

FEBRUARY 1993

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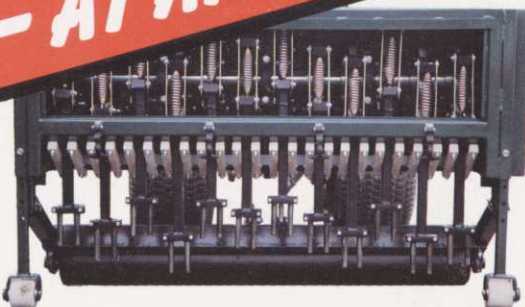
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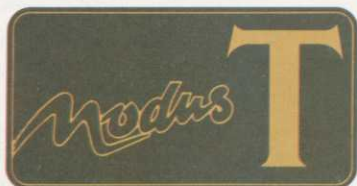
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a quick reference guide

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Official publication of the
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
FEBRUARY 1993



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Golf Greenkeepers Association

GREENKEEPER

International

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COVER PICTURE:

Master Greenkeepers, from left, Gordon Irvine, Bill Montague, Robert Maibusch and Kerran Daly



Take a closer look at what Greenkeeper

International can do to promote YOUR business

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

"It's obvious that BIGGA is investing in Greenkeeper International – you just have to look at the quality of the magazine. As a result we will be happy to continue promoting our business in the magazine in 1993."

– DAVID BOOTHBY,
Toro Sales Manager, Lely (UK) Ltd. UK distributor for Toro Commercial Products

Find out more:

call Bill Lynch
on 091 413 7218,
Carol Dutton
on 0207 570117
or BIGGA HQ
on 03473 581

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:
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Faces and places



■ Robert Laycock's consultancy, TurfGrass Science, has been bought by Karsten (UK) Ltd, well-known makers of Ping golf equipment. Laycock will work as general manager and chief agronomist of Karsten Turf Science, a new company committed to improving the quality of playing surfaces through the sensible use of specialist fertilisers and other products.

Tissue analysis of grass clippings will be used to ensure that only necessary nutrients are included in fertiliser recommendations.

The hi-tech approach of Karsten to the business of turf nutrition will be a great advance in the production of top class playing surfaces at an economic price', said Robert. The running of Gainsborough GC, which is owned by Karsten and which will be used as a 'test bed' for new products before their launch, also becomes the responsibility of Laycock, in conjunction with the existing green staff.

■ John Bourne and Co's Turf Care Division continues to grow with the appointment of Neville Gay as sales rep. for Kent and Sussex.

Responsible for selling a full range of turf care products, Neville will already be known to many golf greenkeepers, having some 30 years experience within the industry behind him. Of particular interest within the product range are Bournes own topdressings and rootzones, over 34,000 tonnes of which went into course construction in 1992.

■ Mark Phillips, formerly export sales director with Hayters PLC, has joined amenity weed control specialists Nomix-Chipman as export sales and marketing manager, following the company's announcement of a multi-million pound international expansion programme. In addition, Phil Wheeler, formerly with BP at its research centre, has joined the company as technical services manager. Both men will be based at Nomix-Chipman's Bristol headquarters.



■ Chris Reed, left, head greenkeeper at Paxhill Park GC and previously assistant at Crowborough Beacon GC, has been awarded the coveted Greenkeeper of the Year award as best student on the Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management course at Plumpton College. The trophy is sponsored by the Sussex section of BIGGA.

■ Chris Peel has joined ADAS, after nine years with the STRI and four years as an amenity grass technical adviser for Sharpes International Seeds. At STRI he was principally engaged in the assessment of varieties and mixtures of amenity grass for sports turf use and in the testing of herbicides, in particular for the control of *Poa annua*.

With Sharpes he advised on projects ranging from new golf developments to reclamation work and wild flower schemes. He has a particular interest in the production of cultivated turf and in the management of low maintenance grass areas. Peel will expand on these to provide an amenity grass advisory service, together with R&D work in solving amenity grassland problems.

■ The Seventh 1993 International Turfgrass Research Conference, held at four year intervals and hosted in the past by the United States, Britain, Germany, Canada, France and Japan, will again be held in the USA, this time on July 18-24 at the Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida.

Speakers from throughout the world will report on the latest advances in the areas of turfgrass breeding and genetics, plant nutrition and soil fertility, pest management and water conservation. Conference symposia are scheduled on the environmental impact of fertiliser and pesticide use, and on

the quantification of surface characteristics of sports fields. As a benefit for registered conference attendees, the organising committee has scheduled an all-encompassing mid-week tour of well-known and renowned turfgrass facilities in south Florida, including the region's finest golf clubs. Details from Dr. George Snyder Tel: (0101) 407 9963062, or Fax (0101) 407 9960339.

■ Bobcat Melroe Europe has announced the appointment of a new district manager for the south of England and Ireland, 42 year old Ian Dennis, who was latterly the Bobcat service manager for the UK, Africa, Middle Eastern Europe. He brings to his new position vast experience both in machinery technology and Bobcat Dealer development.

■ Dennis Groundcare have strengthened their dealer network in the South and Midland regions with the appointment of a further seven dealers. They are: Cornwall Tractors (Cornwall), CR Wilcocks & Co Ltd (Devon), Rochford Garden Machinery (Somerset & Avon), Atterton & Ellis Ltd. (Cams, S. Cams, Forest Heath), Stalham Engineering Co Ltd (Norfolk), Parks & Grounds Machinery (Warks/Worcs) and Groundcare Lincoln (Lincs/Humberside).

■ Following the move by Lamborghini (UK) Ltd into the amenity market with tractors ranging from 25-75 DIN hp, the company has been actively working on the significant dealer interest shown. Already six new dealers have been appointed: South of England - RFE Turf Machinery (0730 815775) and Risboro' Turf (0844 274127), The Midlands - Midlands Tractors (0543 879524) and further north, R&J Campsey (0260 224568). In the south of Scotland are Hamiltons of Larkhall (0698 886515) and on the eastern side James A Fowler of Fife (0337 30527). All these dealers are running demo models.

■ The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA) has welcomed German golf course architect Thomas Himmel as an Associate and as the first German architect to successfully complete the BIGCA Students Education Programme.

Himmel, 28, is already well-known for his prolific design of courses in Germany, Bavaria and Hungary. He is a partner with Joan F. Dudok Van Heel's company, Golf Development International, and also runs his own company.

He is also a keen golfer and is currently a member of the German National team, having four times been Bavarian amateur champion and twice German amateur champion. His inclusion as an associate member brings the membership to a total of 30 from 11 countries including Yugoslavia, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

■ These are the lucky winners in the BTME pre-registration card draw: First out of the hat, winning £100-worth of BIGGA merchandise is Brian Woodhouse, head greenkeeper, Little Chalfont GC, Bucks; second prizewinner, scooping £60-worth is Ken Clayton, chairman of green, Glen Gorse GC, Leicester; and third prizewinner, collecting £40-worth, is Tony Milan, greenkeeping lecturer at Houghall College, Durham.



■ There seemed no better way for John Crawford, BIGGA chairman elect, and his delightful companion Ailsa Wade, to start the New Year than by announcing to the world at large their good news - they are engaged to be married! It was evident to all but a blind man that this confirmation of the obvious was 'only a matter of time'... thus whilst downing a glass of amber fluid in wishing them every happiness, it seems crystal clear to this writer that they have already found it - in each other.

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Flying Divots

STRI get £50,000 to worm out the woes

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club have announced a further research grant of £50,000 to the STRI, thus remaining the biggest contributor to STRI projects. Currently these include formulation of an EC standard (CEN) for golf green construction and effective earthworm control under current EC legislation. This latter topic involves a detailed study into the biology and lifecycle of the earthworm and will hopefully result in an effective cure to the damaging and unsightly worm cast smear effects on golf courses, without resorting to harmful pesticides.

The STRI was originally established in 1929 under an initiative of the green committee of the R&A, over the past five years receiving a research grant from them amounting to £50,000 per annum.

The Institute continues to act as agronomy advisors to the Championship Committee of the R&A, advising on an annual basis those clubs which host The Open Championship and, more frequently, at the venue for the current year. In addition it advises clubs at all the qualifying courses hosting The Open, the Walker Cup and Amateur Championship.

It all began in a shed in Phoenix Arizona... and if fortunes might be made from advertising inside golf cups, proof that an innovative manufacturer can scoop the pot was revealed when Karsten Solheim, inventor and manufacturer of Ping golf clubs, was listed in the Forbes Four Hundred, an annual listing of America's 400 richest people – and they said his 'funny' putter wouldn't catch on! Karsten is said to be worth \$450 million.

Education and Development Fund gathers momentum

1993 has brought an influx of new members to the Education and Development Fund. On the company side, both Rigby Taylor and Hayters PLC have joined the Golden Key Circle whilst the list of individual members of both the Golden and Silver Key Circles grows steadily. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: "The fund is now a year old and it is pleasing that so many of our members in renewing their memberships for 1993 have chosen the Golden or Silver Key options. They are signifying their wish to support the education and training programmes which have done so much to further the cause of the greenkeeping profession in recent years and will be vital in advancing the status of greenkeepers in the future."

These are the members who to date have made the commitment for 1993:

Golden Key Circle: Kenneth Neale, Jim Fry (Associate), Ernie Bernberg (Associate), F A McKee (Company), Roy Kates.

Silver Key Circle: Ian Holoran, Norman Exley, Alan Holmes, Ian MacMillan, Stephen Redman, Robert Mowles, Paddy McCarron, Iain McLeod, Gordon Child, David Krause (Company), Andrew Smith, James Neilson, Elliott Small, D Greenwood (Company), Stephen Thomas, Peter Gee, Paul Drodge, David Wood, Robert Maibusch, Christopher Sharp, John Crawford, Ailsa Wade (Associate), Dennis Archer, Peter Lacey.

National Education Conference

26–28 March 1993
University of Keele, Staffordshire

For the fifth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education conference in the spring will feature a programme of international speakers.

The speakers and their topics are:

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Cool Season Turf Diseases in the USA and the UK**

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager, Lausanne Golf Club: **The Problems Associated with Maintaining a Golf Course at 2,800ft Altitude in Switzerland**

Anthony Mears, Course Manager, Dinsdale Spa Golf Club: **The Wild Side of Golf**

Dr Peter Hayes, Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute: **The Role of the Agronomist and Supporting Scientific Services**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **Poa Annua: Wherever Did It Come From and How We Manage It**

Andy Cole, Advisory Agronomist, The Sports Turf Research Institute: **Greenkeeping Qualifications – Are We On The Right Lines?**

Patrick Murphy, BIGGA Northern Section Secretary and Course Manager at Shipley Golf Club: **The Lifting, Excavating and Re-Building of a Golf Green with a Drainage Carpet Layer and Having it Back in Play in 17 Days**

Arthur King/Edward McCabe, Green Committee Chairman and Course Manager respectively, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club: **Course Management – Communication with Members**

Gary Grigg, Board of Directors, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America:

Current and Future Issues in Golf Course Management

Severin Schmitz, Course Manager, Golf Club Schloss Myllendonk: **How a Personal Computer Can Aid a Course Manager**

Ian Thompson, Course Manager, Wetherby Golf Club: **Trees and Tree-Planting for Golf Courses**

Anthony Davies, Course Manager, Prestbury Golf Club: **Right or Wrong – I Did It My Way**

George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry Golf Course: **Being Open-Minded**

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Patch Diseases in Cool Season Turf Grasses**

Gordon Child, BIGGA South West Regional Administrator and Course Manager at Churston Golf Club: **Greenkeeping – Past, Present and Future**

Iain Ritchie, Course Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club: **Three Years at Portmarnock**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **The Ten Pitfalls of American Turfgrass Management**

Copies of the Programme and Application Form are available from

BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 03473 581 Fax: 03473 8864.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be held on

Wednesday 21 April 1993

at 2.30pm in the Royal York Hotel, York (immediately adjacent to the Railway Station)

— **NEIL THOMAS**
Executive Director

Copies of the audited accounts will be available from Section Secretaries during the four weeks prior to the Meeting.



THIS YEAR, MORE TO SEE THAN EVER BEFORE...

New Product Launches were introduced at BTME for the first time, giving companies the opportunity to explain new lines to trade press and potential buyers.

The launch presentations took place over two days and were organised for BIGGA by Rachel Semlyen Associates. Rachel was previously marketing director for Rolawn.

Visitors attended the presentation area to watch as:

- ◆ Agriland launched Tournament, a new rapid response fertiliser, promoted as a premium product for getting turf into peak condition for special events or for badly worn patches.

- ◆ Barenbrug revealed new grass seed mixtures for greens, in particular the Bar 2 mixture with the addition of Barcrown slender creeping red fescue, making it, they claim, top of the 1993 STRI list.

- ◆ Supaturf Products launched 'Dilute n' Shoor', a new method of applying Aquagro wetting agent using a hand-held spray gun attachment to a standard hosepipe.

- ◆ Ransomes showed off their new Fairway 300 mower, a high performance 5 unit ride-on with many additional features and benefits designed to cope with world-wide grass growth conditions.

- ◆ Rigby Taylor launched their new fungicide Rimidin, a new weapon in the war against fusarium.

- ◆ Industrial Power Units unveiled the new Dori 18" mower.

- ◆ British Seed Houses launched modern turf-grasses for the golf course.

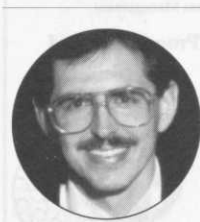
- ◆ Hardi showed the new Hardi Eagle de-mountable sprayer with 6-metre boom and 300 or 600 litre capacity tank; and

- ◆ Huxley's Grass Machinery launched a range of new Huxley products.

The product launch presentations were in addition to many new lines introduced on individual stands for the first time.



Hayter's Robin Boyes and Mike Lincoln-Smith with the Hayter-Beaver T93, which was launched at the show



■ The path to receiving his Master Greenkeeper Certificate from the Duke of York in Harrogate started for Robert Maibusch at the GCSAA convention in Las Vegas two years ago - when he first saw a copy of 'Greenkeeper International.'

Robert, course superintendent of Hinsdale Golf Club in Illinois, picked up the magazine on the BIGGA stand and because he thought he could learn from it, decided to join the Association.

"My interest in the Certificate was as a personal challenge at first," he said. "The work leading up to the exam forced me to go back and review everything I'd ever learned and it was very rewarding. The exam itself was difficult but fair."

"But I never realised quite what an achievement it was until everyone else recognised it and the whole thing outgrew my original personal involvement. My golf course was thrilled and meeting the Prince was - and this is difficult to put into words - overwhelming."

Robert and his wife Cheryl met the Prince informally with other Master Greenkeepers and their families at a private BIGGA reception after the awards ceremony.



Hayter's key role

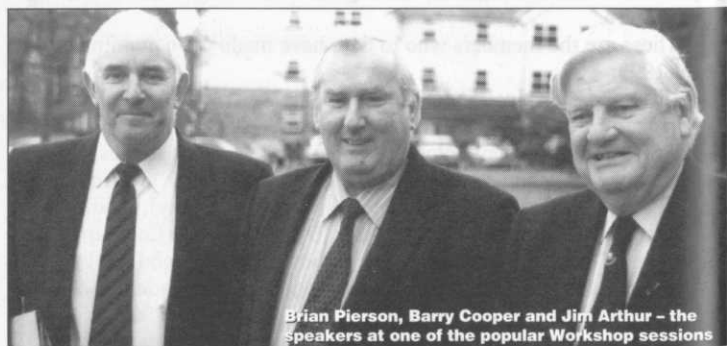
This year's BIGGA tournament is to be sponsored by Hayters and Association chairman Roy Kates, right, took the opportunity whilst at BTME to thank Hayter's sales and marketing director Kim Macfie for their support. "I am very excited by this new initiative," said Roy. "I know that our members will respond positively and with great enthusiasm."

BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas said: "Hayter's enthusiasm and innovative ideas will, I'm sure, lift the tournament to whole new level of professionalism."

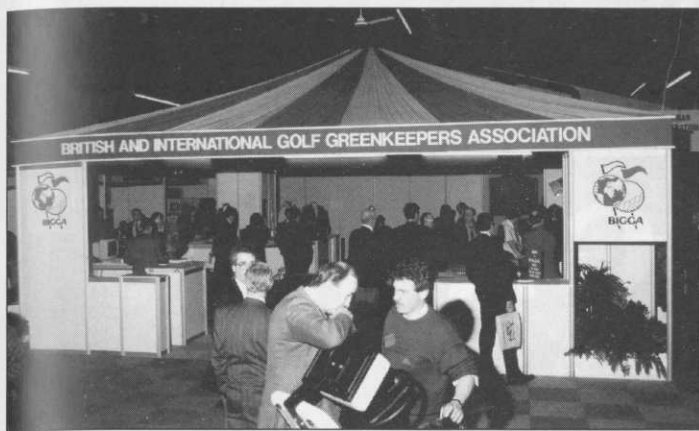
The event will be known as the Hayter Challenge Tournament.



