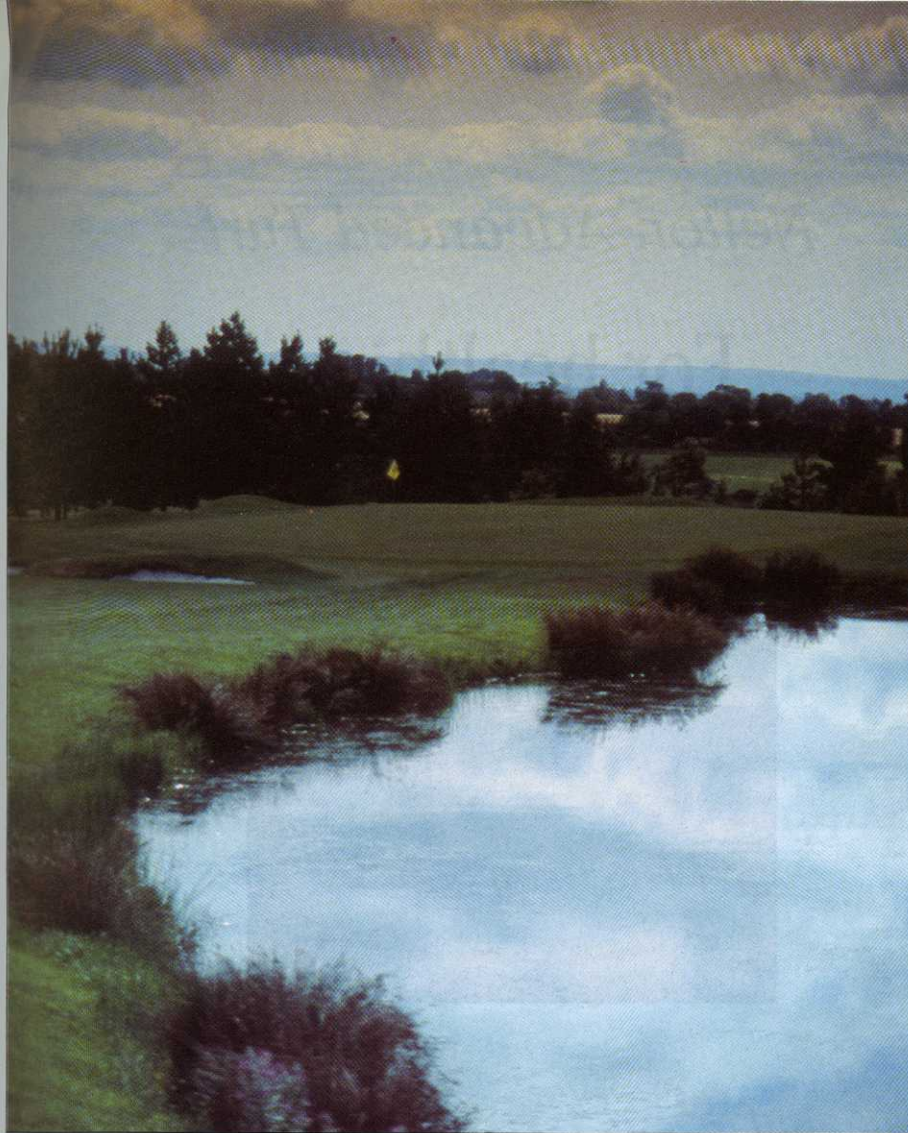
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‘Trees abound on the course, planned and planted in light copses in order that they might both encourage and protect each other in the poor soil’

pressure is applied. This results in turf that is prone to shallow rooting, quickly effected by drought and prone to wear more than most. Many greens are of the upturned saucer variety: high in the middle and shedding towards the outer perimeter. These can effect irrigation, with run-off a constant worry. They can also effect less than 100% perfect golf shots – an apparently fine shot often finding a greenside bunker – and there are some members who view such saucer shapes as bordering on the unfair. Perhaps, one feels, there may be a reasoned case for some uplifting in the future?

Trees abound on the course, planned and planted in tight copses in order that they might both encourage and protect each other in the poor soil. The time has come to thin such plantations and it is apparent that in some places some species have struggled to grow at all. Trees always struggle on hilltop sites and Minchinhampton is no exception. Paul plans to do some selective culling during the winter and to further encourage further growth of the more healthy specimens by feeding with a proprietary slow-release. He is loath to upset nature’s balance and feels that concentration on native species will bring the greatest rewards, though it must be observed that Scots Pines appear to have gained the upper hand.

The course is maintained by just six staff, one a full time mechanic, and the machinery stable is adequate rather than overly high-ec. The plan is to hold off from any machinery replacements until the second 18 holes are on stream. Then the current machinery – or some of it – will be utilised on the fresh, almost certainly stony and undoubtedly inhospitable acres, safe in the knowledge that brand-new tracks hammer the living daylight out of machinery. That stated, the Club have always believed that money spent on the course is money well spent and are equally adamant that maintenance should be left to the absolute discretion of the course manager – they practice great wisdom in hiring a professional and leaving him to it – would that more might follow the same rationale.

Paul reports directly to the green chairman via the secretary and thence to the Club chairman. He will sit in on green committee meetings, which mercifully meet just twice yearly. It speaks for efficiency that the last meeting expired after just 57 minutes! ‘Bet-

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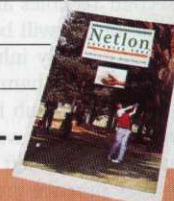
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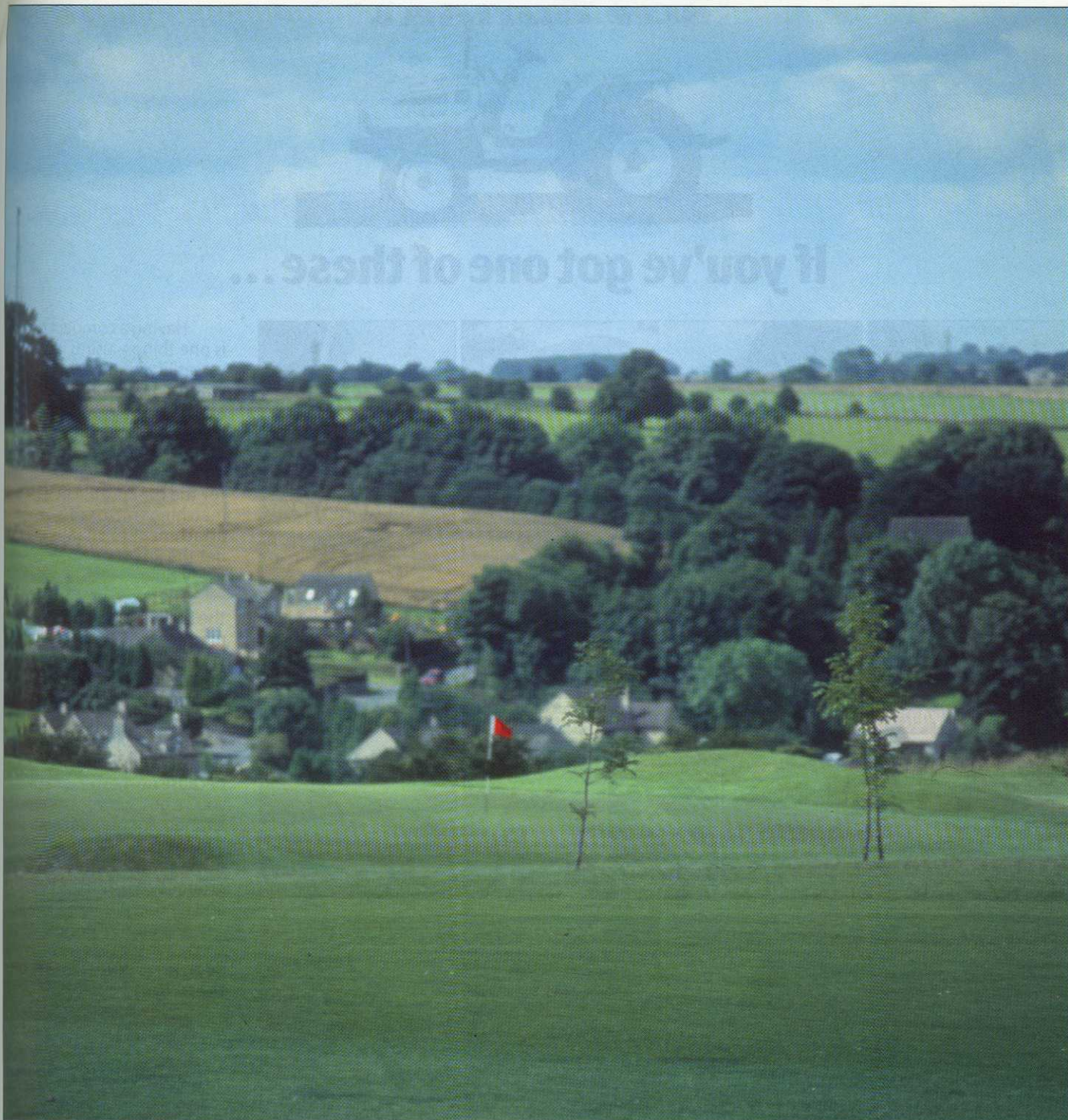
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The course remains in the most expert of hands'

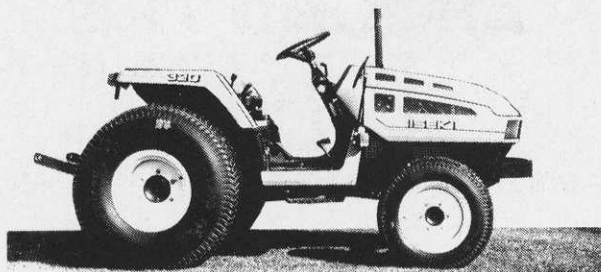


ter than two hours once a month" Paul wryly observed.

