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JULY 1993



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GREENKEEPER

International

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UK Sales Manager, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd.

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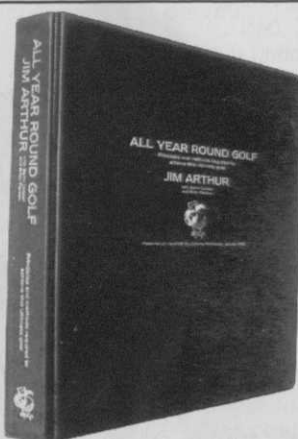
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The GTC Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

Faces and places



■ Rolawn Ltd have appointed Andy Church, latterly with Lawn Technology Ltd and formerly chief grounds manager with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, as their area manager for London. Andy will cover an area extending northwards to Milton Keynes.

■ I was sorry to learn that Dennis Archer, a valued friend and latterly a member of the board of management until ill-health dogged his mobility, had fallen foul of the surgeon's knife and is now slowly recuperating following the loss of a limb. Reportedly swinging his way around the surgical ward, in a wheelchair, just days after the operation, this lion-hearted man never did know the meaning of quitting – he's a fighter – and we applaud him. Come through safely, Dennis – we're all pulling for you!



■ Brendan Duffy has been appointed supervisor of the new Golf Practice Centre at St Andrews, which opens this month. The centre boasts specialised areas for pitching, bunker play and putting practice, and is also equipped with video equipment to facilitate swing analysis.

■ Fore! – Construction of golf playing facilities at Oaklands College, Hertfordshire, (contractors Brian D Pierson and Watermation Irrigation) is well underway. Finance for the project (£30,000) has been accumulated from golf club donations, a 'matched' funding arrangement through the local Training and Enterprise Council, a BIGGA training award of £500, and college funds. Oaklands is a GTC approved college.



■ Only two colleges run HND courses in Golf Course Management at present, and it is appropriate that a golf match should have taken place between them. Using the home advantage, Reaseheath College used a fistful of trump cards – escaped bullocks on the fairways, hailstorms, rain, and a low flying hot-air balloon – to scrape home winners from a hard-pressing Cannington College.

■ Following the acquisition of Lawn Technology in January, The Inturf Group has announced the appointment of Chris Bradshaw to its management team. Chris, who held a directorship with the company that invented the Big Roll turfing system, will be responsible for all technical and marketing aspects of turf sales and installation work throughout the south of England.



■ An internal promotion at Sleaford-based Sharpes International has resulted in Wilson Hendry being appointed assistant to Paul Billings, who is the company's amenity grass seed product manager. Prior to joining the amenity grass seed department, Wilson worked as a seed analyst at Sharpes licenced seed testing station – the largest commercial station in the UK.

■ Four former Maxwell Hart staff, made redundant when Maxwell Hart was bought by rival T Parker recently, have joined forces to set up a new company – Driving Force Leisure. The company will supply a comprehensive list of products for the greenkeeper, distributing from premises in Maidstone (Tel: 0734 266130) and Oxford. Also formed to operate in tandem with Driving Force Leisure is a sister company – Easy Picker Europe – an exclusive agency for the American 'Easy Picker' range of driving range equipment.



■ The first of the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional finals, held at Stirling, proved to be a double bonus for Kim Macfie, Hayters' sales and marketing director. First, he was mightily pleased to see all of Stirling's greens cut with a Hayter T93 triple, expressing the view that whilst overt commercialism is not what they would wish from the sponsorship it was gratifying to see some of Hayters' products in prominent positions. Second, he played a round with Murrayfield's Jimmy Neilson and managed to actually beat him – as Kim put it, Jimmy was playing a diplomatic game! Declaring the day a great success, Kim now hopes to attend all five of the Hayter Challenge regional finals. He's pictured left, with Jimmy Neilson.

■ Alresford GC's Mark Webb took delivery recently of 20 tonnes of Boughton Loam's Sterilised Turf Dressing, won in the Boughton Loam prize draw organised at BTME. Declaring himself well pleased with the 'windfall', Mark found the dry material a pleasure to apply and was impressed by the speed in which it integrated into the sward.



■ After many years of mutual co-operation, Charterhouse Turf Machinery and Redexim BV of Holland have decided to forge closer links by merging. Redexim BV has extensive interests in hotels, leisure, management consultancy, real estate and turf machinery manufacture. Amongst other products they produce the Verti-Drain machines which Charterhouse Turf Machinery introduced into the UK market back in 1982.