Weather-matic's Paul de Rham, left, with Prime Watermen's Tim Hooper



Brian Pierson, Barry Cooper and Jim Arthur - the speakers at one of the popular Workshop sessions



THE BIGGA

ONE



BTME
BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1993

Record-breaking numbers of enthusiastic greenkeepers surged into the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate to hear the Duke of York open proceedings with his own heartwarming view of the greenkeepers' importance in the hierarchy of golf.

"It is, lest any of us golfers here today forget," he said, "only possible to play this Royal and Ancient game because of all the hard work, commitment, patience, care... and above all the *pride* that you take in your profession."

It was an upbeat way to set the tone for this fifth and best-yet exhibition – one in which the predominant mood was of great optimism. The Duke said: "It is of vital importance that the game as a whole supports the training programmes now being developed for the greenkeeping profession. And a unified approach which has been sadly lacking in the past will undoubtedly accelerate the very real progress now being made."

Quite apart from performing the opening ceremony and touring the exhibition, including stopping for an unscheduled chat with Britain's first female head greenkeeper, Tracy Ruane, the Duke presented special awards to the companies who have supported the Association's Education and Development Fund. He also presented certificates to four Master Greenkeepers: Kerran Daly, Gordon Irvine, Robert Maibusch and Bil Montague, and a plaque to Ian Harrison, 1992 winner of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Speaking of the presence of both the Duke of York and

our revered president, Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA chairman Roy Kates said that it was "highly significant in giving recognition to the Association as one of the leading bodies in golf, and to the development of the greenkeeping profession in recent years."

BTME has always been much more than a mere trade show and many traders present had nothing but praise for BIGGA's clever idea in bringing together a small but important number of educational sessions alongside the trade's own industry showcase, the one perfectly complementing the other and bringing about vast new audiences.

The reason is clear, for the big majority of those who visit BTME – green chairmen, head greenkeepers, agronomists, golf course builders, club secretaries and others – are in Harrogate for a whole week, bent not only on absorbing technical knowledge in sustained workshops and seminar sessions, but on returning again and again to circumnavigate the exhibition halls. For them the show is serious stuff indeed, they are serious folk with golf course business on their mind – sales enquiries and orders confirm it!

Good feelings for the profession of greenkeeping and for our industry prevail long after the doors finally close. Great friendships are formed and strong business links are forged.

As the Duke said in his speech: "With increasing membership, a successful exhibition and a magazine recognised as a leader, the foundations are now in place for BIGGA to go from strength to strength."

■ The Duke of York's presence at BTME sparked considerable media interest.

According to one paper, the attendance brought a "welcome renewal of Royal interest in the game of golf, after a lapse of half a century."

But a planned 'photo opportunity', at practice nets at the Pro-Tee Products stand, failed to come off when the Duke refused to swing a club. Turning to cameramen and reporters he said with a grin: "I know what you want me to do lads, but I'm not going to do it." This prompted the headline in another local paper of "I'm no swinger, shy Duke tells press."

It was Viscount Whitelaw's active involvement as President of BIGGA which drew attention from a reporter from *The Times*. In an article in the next day's edition of the world's most famous newspaper, BIGGA's aims and objectives were clearly explained under a headline which read: "Modern greenkeepers put image out to grass." The article told of Viscount Whitelaw's passion for the game, having been a golfer for 70 years – he started at the age of four – and how happy he was in building up the prestige of greenkeepers.

'Foundations are now in BIGGA



Master Greenkeepers, seated from left, Kerran Daly, Bil Montague, Gordon Irvine and Robert Maibusch listen as the Duke of York officially opens BTME

to go from
strength
strength

...and as a golfer, I shall

— THE DUKE OF YORK, opening



The Duke learns about golf course irrigation from Toro Irrigation Ltd's Peter Roberts. Looking on is Lely (UK) Ltd's Graham Dale



Ransomes' Chris MacGowan in conversation with the Royal visitor



ABOVE: Tom Dunlop with the Kubota FZ2400 ZeroTurn outfront rotary mower

LEFT: Plenty to see on the BEV Golf Equipment stand

RIGHT: Ian Pogson, of Iseki, with just one of the machines on their busy stand



Photographs by
NICHOLAS FISHER
DAVID WILKINSON
TIM MOAT
and DAVID WHITTY

place for BIGGA

om
to

watch its future development with interest'

ning the 1993 BTME

TME

GA Turf Management
Exhibition and Seminar
Programme 1993



LEFT: Tracy Ruane, head greenkeeper of Oulton Hall GC, shares a joke with the Duke

ABOVE LEFT: Kim Macfie and Tina Pulsford, of Hayters, with the Royal visitor

ABOVE: Colin Gregory on the Hardi stand

LEFT: Garry Worrall and Mark Hillier on the Maxwell Hart stand

NEAR LEFT: BIGGA's Neil Thomas and Samantha Flint with the Duke and Viscount Whitelaw



ABOVE LEFT: The Duke on the Pro-Tee Products stand

ABOVE: René Orban, of Jacobsen UK Ltd, looks on as the Duke makes a point. Also in the picture are Neil Thomas, left and Roy Kates, BIGGA Chairman

LEFT: Viscount Whitelaw and the Duke with Rolawn's Terry Ryan, on their stand

NEAR LEFT: Richard Webb, of Tacit, explains how their hole-cutter works to the Duke and Roy Kates

Designing your WORKSHOP

MICHAEL BIRD concludes his report on the ideal golf course workshop, with practical tips on what to build and how to build it

A well-designed, properly equipped and efficiently managed workshop will enable the majority of machinery service, repair and maintenance tasks to be carried out without the need to call in the supplier or repair specialist. This requirement is equally as important on a golf course as it is in any industry where work must be completed outside normal hours. Punctures may need to be repaired, frames welded and cutting cylinders re-ground at a time of the day when the dealer's front door is firmly locked and its service engineers are literally still only dreaming about their breakfast.

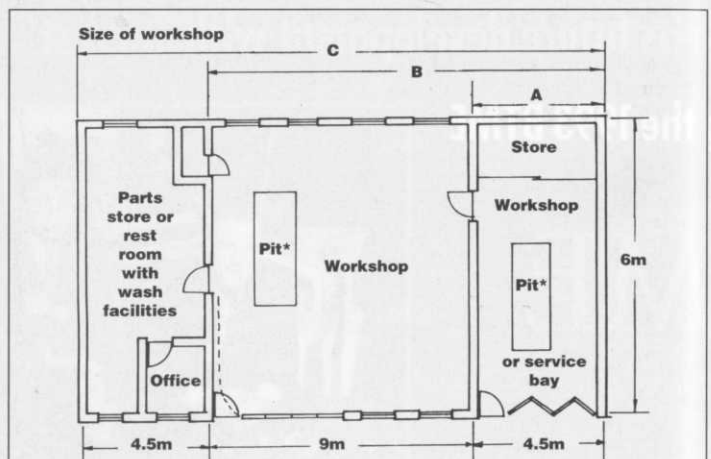
As the demand for golf grows, with more and more players prepared to start their round the moment the sun clears the horizon, the pressure on those responsible for machinery maintenance is going to increase at both ends of the day. For that reason, the workshop building needs to be carefully planned and managed. The first step in designing any new building is to establish the required finished size. In the case of a workshop, this can only be determined by sitting down and deciding on the number and the type of machines which will require access and what may need to be done to them when inside.

For example, it would be illogical to make an entrance sufficiently high to allow access by a tractor and back-acter if the boom cannot be extended fully when the equipment is within the building. ADAS mechanisation consultant, Warner Hall, recommends that golf clubs think in terms of 15ft (4.5m) bays when planning a new workshop. "A single bay building measuring 15ft wide by

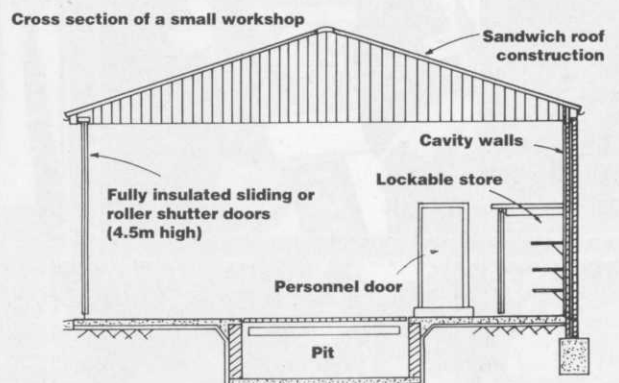
30ft deep is just about the simplest design available and this will be suitable for storing and servicing equipment used for, say, a golf driving range," he comments. "For an 18 hole golf course, a building measuring 45ft wide by 30ft deep by 15ft to eaves will fulfil virtually all requirements".

Hall advocates a minimum height to eaves of 15ft in all workshop buildings and sufficient floor space to allow at least 1m clear around any machine being serviced or repaired. The site selected for the workshop should be level with sufficient space for an external concrete apron running the full length of the building. Avoid areas with overhanging cables, although it is advisable to be within easy reach of mains water and power. For maximum security, the workshop should be situated as close as possible to occupied buildings.

To make full use of the outside walls, an open or lockable lean-to can be built at the side or rear for storage of machines, fertilisers or top dressings. If an office or rest room are required, Hall recommends adding a further 15ft by 30ft bay which can be divided into suitable rooms along its length. "This part of the building should be kept completely separate from the workshop area," he stresses. "There are good reasons for not having a personnel door in the wall dividing the workshop from any office or restroom. Easy access will encourage food being carried into the workshop and tools, overalls and dirty boots being taken into the rest area." To allow the free movement of machinery in and out of the building, every 15ft bay should have a separate entrance with its own



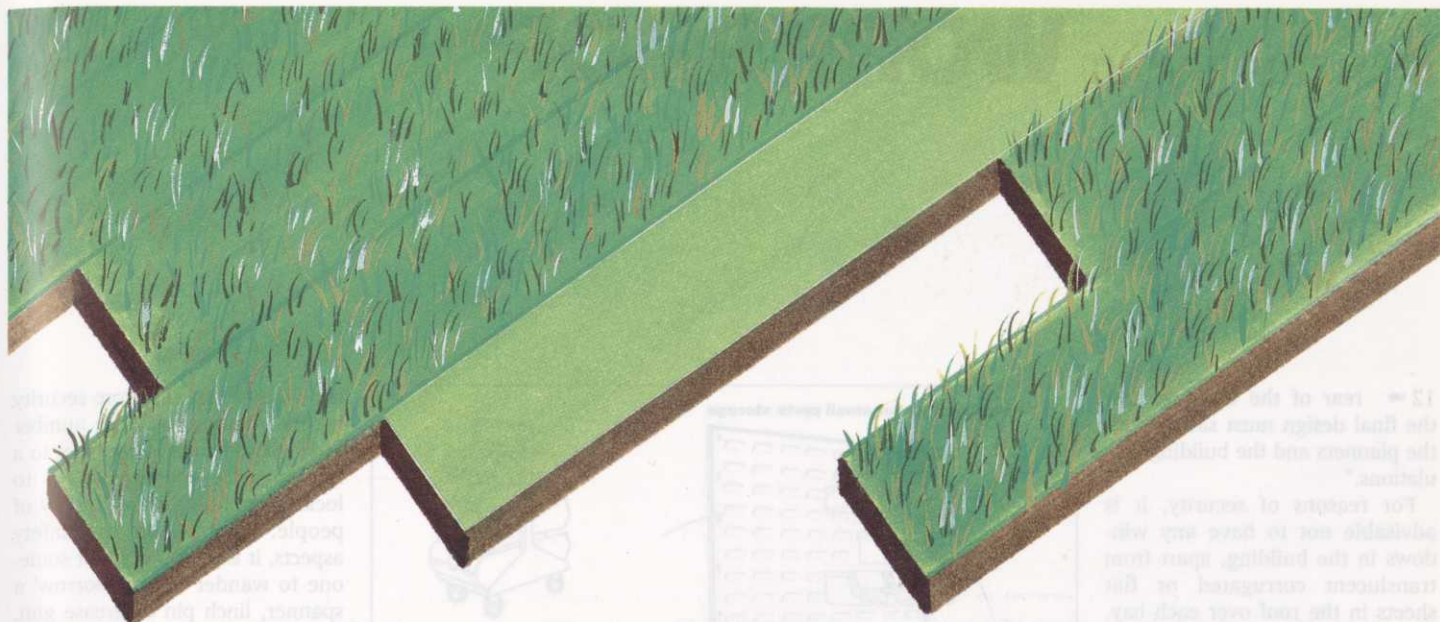
Three basic sizes of workshop are recommended for golf courses. (A) is the minimum advised, measuring 15ft (4.5m) wide by 6m (20ft) deep, and suitable for servicing small numbers of machines, for example on a golf driving range. Covering three 15ft bays, (B) will meet virtually all the requirements of an 18 hole course. For larger courses or where office, restroom or parts store facilities are needed, add a further 15ft bay (C). *Pit not essential



New workshops should be built around a timber, steel or concrete portal frame complying with BS5502. A fully insulated roof and double skinned roof lights will help reduce heating costs and condensation. All doors should be lockable with the minimum number of key holders.

lockable door. For maximum security, safety and convenience, a steel roller shutter is the ideal answer. The doors should have steel frames and can include a personnel entrance to minimise heat loss when moving in and out

of the building during winter. "It is important to liaise with the local fire officer when planning staff entries and exits from buildings," comments Hall. "It is quite common for personnel doors to be positioned at the side or



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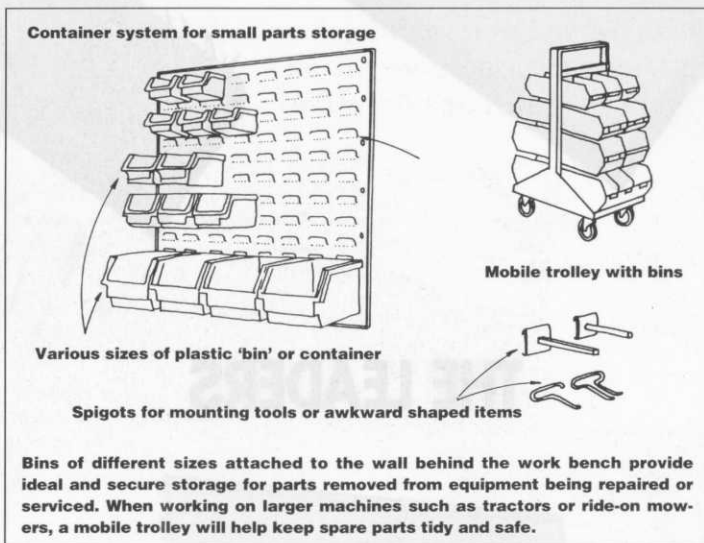
A Ransomes PLC Company

Designing your **WORKSHOP**

12 → rear of the building, but the final design must satisfy both the planners and the building regulations.”

For reasons of security, it is advisable not to have any windows in the building, apart from translucent corrugated or flat sheets in the roof over each bay. All calculations on lighting should therefore ignore the presence of any natural light. The recommended level of artificial light for building such as a workshop is 100 lux, and this can be achieved by allowing 10 watts for every square metre of floor. However, experience has shown that one can never have too much light, especially when working on small, detailed and complex equipment.

So Hall advises having six 5ft fluorescent tubes in every 30ft deep by 15ft wide bay, giving a total output of 1.5kW – three times the recommended level. Even then, ‘wander’ lights will still be necessary for certain tasks. If windows have to be fitted, they should be positioned at least 5ft (1.5m) above ground level and have either wire-reinforced glass or protection by steel bars on the outside. Because lighting is so important, provision should be made to connect a stand-by generator into the electrical circuitry to maintain illumination, and to power small tools, in the event of a mains failure. For maximum working efficiency, the building should be warm but not hot. A temperature close to 60degF (16degC) will prove comfortable, and this should be supported by draught-free doors and well-insulated walls and roof, helping also to prevent condensation. The greatest heat loss from any building is normally through its ventilating air, so it is important to ensure that any extraction fans are not positioned adjacent to the heat source. Instead, they need to be on the opposite side of the building to encourage the movement of warm air across the work place. Heating is best provided by a gas or oil-fired boiler heating water which is carried to air radiators, with the warmed air entering the workshop at high level. The same boiler, carefully sized, can be used also to heat radiators



in adjacent offices and restroom, as well as hot water for washing. For obvious reasons, Hall does not recommend the use of portable oil-burning heaters in enclosed buildings due to the danger and unpleasant atmosphere created by the products of combustion within the building. Having planned the building and its illumination, ventilation and heating, one will need to consider other services.