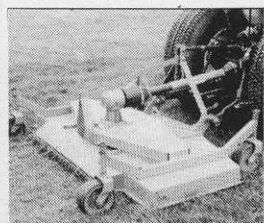
I cannot resist relating an amusing end to my visit. Sitting in the bar alone after my meeting with Paul, I couldn't fail to overhear snippets of conversation. The talk, almost inevitably, was of 'when I was captain', or 'when I served on the green committee' etc. "Have you met the new greenkeeper?", one asked. "No", replied another, "but I bet he'll keep a low profile for a few months at least, I know I would". The talk centred around Paul and one wag observed that he (Paul) had thoroughly beaten a committee member at golf before being given the job! "He's following a tough act" was the consensus of opinion and I had to bite my tongue not to interject. I desperately wanted to urge them to seek out their new course manager, to grasp him warmly by the hand and thank him for continuing to provide the first rate playing surfaces they have come to expect. The good members of Minchinhampton may indeed rest easy: their course remains in the most expert of hands.

Major machinery in the Minchinhampton stable

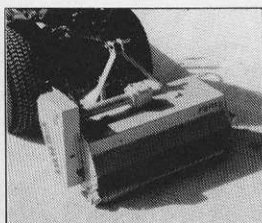
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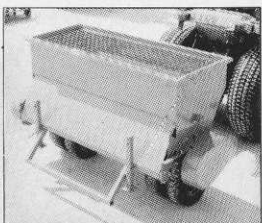
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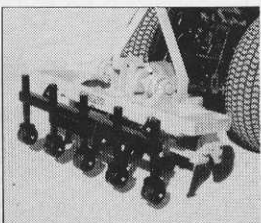
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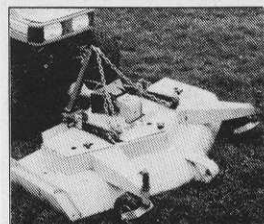
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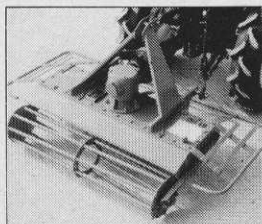
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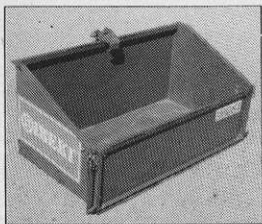
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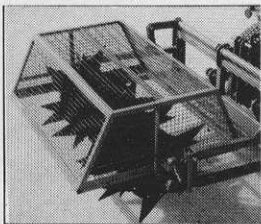
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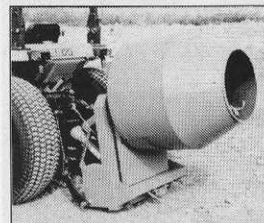
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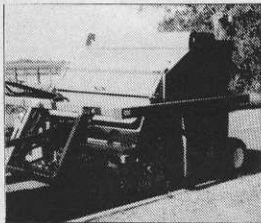
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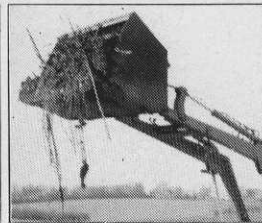
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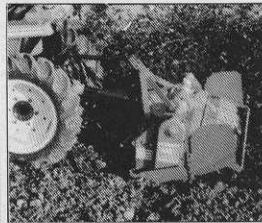
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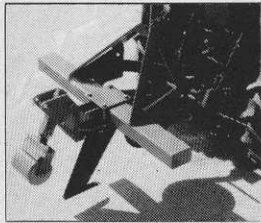
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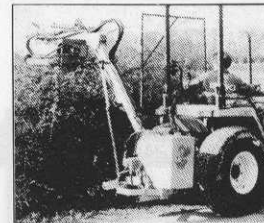
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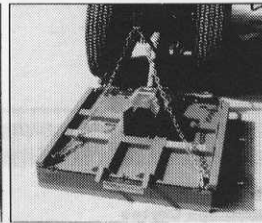
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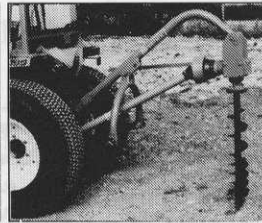
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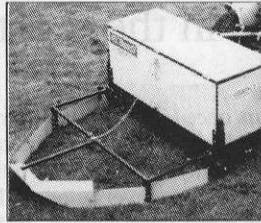
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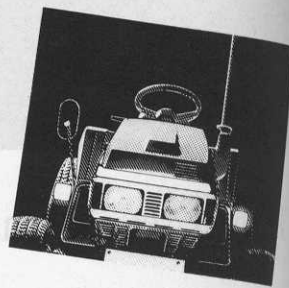
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AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will section reporters continue to note: Final copy date for inclusion in 'Around The Green' is one month prior to publication, i.e. copy for November with the editor by October 1st. Out of date material cannot be included.

SHEFFIELD

I am pleased to inform members that Rotherham GC have granted us permission to hold winter lectures at their Club. The dates are: Oct 1st '92, Nov 5th '92, Dec 3rd '92, Feb 4th '93, Mar 4th '93 and Apr 1st '93. Each lecture will, as before, begin at 2pm.

If any member has any thoughts or ideas on speakers or content, or who may help in arranging worthwhile material that will be of interest to others, please let me know. Tel: 0298-813374.

Education: There are two Northern Region seminars: Oct 14th at Askham Bryan College and Oct 16th at Reaseheath. Both are one day workshops and cover Toro irrigation (am) and Toro machinery (pm). Numbers limited to 40 at each venue. The cost is £15 to include meals. All bookings and money must be sent directly to Bob Lupton, 23 Hinchcliffe Ave., Baildon, W. Yorkshire. Tel: 0274 590463.

Competitions: The Annual Golf Tournament was held at Buxton High Peak GC on July 6. Forty competitors took part in the 27 hole competition, which was an excellent turn-out. Thanks must go to Barry Heaney for all the arrangements and organisation, also to Patrick Heaney and his staff for the superb presentation of the course. Thanks to Sandra, the clubhouse manageress, for looking after us and making us feel so welcome.

A big thank-you to the trade members – Brian Booth (Rigby Taylor), Peter Fell (Atkins), Steve Boroughs (Amenity Turf Supplies), for attending the event and also donating prizes. The most thanks of all must go to Buxton High Peak GC and their captain, Russ Metcalfe, for hosting the event. The captain played with us in the competition, attended the dinner and presented the prizes. His support for the competition and the greenkeepers was evident and very much appreciated by all.

Results: Low gross: Martin Scorthern (Wollaton Park), playing off plus one, had an excellent score of 107 to win the Scratch Trophy. Other results (all nett) 1st Robert Needham (Wortley GC) 92, 2nd Michael Crossland (Silkstone) 97, 3rd Steven Holmes (Notts GC) 99 (on back nine) 4th Ian Whitehead (Hallamshire GC) 99. Congratulations to all prize winners. I hope you will all support the event next year.

Please 'phone me with news of happenings so that I can inform our members eg. job changes; marriages; retirements etc. Or drop me a line at Stoneyford, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, Stockport, Cheshire. Tel: 0298 813374.

JANE RYAN

SURREY

Following Nick Faldo's Open Championship victory, another notable English win occurred at Reigate Heath GC on July 28th. Having lost the annual England v Scotland match over the previous three years, England hit back to thrash the Scots by 3-2 with one halved match, this to regain the trophy! Thanks to Reigate Heath GC for granting us courtesy and to Derek Walder for the impressive condition of this fine course.

Another notable performance recently to hand was that of Jim Hunter, who recorded a nett 61 at Chelmsford in the Iseki Regional Finals.

Following the success of our three lectures last winter, your committee are currently making arrangements for a repeat performance. Full details will appear next month, but if any members can offer lecture facilities, or wish to make a presentation themselves at a future winter lecture, please contact a member of the committee.

The committee are also considering running a mini-bus (or coach) to the BTME show at Harrogate in January. We plan to travel to Harrogate early one morning, stop overnight, and return the following evening. The section will cover the cost of transport. Once again, it is essential that interested parties make prompt contact with a committee member.

Finally, following a recent magazine report about a current greenkeeper who also enjoys the unusual position of club captain, it has been brought to my attention that Mick Connors also enjoyed this privilege, having been club captain at The Drift in the mid eighties.

Forthcoming fixtures: Sept 24th – Parkers Salver at Surbiton GC. Oct 29th – Autumn Tournament at Worplesdon GC. Please send entries ASAP as places are limited.

ROGER TYDEMAN

NORTH WEST

Unlike our cricketing cousins, rain did not stop play on Thursday July 9th when we held our Summer Meeting at Worsley GC. Howard McAddey and his staff had prepared this well-established course to perfection and although the weather was not on its best behaviour, the course most definitely was! I would like to thank Worsley GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and the caterers for a splendid meal. Thanks also to Rufford Top Dress and ICI for helping to swell the prize table. The winners were: 1st T Manning 80-10=70. 2nd J Pearson 84-13=71. 3rd P Thomas 89-18=71. 4th J Farimond 74-3=71. 5th C Sheehan 85-14=71 6th W Merritt 80-9=71.

The last golf fixture for 1992 will be the Autumn Tournament at Dunham Forest GC on Thursday Oct 8th. The cost will be £12 and all entries must be in by Oct 2nd to allow catering arrangements to be made. Tee times will be allocated upon registration and all enquiries

should be addressed to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX. Paul's 'phone number is 0625 859258. Proper dress is essential and entrants must also bring their membership cards with them.