Throughout the '80s Charterhouse has developed a comprehensive range of its own equipment, mainly in the areas of top dressing, spiking and overseeding, and these products have a natural synergy with the original Verti-Drain and other Redexim products. The joint company will still function much the same as before with the addition of Mr Ruud Francissen (pictured) to the Charterhouse Turf Machinery Board of Directors.

■ Two grass machinery manufacturers, Hayters plc and Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, have announced their withdrawal from this year's IoG show.

This follows examination of the benefits derived and is based on three major factors.

Firstly, an analysis of last year's figures suggested that the quality and quantity of visitors who took an interest in goods on display did not measure up to the expenditure made.

Secondly, marked changes over recent years, partly as a result of CCT and the proposed changes likely to be introduced with the arrival of the new Unitary Authorities, have led to an alteration in the expectations and requirements of customers. These, combined with the Peterborough location, have all made an impact. Hayters' sales and marketing director, Kim Macfie, said: "We believe the point has been reached where we can no longer derive sufficient benefit from our investment".

Ransomes will introduce UK regional launches under the title *Total Turf Plan*, these taking place closer to customer locations and beginning this month.

New and current models will be demonstrated, service support programmes more relevant to the changing market will be launched and a new 'Ransomes Bouncer' software package will be displayed.



■ Our heartiest congratulations are extended to BIGGA ex-chairman (1988) Jack McMillan, former course manager of Sunningdale Golf Club and now a director in the consultancy firm McMillan-Shiel Associates, on his receipt of a Royal 'gong' in the 1993 Honours List. His accolade, an MBE, is believed to be the first awarded to a member employed in the fine turf industry.



■ SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd have announced the appointment of Jason Griggs as their area rep for Humberside, South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, taking over from Eric Burgess, who retires after 27 years with SISIS. Jason worked for Leicester Horticultural Engineering after completing his City & Guilds in the subject (with distinction) at Evesham Horticultural College.

Adventure in the land of the free



On the day I won the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, together with a Toro sponsored trip to the USA, I was dumbstruck. In truth, I had never expected to win anything; leave alone the Toro Student Greenkeeper title, and certainly never realised the magnitude of the prize. The shock didn't really begin to 'sink in' until I received my November '92 issue of Greenkeeper International. On the front cover, there for all to see, was the proof – my photograph!

Quite apart from the great kudos attached in winning such a prestige award, the trip to America was a great adventure in itself, begun in early January. After a time span of some 17 hours, which included two air flights and a bus ride, I arrived at the motel that was to be my base for the next few weeks. It was a dark night and very cold. Over the next

seven weeks my colleagues and I experienced some very cold conditions indeed, with temperatures down to minus 30° centigrade and lots of snow!

Attendance at the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers, University of Massachusetts, started at 8am the very next morning, which alone should have indicated that I was in for some pretty hard work. Our timetable dictated attendance to 35 hours of lectures each week, studying such diverse subjects as: Turfgrass Management; Irrigation and Drainage; Machinery; Turfgrass Diseases; Soils and Fertilisers; Turfgrass Calculations; Turfgrass Physiology; Trees and Shrubs; Personnel Management and Golf Course Architecture. We crammed in a deal of work over the next seven weeks, for example, on one occasion we were called upon to design a complete computer-controlled irrigation

system.

As past winners have often intimated, the terms and titles used by our American cousins are often quite different to those common to the UK. I came to terms with most of them quickly enough, though the hardest to use and understand were the American units of measurement – yards, fluid ounces, US gallons (not Imperial) etc., which were confusing to such as me, brought up on metric scales.

The university (and the Turfgrass course in particular) has an international reputation, though most of the 65 students attending were from the USA. In addition, students came from Canada, Argentina, Austria and France, along with one other Englishman, Londoner David Cluggie. As an example, one student visitor was the Frenchman Eric Alber, who had won the title of 'Best Young Superintendent' in his country and Toro had sponsored him also – with a trip to the USA as his prize. I was amazed at the sheer size of the university, which seemed to be like a town built specifically around a population of some 25,000 students and staff.