In common with lighting, one can never have too many electrical sockets. These need to be positioned around the walls and on any building stanchions to keep lead lengths to a minimum. Meters and fuse boxes should be housed in lockable cabinets and the circuit should include an earth leakage trip to enable regular testing. Most sockets will be of 240 volts, 13 amp capacity – although at least one 30 amp outlet will be needed for welding equipment, with three phase supply recommended for both welders and compressors. A compressor has become an essential item of workshop equipment, used to power air jetting lines, tyre gauges and a host of hand tools. Ideally, the compressor should be housed outside the workshop in a weather-proof, yet well-ventilated area and linked to the various service points by a pipeline fixed to the wall within the building. It is vital that any fixed compressor unit is properly designed, installed and commissioned to ensure the supply of clean, moist-free air of suffi-

cient volume and pressure to the delivery points.

Useful advice for anyone considering the installation of fixed equipment in a workshop is to look at how other professional organisations go about the job. Tyre specialists or a service centre run by one of the major car accessory companies all have well-equipped, sensibly laid-out buildings able to provide good ideas. The workshop bench is a key area. The more benches there are, the more clutter there is likely to be. Hall recommends that each person in the building should have just one 6ft long by 30in wide bench which is their sole responsibility. Only where there is a high proportion of bench work should additional space be provided. Ideally, benches should be attached to the rear wall of the building opposite the main doors, and also screwed securely to the floor. A vice is the only item of fixed equipment which should be fitted to the bench. To avoid trailing leads, position power sockets and air line outlets beneath the front face of the bench. A further useful addition is an adjustable spotlight mounted at the rear of the bench. The back wall can be used also to support slotted racking to carry hand and power tools as well as labelled bins. These will prove invaluable for the storage of small components when stripping down a machine. Larger items can be placed on a shelf beneath the

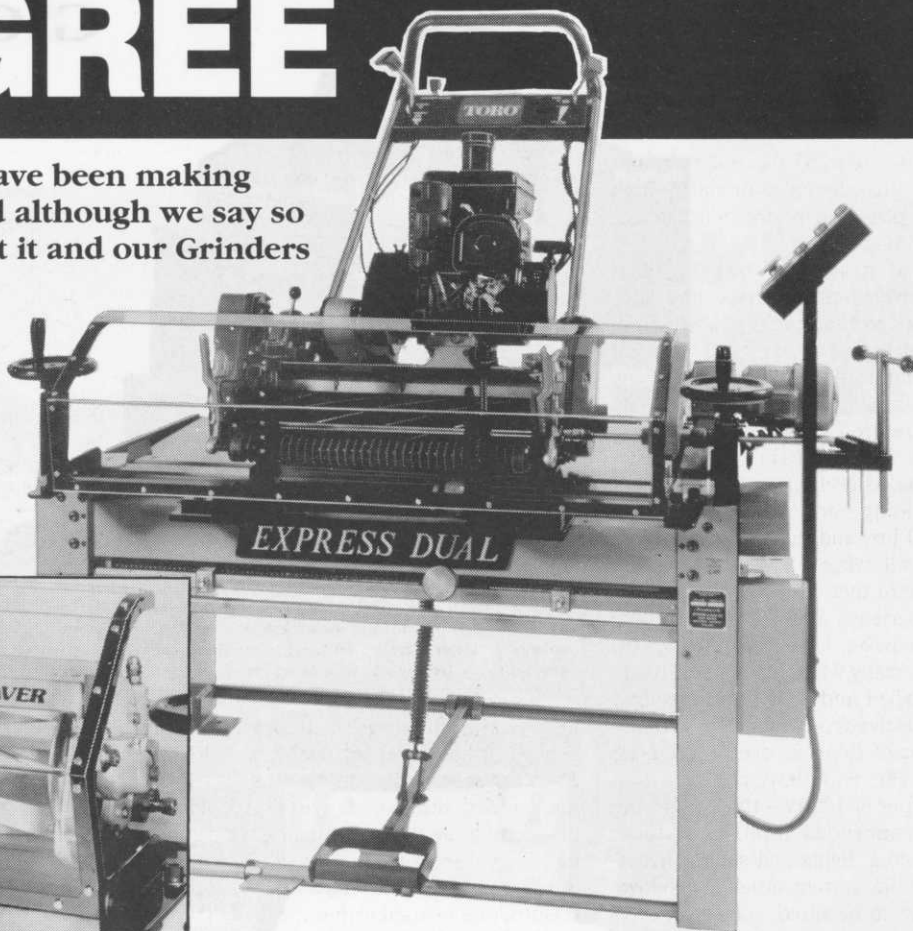
bench. Building and store security is very important and the number of key holders should be kept to a minimum. A good maxim is to lock the building when empty of people. Apart from the safety aspects, it is all too easy for someone to wander in and ‘borrow’ a spanner, linch pin or grease gun, forgetting to return it until weeks later – and sometimes never.

All well-run workshops will need an outside wash-down area where machines can be cleaned of grass and dirt. Any water contaminated with oil, fuel or grease will need a separate oil trap, as required by the National Rivers Authority. Servicing of machines must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturers’ schedules. It is vital, therefore, that the person responsible for maintaining the machines is kept informed by operators of impending service requirements and any problems which may need attending to. If the operator also looks after his or her ‘own’ machine, then its service needs are usually dealt with promptly. Problems can arise, however, with equipment which has no specific operator or user. Not only can service intervals become greatly extended, but, in the case of hand tools, parts can go missing or become worn or broken without any remedial action being taken. The answer, says Warner Hall, is to allocate every new item of course machinery or equipment to a member of the maintenance staff. “That way, nothing should get put away if it needs attention or servicing,” he points out. “Most people react well to responsibility. Even if they do not use the item of equipment themselves, they will make sure that it is clean, in good condition and returned to where it is stored at the end of each day.” Although each club will wish to develop its own system, Hall suggests that every person is given their own ‘log book’ which lists the machines they are responsible for, their daily maintenance requirements and a record of servicing, repairs and spare parts used. The end result will be better maintained equipment leading to reduced servicing costs, downtime and aggravation.

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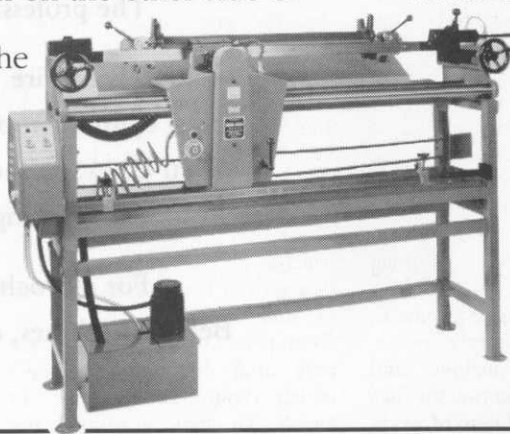
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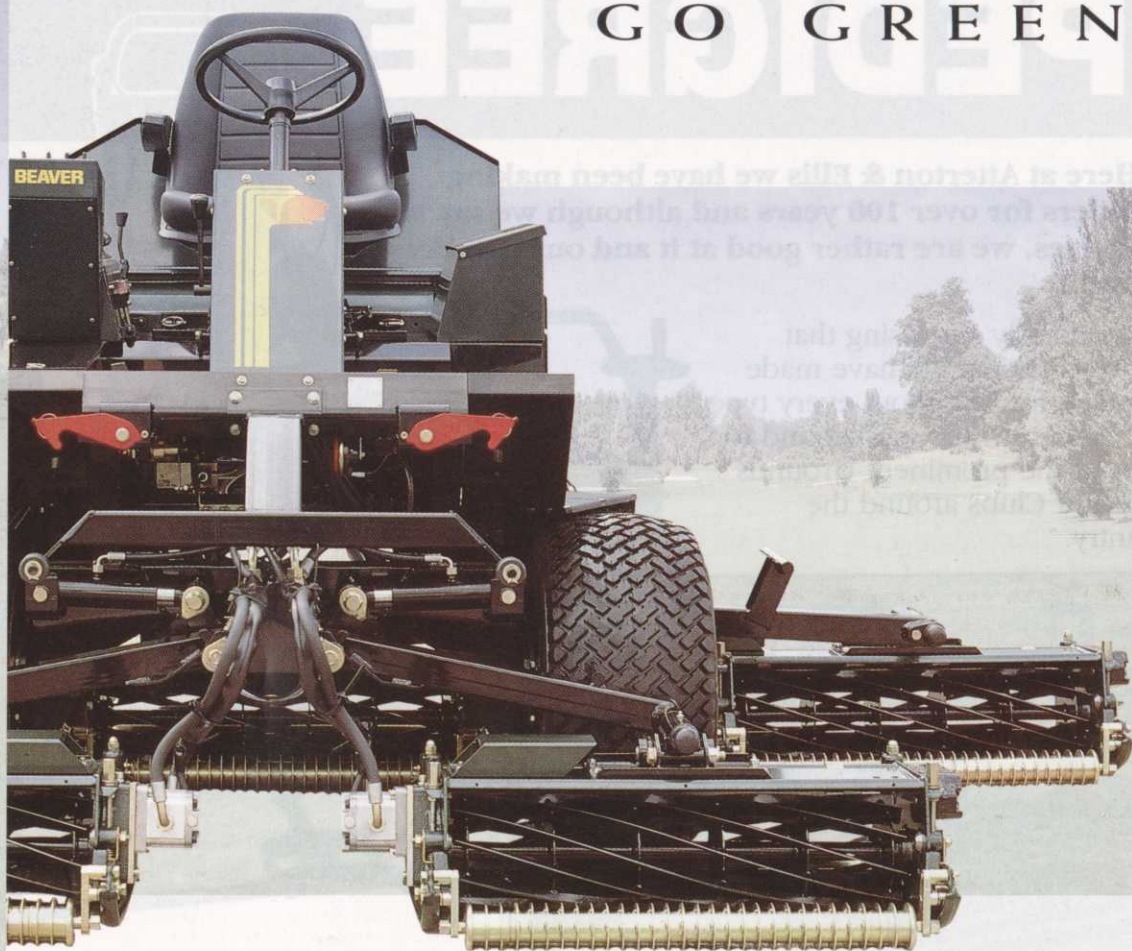
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DAVID WHITE talks to Hayter's Kim Macfie, mastermind of the new 'Hayter Challenge Tournament'



Golf Crazy

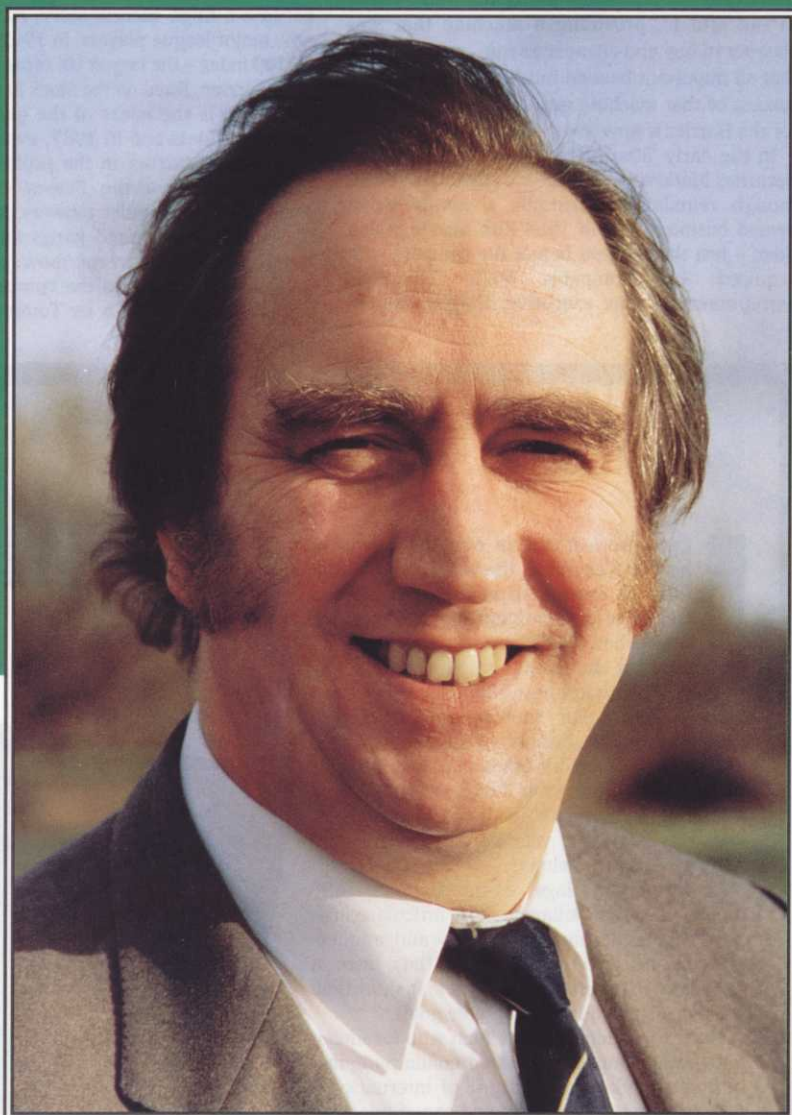
They're using more four letter words in Bishops Stortford these days, words like golf, hook, fore, grip, push, draw, loft, sand, club and putt. Nothing unusual in that, you may think, but at Hayter PLC, headquarters of the famous turfcare machinery company that is to sponsor our 'new image' nationwide golf tournament, it's all part of a fresh and inspired company effervescence, an almost unbelievable enthusiasm that even those few remaining diehards who think of golf as a good walk spoiled have taken fully in their stride – Hayter's has gone golf crazy!

When the news broke that Hayter's had grasped the glittering prize, I wasn't so much surprised that this hugely popular tournament, formerly known as the Iseki, was to come under their wing, rather that there hadn't been a riot of companies in our industry hammering on BIGGA's doors, clamouring for the opportunity to identify with such a sure-fire winner.

Meeting Kim Macfie, Hayter's sales and marketing director and the man who will mastermind the new 'Hayter Challenge Tournament', it soon became clear that he shared my view: that the idea required precious little persuasion on BIGGA's part, the whole concept from the very beginning seen as absolutely right for their development, the very epitome of how Kim visualised promoting and further generating Hayter's business growth. "I believe the greenkeeping fraternity are a superb bunch of people who have increased in status, though not sufficiently yet," he told me. "We want to be close to them because we have products that are good for them. We feel that having this close link is going to develop our business as well as develop their Association – that's why we are so excited about it."

Did being a golfer influence his decision, I asked. "I'm not the sort to let personal feelings influence what is right for the company," he replied, "though perhaps the fact that I've been around golf as a player and administrator may have had some slight bearing, recognising the potential that was offered. It was the sheer brilliance of the concept, exactly the sort of move we wanted to make, that fired my enthusiasm. That stated, the Board's decision to go with this superb initiative was unanimous, objective rather than subjective, and their excitement is unbounded."

What is certain is that Hayter's will be putting a great deal of thought, time and creative effort into the Hayter Challenge Tournament, convinced that by so doing both parties will get a great deal more out of it – isn't that encouraging!



Though 1993 will be their first year as sponsors, to a certain extent the year in which to feel their way, Kim sees the whole Hayter Challenge Tournament profile capable of being raised to untold heights – by their developing tournament links with other suppliers (MacGregor was one name mentioned), prestigious names who will want to be identified with our industry, building the tournament into an even more credible entity where publicity will almost be self-generating – perhaps in years to come involving even satellite TV. Elaborating, Kim sees the voracious appetite generated for golf in all its aspects making its mark, the Association and the Hayter profile growing together as a natural evolution.

The story of the Hayter company is fascinating. Formed way back in 1946 by Doug Hayter on the original Bishops Stortford site, it came into being more by luck than judgement, for Doug Hayter, then in the timber buildings business, was something of an innovator and loved to tinker with machinery. There was a need around the site for an effective grass cutter, so he set about creating his own unique version of the rotary mower. Though the original rotary technique came into being in the thirties, reputedly invented by Dennis Selby of Mountfield, it was Doug who commercially developed the concept, at first selling his clever device to a few farmer friends before the idea really mushroomed, the Hayterette soon identified as the rotary and making Hayter's business positively boom. ■ 18

'The man who understands greenkeepers to the extent

17 ➤ Hayter's was the first company to introduce a rotary with rear rollers – the Hayter Harrier – a move which transformed the 17"-20" traditional market whilst giving the trade a shot in the arm by providing a machine that was cheaper to buy and cheaper to run – whilst giving that all important banded finish. Indication of the success of that machine may be seen to this day, for the Harrier is now in its third generation!

In the early '80s Hayter's joined the Unlisted Securities Market, becoming one of the first PLCs, though remaining essentially a family share owned business, and in 1984 Kim Macfie joined them – just three weeks before the company was acquired by Tompkins PLC. Tompkins entrepreneurial chief executive, Gregory Hutch-

ings, recognised the company as being an ideal vehicle to start a mini-conglomerate and won the company by beating bids from Qualcast and Westwood. What started as a clever move soon became a huge success story, for Tompkins are now major league players, in 1992 joining the FT-SE 100 index – the largest UK companies, by market capitalisation, listed on the Stock Exchange.