On Friday Oct 16th a workshop day will be presented by TORO at Reaseheath College of Agriculture. Maximum numbers will be set at 40, so get your name in early – first come, first served! The programme is split into two sections: Irrigation am, Machinery pm. The cost is just £15, which includes coffee and lunch. All bookings/enquiries to Bob Lupton, 23 Hinchcliffe Ave., Baildon, Shipley, W. Yorks. BD17 6QY. Be sure to enclose a cheque for £15.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH WEST

Paul Godwin of Tracy Park 'spreadeagled' the field at the recent section Summer Championship. Played at the prestigious Cotswold Hills Golf Club, venue of this years' Gloucestershire County Championship, Paul shot an excellent one under par round of 69 gross, which from his five handicap was good enough to win the tournament by five shots. This was Paul's first win in a section event, all the more deserved following his recovery from a recent illness.

Overall Winner: P. Godwin (Tracy Park) 69-5 =64. Division 1. 1st. P. Thorn (Tracy Park) 74 -4 =70. 2nd. P. Worster (Minchinhampton) 75 -3 =72.

Division 2. 1st C. Sealey (Chippenham) 96 -26 =70 2nd P. Baynton (Long Ashton) 98 -26 =72.

Thanks to Cotswold Hills GC, particularly the Club staff, and to Club captain Keith Loosemore, who gave so much to the evening. Thanks also to sponsors: County Mowers, Toro, Roffey Bros., Avoncrop, Sisis, Rigby Taylor and I.C.I. We are indebted to you all.



PAUL WORSTER

Ransomes have made a generous offer of transport to and from their factory for a guided tour of those machines we all love so dearly (most of the time), Keep your diaries free!

MID ANGLIA

Bedfordshire Golf Club was the venue for our Summer Competition on July 7th (Ladies Day!), a 36 hole medal which attracted 28 greenkeepers and 2 trade members. One of the trade members, Mick Franklin of Boughton Loam (a member of The Bedfordshire), posted the best score of the day, but could not win the prize. Well done anyway, Mick!

Alan Grew (Berkhamsted) won the day with a 65/67 =132. In second place was Dave Piggott (Leighton Buzzard) with 66/67 =133. Third place was won by Paris Rainer (Woburn), with 68/66 =134. Fourth was Gary Boulton (Berkhamsted) with 65/71 =136. Fifth = 51

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A clean SWEEP

Pedestrian, trailed or tractor-mounted using vacuum, flail or brush, the range of cleaning and collecting equipment available has grown dramatically in recent years, with more than 20 manufacturers now offering machines capable of collecting unwanted material from turf.

With the pressure still very much on the purse strings at most golf clubs, versatility is a key factor when considering the best machine for all-round course cleaning and maintenance requirements. Manufacturers have recognised this need and are now offering uprated equipment and additional attachments to extend the year-round work capabilities of their machines.

Amazon's Groundkeeper, acknowledged for its flail mowing and litter, leaf and grass collecting abilities, can now be fitted with a new narrow-profile scarifying blade for improved treatment of thatch on fine turf areas. The

2mm blades, which are reversible, can be used on their own or in conjunction with the mowing flails. Groundkeeper models are available for compact and larger tractors and there is a high-tip version for those needing to cart refuse away by trailer or pick-up.

A high-tip facility, giving a clearance of more than 2m (78in), is said to be a special feature of Bomford's new Baracuda cutter collector, available in 1.2m and 1.5m (4ft and 5ft) working widths for tractors of 35hp upwards. The machines have a full-width height control roller and free-swinging flails which cut, collect and lacerate material before throwing it into the large rear hopper which tips for emptying.

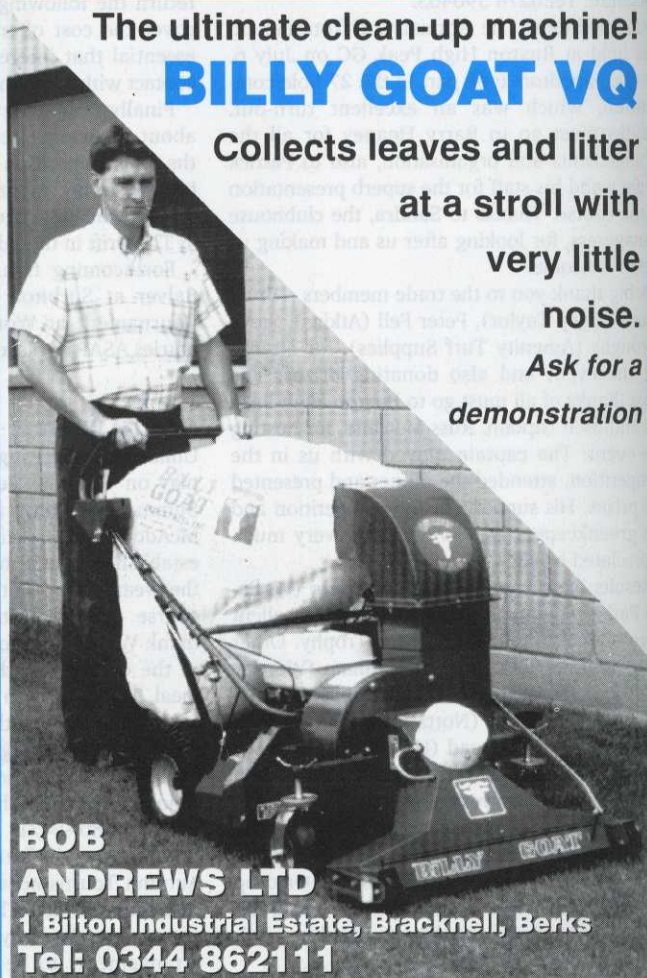
A compact tractor version of the long-established Sisis Litamisa, known appropriately as the Litamina, gives greenkeepers the ability to sweep and collect much nearer to putting areas than before, due to its narrower working width and 50% lower weight.

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MICHAEL BIRD looks at
some of the latest
design ideas and
innovations available to
the turf professional

Requiring tractors of 16hp+, the trailed 1.2m (4ft) wide Litamina retains the unique Sisis spiral brush design and has a leading fixed brush which helps loosen and lift wet leaves and other flattened material. The hopper can be tipped without leaving the tractor's seat.

Collectors have been available for some time for use with mid-mounted rotary mowing decks, the majority relying on the draught created by the blades to move grass, leaves and litter from the deck into the collector. However, their efficiency is impaired significantly in damp conditions.

PeCo, distributed in the UK by Greenland, produce a range of diesel-engined vacuum collectors suitable for use with mid-mounted rotary mowing decks on compact tractors and with dedicated out-front rotary mowers from companies including Ransomes, Toro, Jacobsen, Ford, John Deere, Gravely and Kubota. Able to operate in conjunction with the mower or as a self-propelled grass, leaf and waste materials collector in its own right, the PeCo Lawn Vac system has a 6hp electric-start diesel engine direct driving an impeller which sucks grass and other material from the deck into a hopper. All auxiliary engine controls are mounted adjacent to the operator and the 18ft³ (0.8m³) aluminium container can be tipped from the driver's seat.

Self-contained vacuum collectors were developed originally for use by turf producers, employing powerful suction and wide "hoover-like" heads to lift and remove damaging clippings from new and old growth. Over the past few years, there has been a rash of developments in this area to give these units greater versatility and wider appeal to the turf maintenance industry.

Available with capacities of 5.1 and 12.4yd³ (3 9.5m³), Brouwer's BV 138 and BV 85 trailed units from Turfland are designed to work behind tractors of 20 and 35 pto hp respectively. Features include flotation tyres, strong lightweight construction and a low power requirement, minimising tractor size and weight and possible surface damage. Both models have floating suction heads to follow contours accurately, important if maximum vacuum is to be maintained. The suction produced by the powerful fan (dual impellers on the smaller 8V 138 machine) is said to be able to handle debris ranging from thatch from vertical mowing to grass clippings, leaves, paper, cans and hollow corings. Options include a suction hose attachment, enabling the operator to remove debris from greens, tees and other areas where the machine cannot gain access.

Also from North America comes the two model Tuff Vac range, distributed by Turfmech Machinery. Available in 4.5 and 8yd³ (3.4 and 6.1m³) capacities, the two machines have moving

bed floors for unloading and fully-floating suction heads. An option offered by Tuff Vac not available on the Brouwer machines is a rotary brush for the suction head. However, Turfmech say that the brush option

accounts for only 10% of sales in the UK. The reason given is that the brush reduces working speed and limits the overall pick-up width, although it is claimed to be good for lifting wet leaves. For scarifying, both Turfland



1



2



3



4

and Turfmech prefer a separate operation ahead of the vacuum collector, this being faster and cleaner, they say, eliminating any risk of reseeding detached material.

The Tuff Vac range comes with 5ft and 8ft (1.5m and 2.4m) suction heads, the smaller model also being available with an auxiliary engine-driven fan for use behind turf vehicles and other power units without a pto or with insufficient horsepower.

Also developed originally for turf growers is the Dutch-built Trilo vacuum sweeper range from MJT Contracts. On the 11m³ Clean Sweep, the company offers a three section scarifier attachment which operates in front of the floating 2m suction head, giving it excellent ground-following characteristics. A powered brush is available as an option and the machine has a cab-controlled wander hose as standard. The 4.5m³ capacity Trilo Mini Sweep has a brush fitted as standard to its floating head 1.5m vacuum head. Alternatively, it can now be equipped with a scarifier. This model features high-tip emptying and is suitable for tractors of 35hp plus. New from the company at this year's IoG exhibition is a 7m³ machine aimed, says Trilo, at the golf course user. Requiring tractors of 35hp, it has as options a 2m sweeper head and a scarifier. Unloading, like its bigger brother, is by moving floor.

One rare development in the machinery market is a reduction in price. However, Landtec Products say they have been able to cut the cost of their Promark 1050 Vacuum by more than 30% thanks primarily to revisions in production methods and cost-

1 The Brouwer BV-85 Vacuum has an 8ft suction pick-up head a standard. The 12" diameter wander hose is spring-balanced

2 Holding up to 8cu yd of material, the Tuff Vac 8000 has a two section suction head, moving floor unloading and dual wheels on independent hubs to eliminate scuffing on turns

3 PeCo Lawn Vac system provides suction collection on out-front rotary mowers

4 The Charterhouse Turf Tidy includes a gutter brush and wide-angle pto for work in tight corners

A clean SWEEP

ings by Ariens, the new owners of Promark machines. The unit, which was developed initially to collect detached material on Californian golf courses, is completely self-contained having an 18hp petrol engine, 1.5m suction head and 3m suction hose attachment. It can be towed by virtually any power unit, has a 3.8m³ hopper and, in deference to pollution control regulations, runs on unleaded fuel.

For all-round versatility, there are few vacuum sweepers which can surpass the features offered as standard on the British-built Grandsweep range from Ryetec. The company markets four trailed models with capacities from 1.75m³ to 8m³, suitable for use with tractors from 15hp to 5hp. All are equipped with Goodyear Terra Tires and have pto fans and hydraulically-driven sweeping/scarifying brushes on fully-floating headers incorporating powered lift and height-adjustable wheels.

Wander hoses are standard on all machines which tip hydraulically for unloading. A further benefit is that the wander hose can be connected directly to a mid-mounted mower deck for powered grass collection. An optional gully brush is available for use on hard surfaces.

A powered gully brush and scarifier are offered also by Ransomes to extend the working versatility of its three ranges of conventional sweepers which come in pedestrian, trailed and ride-on versions. The top-of-the-range

1500 can be specified with an optional water sprinkler system for dust suppression.

Significantly reduced noise is claimed for the new Billy Goat VQ801HP outdoor sweeper from Bob Andrews Limited, making it ideal for work close to golf hotel and resort complexes. The secret, says Ken Salt of Andrews, lies in the use of a new computer-designed impeller which can operate with high efficiency at slower engine speeds. The result is less noise, engine wear and fuel consumption. Self-propelled, with an optional tow-behind "chariot" for the operator, the sweeper has a Honda 8hp petrol engine, 30in vacuum pickup and 8.7ft³ (0.25m³) bag capacity.

Said to be the quietest unit currently available, the hand-held Sabre BLV25 Blower/Vac from Hemming and Wood is powered by a 25cc petrol engine producing just 70 decibels at 50ft.

Finally, available with a choice of interchangeable sweeping, scarifying or flail heads, the trailed Charterhouse Turf Tidy, has a 5ft (1.5m) working width and is suitable for use with tractors from 20hp upwards, according to the job being carried out. Tipping of the 2.2m³ hopper is hydraulic with a tipped clearance of 5.25ft (1.6m). To minimise the risk of compaction, the machine runs on dual rear wheels. Options include a gutter brush and wide-angle pto for use in tight corners.



An engine-driven fan on Promark's 1050 Vacuum provides suction at a 1.5m pick-up head or through a 3m wander hose



Ground clearance and brush pressure are controlled hydraulically on the Ransomes 2000 trailed sweeper. A scarifying reel is optional

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When the motor car buyer purchases a Lada, can he expect Lamborghini performance and quality? Of course not, it's a foolish question: the difference is chalk and cheese!

It is surprising then, that many would-be purchasers of top dressing for use of fine turf playing surfaces approach the whole subject with a Lada mentality. Perhaps the comparison is unkind, for the Lada does at least have merit within its defined marketplace and there are thousands of satisfied users. What is beyond argument, however, is that those who beat a path to the door of the cheapest source of top dressing are stepping into a minefield.

To answer the sort of questions that ought to be asked but are often overlooked or ignored, I spoke to Tim Banks, managing director of Fen Turf Dressings Ltd., long time manufacturers and suppliers of Fendress™, used on many championship courses.

Let us first look at what we mean by top dressing. In essence we are referring to the application of a bulky medium prepared specifically for the purpose of improving the playing surface, which will (or should) have the ability to deliver the following benefits to surfaces that have been subjected to golfers, maintenance procedures, weather extremes, diseases and insect attacks. Frequent top dressing applications will ensure :-

- The levelling off of the playing surface to ensure smoother, faster, firmer and more accurate putting conditions for a rolling golf ball.

TOP DRESSING

What it is ● What it does

- The building up of an excellent growing medium for the future.
- The ability to assist in improving poorly drained areas.
- The ability to improve drought resistance (depending upon the make-up of the compost).
- The application of a product which contains small amounts of plant food value which reduces the need for artificial feeding.

Having established the need for top dressing (and there surely can be none who doubt its efficacy?), the recommendation is one of little and often during the season of growth rather than one heavy application which smothers grass cover.

Next must come a further decision, to buy in or prepare one's own? It will not surprise the reader to learn that as a manufacturer Tim Banks is biased in favour of the latter, but as he points out, the facts speak for themselves.

"The Club thinking of preparing its own top dressing", he says, "must consider that it is an expensive and

essentially long-term business unless they are already geared up specifically for the purpose - this includes the purchase and installation of costly machinery and a storage area that is suitable for both preparation and storage of the finished product. Furthermore, unless considerable quantities are required, say for a huge complex, the capital outlay makes in-house preparation hard to justify. This, coupled with the need to establish an impeccable and continuous supply of suitable base material to produce a good compost, makes it a doubtful proposition. There is also the convenience factor, for personnel employed on such work must be properly costed into the overall expense: no-one works for nothing!"

In talking essential quality, and making the valid point of an often in-built resistance to accept quality before considering price, the question asked most often at Tim's company (and I'm sure his company is no isolated exception) is invariably

'how much?' - only rarely is the question posed 'what does your top dressing contain?'.

I find this puzzling and must fall into agreement with Tim when he declares "Quality putting surfaces deserve a quality top dressing. Surely the most important question should therefore be 'what are the constituents; tell me the ratios of materials and the analysis of particle size; what is the pH; how low is the clay and silt content?'".

So what makes a good top dressing? Tim's opinion is that it should be - indeed must be - a free-draining material from a constant source (very, very important) which contains minimal clay and silt particles. Heavy loams containing large proportions of clay must be avoided at all costs, for such clay content will increase compaction, reduce drainage potential and increase rather than stem ball bounce. To this free-draining substance must be added a lime-free, washed silica sand of the right shape (rounded to sub-angular) and with the correct particle range. Sand quarried from the Leighton Buzzard area in Bedfordshire is particularly famed for containing these desirable properties. It is considered unwise to use soft, local sands, especially those which have a content containing lime, for this will increase alkalinity, a negative factor. The finished product should be neutral to slightly acidic, for this will encourage desirable finer grasses such as Festuca and Agrostis. Any mixture which is alkaline will produce in abundance the one thing that greenkeepers

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TOP DRESSING

abhor – the weed grass *Poa annua*.

If all this isn't enough, the greenkeeper should heed another note of caution: use of materials which are too fine will almost certainly produce layering of the surface which will encourage, at best, hydrophobic conditions and at worst a total capping of the growing medium.

The exact proportion of each ingredient in top dressing can be determined by ground conditions and that degree of excellence which the greenkeeper seeks to achieve. In Britain, sandy dressings are considered preferable in assisting drainage and for their ability to rapidly integrate into the soil. Remembering this, the greenkeeper should establish (by soil testing, if necessary) his existing soil texture and seek a top-dressing which has similar characteristics. The problem of 'layering' will decrease if the top dressing mix is consistently close to the particle size of the existing texture.

Finally, one other important function of top dressing is the biological control of thatch. In time, thatch is decomposed by microbes living in the soil and the action of top dressing, especially when filling core holes, brings soil into contact with the thatch and speeds up the decomposing process.

Popular mixes today, according to Tim, are 70%/30% and 80%/20%, the higher percentages being sand, the lower Fensol. These allow light and regular top dressing to be

applied throughout the playing season to achieve maximum effect.

The golf market in top dressing is competitive, often to the point of foolishness, of companies working for peanuts. I don't profess to understand the motives behind such business transactions but appreciate that which has been said before – nobody works for nothing. What I do understand is that for many, price is an important consideration and this blinkered mentality results in an awful lot of highly suspect junk being foisted upon the unwary. Should price alone be the prime consideration or indeed the overriding factor? Let us look at a way of comparing like with like. The cost of a visitor green fee at a popular Club – my own Club – is now over £25. Eight years ago the cost was under a tenner. The cost of high quality top dressing material eight years ago was around £20 a ton, today it is around £25 a ton. As an inflation buster and measured against the cost-of-living index, it can be seen in real terms that cost has actually decreased! Put into perspective, nothing is worse for the long-term effectiveness of your greens than the application of an inferior product.

If there is a message here it is one of caution: you only get what you pay for. For once the computer world has the perfect one-liner to sum up that philosophy. Heed it well: RUBBISH IN – RUBBISH OUT.

• David White was talking to Tim Banks.

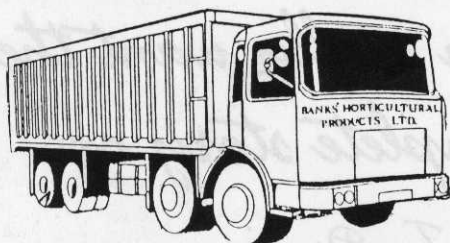
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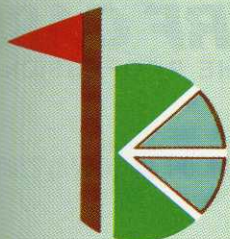
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■ The Aardvark, seen recently on trials at Eaton and Royal Cromer, is the culmination of three years of research and development by Anglia Soil Restructuring Ltd. The third prototype has brought the machine to its present highly developed state, built upon its own chassis with twin axles and running on softac tyres, the widest tyres available for their diameter. The weight of the Aardvark has always been an important design feature and ground pressure is claimed to be less than the human footprint.