Growth is the name of the game in any successful business and in 1987, aware of a need to develop still further in the professional market, Hayter's acquired the Beaver company, their range of triple cylinder mowers, lightweight fairway mowers, mounted gangs and the state-of-the-art T92 triple greens mower causing sharp intakes of breath from the competition! Further acquisition in the USA by Tompkins of Murray-

Ohio, the biggest manufacturing company in the world of pedestrian and consumer ride-on mowers, with 1.5 million pedestrian mowers manufactured each year, has given Hayter distribution of this marque under the Murray label. Perhaps to put the icing on the cake, they have the 'Articulator', a unique product which, as Kim put it, "every golf course should buy – because they have a requirement for it."

Kim Macfie is a golfer with an impeccable pedigree – he's Scottish, which in most books is worth about three shots on the first tee, and he's a long standing member of Royal Troon Golf Club, probably worth another two! He has practical experience as a Royal Troon administrator, specifically having served as chairman of green in the mid-seventies and working alongside the R&A Cham-

It was the year of Tom Watson, glorying in his fifth Open title, the year Nigel Mansell finished fourteenth in the FIA Formula One World Championships. It was the year when our World Cup soccer team demonstrated that things might be worse by singing "This time, more than any other time" before leaving our shores for a 'thorough thumping' by the Spaniards. Mercifully, it was also the year when our other national team did much better, dishing out their own version of a 'thorough thumping' in the Falklands. The year was 1982, the year Frederick ten Hage hung up his crash helmet.

Frederick ten Hage, ex-international rally driver, arguably Holland's most articulate high profile greenkeeping personality and unquestionably its finest ambassador, has been a greenkeeper for just six years, in that short time achieving some quite remarkable goals.

How, I wondered, does a man who for fifteen long years competed in the adrenalin pumping, hurly-burly glamour and grit of international rallying come to find peace and contentment on the fairways? Frederick completed high school in his native Holland, following this with a spell at agricultural college before earning a Degree in Agriculture, specifically in arable farming. Finishing his formal education at age twenty or thereabouts, one might have assumed that a career 'on the land' was expected of this young academic – but he had other ideas. Only one thing was on Frederick's mind as he bade farewell to college life – a burning belief that he could make his mark in motorsport, carve a career in the rough and tumble of competitive rallying.

Anyone who has ever competed in motorsport, even at club level, will know that it costs an arm and leg to set up a competitive rally car, to pay astronomic entry fees, for reconnaissance work and for sheer 'wear and tear'. It's certainly not a sport for the poor and the income of a young farmer in those early days would have barely kept a competition car in screenwash fluid, let alone gas or tyres!

Thus it came that Frederick took to earning as much as he possibly could in the flight operations sector of Schiphol Airport, not with any specific career in mind but with the cold, calculated aim of amassing the necessary pile of loot with which to go rally raiding. His was an 'all-hours' job that provided essential finances whilst giving him the freedom to be away

It's all down to...



when-
ever a rally was
scheduled. At first he cut his teeth in club events, progressing sooner than most to national status (as a semi-professional) before eventually moving into the heady atmosphere of the international rally scene. Frederick is too modest to list his successes during those wonderfully crazy years, but I've discovered that as a contemporary of rally aces John Taylor and Tony Mason, he was good enough to come under the wing of 'the works' at Bourne, the training and testing grounds of Ford Motorsport. His UNIC/TAP sponsored Escort twin-cam became a familiar sight on the international scene – the RAC, the Tulip, the Thousand Lakes and other events of superstar status – and he was very, very quick, even

'hairy'
at times, suffering
the indignity of the odd 'off' (rally-
speak for crash) as punishment for such flat-out
ten-tenths performances.

"What made you give it up?" I asked. "Well, I want you to know that I never regretted it for a moment, he answered, "but there came a time when I discovered the other great love of my life – Monica – and I began to have other things than rally pace notes on my mind. I found I wasn't always going quite as fast as I had before, there was another person to think about – I was thinking about her. It was a good time to stop".

Suddenly safety on the road took on a whole new aspect and for two years Frederick earned a living by selling Volvo's. He freely admits, even some six years on, to remaining a dedicated Volvo addict – largely because of the safety features for which this marque is famous.

of backing them with hard cash...'

pionship Committee's agronomist for that period, Jim Arthur. Having in my time met a few green chairmen that I would have loved to throttle, I warmed instantly to Kim's words of wisdom when prompting him into reminiscing over his term of office, in particular his thinking on the relationship forged with Norman Ferguson, Royal Troon's long serving links superintendent.

"I took the view that I could never dictate to Norman on how he should do his job, for the man knew every blade of grass on the links. So I never tried. My connection with the business side of golf at that time was from my having worked for Ransomes in Scotland and before that as group horticultural manager for Eastern Tractors. I knew the fine turf machinery side intimately and used my expertise to instigate a machinery

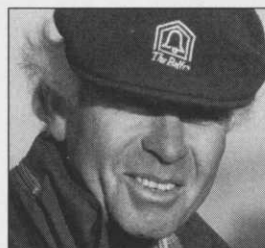
replacement programme at Royal Troon, I think for the first time. I saw my job as being the intermediary between Norman, Jim Arthur and the committee, never one of interfering."

As an enlightened soul with whom any greenkeeper would enjoy instant rapport, Kim's views on uplifting the status of greenkeepers are worth repeating. "For a start," he said, "the move should be made to educate a number of different parties. Training is vital and BIGGA's initiative in doing so much for their industry is laudable, creditable to the point of being seen as an example which other trade associations might do well to copy. That stated, education of other parties, of keeping members informed of greenkeeping developments, for example, is vital. I would especially single out the need to ensure that club secretaries

understand the professional importance of the greenkeeper, for they more than any other enjoy the privilege of continuity in the club hierarchy."

Yes, let's face it, the man knows about fine turf machinery and knows about golf. Above all, he knows about greenkeepers, what makes them tick. I left Bishops Stortford with an overwhelming feeling of optimism for the success of the Hayter Challenge Tournament, safe in the knowledge that the future of championship golf, greenkeeper style, is in very capable hands indeed. Let's hear it for Hayter – and for Kim Macfie, the man who understands greenkeepers to the extent of backing them with hard cash. Finally, let's drink a toast to Hayter's foresight, whilst vowing to make the world take note of this unique partnership – cheers!

DRIVE



reckons rally driver turned greenkeeper

FREDERICK TEN HAGE



But the call to return to grass roots was niggling – indeed had been festering since his retirement from rallying – and he set about gaining entry into the greenkeeping profession. His brothers were keen golfers and he was often dragged along to make up a four, soon discovering that he had good eye/ball synchronisation and r

ather found that the game grew on him. He warmed to the idea of working in such an environment and became a greenkeeper by the simple expedient of advertising himself. Throughout his motoring career he had kept bang up-to-date on matters agricultural, especially the equipment and technology side, whilst maintaining an enthusiastic and practical interest in gardening and landscape architecture. His interest in golf fanned white hot, he read technical and 'how-to' books by the score, joined BIGGA, attended workshops and seminars in Britain at every opportunity – and thirsted after knowledge, absorbing it like a blotter!

Frederick's first greenkeeping job was a modest one, and came as a result of an advert in a golfing magazine, his commission being to knock into shape a small course which, by his own admission, was 'in a big mess'. It was a giant step for a greenhorn, but in a country where trained expert greenkeepers are at a premium it was the sort of challenge he needed. In less than three years he had turned the place on

its axis, producing enviable playing surfaces that were proof enough of his skills and his belief in himself. He'd done what others in Holland might have just dreamed about – blended book learning and theory with essential practice and survived to tell the tale.

Moving forward, in 1990 this now practical and proven greenkeeper advertised himself in the Dutch golfing press and was soon called to action to become the head greenkeeper and oversee construction and growing-in at a brand new 18 hole prestige course near The Hague, designed and supervised by the talented young architect, Gerald Jol. As one might imagine, this task was a far cry from his rather humble first steps at the nine-holer, but Frederick is no average greenkeeper, indeed no average man, and he took to the big time with aplomb, finding it totally within his mark and revelling in the extra challenge that working with contractors, with STRI's Jeff Perris and with Watermation's installation engineers provided. In addition, the course was found to be on a site containing Roman archaeological remains and he was called upon time and again to exercise the now famous ten Hage diplomacy when dealing with site geologists.

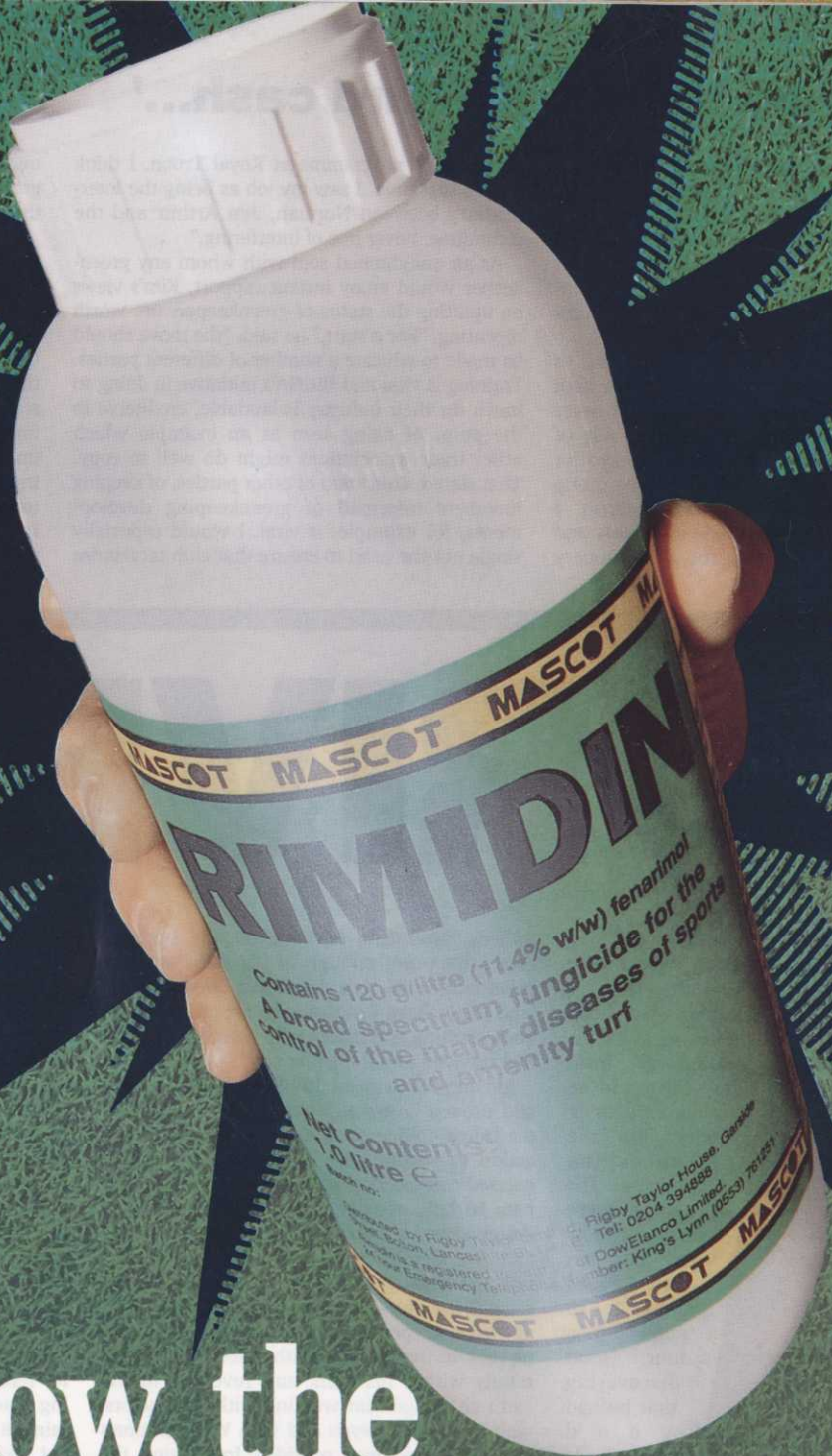
The course itself is near to the coast and set on a seam of sand some three metres below ground, which has proven useful in two ways. Thus far it has enabled extraction of some 45000m³ of excellent material for bunker use, with the resultant extraction craters providing two special lakes that have become an integral feature of play. From the very beginning Frederick has set out to play a pivotal part in the whole building and maintenance operation, to stamp his own personality on the programme and to see the course identified in play as 'his' course. He's fiercely proud of his achievements: nine holes are already in play, widely acclaimed as being something rather special, and the full eighteen will be open later this year. It's a high priced golf club and his members quite rightly expect something special. That stated, I'm bound to say that in having Frederick ten Hage as their head greenkeeper they are on the right path, for he's not the sort to rest on laurels and

views the next four years or so as a continuing testing ground, both from an individual learning viewpoint and as a happily accepted obligation to his members – to see the course mature, flourish and prosper.

Currently engaged in an Elmwood College distance learning course covering golf course management, he gets over to Britain on every possible occasion, has been seen on BIGGA lecture platforms on two or three occasions, discussing Dutch methods and ideology; and has taken up the pen – contributing articles for his native golf federation magazine. Summarising over what is still something of a new experience for him, he declared that taking to greenkeeping was a case of returning to roots and certainly a blessed case of 'life begins at forty'!

I take my hat off to this enterprising Dutchman, a man who appears totally at ease in his new 'driving seat', very much master of his own destiny. He freely acknowledges that the road ahead may be full of twists and turns – many unplotted – and is gracious in praising the support given him by his many colleagues. He singled out just three from the dozens that have helped him achieve his goals, Jan van Mondfrans from the consultant company 'ProGrass', Jeff Perris from STRI and the Jacobsen dealer Van de Lienden. I smiled at this ex-rally man turned the talk around to motoring once again – "you know with Van de Lienden I've enjoyed tinkering with and making minor modifications to some of their equipment. I'm a self-taught engineer and you could say that as a result of those early days of 'tinkering', of building racing engines and experimenting with settings, I'm now the driver of a rather special version of the Tri-King. I love to put my own ideas into practice and I'm delighted that we are able to work together for the betterment of greenkeeping."

Frederick ten Hage – a Dutch ambassador, very much a leader, proud to be a BIGGA member and firmly putting the 'I' for International in BIGGA!




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They reckon old James Braid knew a thing or two about the architecture of golf.

He was a great golfer who, though designing was always an avocation, took the game very seriously, stubborn to the point that he refused to change a feature once it was planned. It was Braid in 1920 who designed the gem that is Tyrrells Wood, an 18 hole course built high in the Surrey hills, some ten or so miles from the bustle of London and now very much part of what is known as 'the stockbroker belt'.

Though Braid was never privy to the changes that have taken place around this blessed acreage: the 24-hour traffic jam that is the M25 a mere mile away, the urbanisation of nearby Leatherhead, the sheer hectic nature of life in the fast lane, I fancy that were he to peer down from Valhalla he would smile knowingly

The city of London is only just around the corner, but it's far enough away for Bert Watson and his team – with 117 years' combined experience – to make Tyrrells Wood the perfect golfing haven

and approvingly, probably casting a friendly wave toward course manager Bert Watson, proud to see that Tyrrells Wood is lovingly tended and counted still as one of Braid's unspoiled treasures.

Leaving behind the snarl of the motorway, Tyrrells Wood may be found by taking a country lane off the A24, just a few hundred yards from twentieth century madness and confusion. Yet as one turns into the drive leading toward an expansive red brick clubhouse the feeling strikes – the clock has turned back to the roaring twen-

ties of PG Wodehouse, the place a veritable oasis of tranquillity, reeking of class and exquisite taste, though playground now as much to the Mercedes and BMW brigade as the country squire. Nevertheless, the occasional visitor might be forgiven for expecting to see Bertie Wooster waiting on the first tee.

Tyrrells Wood is also Bert Watson territory, the domain of a man who has spent the past 35 years caring for Braid's eighteen blessed examinations of golf. Bert began working here as a 19 year old

greenkeeper under St Andrews stalwart, Andrew Corstophine, progressing over the years to become head greenkeeper and thence, 12 years ago, to course manager.

The title 'course manager' can mean different things to different people, this writer inclined to the view that it is often used somewhat frivolously and with scant regard for the true meaning of the word 'management'. 'What difference did the title make to you, what does it really mean?', I asked, Bert's reply swift and to the point. 'Simply stated, the course is my absolute domain, I manage it in its entirety, deciding and controlling my own substantial budget. I make the decisions, control the purse-strings, balance the books, decide machinery and supplies purchasing, staffing, pay structures, and policy on course maintenance. I work hard ➔ 22

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Changing the

21 in glove with George Shiels, my agronomist of some five years and a friend with whom I enjoy great rapport, and I report only to the club's green convenor on matters arising from my management and my decisions, he in turn reporting to the board. Those decisions are mine alone - that's course management! Everything routinely done on a daily basis is logged in a diary, everything major goes into the computer, there to be unearthed whenever a technique is queried, a question needs answering or a problem needs solving'.