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■ A major new development in barrelled oils storage has been launched by Dee Bank Engineering Ltd. The bunded store complements the popular Saferite range of flammable and hazardous substance storage vaults.

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■ John Deere has appointed two further companies to its expanding grounds care equipment dealer network. They are Balmers Garden Machinery of Burnley (tel: 0282 53900), and A J Scambler of Hemingford Abbots, near Cambridge (tel: 0480 495909).



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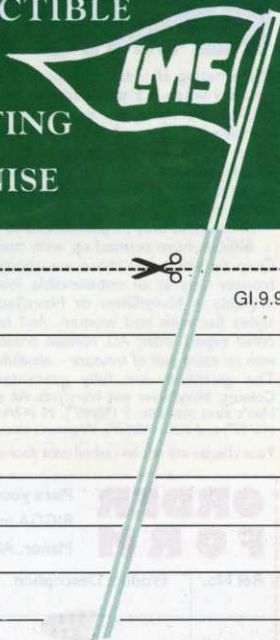
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Too good to be true

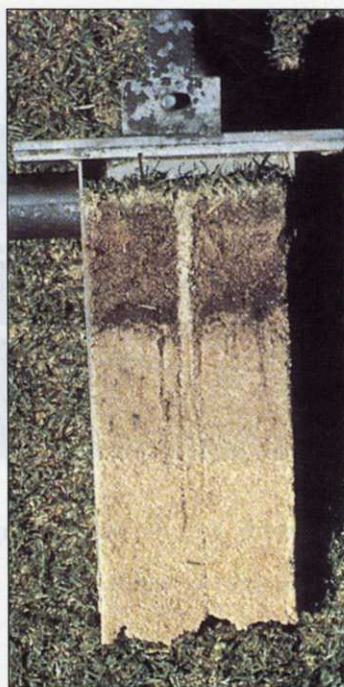
Here we go again! Calls and letters are coming in from people or about people who are going to build pure sand greens (using a uniform coarse sand, no less) instead of USGA specification greens because of some article they read recently in a widely distributed turf publication. And why not? After all, the article says that all-sand greens are easier and cheaper to build... nice and simple. All the complicated, high-tech, unnecessary, costly steps have been eliminated. No need to worry about today's inconsistent organic materials, or about gravel drainage beds or intermediate coarse sand layers.

Worried about water retention? Just mix some water-absorbent polymers or other unproven inorganic amendment into the top few inches of the sand profile, place the whole 12" rootzone on top of the existing soil base with some drain lines installed in it, and grow healthy, carefree turf.

Revolutionary, you say? No, it isn't. Sounds too good to be true, you say? Yes, it is!

There's usually a price to pay for taking a shortcut, and hundreds of greenkeepers (and their Clubs) around the world have paid a high price for taking the 'easy' way with pure sand greens and untested modifications. Our experience tells us this:

- Pure sand greens built without a perched water table are often extremely droughty and experience severe dry spot problems.
- There is no buffering capacity in pure sand greens, and wide shifts in pH can occur very quickly.
- Pure sand greens often require extremely high rates of fertilizer during establishment and for several years thereafter. Rates as high as 30-40 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. or more per year have been reported. Potassium, phosphorus, and micro-nutrients also must be applied more frequently and in greater amounts.
- Disease problems often are much more severe on pure sand greens. It is a medium with extremely low microbial activity and offers almost no resistance to take-all patch, root pythium, and other root diseases.
- Lateral movement of water through the sand rootzone to



The grow-in layer on a pure sand green can cause layering problems that eventually lead to black layer

drainage tiles may occur very slowly in some sands, resulting in wet areas between tiles and dry streaks over the tiles.

- Pure sand greens often are harder and less resilient than modified rootzones. Surface wear and root and shoot damage occur more readily, particularly with sharp sands.
- According to work by Dr. James B. Beard, pure sand rootzone construction has a significant negative effect on root hair development and maintenance compared to a properly mixed rootzone.
- Greens built of unmodified, round sands that fall in a narrow particle size range are unstable. Footprinting and tyre tracking can occur for years after construction.
- The grow-in layer of sloughed-off root organic material on pure sand greens is often quite dense. This layer can create a perched water table in the top 3 to 5 inch zone, and black layer frequently results.

As far as adding water-absorbent polymers and other unproven inorganic amendments into the top several inches of the profile is concerned, this is nothing more than gambling with other people's money and the greenkeeper's job

security. The Green Section specs are based on decades of field experience and university-based research. Unproven alternatives should not be promoted until thoroughly researched and field tested.

Proponents of pure sand greens and other 'fast and easy' methods suggest that the golf Club hire itself a good greenkeeper, since a top greenkeeper can grow grass on anything, including concrete. This is a cop-out! Lousy construction eventually begets lousy turf. The Club often pays big bucks to get out of the mess and the greenkeeper often pays with his job.

Last, but not least, how can the golf industry accept pure sand greens – or any other method – that requires extremely heavy use of water and fertilizer? It's environmentally irresponsible. Who wants to be first to be challenged about what happens to 40 lbs.

N/1,000 sq. ft./year applied to a droughty, pure sand rootzone?

Space in this column does not permit a thorough rebuttal to all of the misleading statements used to rationalize pure sand greens and other untested methods. The fact is, USGA greens offer the best compromise to allow a green to drain properly and to resist compaction while holding reasonable amounts of moisture and nutrients for plant growth. Don't be fooled by anyone into thinking that greens can be built easily and cheaply without having to pay for it later with interest. Pure sand rootzones and their untested modified versions should not be encouraged or condoned.

■ The author, James T Snow, is National Director, USGA Green Section. This article first appeared in volume 30, No 4 of the USGA Green Section Record and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks.

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39 place went to David Low (Northamptonshire) with 70/68 = 138.

Our thanks must go to Gerry Healy for the time and hard work he obviously put into the course to prepare it so well. Gerry has only been at The Bedfordshire for a relatively short time, but the improvements are there for all to see.

Our thanks also to the Club for an enjoyable day – we were only sorry that the captain, secretary and green chairman were unable to participate in the golf competition and subsequent social event.

Full details of the spraying course (which I mentioned last month) can be obtained from Martin Lay of St. Neots GC. Please 'phone Martin at the Club between 10.00 am and 10.30 am, on 0480 472363 if you are interested. It will be a three day course on PA1, PA2(A) and PA6(A) with testing immediately after the training. The cost is £195 per person plus VAT. Test fees are PA1: £30.00, PA2(A) & PA6(A): £50.00.

David Murphy, territory sales manager for StaBrite Supplies, recently underwent a kidney operation. I am sure everyone will be wishing David a successful convalescence and return to work!

The Iseki Regional final was held on July 17th at Brockton Hall GC. Unfortunately we lost some of our qualifiers, who went to The Open at Muirfield instead. Alan Grew from Berkhamsted and Brian Piggot from Buckingham qualified for the national final later in the year. Our team came an overall second.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at Woburn G&CC on Oct. 27th. If anyone needs an entry form please contact Chris Brook on 0462 442488 or Paul Lockett on 0525 402550 – we will be happy to send these to you.

PAUL LOCKETT

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Once again it is time to think of a trip to the arctic North. If you haven't received a booking form yet, you soon will. I refer to your invitation to join us for a trip to the 1993 BTME at Harrogate. Apart from the exhibition itself, the extensive seminar programme promises to be highly educational, offering something of interest for everyone.

We want your support for this major event in the BIGGA calendar and know that if more greenkeepers join us, there will be more able-bodied to push the coach if necessary! Seriously, we promise that no one in January 1993 will suffer the hypothermia inducing conditions which prevailed last January. Far from it, for an inner glow can be achieved and the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting BIGGA, learning your trade, and enjoying the camaraderie is really well worth while. Those who were brave enough to venture forth last year will, we know, be amongst the first in the queue to meet the challenge once again. Contact me, Gordon Child, on 0803 844056 for details.

GORDON CHILD

DEVON & CORNWALL

Once again autumnal activities in the 'new' season are upon us, with the first meeting being held at Dawlish Warren Golf Club on Wednesday 14th Oct. Please make sure you send your entries back to me by the closing date, as meals have to be booked well in advance. As you will be representing our profession at each meeting,

AROUND THE GREEN



please make sure you keep up your standard of



dress as previously: jackets and ties worn at lunch, no jeans to be worn at all – ever! I look forward to meeting old friends and hopefully creating many new ones throughout the year.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

July 22nd saw the annual battle between secretaries and greenkeepers at Whickham GC, the event going in favour of the greenkeepers, who won by 4-2. The NE section would like to thank Mr Arnie Evans for kindly donating a salver and presenting this to the winning team – this fine trophy will be played for annually.

Our Autumn Competition will be held at Stocksfield GC on Sept 10th. Though this issue of Greenkeeper International is unlikely to reach you before the event, I will list some changes: The format, usually 27 holes, changes to a nine hole (optional) sweep a.m., followed by 18 holes (drawn) stroke play. Arrive early, say 9.30-10.00am.

Stewarts of Edinburgh have kindly asked us to visit their turf nurseries in the autumn. Transport will be arranged and the date will be at the end of October – beginning of November. Interested participants should discuss this with Stewarts rep. at the Stocksfield GC event.

The match against SE Scotland will again be held at Goswick, with the date yet to be arranged.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, assistant greenkeeper at Whickham GC, on winning the Durham County Stroke Play Championship. Also to Craig Kilgour, assistant greenkeeper at Ponteland GC, on retaining the Durham County Matchplay Championship.