There is no hierarchy in Bert's greenkeeping team, no first, second or third assistants. All save the young apprentice share equal status, all are greenkeepers to a man. The team, Bert included, boast a combined total of 117 working years at Tyrrells Wood: Ian Huggett 32 years, Keith Harris

and Jack Street 25 years apiece - indication that it's a good place to work and a good place to play. I had come specifically to learn something of Bert's spring maintenance programme, though the word was out that some rather major developments were afoot and I was eaten with curiosity - we walked the course.

The first noticeable thing on the bright January morning of my visit was the dryness of the place: built on a rich chalkland seam several meters deep, the course drained like a sieve. Second (and I'm sure, seventy years on, James Braid would have approved), there was a whole lot of construction going on, new and substantial tee areas being built, Hymac's shifting earth and creating tees as large as 540 square yards, practical and much more in keeping with 1990s volume of play. This programme is centred currently

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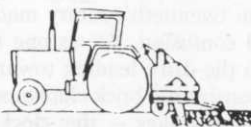
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soil structure

around the fifth, eleventh and twelfth tees but will in the next five years incorporate every teeing area and replace often piddling small areas with massive, easy to maintain tees that will take extra wear whilst further enhancing appearance and maintaining the status quo. We walked to the highest point on the course, the panoramic views toward London and Middlesex quite awe-inspiring, despite a haze that prevented me glimpsing the Post Office Tower. I could quite imagine Braid those many years ago getting goose pimples just thinking about the majesty of it all.

Another major programme involves the gradual changing of soil structure on the greens. A compaction layer around four inches has been tackled first by Vertidrain, followed by slit tining, alternating between four and six inch slitters and making 26

passes over each green. In addition, each spring (autumn too) hollow tining is carried out twice, the core holes filled with an imported Norfolk 80/20 mix, some 160 tonnes being used each season. Within the top four inches this exchange is now about one third complete (an inch and a half), achieved over three seasons. Slit tining had already been completed on all greens at least eleven times (once each week) and more of the same was scheduled as weather dictated.

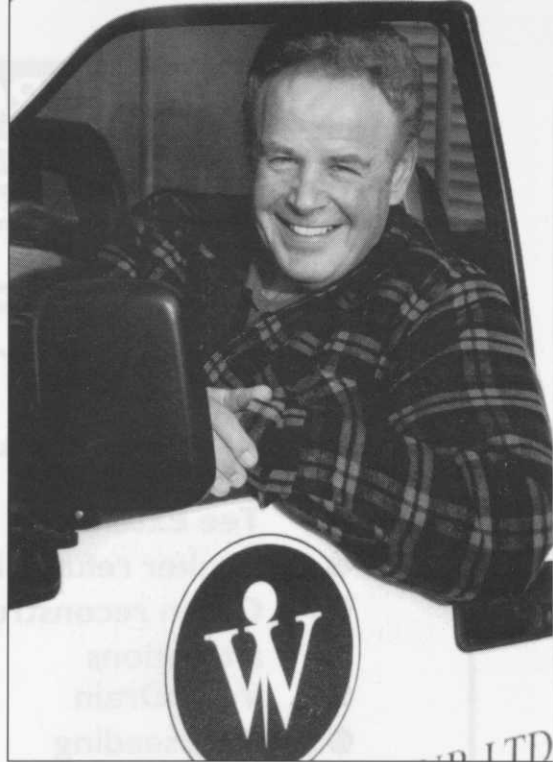
The course at Tyrrells Wood may be tranquil for its members, but the amount of activity I saw suggested that it is a positive powerhouse for the team. Bunkers were being emptied of old material and replaced with Kingsley washed sand – Sunningdale style – and many bunkers were being revetted, edges trimmed and tidied, whilst a new zig-zag path

was being formed to make life easier for members when hauling up the slope from first green to second tee.

'So many things that take place on the course, routine things, are never noticed by the average player, though they would soon become apparent if we didn't do them', opined Bert, suggesting that such routine accounted for upwards of a third of the greenkeepers working week. 'In March I like to get things moving, aiming for a little colour and a tickle of growth by applying a turf tonic – sulphate of iron based – on the greens, whilst on the fairways I'll put straight tines on the Amazone, just at turf

level, to take out any old rubbish and dry divots. Then we'll set to repairing those old divot holes with seed and soil and wait to see positive germination from the repair before passing the mower blades over. As soon as I see some signs of positive growth on the greens I'll hollow tine, twice over each green, two ways, looking to remove 5% on each pass, before brushing the Bailey's well ➔ 25

In the driving seat: course manager Bert Watson



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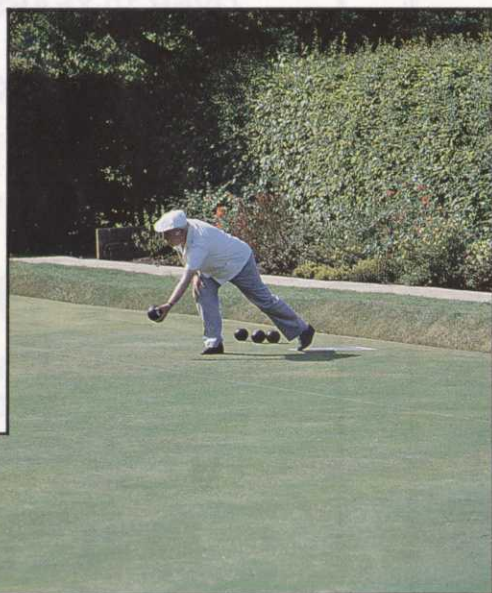
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23 ➔ in – following this a little later with a 12-0-9 fertiliser application, one which has worked well over the seasons’.

Worm casts were conspicuous by their absence, in the main down to Bert’s tackling the problem ‘before it arises’. Each autumn he carefully applies flowers of sulphur in an attempt to reduce the pH, naturally occurring at around seven, trying to turn the conditions around. Water on the course, applied through a Watermation irrigation system via the club’s recently excavated deep borehole, comes ready filtered through the chalk, thus alkalinity is in the water as well, though by turning the acid balance they seem to have the worm problem licked, or at least under control. Bert is of the opinion that creating such conditions means that worms find Tyrrells Wood less than comfortable!

February will see the club’s tees and approaches treated with a slow-release pellet fertiliser, with

the new tee bases being turfed over a tasty looking root-zone mix and utilising something approaching 1400 sq. yds of material. In addition, work continues on restoration following the gales of 1987, when Tyrrells Wood suffered considerable losses. Some six years on the losses were not apparent to this observer, though deep in the undergrowth of bordering thickets an occasional uprooted tree may be seen if one looks closely. Bert’s team have tackled these systematically (there were scores of fine trees felled by the hurricane) in the time honoured fashion – removal by chainsaw of all branches before dropping the naked root back into its vacant hole. Some live trees are also being moved, under the direction of Civic Trees, in particular a Yew from behind the twelfth to the right of the eighth to replace an old favourite lost in the big blow – the whole programme suggesting that much thought had gone into ➔ 26

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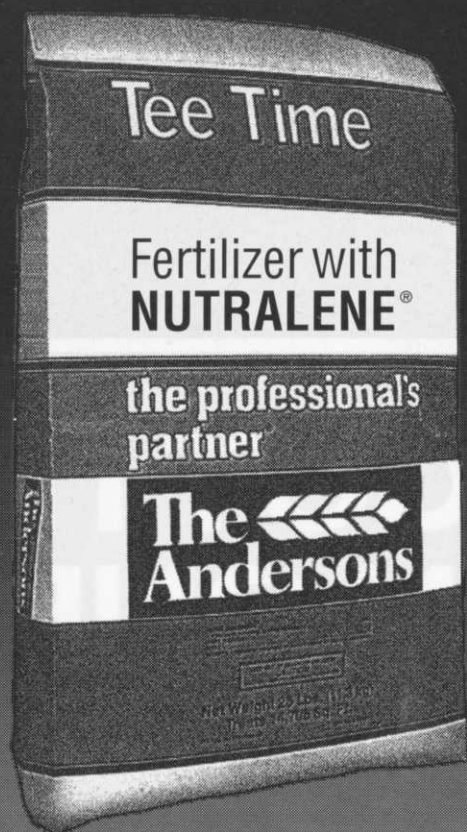


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'My aim is to see that blatantly unfair shots are not part of my course'

25 → the process, the idea being as much one of caring for future golfing generations as of those playing today. Finally, Bert and the team are involved in a 'spring special', albeit a one-off, the removal of three Corsican Pines from the left of the tenth green, together with a reduction in height of an overpowering Beech, all this with the commendable idea of letting in more light and air, especially allowing winter sun to find its old target à la Braid, for too long overshadowed.

There is one overwhelming theme that pervades in listening to Bert Watson, his unswerving enthusiasm for Tyrrells Wood. He calls it 'his' golf course, which is only right for such a dedicated craftsman who sees these golfing acres as the canvas he paints, sensitive as only an artist can be to both criticism and acclaim. He's an avid eight handicap golfer and finds that playing helps enormously in preparation of the canvas: 'I'll sometimes hit a ball, not a bad shot, and see from where it has come to rest that there is something that offends – an overhanging branch maybe – an unfairness not just for me but for any golfer, which may not be apparent to the layman. Golf may not always be a fair game – it was never intended to be – but my aim is to see that blatantly unfair shots are not part of my course' – witness the artist at work!

'Any advice for young greenkeepers', I asked, Bert suggesting that the best move any young greenkeeper could make would be to remove any fear that a visiting agronomist works against him. 'Get him on your side, show him what you're made of, discuss everything you've ach-

ieved in detail, build up a friendship. George (Shiels) and I enjoy such a friendship and we work as a team, our thinking being that two heads are better than one. When George makes a recommendation it is usually the result of two minds with but a single thought – and means that the proposals are nearly always accepted – seen to be right for the course, right for the members and right for my regime'.

Each month Bert produces a detailed report of work either carried out or scheduled, which in edited form is produced for his members. He is also something of a writer, producing a short article on a pertinent matter which appears in the magazine 'Tyrrells Times', explaining in layman terms the reasoning behind a particular activity. His latest, 'Why Aerate', was a wee gem and I was left with the thought that Tyrrells Wood members are fortunate indeed – not only do they enjoy an exquisite course but, through this simple form of communication, they know why.

Major machinery at Tyrrells Wood

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WET WET WETTER



After the difficulties experienced with loss of grass cover due to prolonged drought stress over the last few years, an extremely wet, mild autumn and early winter period has highlighted how rapidly conditions can fluctuate and the types of extreme in weather now experienced. This situation makes the greenkeeper's task of maintaining the fine balance between offsetting high levels of course usage against achieving quality year round surfaces very difficult, especially on low lying golf courses with heavy, ill-drained soils. It is therefore essential that quick responses are made to rapid changes in the weather and action is taken in advance of problems occurring. Forewarned is forearmed.

A surface problem?

In a number of situations the difficulty of poor drainage and muddy conditions may well relate initially to the immediate soil layers, particularly where the loss of grass cover has resulted from compaction, prolonged drought stress or significant thatch build up. All these conditions encourage surface moisture retention and hence exaggerate wear and tear with consequential loss of grass cover, levels and playing quality. A package of aeration treatments including hollow tining and slitting in the early stages can help to open up the top 100mm (4") as well as removing thatch. Thereafter, the soil profile can be opened up further by degrees through, for instance, Verti-draining or deep slitting. Ground conditions should be firm enough to take each unit, yet the soil moist enough to gain good penetration otherwise resultant damage will nullify the benefit gained.

It is absolutely essential to avoid aeration work, especially the deeper treatments like Verti-draining, when the soil profile is saturated to depth and during or after prolonged periods of heavy rain. If the timing is wrong then instead of excess water shedding off the surface, rainfall fills up the tine holes above a saturated base making the greens/tees like puddings. Wet surface conditions invariably

lead to the cancellation of top dressing application, which only increases the speed and severity of the water retention. In such a situation the only real option is to let the surface dry out over a long period before the green staff can take the necessary remedial action. The key here is timing, with the emphasis on anticipation and an early response. This is so important where we have high course usage.

Prolonged mild, wet conditions invariably encourage earthworm activity on parkland courses. Very heavy worm casting in itself can create extremely muddy conditions which affects appearance, immediate surface levels, drainage, sward density and weed populations the following year. Accordingly, an early application with an approved wormkiller can keep surfaces clean and relatively dry, although with the active ingredients left on the market two or three applications may well be required through the autumn to spring period.

On a localised basis

Surface ponding and stagnation can often be exacerbated by sub-surface seepage and run off from higher ground. On a localised basis this situation can be tackled through the introduction of a catchwater intercept drain around the toe of the bank taking care to avoid pop-up irrigation supply pipes. Ensure the catchwater drain encompasses the whole of the surface run off area and that there is a fall on the drain of no less than 1:200. The drain should also be connected to a positive outlet.

Low lying moisture retentive sections of green, surround and fairway are further trouble spots where localised aeration treatments can be given to prevent surface ponding and the development of stagnant thatch. There is still room for localised hand forking and hand hollow tining at close centres and infilling holes with approved medium coarse sand, although mechanisation allows a quicker and more effective treatment, ie. a soil ameliorator (locally) or the Verti-drain (overall). In the case of the latter, infilling holes with sand for added drainage is another benefit. Where

design causes major problems in lower lying features, another option is a spur drain to tap the area with the addition of a solid vertical pipe in the lowest spot connecting the surface with the aggregate. The pipe can then be covered by a gauze or synthetic grass hole insert to minimise disruption to play. The diameter of the pipe can be varied according to requirement.

Spread the wear!

Another significant weapon in keeping the course in play is the management technique of spreading wear. The options available are numerous including:

- Regular moving of pin positions on greens, keeping away from lower lying weaker areas during wet weather and strategic positioning to alter traffic route flow on and of greens.
- Re-routing walkways, taking every opportunity of changing the alternative traffic route from time to time to prevent another worn path developing.
- The provision of alternative tees away from the main areas.
- Adjusting the distance for landing zones on fairways by changing tee positions.
- Look at alternative tractor routes through semi-rough/rough and woodland rather than using fairways.

Nevertheless, there does come a point when the above factors are not enough to cope with the disadvantages of poor design, soil profile make-up and lack of adequate drainage. In such a situation the best course of action is controlled usage, eg. a trolley ban for a defined period.

It should be appreciated that considerable damage can occur over a short period under adverse weather conditions and the aim is preservation of surfaces for the main playing season the following year.

Indeed, in certain situations the decision would be to leave well alone by resting the course until such time as the surfaces have dried out sufficiently for the green staff to work on them again.

WET, WET WETTER

The cure

Good drainage is fundamental to successful management and whilst all the above items will bring about short term alleviation, the answer must lie with reconstruction of greens, tees, bunkers and surrounds to provide better design, a suitable depth of free draining growing medium and an under drainage system to take the water away.

On heavy soils and lower lying land it is important to raise tees, bunkers and greens above ground levels to enhance drainage rates and contour surrounds to shed water away from putting surfaces.

In respect of fairways the key to success is the installation of an integrated piped drainage system.

There are far too many golf courses where fairway drainage consists of a piecemeal arrangement of pipe drains, with haphazard design and poor drain profile make-up, including connections. To ensure good surface to aggregate drainage rates employ approved sand as a growing medium over the blinding layer/aggregate, finishing off with a skinning of top dressing mixed with fine seed to aid surface establishment. Drain lines may stand out for a period during drought, but this is worth

it for the benefits that accrue in prolonged wet weather. On completion of the project, the drainage system would then be assessed over one or two winter periods with a view to evaluating the subsequent requirement for localised or overall slit drainage or just mole ploughing to aid lateral movement of water to drain lines.

On flatter land with minimal falls ditches can be a very effective alternative as a carrier of water and as an outlet for pipe drainage. Existing open drain networks should be cleaned out prior to the winter period to enhance water flow.



Summary

Preventative maintenance, including attention to specialised aeration work, along with worm control and spreading wear and tear will alleviate problems caused by excessive rainfall on poorly drained golf courses. However, the timing and intensity of treatments given are essential in gaining the best results. Nevertheless, this action only has short term benefit and the cure lies with improved design, growing medium quality and depth as well as the provision of drainage systems.

■ The author, Stuart Ormondroyd, is an advisory agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute.



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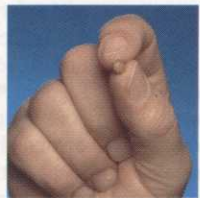
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SPRAYER SAFETY



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If there's one thing certain to upset the more senior members of the British population, it's an announcement about the introduction of more rules and regulations concerning another aspect of our daily lives. Whether emanating from Whitehall or Brussels, the arrival of yet more red tape is sure to make the blood boil and bring cries of 'molly coddling', 'wrapped in cotton wool' and 'never would have happened in my day', from the many who have more than solely an historical interest in the Second World War.

Yet, for anyone who uses or comes into contact with substances designed to control or kill pests, weeds and diseases, the regulations encompassing the safe use of pesticides and other chemicals must be among the most sensible and appropriate introduced during the past ten years. They are the Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988, supporting and reinforcing existing legislation designed to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of employees, golfers, and all others who may come into contact with the day-to-day maintenance activities on a golf course.

The principal statute governing activities in the work place is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. It places a duty on any establishment with five or more employees to have a written statement of its policy for ensuring health and safety. Furthermore, since 1 January this year, there has a requirement for employees to carry out a risk assessment and to record all significant findings. There are at least 15 further Acts and Regulations currently in force in the UK concerning health, safety and welfare at work. At privately-owned clubs, all legislation will normally be enforced by the local authorities environmental health department. In the case of public courses, the inspector will come from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Inspectors are essentially there to inspect and enforce regulations. However, both bodies are able to advise and assist employers in meeting their legal obligations. Points on which employers have been pursued include failure to make provision for first aid treatment to be

available for employees who are injured or become ill at work; failure to provide sufficient instruction, information or training in a task to minimise the risk to the employee or others; and failure to train and appoint one person to carry out specific prescribed duties.

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- coveralls
- rubber or plastic boots.

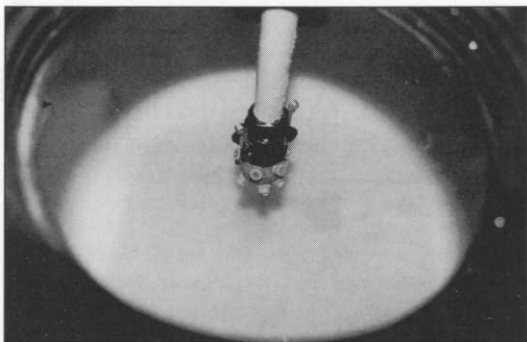
The HSE points out that disposable spraying coveralls will protect against most of the chemicals likely to be used on golf courses. It is required of every manufacturer that they provide all necessary information on the suitability of their protective equipment. However, if in any doubt, it is important to seek advice from the manufacturer or supplier on suitable protection for the chemical being applied.

British manufacturer, Allman, offers two protective kits for sprayer operators. The Allclear contains 11 essential safety items including goggles, visor, nitrile gauntlets, a washable coverall and apron, pure air respirator and eye irrigator. It costs less than £90 and each item can be replaced individually as required after use.

For about £30 less, the company's One-Pak kit includes the vital face and hand protective items but no respirator or irrigator and has disposable coveralls which can be replaced for £7.50 each. Irrespective of whether one is wearing reusable or throwaway overalls, it is essential that storage facilities are provided to keep spraying clothing and equipment separate from normal working clothes. Furthermore, hot and cold water wash facilities must be available to clean gloves, visor and boots before storage.

Details on a specific pesticide and instruction covering its safe and effective use must be provided on the containers of all approved agricultural pesticides. For maximum safety, never decant a chemical into another container and never use a container for any other purpose. Empty bottles and

Thorough washing of the sprayer tank is assured by Lurmark's latest high capacity Tankclean Jet



AND CHEMICAL CARE

canisters should be rinsed thoroughly and stored in a secure, designated storage bin awaiting proper disposal.

In certain cases the HSE recommends the use of closed transfer systems for moving undiluted pesticides into the sprayer tank. Equipment to ensure the safe transfer of chemicals is now available from most of the leading manufacturers and from ancillary suppliers.

The Chemical Transfer and Rinse from Martin Lishman is fitted easily to the sprayer tank. It consists of a bowl over which the inverted container is placed. Pressing down on the container forces a spear within the bowl through the foil seal on the container. Following the emptying of its contents, the container is rinsed automatically ready for safe disposal. Costing £185, the device can be fitted with a partial measure cap to allow part emptying of containers.

A chemical induction bowl with integral rinsing probe is available on Hardi's amenity sprayers covering tractor-mounted, trailed and de-mountable models from 200 to 800 litre capacity. Developed from its agricultural sprayer range, the 25 litre hopper includes a measuring scale and has a wash-down ring to rinse all residues from the walls of the hopper. The rinsing device has a multi-nozzle head over which the empty container is placed for a thorough rinsing, with washings going into the tank for safe disposal.

For anyone in doubt, advice on safe, correct disposal of empty containers can be obtained from the environmental health department of their local authority or the HSE. The law lays down a number of specific requirements regarding pesticide stores. Although it can be a separate structure or be situated within an existing building, in every case it must be:

- Suitably sited
- of adequate capacity and construction
- designed to hold spillage
- properly lit and ventilated
- resistant against fire and frost
- designed to allow containers to be safely stacked and moved in and out of store
- clearly identified with a cautionary warning sign
- kept locked except when in use.

One of the latest entrants to the purpose-built chemical store market is Go-Store, offering a range of free-standing walk-in units suitable for use outside or inside an existing building. All incorporate heavy-duty shelving, a 9" spillage retention sill, ventilation, thermostatically-controlled frost protection, lighting and high security locking. Typical price for a store measuring 8' x 6'3" x 6'3" is in the region of £1550. Smaller units are offered by Portasil. Its 'Chem-vaults' are totally waterproof and include ventilation, spillage retention and high security multi-point locks. A check list is required of all pesticides kept in the chemical store and this should be compiled and kept safely close at hand – but not in the store.

Health and Safety Executive guidelines say that greenkeepers should avoid storing more pesticides than are necessary and that a system of stock rotation be employed to ensure that older stocks are used first. Provided correct measurement has taken place, there should be little or no diluted liquid remaining in the sprayer's tank after treatment has been completed. However, there will be a low concentration of pesticide in the first rinsings from the tank which will need safe disposal. These can be applied to the turf provided there is no conflict with any previous treatment and they are within the label directions. Alternatively, the rinsing water can be combined with a fresh batch of



diluted pesticide for spraying on another part of the course.

If neither of these alternatives is suitable or acceptable, operators should seek advice from the environmental health department of the local authority, the HSE, or the chemical supplier. Automatic tank cleaning devices are recommended as an alternative to the hand held hose and scrubbing brush.

Nozzle specialist Lurmark has extended its Tankclean range with a new wash jet giving twice the flow rate of its stable-mate. Suitable for large capacity tanks and where thorough cleansing is vital to avoid chemical cross-contamination, the new unit offers a maximum water throughput of 109 litres/min at 3bar pressure. The unit is designed for permanent fixing through the top or lid of the sprayer tank, and uses a cluster of cone jets to cover the complete inside of the tank. It costs about £60.

Guidance on safe chemical handling and disposal can be found in the 'Code of Practice for the safe use of approved pesticides in amenity and industrial areas' This publication, available from BIGGA HQ at £12 post inclusive, gives advice on meeting the two principal regulations covering the use of pesticides. The most recent of these, entering the statute books in 1988, is the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations (COSHH). These lay down the essential requirements and clear procedures for the control of hazardous substances and the protection of anyone exposed to them. Under the regulations, employers are obliged to carry out a COSHH assessment to identify the possible risks to health on their premises and the precautions that will need to be taken to minimise or eliminate them.

Guidance is available from the local authority or HSE regarding compliance with COSHH and carrying out a risk assessment on your course. This spring, the HSE plans to publish a guide to the essentials of health and safety relating specifically to golf courses. The guide will encompass every working practice likely to be encountered and provide practical guidance on identifying, reducing and eliminating risks to employees and others. In the meantime, there is a comprehensive range of free leaflets and booklets currently available from the HSE relating to health and safety at work. Information and literature on these publications can be obtained from the HSE on any of the following numbers: 071 2210870 (London); 0742 752539 (Sheffield); 051 9514381 (Merseyside) or from BIGGA HQ.

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Almost a year has passed since our last National Education Conference, held in March at Cirencester College. Time enough to forget perhaps, yet whenever greenkeepers congregated throughout the year, conversation centred around the highly effective 'mix and match' presentations, greenkeepers and agronomists sharing the limelight at Cirencester in equal numbers, one learning from the other. The fifth conference, to be staged at Keele University, Staffordshire on 26-28 March, will again field a galaxy of international turfgrass specialists alongside our own increasingly professional home grown talent. It remains the one conference that greenkeepers should not miss, for though the essence of any education conference is learning, the BIGGA National Education Conference is as much one of learning through conversation, discussion, friendly argument and social intercourse. Why shouldn't education be fun - be there!

Speaker Profiles

Part One



Noel Jackson, a native of Yorkshire, attended Northallerton Grammar School and the University of Durham, Kings College, Newcastle

upon Tyne, where he gained an honours degree in Agricultural Botany and later a Ph.D. in Agronomy. From 1958 to 1965 Dr. Jackson was employed as a biologist at the STRI, where he established his interest in turf management, particularly in turfgrass diseases. In 1965 Dr. Jackson joined the faculty at The University of Rhode Island as assistant professor in Plant Pathology and is he is now a professor at that institution. The position involves teaching, research and extension duties in the area of turf, trees and woody ornamental diseases. Over the past 27 years, Dr. Jackson has worked closely with professional growers (sod farmers, golf superintendents, nurserymen and landscapers) and with homeowners to ascertain and research their plant disease problems and recommend appropriate control programmes, whilst teaching two undergraduate courses at the university, lecturing nationally and being published widely on the subject.

Dr. Jackson, co-author of the definitive work 'Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turf Grasses', (Pub. E&FN Spon, 11 New Fetter Lane, EC4P 4EE), will present two papers - 'Cool season turf diseases in the USA and the UK', and 'Patch diseases in cool season turf grasses'.



Ian Tomlinson, course manager at Lausanne Golf Club in Switzerland and vice-president of the Swiss Greenkeepers Association, wrote telling

us about his presentation, 'The problems associated with maintaining a golf course at 2800 feet

altitude in Switzerland', suggesting that it will be no ordinary paper reading exercise, rather an ad-libbing explanation (illustrated with slides) of the greenkeeping problems encountered in Switzerland with ice and snow and the damage that can be caused to trees by heavy snow falls. He promises that his presentation will not portray mere doom and gloom, though he'll follow this with explanations of other problems encountered at Lausanne, these being badly constructed greens and other intrinsic design faults: collapsed drainage, flooding, and rooting difficulties. He'll lift the tempo to a final high by describing the installation of a new drainage system and show the course at its prime, one which has hosted the European Amateur Championships, the World Amateur Championships and the European Seniors Championships whilst now being a regular venue on the PGA European Tour. Ian, whose career began as an apprentice at Scarcroft in 1976, has tended the course at Lausanne since 1984, prior to which he was at Moor Allerton in Leeds.



Gary Grigg, CGCS, will discuss 'Current and future issues in golf course management', a subject close to his heart. Gary became superintendent at Naples National Golf Club, Naples, Florida, earlier last year, following extensive experience in the construction, grow-in and maintenance of several fine clubs throughout the country. He holds a Bachelors degree in entomology from Utah State University and a Masters degree in agronomy from Michigan State University. Gary has attended many GCSAA seminars and has been a member of many committees including the certification, scholarship and research, nominating, fund-rais-

ing, seminar planning and building committees. He is a member of the Everglades GCSA, Heart of America GCSA and the Florida GCSA. Gary belongs to several allied associations including the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Texas Turfgrass Association and the Southwest Turfgrass Association, over which he presided as president in 1981. He is also a member of the Florida Conservation Association. Gary has been a member of GCSAA for 22 years, is currently on the Board of Directors and serves on the finance, future education and conference planning committees.



Anthony Davies, pencil slim and athletic, is often seen pounding the pavement in his quest for fitness as a long distance runner, though he is perhaps better known to BIGGA members as the 1990 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year' than as a competitor in the London Marathon. The ICI accolade was by no means Anthony's first claim to fame, however, for college peers voted him 'Top Student' during his final Phase IV year of City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management and he has always been an education buff, holding a diploma in Turf Culture and the National Examination Board's certificate in Supervisory Management. For some 15 years Anthony has worked in the profession he loves, beginning his career in 1978 at the Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club and now at Prestbury Golf Club in Cheshire, where for the past four years he has been the club's course manager. Anthony is regarded as something of a progressive, and his presentation at Keele will centre around the way he engineered the change from old to new at Prestbury, under the beguiling title of 'Right or wrong - I did it my way'.

NATIONAL
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE
26-28 March

With the forthcoming publication of the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee's specification for recommended methods of constructing putting greens, based on three alternatives, with no compromising mixing from one to another, the whole vexed question of soil analyses re-emerges.

There is no point in setting out standards controlling the materials to be used unless those materials are readily available and their quality can be checked by reliable analysis against the stated criteria. Equally, it is a pointless exercise if analyses take so long that the start of construction would be seriously delayed; if the results were so erratic or illogical that no one could trust them, or if the cost were so high as to prohibit their use in any save very expensive contracts.

The sad fact is there is absolutely no consistency between the results of physical analyses on the same material when analysed by different laboratories.

To be believed, results must be believable! Illogical results, which cannot be either defended or repeated, bring the whole system into disrepute. This problem is by no means confined to laboratories in Britain – nor indeed in Europe. If the USGA Green Section claims that it can rely on only a bare handful of soil laboratories throughout the length and breadth of the States to report consistently accurate results, even when they are working to published standard methods of analysis, we are unlikely to be any better here, more especially because work on standard methods of analysis is by no means complete – and furthermore even when it is I will hazard a guess that methods produced and stipulated by one lab. will be disputed by others.

Matters have come to a pretty pass when check samples sent to a number of laboratories are reported not just with mild variations, but unbelievable ones! In one recent and obviously anonymous case, samples were analysed three times, the first two batches of results being so wildly 'out' that they could not be believed and the last, not much better, was sent back in desperation at the delays together with a huge bill (which was never paid!) showing variations on the same green of over 3000%! In another equally well authenticated case, showing quite illogical and indefensible results, the suggestion was made that the first (illogical) reports should be scrapped and a new start made – presumably analysing again and again until the desired or expected figures turn up!

This may be dismissed as teething troubles, to be overlooked by those who know what they are talking about, but it is much more serious than that. In our increasingly litigious society, any dispute capable of being settled a decade ago by get-



Soiled again

ting round a table or knocking heads together goes with minimum delay to the lawyers, who have never been known to suffer from any inability to make decisions, however little they may know about the technicalities.

It is a far from fanciful possibility for a contractor and/or architect to be sued for supplying unsuitable material in a golf course construction contract, based on soil analyses of samples sent to a given laboratory by the dissatisfied employer. Then fresh batches of the same material are sent to another laboratory – or worse still, to the first one – which then show satisfactory figures. Aggrieved parties will take the view that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander and the first laboratory, in an indefensible position, can at best hope to settle out of court for a million or more!

How then have we managed before? Simply because most of those at all levels building golf courses up to the last few years before the advent of American inspired extravaganza, knew good materials from bad, could judge suitability by 'finger and thumb' methods and knew where reliable materials could be found – materials previously analysed on simple chemical and physical standards, which dealt with such uncomplicated but still important values as 'freedom' from clay (fines) or lime (pH) as well as low phosphate levels (high levels are inimical to fine turf). This meant that they knew where the best materials – previously checked and of consistent reli-

able quality – could be found, which avoided costly delays. If they did not have that ability themselves 'they knew a man who did'.

Today we are faced with an increasing number of people at all levels, employers, contractors and even architects, who have no clue as to what is good or bad and who rely on irrelevant standards (more suitable for hot arid or tropical zones than for northern European temperate conditions). As a result they need and demand rigid guide lines. This leads to confusion, extra costs, delays and often disaster. As an example, the specification for the sand to be used on one of those extravaganzas was so precise that the only source was going to cost six or seven times as much as an equally satisfactory, relatively local source, the total cost adding nearly £1 million to the contract. This kind of pedantic insistence on unproven standards leads to all manner of evasions and cost cutting – or, if obeyed, to huge and unnecessary extra costs.

Laboratories will naturally (but unsuccessfully) try to defend their results. They will blame sampling errors, variations in raw material sources, even on one occasion unbelievably blaming illogical variations because of differences in the day of the week that the samples arrived – anything but their analysis methods. Analyses are only as accurate as the sampling, I admit, but such sampling variations are on quite a small scale. When samples tested for hydrological conductivity are reputed to vary between 0.1" hr and 28" per hr on the same green with

the material bulk-mixed centrally on site, clearly it is the analysis technique which is to blame. The one is equivalent to a concrete slab and the other an open drain – ie. indefensible and illogical!