Iseki qualifiers for the North East did us proud again at the regional finals at Bury GC. Steve Cram and Robert Bell, both of Slaley Hall G&CC, qualified for the final, as did Michael Gunn of Tyneside GC – Good luck, lads!

JIMMY RICHARDSON

NORTH WALES

To all section members I would like to say how disappointed I am at the response (or lack of it) to my call for information to put in the magazine. Members must realise that without such information it is very difficult to write reports – so please call me with any news, no matter how insignificant.

On a lighter note, congratulations to Caerwys GC on the opening of their new clubhouse and to Mr. K. Burt at Wrexham GC for the excellent condition of the course for the Welsh Boys Championship.

A date to put in your diary is Oct. 14th for our Autumn Golf Tournament at Chirk G&CC. Application forms will be available nearer the time from Terry Adamson.

Best wishes go to Jason Moody on his move from Royal St David's to first assistant at Chirk G&CC

Royal St. David's played host to a true professional indeed when Nigel Mansell and an R.St.D. member played a four ball better ball against Roger and John Kerry in a most competitive match. I think Roger and John must have given Nigel a few tips on how to drive, for he went on to win the British Grand Prix at Silverstone (Nice one lads).

DAVID PROCTOR

EAST SCOTLAND

This month's congratulations must go to Chris Whittle and his staff for the excellent condition of Muirfield, the venue for the Open Championship – it certainly was a credit to them. However Chris, I certainly wouldn't want the task of clearing up. It would break my heart to see so many people trudging over my course and leaving the debris that some of the punters left behind. It was my pleasure to have met you, Chris, and I hope to see you again shortly.

This was the first Open I have attended for many years, due to my being on holiday at this time – but it will not be my last. My eyes were certainly opened by the work and organisation of the BIGGA board and magazine committee, the office staff and members of BIGGA. Neil Thomas and his staff do a great job of flying the flag for the British greenkeeper.

It was so nice to meet people socially for the first time: Neil Thomas and the girls from head office; David Golding; David White; Bill Lynch; chairman Roy Kates and his family... Yes – you may bet I will return next year.

The BIGGA National Golf Tournament in 1993 will be held at Dunbar GC from Aug. 1st-4th and it is hoped that a large attendance will come from the section. Graham Wood, Stuart Greenwood and myself met Neil and David Golding prior to The Open and all arrangements were made.

Our grateful thanks go to Agnes Greenwood for all her help in organising hotels; visits for the ladies, etc. I will be contacting Agnes again shortly to finalise everything.

The annual Committee Match was held over North Berwick GC and was again sponsored by Scottish Grass Machinery, formerly Frew & Co. – our grateful thanks as always go to them. Thanks also to North Berwick GC and especially to course manager Stuart Greenwood for the first class condition of the course. The Winner of the E Holt Memorial Trophy was Peter Ormiston of Uphall GC. If I might make a suggestion, it is that Jim Neilson should swap his clubs for a fishing rod – he was in the burn so many times! However, it was a good laugh.

By the time this report appears the Willie Wood Tournament will be over, having been played at Swanston GC on Aug 6th, bringing together greenkeepers and Club officials.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at Newbattle on Sept 22nd, a very popular course which should attract a big entry.

The AGM will be held at Kingsknowe on Nov 25th, with Sports Turf Services as our sponsors.

Don't forget your tickets for the annual dance to be held on Friday December 4th at Turnhouse. Tickets are on sale now and the limit is 120.



Winter lectures are in hand and it is hoped that they will be well attended. A full list will be in your hands very shortly.

WILLIE BLAIR

KENT

Not a great deal of joy for the Kent representatives at the Iseki regional qualifying round at Chelmsford, with a good performance from Nigel Stapley of Darenth Valley being our only member qualifying through to the final at Coventry. However, we all enjoyed the day, the course was in cracking order and I think we were all rather envious of the superb fescue approaches, aprons and fairways. We picked up a couple of raffle prizes and in general I don't think any of us played too badly. It was also nice to see some familiar faces amongst our greenkeeping colleagues in other sections and have a good chin wag. We also failed to pick up the team prize, the criteria being a pick of 11 best scores from 12. This went to the Mid Anglia section.

The evening meal was very welcome and enjoyable indeed and many thanks for the organisation and enjoyment of the day go to Iseki.

I personally enjoyed playing in the company of Simon Marsh and Sam Sylvester, the main topics of conversation being the numerous new golfing developments under construction and the demise of the many 'luxury' and 'championship' developments in our respective areas.

We also talked of the ever spiralling advances in club and (especially) golf ball technology that appear to threaten the basis of the traditional game of golf. Not only do we see continued attempts at many old championship courses to build new tees further and further back to try to accommodate mighty hitting, but also new courses being built of 7,000 yards plus. Does Joe Average really want a five hour slog?

I read recently that the new Heaver course boasts the longest par 5 in Europe at over 600 yards. Let us just hope that some of the other holes provide a fair and interesting tactical challenge of skill to players of all abilities. I have to admit that I cannot keep pace with all the new golfing developments in Kent and I am sure that there are a great many new greenkeeper members working at these developments, so why not let us know who is doing what and where, and I will be glad to put it in this section report and let the rest of Kent know.



PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH COAST

Little news of Association members has come my way so just a reminder regarding our Autumn Tournament: Venue Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Matravers, Nr. Poole, Dorset. Date Monday 5 Oct. Format AM 18 hole Foursome PM 18 hole Greensome. Each member is requested to bring along either a non-greenkeeper amateur partner from their club, or a fellow greenkeeper from another club. Fee: £14.00 per person. Closing date: 25 Sept.

Applications to play with handicap details and fee to - Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8EA.

Fixture cards listing all section and regional events for 1993 are available upon request. Please let me hear from you so that you can

DON'T MISS OUT

There has been a fantastic response to the new Greenkeepers Training Committee Training Manual, announced last issue. Enquiries and orders have been pouring in for the 120-page, personal organiser. For details, turn to Page 59.

AROUND THE GREEN



fully participate in your Association's activities.

One event which is very worthy of your support and attendance is the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate on 18-22 Jan. 1993. Gordon Child is arranging a package deal for members to attend from our region. The total cost of return transport, 3 nights bed and breakfast, plus passes to all seminar sessions and exhibition is £99.00. Please support this venture (which is subsidised by the region) by completing an application form - obtainable from either myself or Gordon.

BOB DENNIS

MIDLAND REGION

Brocton Hall GC., Stafford, was the venue for the Iseki Regional Final, held on Thursday 16th July. Graeme Patrick, our regional chairman, thanked the captain and committee of Brocton Hall for giving us courtesy of their course and for the hospitality that was shown to us, Eddie Denton, head greenkeeper and his staff for a course well prepared and in a most excellent condition, and the catering staff for a meal that was second to none. Cath and Grace also received thanks for their sterling work in doing the cards/raffle etc. Tony Snaith of Iseki presented the winners with their prizes, the team prize going for the second year running to the East Midland Section.

Results: Category 1: 1st. M.Finney EOE 75-7=68. 2nd. C.A.Macdonald EOE 72-4=68 3rd. R.Allen EM 76-7=69. Reserve M.Hughes M 73-4=69. Category 2: 1st. S.Goode EM 77-12=65. 2nd. A.Grew MA 78-10=68. 3rd. D.Children BBO 83-15=68. Reserve M.Wood EOE 81-11=70. Category 3: 1st. I.Dunmore EM 92-28=64. 2nd. D.Piggott MA 91-20=71. 3rd. K.Hodges EOE 95-23=72. Reserve J.Cassidy 91-19=72.

Best of luck to all our regional winners in the National Iseki Final to be held at the Coventry Golf Club on September 24th.

ROGER WILLARS

LONDON

The London section held its second competition of the year at Wyke Green GC on June 2nd. Thanks to John and his team for preparing the course for us and to Wyke Green GC for allowing us to play. The winner was John Jackson of Wanstead GC with 41 points off a handicap of 4 -some score! Runner-up was Steve Paterson of Abridge GC with 37 points off 17 handicap.

Competition number three was held at Panshanger GC on July 7th, the winner being Mick Sherris of Muswell Hill with runner-up Richard Dunne of Mill Hill GC. Both players scored nett 71's but Mick snatched victory courtesy of a better back nine.

Apologies to all members for the entry form mix-up for this event - those who played enjoyed the afternoon and found the course really enjoyable. Thanks to all at Panshanger GC for making us so welcome.

The South East regional Iseki final was played at Chelmsford GC on July 2nd with 12

players representing the London section. The course proved to be a real test for the players and two players qualified for the national final. John Jackson of Wanstead GC and Norman Exley of Northwood GC - Best of luck to them both in the final.

A few movements around the section, with Chris Carpenter moving from Porters Park to take up his first head post at Brookmans Park. Don Wilson takes over at Dyrham Park and Douglas Smith moves from Wanstead to become head greenkeeper at Thorpe Hall. Good luck in your new positions.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

SOUTH WALES

On July 2nd we held our annual competition for the Birdie Cup at Southerndown GC. The course was in good condition, especially when taking account of the dry conditions prevailing before the event and the fact that Southerndown's irrigation system had been 'playing up'. I'm sure quite a few of us know all about that problem - with irrigation systems being what they are: working one minute - broken the next!

The competition was played by twenty greenkeepers, which was a low turn-out - perhaps some of those missing were still trying to get their irrigation systems working! Nevertheless, it was good to see some new faces and we should all keep encouraging greenkeepers to join the Association.

Results/awards/donated by etc.: The Birdie Cup- P Lloyd (Tredegar Pk) Nett 71 on countback - Hip flask/Birds of Cowbridge. Low gross: H Morgan (Southerndown) 86 - Tankard/Gem Professional. Other nett scores /awards: 2nd G Price (Maesteg GC) 71 - The John Duncan Cup & Hip flask/Birds of Cowbridge. 3rd M Davis (Cradoc GC) 74 on countback - Hip flask/Birds. 4th P Swain (Tredegar Park) 74 Brollie/I.C.I.

Thanks must be given to the captain and members of Southerndown GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and clubhouse, also to Huw Morgan and his staff for the course preparation and the caterers for supplying delicious food that satisfied our healthy appetites. In addition, my sincere thanks to Roger and Jeffery Bird for sponsoring the event and donating the wine (drunk by one and all) during our evening meal.

Mr Roger Bird presented prizes to the victorious winners, this being followed by a successful raffle which did much to swell our section funds and supporting educational and other section expenses. My thanks to all those who donated gifts to the table.

The recent match Greenkeepers v Secretaries, also held at Southerndown, resulted once again in a draw. My thanks to all players.

I recently heard that one of our longest serving members, Henry Fry, had undergone surgery, though he is now at home and well 'on the mend'. On behalf of all members, may I wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he may be fit enough to join us at our next meeting, which is at St Mary's GC on Sept 9th - details will be sent out by mail.

PHIL SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

Five North members were in the greenkeeper support team at The Open this year: Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie, Paul Murphy, Eric Pickard and myself. A hectic week of long days and short nights ensued and a good time was had by all, I'm sure - roll on Sandwich

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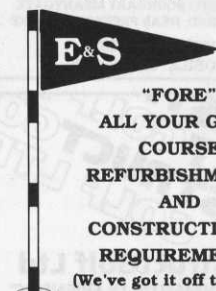
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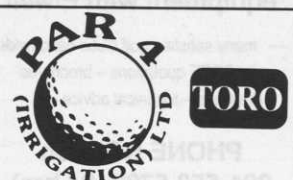
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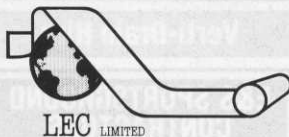


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RECRUITMENT

Beau Desert Golf Club



Due to retirement

HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER

Required for this championship heathland course.

Salary will reflect the importance of the post, for which applications from suitably qualified persons should be submitted within six weeks of the appearance of this advertisement.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Hon. Secretary
Beau Desert Golf Club
Hazel Slade
Cannock, Staffordshire WS12 5PJ**



Lancaster Golf & Country Club

invites
applications for the position
of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Fully qualified applicants must be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping including course management, machinery maintenance and budgetary control.

The ability to lead and motivate staff is essential.

The position is salaried with remuneration to be negotiated. Please apply in writing with full CV by 19th October 1992 to:

**The Secretary
Lancaster Golf & Country Club
Ashton Hall
Ashton with Stodday
Lancaster LA2 0AJ**



The Blue Mountain Golf Centre

have vacancies for

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant shall have the ability to motivate and direct staff under direction from the Head Greenkeeper as well as have a participating knowledge of the game of golf in order to prepare and maintain both the Driving Range and 18 hole golf course.

and an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To complement a team of four to cover a diverse range of activities involved in golf course maintenance.

No accommodation is available for either of these positions and salary levels are negotiable.

Please reply in the first instance complete with a current CV and the name of two referees to:

**Personnel Department
Blue Mountain Golf Centre
Wood Lane, Binfield, Bracknell RG12 5EY**



Cleveland Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above vacancy. Applicants must have the necessary qualifications and experience to fill the above post. Links experience an advantage.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Cleveland Golf Club, Queen Street,
Redcar, Cleveland TS10 1BT**

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**Please write in the first instance to Box No. G1.9.1,
BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York,
North Yorkshire YO6 2NF.**

Bradford Golf Club (Hawthorth)



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above post. Bradford Golf Club is a mature 18 hole course on the edge of the beautiful Yorkshire Moors. Length: 6,259 yards.

Applicants must be experienced and fully qualified in all aspects of course management. Salary negotiable.

Reply in writing by September 30th to:

**The Secretary, Bradford Golf Club Ltd, Hawthorth Lane,
Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8NP**

Old Fold Manor Golf Club

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT/ DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The position would suit enthusiastic, young but reasonably qualified greenkeeper. Salary according to age, experience and qualifications.

No accommodation.

**Applications in writing with a full CV to:
Ian Semple (Course Manager)
Old Fold Manor Golf Club
Hadley Green, Barnet, Herts EN5 4QN**



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Please contact in writing to: **Mr P Miles, Managing Director, Golf & Turf Equipment, Ford Lane, Bramshill, Nr Basingstoke, Hants RG27 0RH.** All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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RECRUITMENT



Glynhir Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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

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

Salary depending on qualifications and experience, negotiable up to a maximum of £18,000 per annum.

No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with a full CV to:

Mr E P Rees (Hon Sec), Glynhir Golf Club

Glynhir Road, Llandyble, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 2TF

Rowlands Castle Golf Club

WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above vacancy, with responsibility for an 18 hole parkland course.

Applicants must have the necessary experience and qualifications to fill the above post.

Ability to motivate a small staff essential.

Accommodation not available.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Rowlands Castle Golf Club, 31 Links Lane,
Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6AE

Naas Golf Club (County Kildare)

Following the opening of our new 18 hole course (9 additional holes), we wish to appoint a

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Applications in writing only, to:

Michael Conway (Hon Sec)

Naas Golf Club, Kerdiffstown, Naas, County Kildare, Ireland

On or before 28th September 1992.

Bedale Golf Club

invite applications for

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Recently extended 18 hole golf course with continuing programme of improvements requires qualified applicants experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, modern course machinery, irrigation, and maintenance of same.

No accommodation available. Salary negotiable, depending on age and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV by 30th September 1992 to:
The Secretary, Bedale Golf Club Ltd, Leyburn Road, Bedale,
North Yorkshire DL8 1EZ

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

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

52 ■ 1993. Gordon McKie even managed to get his photograph in the 'Independent'. We await the signed versions for general release!

We welcome four new members to the section: Thane Lawrie - Aberdeen, David Scott - Westhill, Colin Burgess - Moray District Council and Alistair Angus - Elgin. Older members should remember Alistair, who was a regular to section outings before we he left greenkeeping. It's good to see him back in his old job at Elgin Golf Club.

I'm sure members are united in wishing Jim McCormack of Kirriemuir a speedy recovery from his accident.

Our autumn outing will be at Kingussie this month and I hope to see a big turnout. Mike Wilson is head greenkeeper and we look forward to meeting him and playing his course. See you all there.

IAIN MACLEOD

CLEVELAND

Belated congratulations to Roger Shaw and his wife on the birth of a son, now five months old.

The annual friendly match between the Eaglescliffe green committee and greenkeepers took place at Eaglescliffe recently. Thanks to all who made the evening game a success, also to Messrs G Munro; I Holoran; B Burnell; S Carroll; N Hamilton; N Dawson; D Cook and J Webster in representing Cleveland BIGGA. The result was a glorious draw.

Our autumn tournament is being arranged for late September and details will be available (via newsletter) from Roger.

I am sorry to inform members that Gordon White, ex head greenkeeper at Castle Eden GC, has died. We are sorry to lose an old friend.

Brian Hull is the newly appointed head greenkeeper at a new course at Bretton, near Saltburn in E. Cleveland. Congratulations Brian and welcome to this area.

BRUCE BURNELL

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Your committee are in the process of arranging events for the autumn/winter period - what ever happened to summer? Some suggestions put forward include a a return visit to the Monarch course at Gleneagles and a visit to Souters Sportsturf at Stirling. It is hoped to include a lecture or demonstration at each of these events.

Dates confirmed are: Thursday Oct 8 - The Autumn Tournament at Kinross GC, courtesy of the Kinross Estate Co. Thursday Nov 26 - section AGM and SISIS demonstration at Alloa GC. Friday Dec 4 - The grand prize draw dinner at Stirling GC, with guest speaker Mr Ernie Walker.

Tickets for the grand prize draw will be circulated shortly and it is hoped that members will make every effort to sell their allocation. Tickets will also be available for the dinner in December, so if you wish to attend please get your order in quickly. Full details of all events will be circulated in due course.

Having attended the Scottish Tournament at Kingsknowe and The Open, it was heartening to see a number of section members taking part in both events - well done lads!

Win a trip to BTME at Harrogate: All Central Scotland section assistants and apprentices will soon receive details of a questionnaire/short essay paper which they will be asked to complete - there's no obligation and it's up to the individual - with an award in each category

AROUND THE GREEN



being an expenses paid trip to BTME, Harrogate in Jan 1993 - sorry lads, the 'expenses' do not include beer or entertainment money!

Remember that points for your MGC award can be gained by attending section education events.

Membership: section membership has now topped the 150 mark, which is very encouraging; though there are still a great many greenkeepers in our area who are not members - they don't know what they are missing - so if you know any of them, try to encourage their attendance at some of our events and let them see at first hand the benefits to be gained from being a BIGGA member.

Who wants fifty greenkeepers for a day? Venues are being sought for future section outings in April and October each year. If anyone is willing to accommodate 40/50 greenkeepers 'on the staff' for a day, please get in touch.



The section are now proud owners of a plaque presented by headquarters in recognition of our £200 donation to the Education and Development Fund.

JOHN CRAWFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

I am pleased to report that the East Midlands team has once again enjoyed success in the ISEKI competition. In the regional final held at Brocton Hall on July 16, our 11-man squad was successful in carrying off the team prize, with Steve Goode and Ian Dunmore both winning their categories and Russell Allen finishing a creditable third in the top category. Congratulations to all the team. I am expecting another interesting competition to see who keeps the shield.