There is no point in drawing up detailed specifications and in laying down performance criteria if these cannot be checked speedily and cheaply by reliable analysis. There have been too many cases of wild and inexplicable variations in the results on the same samples sent to different and sometimes even to the same laboratories, for anyone to be able to have any faith in them. The first step must be to lay down methods which must be followed and then to check on all the laboratories offering soil analysis services. I venture to suggest that it will be a long time before laboratories can be trusted to produce consistently logical, believable and reliable physical soil analysis results (chemical ones are no problem but are of limited use) and if they want to prove me wrong, let them offer to demonstrate and compete with each other for veracity if not cost. Because, believe me, when laboratories demand £150 or thereabouts per sample and we may need scores of samples before the best materials are identified, then we are talking money – and the national golfing body which should be the regulator have not thought, it would seem, about financing their recommendations or actions, e.g. in checking and comparing soil laboratories.

So where is this likely to lead us? Frankly, I can see little real value to any reasonably experienced and educated adviser in using soil analyses except to check on their own judgment. The one question to which I have never been given any (let alone a satisfactory) reply by soil chemists, fertiliser salesmen, or even most advisers is 'at what level do you say that a soil is showing a phosphate deficiency, ie. when does it need phosphatic fertiliser?'

When some of our most superb bent and fescue greens on links or heathland courses show levels of phosphate below 10 ppm (mg/litre) and some of our worst annual meadow grass greens, even on famous links, show 1500 ppm of phosphate, can you make a case for applying any phosphates, ever? Pleas that these pundits should consult the enormous bibliography on this subject, starting with Dr. Murray in 1903 in South Africa (who said the only phosphate to be given to golf greens should be in the form of the normal top dressing, NOT as fertiliser,) are just ignored.

I do not see a lot of point in analysing soils to show they are over-supplied in phosphate particularly, nor can we learn much from pH figures when links greens can show 8.0 and more and heathland turf below 4.0. Attempts to 'manipulate' soil nutritional levels to meet

some artificial, indefensible and unproven standards always end in tears.

The only important nutrient for fine turf is nitrogen, for which there are no sensible tests. There is enough phosphate and almost always enough potash to meet the very modest demands of finer grasses. Trace elements are never needed on golf courses. The ideal pH is the one you've got. Remember the old adage - 'if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it'.

There can thus be little if any justification for spending money on chemical analyses, which all too often are on offer as a sales gimmick or an alternative to sound management advice, which chemists seem to lack. Physical soil analyses are a different matter, but to date the unreliability and inconsistency of results on the same materials from different (and even the same) laboratories makes it all too clear that we have a long way to go before any reliance can be placed on the results.

My advice is to keep your hands in your pockets (analyses are very expensive) and let the grass tell you what it needs. Rubbing a soil sample between finger and thumb is, I regret, a far more accurate way of analysing it than sending it to many testing laboratories.

The secret is to follow austere greenkeeping: minimal fertiliser and nitrogen only; strictly controlled irrigation; intensive deep aeration and the use of compatible top dressings to the existing root zone. Then, as night follows day, you will succeed in proving that you do not have to learn to live with annual meadow grass, though it may take time if you are combatting years of previous mismanagement. Frankly you do not need soil analyses to implement such a programme.

However, as a parting message, let me recount a story with a warning. Some years ago, in the West Country, a new course was being built - and my opinions on raw materials were sought, and in particular the quality of sand. I rejected samples of granite sand whose angular particles locked together to produce the equivalent in terms of porosity and permeability of a motorway, in favour of a sand which had an ideal physical analysis - 80% of particles between 0.5 mm and 0.125 mm. By sheer luck, growth tests were conducted on all raw materials. This ideal sand grew nothing - and further tests showed it to be extremely toxic due to contamination from upstream tin and lead mines. The ideal test might therefore be to see if materials will support the growth of grass - and if they cannot due to toxicity or other reasons there seems little justification for expensive physical soil analyses (nor indeed does it really matter what the toxic elements are - just that they are toxic to grass!

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that Around The Green copy for April must reach the editor on or before March 1st.

SUSSEX

Without doubt the most enjoyable golf day of the year saw us at our usual stamping ground, Littlehampton GC, for our Christmas Turkey Trot. What is considered our premier meeting was endorsed by the excellent turn-out of nearly sixty greenkeepers and guests - many thanks.

For the second year running play was in the highly enjoyable Texas Scramble format, with teams of four battling over a very well presented course, especially when taking consideration of the 'slightly' wet weather of late. Our heartfelt thanks to Dave Wood and his team for working so hard over the past weeks in 'claiming back' the course - not only from the English Channel but from the River Arun as well!

Play was over 14 holes (14 greens only were open so three were played twice), with the resultant time saved spent at the watering hole (excuse the unintentional pun) at the ninth, partaking of mince pies, scotch and/or beer supplied by the section.

RESULTS: Overall winners - J Hill; C Reed; S Reed & J McEnaney. Second - C Allan; A Gale; A Ford & R Elderfield. Third - G Barr; P Ward; G Meldrum & B Wilmot. Fourth - P Ray; A Murray; J Warner & T Collier. Nearest the pin competitions were won by T Batts; C Allan; R Hughes and B Wilmot, with longest drives won by the 'sluggers', S Shelford and P Ray.

Special thanks must go to Littlehampton GC for their hospitality yet again and to the catering staff for a superb evening meal, also to George Barr as MC (or stand-up comic?) and to all who attended this most enjoyable day.

I'm sure the section would like to wish both Raymond Day and Dennis Ayling all the very best in their new appointments at Sundridge Park and Rowlands Castle respectively, also to Nick Beadle, who is 'in-between' courses at present. Finally, congratulations to Leigh Bennett and his wife on the birth of Rosie.

MARK WILTON



DEVON & CORNWALL

Seventy nine members and trade guests attended our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 9 December, which was again held at Okehampton GC. Despite weeks of rain, Richard Wisdom and his staff had the course in excellent playing order for our Greensome competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfers had the customary course walk before lunch, this highlighted with an inspection of the two new greens under construction. After an excellent Christmas dinner we were entertained by the superb 'Tank Sherman'. Patrick Flegg of PJ Flegg then presented the golf prizes to M. Shoobridge & P. Bond (Sidmouth) 42pts (1st). A. James & A. Ramsden (Budock Vean) 40pts (2nd). A. Hayes (China Fleet) & R. Hughes (St Mellion) 38pts (3rd).

Our thanks to Patrick for both donating and presenting the golf prizes and to our president Don Hunt for supplying the wine at dinner. Our raffles concluded the day with the first draw, two hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha, won by two of our Cornish members, J Stevens and J Mitchell. The second raffle was for the prizes kindly donated by members and the trade. The section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for once again allowing us the use of their facilities.

Our best wishes to Peter Winter, formerly with Fison's, as he embarks on his new career.

Dates for your diary: February meeting on Wed. 24 at Perranporth GC. March meeting on Wed. 24 at Woodbury Park GC. WESTURF Trade Show on Wed. 28 April at Long Ashton GC., Bristol.

RICHARD WHYMAN



SURREY

Effingham GC hosted our final golf event of 1992 on 10 December on a course that was a credit to Peter Broadbent and his staff. Scoring was good with Brian Eastman 'stuffing' the rest and taking the turkey with 41 points. Thanks as ever to the Effingham club for their excellent hospitality and courtesy of the course.

Following prize presentations the AGM was held and in his chairman's report, Terry Huntly announced that 1992 had been a good year for the Surrey section with winter lectures and golf events very well attended. In addition, despite the generous donation of £1000 to the Gold Key Fund, the accounts showed a very healthy balance. The committee members were elected en-bloc for 1993, with no new committee members nominated.

Jim Parker stepped down as president, receiving thanks for his many years of support, and Bert Watson was promoted to president with Alec Bradshaw and Ron Jobson elected vice-presidents. Please note that Mike Yorston is now in charge of handicaps and secretary Derek Walder will be receiving competition entries directly in 1993.

Gareth Roberts of Hankley Common must have been nursing sore feet following his 126 holes of golf played for charity - this over the North Middlesex GC - starting at 7am and finishing at 4.15 pm.

Looking well ahead to 1994, if any member can offer the use of his golf club for section events, please contact Derek Walder.

ROGER TYDEMAN

CLEVELAND

Congratulations to Ian Harrison of Darlington GC on his success in the ICI Premier greenkeeper of the Year award. This bright young head greenkeeper has put together a modern maintenance complex at Darlington with health and safety very much to the fore, along with exemplary record-keeping and a fine pesticide store. Ian's attitude to safe working is a model of efficiency and his staff are very supportive. Darlington GC should be very proud of 'their' man - good luck in the future, Ian.

Our December meeting took the form of a quiz - Cleveland BIGGA v Teeside IoG - sponsored by TurfCare of Co. Durham and chaired most ably by quiz-master Terry Charlton, TurfCare's managing director. The quiz victors were the IoG, though it could be said that the overall winner was the friendly atmosphere that pervaded throughout. Congratulations to David Cook of Eaglescliffe GC on passing his PA2 sprayer test.

BRUCE BURNELL



SOUTH COAST

For the first time ever a section tournament had to be cancelled due to poor weather. After days of heavy rain, including the day itself, the December Turkey Trot was cancelled, with players stranded in the clubhouse. Fortunately the bar remained open and with cable TV and several video games available members still had

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SCOTTISH REGION CONERENCE

on March 9th, 1993 at Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Alasdair Wellwood, Roy Auld, John Philp, BIGGA's Education Officer David Golding, Eddie Connaughton, Jon Allbutt, Steven Miller from Oatridge College and Jim Grainger. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £10 BIGGA members, £12.50 non-members. The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 31445

During the afternoon the section AGM was held, with Mark Todd joining the committee and Kerran Daly elected as regional representative in place of Ken Lodge, who had stepped down.

The section welcomed national chairman Roy Kates to the meeting, Roy giving a very comprehensive report on the activities of the BIGGA Board of Management. This was very much appreciated and gave members an insight into the forward planning of the Association.

The section Christmas dinner followed the AGM and sixty members and guests enjoyed an excellent traditional Christmas dinner provided by the stewardship of the Royal Winchester Golf Club. Although it had not been possible to play, the turkey trot vouchers kindly supplied by New Forest Farm Machinery and Rigby Taylor were raffled with three £10 vouchers going to the lucky winners.

By coincidence the first ticket drawn belonged to Mark Wilton of Rigby Taylor. However, I can assure readers that Mark quickly returned the ticket and insisted on a re-draw.

My thanks to Mark and Nick Clarke for sponsoring the event and to David Williams, secretary to the club, for allowing the section the courtesy of the clubhouse. Players for the Regional Tournament in June were also drawn (from those who volunteered) and I shall be writing shortly to those who were selected.

Our final winter lecture will be on Wednesday 3 March starting at 7.00pm. The venue is Alresford GC and our speaker is Paul Baxter, deputy secretary of the English Golf Union. Mr Baxter will be talking on the R&A document, 'The Way Forward', which contains a number of proposals on the future of golf. This should prove a lively meeting and I would urge all members to support this winter finale.

BOB DENNIS

KENT

Our Annual Turkey Trot was staged at West Malling GC and, as it turned out, happened to be 'turkey less'. Our gracious host did us proud with a fine roast beef carvery meal, a fine change with the Christmas festivities rapidly approaching. Many thanks to course manager and club captain, Chris Mardon, and his staff for presenting the course to such a fine standard, especially as we have all had such a dreadful time this winter with the continual rain. Many of us shot admiring glances at Chris's ride-on fairway mower, seeing fairways presented so well. As for the golf, well not too serious as everybody went home with a prize on this occasion (for some of us the only time!). The winner and first pick of the assorted prizes went to Knowle Park's Andy Arthur, who somehow managed to amass 39 points, something of a surprise as most reports on his play suggested he may not have made a double figure score. It was pleasing to see some new faces and indeed some old ones reappearing, despite the cold and damp conditions.

Our AGM was, for us, fairly well attended, with numbers topping the 30 mark, though this still only represented about 25% of our registered Kent membership. David Wood outlined our activities over 1992 and reminded us of our stirring success in hosting the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone GC. Much applause was again directed towards Malcolm Grand. For the coming year we are to host the regional seminar in the autumn, the regional qualifying round of the new national competition (replacing the Iseki). Not least, we have The Open Championship on home ground at Royal St. George's in July. If you wish to join the 1993 Open support team, get your name in early!

I am pleased to report that a few points were raised from the floor this year, the main one being the continuing poor attendance at many of our events, this despite our high registered membership. A social or ladies evening was suggested, but as my wife frowns whenever the four letter word 'golf' is mentioned or talk of greenkeeping is even hinted, I dare say being in a room with thirty others talking 'shop' would not go down as a glitzy night out. However all suggestions will be warmly aired

AROUND THE GREEN



by the committee during the year. The meeting was rounded off by those attending thanking our trade members for their continued support and John Millen reporting the activities of the Association at a higher level, with regard to the strides BIGGA is making within the golf industry: the formulation and continuation of our training programmes, the success of our magazine and the news that John will have the honour of becoming the Association's



chairman in two years time. The only bad news is that you lot will have to put up with reading my drivel in 'Around the Green' for at least another year. Serves you right for misdemeanours in a past life!

PAUL COPSEY

MID ANGLIA

Our final golfing event of 1992 was held on 3 Dec at South Beds GC, the format being the now usual Texas Scramble. The event attracted 22 teams – 88 golfers in total – with teams comprising greenkeepers, trade members, guests and professionals. A Texas Scramble is an ideal competition to stage in December as it enables golfers of all abilities to take part in the fun – and it was great to see so many trade members 'having a go'. Most courses in the area were closed at this time so it was lucky that we could play at all. Fortunately, South Beds GC is situated on chalk and drains well. Thanks to all my staff for their hard work in preparation of the course.

Thanks also to Kingston House Mowers for again sponsoring the event and to John Glyn-Davies of Kingston House, who additionally donated a trophy to be presented to the greenkeeper with the best scores in our 1993 spring, summer and autumn tournaments. The scramble itself was won by John's team (John & A Glyn-Davies, Ian Clark & Stewart Boyes), but for obvious reasons they relinquished their claim to the prize, although Stewart Boyes received a prize as the greenkeeper in their team. The subsequent results were: 1st D Pember-ton, J Moorehouse, J Blair & L Cant (Brocket Hall). 2nd G Bruce, S Proudfoot (Berkhamsted), A Beaton & A Evans (South Beds). 3rd T McReady, M Hall, M Hatcher & H Ainsworth (Royston). Winners received vouchers for £20 (first), £15 (second), and £10 (third).

Our thanks to the committee of South Beds for allowing us to stage the competition and for the courtesy of their course, also to the steward for providing an excellent meal. In addition, our thanks to all members of the trade both for attending and donating prizes: Colin White (Rigby Taylor), David Murphy (Sta Brite), Mark Hillier, Ken Polley (Maxwell Hart), Chas. Ayres (Lodgeway Tractor Co), David Hawkins (Pattissons), Liam Galway (CMW Equipment) and Derek Prior (Rogers Engineers).

Our next section event will be a lecture at Beadlow Manor GC on 2 March, when David Golding, BIGGA's education officer, will discuss 'Greenkeeper Training'.

We all know the importance of greenkeeper education and training, so let's have a good turn-out to show our support for the efforts of David in particular and BIGGA in general. This event will be followed later in the month by a trip to Jacobsen on 23 March. If you are interested please contact Gerald Bruce.



PAUL LOCKETT

EAST ANGLIA

The Turkey Trot/AGM was held at Aldeburgh GC early in December when about 40 members attended and a good time was had by all.

The CMW turkey voucher was won by Peter Howard (37 pts) with Mike Moss (35) second. Andy Turbin won the longest drive and Alan Carter won nearest the pin.

The prizes were donated by CMW; Rushbrooks; Pattissons and Rigby Taylor. Our thanks to Aldeburgh GC for having us – it is an honour to be granted the use of such a lovely old clubhouse for our annual general meetings and we greatly appreciate it.

The AGM was very interesting and all the officers were re-elected.

I would like to record a big 'thank you' to our chairman, Sam Sylvester, who does so much work for us in a style that is quite unique, coupled with endless patience. Sam Sylvester and Michael Peters are a grand double act and we would be in a muddle without them – thanks!

There was much discussion at the AGM on 'greenkeeper image' and how to improve it. Qualifications was the obvious one.

I'm all for studying – both on and off the course – and thanks to BIGGA, there appears at last to be some really good greenkeeping exams coming through.

It would be nice to get more support from the golfers though, for they do all the moanin' and greenkeepers do all the payin'!

What must you do to get on BIGGA Minimum Wage Scale? I've got a mate who started greenkeeping as a 16 year old and served three years as an apprentice, followed by five years as a first assistant. He gained IoG exams (only exams available in 1967) and an EIGGA Gold Diploma. For twenty years he's been a head greenkeeper and last year he managed for the first time to get minimum rate. This year he's below minimum again, his club refusing to go for a 5% increase. He cares for 900 members and his course is considered 'a good one to play'. Naturally, he's quite 'excited' by all this but doubtless will soldier on and hope that his loyalty will eventually be recognised – after 21 years at the same club.