Walter Cole tells me that he has lost one of his rising stars, so good luck to Steve Tolley in his new position at the Seagrave development.

It has been my pleasure every time I have written for 'Around The Green' to welcome new members, and this month is no exception. So, welcome to Barry Kilcline of Notts Golf Club. If I have missed anybody out this year please accept my apologies. So as not to be seen to be painting too rosy a picture I must also advise that we have lost a few. To all those, doubtless reading a borrowed copy of this magazine, can I beg you to reconsider? The new half year subscription rates are very reasonable.

TONY HOWORTH

SUSSEX

Our third outing took us to Brighton for a visit to the Dyke GC. The weather was dry but extremely windy, which made play pretty difficult to say the least. Most of the time was spent looking at more woody areas of the golf course!

Anyway, the course was in good condition and very well presented considering the lack of rainfall of late. Well done to Dave Ranger and his staff.

The competition consisted of two 18 hole Sta-belford's the morning round sponsored by Farmura, the afternoon by Thameside Soils. The results were: AM - 1st Stuart Shelford (Isfield) 40, 2nd Peter Ray (Haywards Heath) 39, 3rd George Barr (Ham Manor) 37. Trad & Guests - Chris Meldrum 36, Gary Ogilvie 34. PM - 1st Duncan Haste (E. Brighton) 35, 2nd Chris Reed (Paxhill Park) 33 (on countback), 3rd Mike Butrymowicz (Lingfield Park) 33.

We also held two further competitions longest drive, won by Dyke greenkeeper, Robert Hudson (he obviously knew all the fairway contours) and nearest the pin, won by David Cole. He, incidentally, was the only player to actually find the green! Peter Ray thought the nearest pin was on the fifth and promptly sunk a hole-in-one! The day finished with a superb four-course dinner and prize giving. Our thanks to the caterers and Dyke GC for their hospitality.

Other news: Peter Ray qualified for the Iseki finals and we wish him luck - his prize from us was immediate election to the Sussex committee. Due to an extra workload as head greenkeeper at the newly constructed Welbourne GC, Les Shrubbs has found it necessary to stand down from committee and George Barr has succeeded him as chairman.

One final note: our next meeting will be at Bognor GC on Sept 30. All applications must be accompanied by payment - no payment, no entry!

We also need to stimulate larger turn-outs for our golf meetings, so more new faces please. For those regulars, why not chivvy-up your staff and get them to come along - it is in all of our long-term interests to keep the section thriving.

MARK WILTON

COMING UP

September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Exhibition - Peterborough, Northants

September 22nd-24th: Leisure Industry Week - NEC, Birmingham

September 24th: ISEKI Championships Final - Coventry GC, Warwickshire

October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Aldwark Manor, York

October 14th: 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

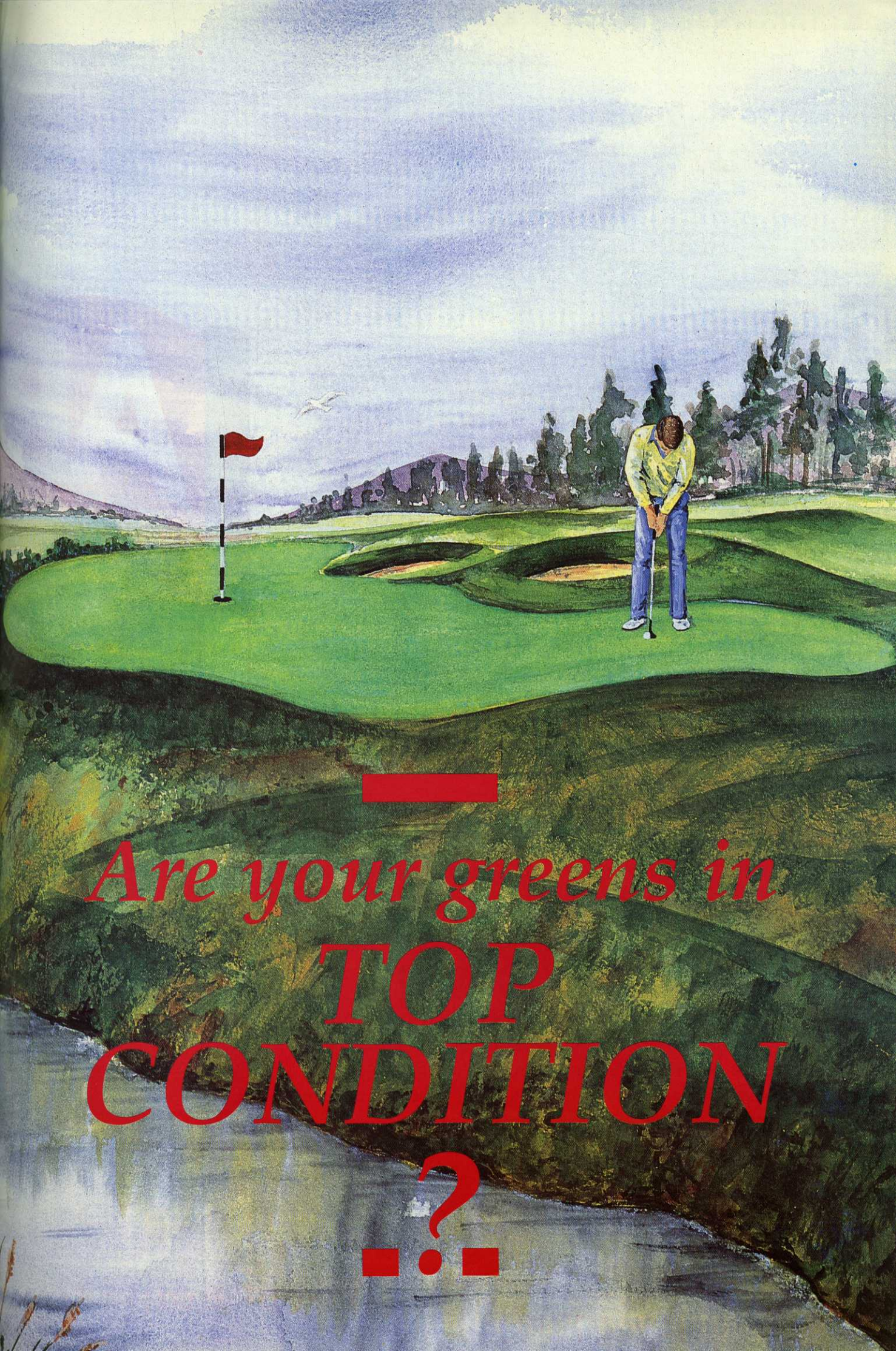
November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show - Monte Carlo, France

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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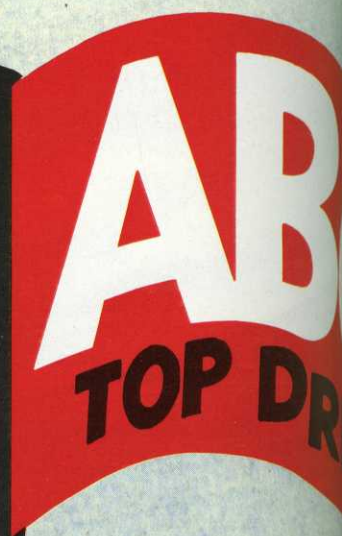
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BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

1992 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Not to be completed by 1991 members

To be returned to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark,
Aine, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF. Tel: 03473 581/2 Fax: 03473 8864

PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS

Full Name
Home Address
County
Postcode Telephone
Date of Birth (If applying for Greenkeeper Membership)
Name of Employer/Company
Address
County
Postcode Telephone
Position held

I wish to apply for: Greenkeeper Membership ☐
Associate/Company Membership ☐

Tick as applicable

I wish to be affiliated to the Region, Section
(Greenkeeper Membership only: see overleaf). I hereby apply for membership of
the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association and agree to abide by
the constitution and rules of the Association. I enclose a cheque/postal order in
the sum of £..... (details overleaf) made payable to BIGGA. A receipt will
not be issued unless specifically requested. G1.9.92

Signed Date

Please note that Associate/Company membership is on an individual basis.

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See application form overleaf

- Region: **Scottish** – Sections: Ayrshire: Central: East: North: West
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Cleveland: Sheffield: North Wales
- Region: **Midland** – Sections: East Midland: Midland: East of England:
Mid Anglia: Berks: Bucks and Oxon
- Region: **South-East** – Sections: East Anglia: Surrey: Kent: Sussex: London
- Region: **South-West** – Sections: South West: South Coast: Devon and
Cornwall: South Wales

New Member Subscriptions

Course Manager	£30.00	(was £50)
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£25.00	(was £45)
First Assistant/Assistant Greenkeeper	£22.00	(was £39)
20 years of Age or under	£15.00	(was £26)
International	£30.00	(was £48)

(NB: Overseas members are requested to note that subscriptions should be made in Pounds Sterling by way of a Bank draft or cheque drawn on a London bank).

Associate/Company Membership Details 1992

Associate/Company (including subscription to Greenkeeper International magazine until end of 1992) – £25.00 (was £45)

Associate/Company (without magazine) – £15.00 (was £20)

Corporate – £525.00 maximum.

Complete card overleaf on behalf of company, sign and date.
Please attach a list of those staff members – names and mailing
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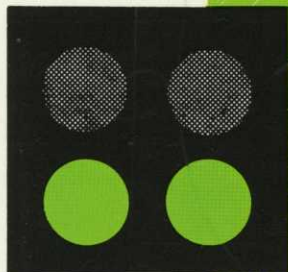


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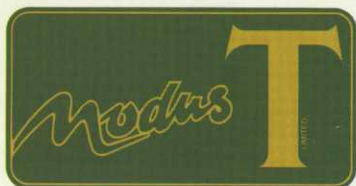
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