A few New Year thoughts – 'The first thing a greenkeeper should do is get a wife who can support him financially'. I wouldn't mind a pound for every time I've heard it said 'there's a wind of change on the way in greenkeeping'. After 29 years in this game I might just be believing it. I will say it's not for the lack of trying on the greenkeepers' part. Despite my grumblings, however, there's no doubt there *are* some huge strides being made. Royal recognition at Harrogate will go a long way to making the profession more credible in more peoples' eyes – and that can't be a bad thing. Mem-



bership is up, the magazine's looking good – the time's come to be a lot more positive about the future.

That's it lads, so get qualified and keep listening.

MICK LATHROPE

MIDLANDS

The Midland section held their Christmas Tournament on 7 December at Beau Desert GC., the course playing remarkably well considering the very wet weather. The event was won by Mike Hughes with a fine 39 points – we thank Beau Desert and their staff for a wonderful day. We would also like to thank the many people – individuals and companies – who have supported us through 1992.

Combined with our Christmas Tournament came the section AGM, held after the game and attended by some fifty or so people. All went well and we welcome Rhys Thomas, Steve Blakeman and Brian Nuttall to the committee. Remaining places are filled thus: President – R Pugh, chairperson – A Kite, vice chairperson – M Hughes, secretary – D Cleaver. The remaining committee – S Wood, P Woodward and I Bettelstone.



DEAN CLEAVER

NORTHERN

Our winter lecture series is now at the half way stage. May I thank Jeff Linley and his team from Nu-Trel Products, who gave us an in-depth look at the way to fertilise through the use of soil and plant tissue analysis, also to John Hannah of Boral Lytag, who presented a very informative slide show on the manufacturing of their products and showing the various uses of Boral Lytag material for drainage purposes.

In December we had an excellent day out when Richard Furness and Keith Millington (from Mitchells) arranged a visit to the John Deere plant in Nottingham. Our thanks to them. I apologise to those members who wanted to go but were turned down (the bus being filled to capacity) and suggest there must be a lesson to be learned, which is – put your name down early to avoid disappointment.

As you are all aware the Christmas golf was cancelled, due again to inclement weather. The AGM did however take place, though not too many members turned up for this. I thank those who made the effort and voiced their opinions on various matters relevant to our section. I think the furthest travelled was George Elsom, all the way from Hull.

The officers and committee elected for 1993 are: Section president-Bill Mountain. (Bill informed me that 1993 will be his 33rd year in office, all I can say is keep up the good work), chairman-Phillip Taylor, secretary/treasurer-Pat Murphy, committee-Bob Lupton (also regional administrator), Alan Gamble, Ian Thompson, Dennis Cockburn, Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, David Thackray, Robert Gee, and last but not least, Andrew Smith. May I welcome the three new men who have joined us on committee, I am sure you will enjoy your term in office.

On behalf of the Northern section may I also thank Brian Carr for time and effort so freely contributed to our section during his time in office. I heard he was involved in a car accident recently and wish him a speedy recovery.

A date for your diary: The Northern Section Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 19 March at Shipley GC, Beckfoot Lane, Bingley. There will be live entertainment with an opportunity to dance as well – tickets £12.50 each. I can assure members they will not be disappointed with the evening, so please book early as tickets are limited. Send your cheques to me at 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4RL.

Golf events for 1993 are in the process of being finalised, with the venues for this season being Sand Moor GC., Hull GC., Pannal GC., Kirkbymoorside GC., and Fulford GC for the Rosh Match. Details will be posted as soon as I have them available.

The only news I have from the section is that David Thackray has been promoted to head greenkeeper at Bradford GC – congratulations to you David, and may all of your problems be little ones! If members can contribute news will they please call me on 0274 568128, or write to the above address. Thank you.



PAT MURPHY

NORTH WALES

On Thursday 10 December we should have held our Christmas competition at Abergele & Pensarn GC, but due to the monsoon type weather we have been having lately, the course was flooded. Course manager Brian Anderson (who at the time was busy building his ark, or was it a new garage?) decided that if every member had his own coracle, there might have been a chance, but considering a normal golf bag does not have room for one, we were delighted when Nefyn GC offered us courtesy of their course.

Thanks therefore must go to the secretary, committee and members of Nefyn GC for allowing us courtesy of their course, also to Pat McAteer and his green staff for course excellence and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. We had over 50 playing, which considering the change of venue and at such short notice, was an excellent turn out – thanks for

AROUND THE GREEN



your support.

A popular winner with a score of 75 was Mr Organiser himself, Terry Adamson, with A. Evans second on 76. Third was J. Humphreys 76, fourth P. Jeffries 76. Winner of the guest prize, with an excellent score of 69, was J. Harris, 2nd E. Camble, 70, 3rd A. Bonatti 72. (all scores nett).

Many thanks to the following sponsors: Bruera, Gem Professional, Pro-Turf, R Campey, Mommersteg, Walker Engineering, J Osman and especially Rigby Taylor, who through no fault of their own (but mine), have not been mentioned in our notes, even though they continue still to support our events.

On 11 February STRI will present a seminar at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop. Please come and support us and bring along your green chairman – all are welcome, starts around 1.00 pm.

The committee would like to thank all members, guests and golf clubs for supporting our competitions and seminars in 1992 and hope that your support will continue into 1993 – a prosperous new year to you all.

DAVID PROCTOR

NORTH WEST

On 16 December last at Bury GC, John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design gave 28 members a very interesting talk on 'Construction of British Golf Greens'. This was aided by a series of slides collected by John since his days as a tutor at Myer-scough, showing the step by step construction of standard and sand greens and including various types of drainage systems. His talk generated many questions and talking points and made for a good educational evening. On behalf of the NW section I thank John for his time and expertise.

Our next talk, also at Bury GC, will be held on Wednesday 24 February, starting at 7.00pm. Our speaker will be John Hughes of British Seed Houses, who will be advising us on 'Improved grass cultivars and their maintenance'. A good attendance would be appreciated.

The first golf fixture of 1993 will be the North West versus North Wales match on Monday 26 April at Llanymynech GC. I will require a team of at least sixteen, so if you are interested in playing, please contact me on 051 724 5412, BERT CROSS

EAST MIDLANDS

For members who did not attend the AGM in November, the elected officers for 1993 are as follows. Chairman-Dave Perkins, vice chairman-Steve Goode, committee- Nick Root; Adie Porter; Walter Cole; Dave Leatherhead; Paddy McCarron; Bob Holt; Graham Arnold and Richard Barker.

In the Christmas competition held at Birstall GC on 16 December, our associate members excelled in a damp Stableford competition, with Nick Danvers winning the 0-9 section and John Burnham the 10-18's. Many thanks to Birstall for an enjoyable day.

The section's remaining silverware was distributed at the above event. So that you know who you have to beat this year, the winners are: Scratch Shield -Richard Barker; Toro Cup – Adie Porter; Vice President's Cup – Gary Thurman; Supaturf K/O Cup – Anthony Bindley. Highmere Pairs Salver – Anthony Bindley and Martin Hopkins.

The section is pleased once again to welcome new members – John Cumberland, who is currently studying at Brackenhurst College, and Richard

Fletcher of Ramsdale GC.



Finally, I neglected to mention that I have been elected to bore you all to tears for another year. I am still available on 0509 650140 and remain, your humble secretary, TONY HOWORTH

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The annual dinner was held in December at Stirling GC, when former SFA secretary Ernie Walker; OBE, was the guest speaker. Mr Walker very generously donated his fee to the Variety Club of Great Britain – to go toward providing Sunshine coaches for kids. Everyone who attended had a great night and following its success, it is intended to hold a dinner/dance this year at which trophies won during 1993 can be presented.

The annual prize draw was held also and our sincere thanks go to Leslie Walker, described by the chairman as 'my friend Ernie's beautiful daughter' (he had only met Ernie 30 minutes earlier!), who made the draw on our behalf. Thanks to everyone who donated to the prize table – eighteen prizes in all.

The prize draw is the largest fund-raiser for our section and my thanks go to everyone who supported it by selling their allocation of tickets. The biggest disappointment about this venture is that 81 members are still holding some 480 books of tickets – which means a loss of £480 to the section education fund. This in spite of everyone being asked to return tickets if they had no intention of selling them! Please give your committee and your section some support.

Three members of the section, Graham Wallace (Gleneagles), Neil Ballingall (Lundin Links) and Colin Wade (Hags Castle) won an expenses paid trip to BTME. Well done lads!

As previously reported, the Spring Tournament will be held at Gleneagles in April and will be a qualifying event for the Hayter Tournament (previously Iseki). Full details will be circulated. We are indebted to the Gleneagles Hotel management for courtesy of their Queens course for this event, also for donating a prize to the prize draw – A day at Gleneagles for two players, any time in 1993. It is nice to know that a company as large as Gleneagles can still find time to give support to BIGGA events.

Still on the subject of Gleneagles, if any member wishes to be involved in the Bell's Scottish Open at Gleneagles in July, by becoming a member of the bunker-raking team, please contact me as soon as possible. A letter regarding this will be circulated shortly.



Ideas are being sought for social events throughout the year: events in which wives/ girlfriends/friends can get involved. If you have any ideas on the subject just drop me a line.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WALES

We held our Christmas competition on 16 December at Pyle and Kenfig GC, 18 holes of golf in truly wintery conditions. This year the turn-out was poor with only 20 players venturing out on a cold day, though fortunately without the showers that so often go with it. The competition was well fought, with only 12 points separating first from last and the winner of the Vitax Shield (plus a decanter set, donated by Alan Stow) with 35 points was Andrew Jenkins, with M Jones (34) runner-up and H Morgan (31) third. Our thanks to the membership of Pyle and Kenfig, especially secretary Roger Thomas and the club captain, for courtesies extended throughout the day, also to Paul Robinson and his crew for the condition of the course – once again in fine fettle for this time of the year and finally to the caterers for taking care of our hunger with delicious Christmas fare.

The chairman, H Parry, along with administrator elect H Morgan, presented replica awards to the following: L Hallett; A Panks and T King (medals) for representing the section in the Iseki championship, with replica awards to A Panks → 46

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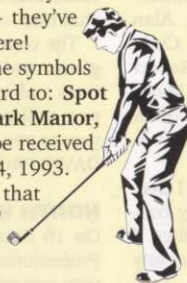
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Despite the expected difficulties with Christmas post, entries for the December competition flowed in – and the first correct entry out of the draw, winning £50 cash, came from Angela Louch at Malton Golf Club in Hertfordshire. Winner of the January competition is Ian Permberton, from Middlesbrough, who also scoops £50 in cash. Enter this month's competition today – and stand by to win with Greenkeeper International!



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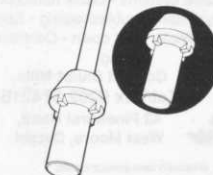
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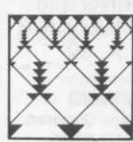
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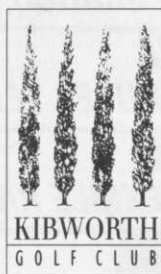
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AROUND THE GREEN



37 → (Cardiff Cup), K Kitcher (Jacobsen Cup), A Jenkins (Browns Shield), P Lloyd (Birdie Cup), H Morgan (John Duncan Cup), T Garland (Waycott Cup) I Ellis (President's Shield), A Jenkins (Vitax Shield). Aggregates- M Davies (Nett) and H Morgan (Gross).

Election of officers for 1993 were: T King (chairman), I Morris (vice chairman), H Morgan (section administrator), committee P Lacey, D Archer, M Davies, M Jones, L Hallett and A Panks, with regional board representatives being H Morgan and P Lacey. Messrs Parry and Swain were thanked by the members for all the hard work they have done since taking office. A raffle was held, with Bryn Phillips the first prizewinner of fourteen.

On behalf of the committee and members I would like to thank the many traders who have made donations, not only for our Christmas competition but throughout the year. Without generosity from the following companies the section could not survive: ICI; Avoncrop; Rufford's; Liquid Turf; Tacit; Farmura; Proturf; Peter Hampton; Roffey's; Sisis; Rigby Taylor; F Sutton's; M Keeling; C Murphy; C Frost; Vitax; Nomix-Chipman; Jacobsen; K Morgan; Maxwell Hart; Birds and Trident - My apologies if I have missed anyone from the list.

The section extends its sympathy to R Kitcher on the recent death of his father; whilst sending good wishes to T King for a full recovery following his punctured lung at the Iseki finals. On a personal note, I must thank all those who have helped me

during my nine years as section secretary, including those good folk at HQ and at section level throughout South Wales.

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section AGM took place in December, preceded by an informative talk on top dressing given by Peter Jefford, Rufford Top Dress Supplies, for which our thanks. Following a light snack our annual golf match Chairman v Vice Chairman was held, with the first match a head to head between chairman Doug and vice-chairman Sam - resulting in a half. The end result was a victory for the chairman's team, four matches to two. Nearest the hole went to Stuart Donald, who also won the first raffle prize, thus preventing a committee clean-up, as Andy Wilson, Sam Morrison and Dougal Duguid picked up second, third and fourth respectively. Dougal finished his stint as chairman but was unanimously voted back on to the committee, Sam Morrison took over as chairman and Andy Wilson was elected vice-chairman. Section members were told of a library to be set up by the committee, with various books on greenkeeping to be purchased by the section and loaned free of charge (except postage, of course) to members.

We welcome two Nairn greenkeepers to our Association, Richard Ewen and Martin Gunning, and wish Wilson Morrison all the best in his new post at Alford GC. Just before Christmas I attended the Patrons Luncheon at Calder GC, a really worthwhile meeting which provides the opportunity to meet and talk with friends in the trade.

The final draw for the 200 Club was made in December, the winner being Inverurie greenkeeper John Hay, who won the October £30 and the December £100 draw. Other winners were No 198 Niall McGill, (September) £30, No 148 TD Elder, (November) £40. This concludes the 200 Club for 1992 and my thanks to everyone who bought tickets, thus helping to raise section funds. The 200 Club for 1993 is now launched and I ask all members to sell cards as soon as possible, or return them

in order that we may sell them all this year. As an added incentive, greenkeeper members buying a ticket will be placed into an extra draw with prizes available as grants towards a trip to BTME '94, or any training course at college or Aldwark Manor. Require tickets? Details, 0862 894402. IAIN MacLEOD



COMING UP

- March 9: BIGGA Scottish Region Conference, Oatridge College, Glasgow**
- March 25-28: Golf Asia 1993 - Third International Golf Exhibition and Conference, World Trade Centre, Singapore**
- March 26-28: BIGGA National Education Conference, University of Keele, Staffordshire**
- April 21: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel, York**
- April 28: Westurf Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton, Bristol**
- May 25-30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland**
- June 9-10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire**
- July 5-8: Royal Show, NAC, Stoneleigh park, Warwickshire**
- July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent**
- July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida**
- August 2-4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland**
- August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA**
- September 7-9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants**
- September 24-26: Ryder Cup, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire**
- October 11-12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York**

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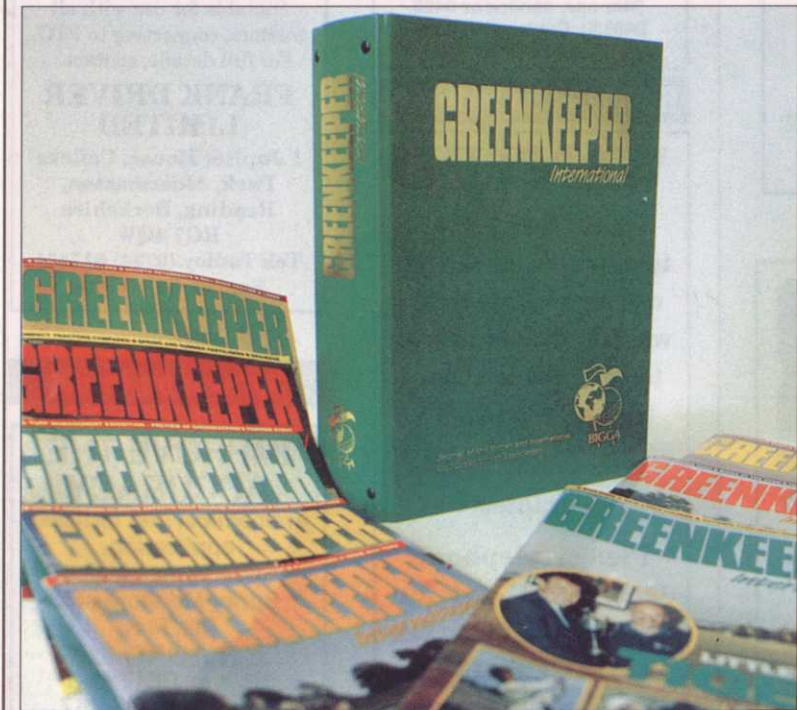
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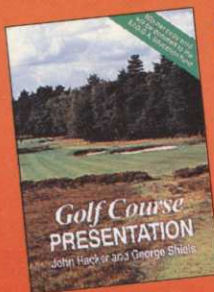


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