However, do not believe that the trip was all work, for upon completion of our course Eric and I went to Minneapolis, thereafter visiting the Toro factory at Tomah in Wisconsin to witness the actual manufacture of Toro turf equipment. On the day we arrived the new Toro Workman 3200 was being constructed in petrol engined versions, along with Greenmaster 3100s. Needless to say, this was extremely interesting, it being obvious how much attention is paid by Toro personnel to the quality of their machinery, with each person on the production line carrying out numerous quality control checks.

The day following we visited Toro headquarters and enjoyed a guided tour of the facility, including the design, development and testing cells. Following this we were taken to the 'Mall of America', the biggest shopping centre in the world, with some 10,000

retail outlets under one roof and crowned – smack in the middle – by a theme park!

From Minneapolis we flew to California, discovering that 28 inches of rain had fallen in the past four months compared to only 8-12 inches in a normal year. In this State we visited the Toro irrigation plant at Riverside, about an hour or so by car from Los Angeles, and here we saw sprinkler parts being constructed, assembled and tested – again a most informative and interesting diversion. Touring of the plant completed, the following day saw us on the fairways of Moreno Valley Ranch GC, playing golf in the rain!

To finish, we had two 'free' days during which Eric and I elected to visit Hollywood and the Universal Studios – an unbelievable trip to the world of celluloid make-believe – this before returning to Riverside and taking the long flight home.

Looking back, I can declare it an absolutely fantastic trip, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There are so many people to thank that it is impossible to mention them all individually. That stated, the Toro people in both America and Britain must be singled out for praise, for making me feel so welcome. Follow these good folk with praise for BIGGA, for arranging and running the event, and also to my new-found American friends and everybody at home and at my workplace.

I'm sure that anyone lucky enough to have attended such a trip will echo my sentiments – that it is a wonderful learning experience, a fantasy, an amazing and overwhelming prize. Future winners, for the moment, must content themselves with mere dreaming!

BARRY NEVILLE

Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year 1992-93.

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Doug McClymont, estates manager of the Elephant Hills Golf Course, Zimbabwe, describes the joys of managing a golf course where big game hunting begins in the air...

So you think
You've got
PROBLEMS?

Living with a pain in the grass

The article which appeared in Greenkeeper International March '93 touched a very tender spot. The only missing link at our course here in Zimbabwe is the Marx Brothers – we have every other ingredient essential for an excellent comedy-cum-farce.

Ever since the old Elephant Hills Hotel was 'shot down' by a SAM Seven anti-aircraft missile – the only hotel in the world to be shot down in full flight, as the heat-seeking device locked neatly on to the hotel kitchen chimney – the adjoining Elephant Hills Golf Course has been a source of some amusement and much comment.

The old course, laid out by Gary Player, was over 7,000 metres long with each nine holes requiring what seemed like a three-day safari. The new masters of the new Elephant Hills Hotel complex decided to make things a little easier and appointed a committee to design a shorter course. This was done according to plan and the new course design is excellent.

Enter the substitute Marx Brothers, stage left! The construction was placed in the hands of an engineer and sub-contractors whose experience hitherto had related only to landscaping small gardens. All soil samples were sent to the sampling laboratory at the Ministry of Roads and decisions were made on their analyses alone. Needless to say, the Ministry of Roads sample soils essentially to determine how best they can be compacted – and that is why we have the most compactible soils in the world on our greens.

The person who laid out the greens was a real brain surgeon and the engineer was in much the same class, having written figures on the plan without identifying measurement units. This resulted in the first two greens being constructed with humps and hollows laid out in metres rather than centimetres and with the first green being cleared to almost three hectares before someone noticed and called halt! Each diagram was separately drawn without reference to corresponding diagrams and none displayed a northern compass point. When I arrived I discovered six greens facing backwards. As one golfer pointed out, this made stopping the ball somewhat akin to pitching off the tail-board of a station wagon whilst hoping to stick the ball on the bonnet.

Tees were another huge joke. All par three tees were carefully landscaped to face down toward the green and were laid out for a full surface area of 5m x 5m. Fairways were carefully graded for the length of the hole but were not planed (the engineer in charge insisting that a land plane was the same as a tractor-mounted mini-grader) so that all Elephant Hills fairways have 10cm ridges running along their length. Mowing with a five-gang Jacobsen means that we have light rough on our fairways (in strips) about every two metres.

The unwashed bunker sand (chosen by the engineer whilst on a fishing trip up the Zambesi River) was laid 4cm deep in every bunker. It was analysed recently and to our great joy we found it corresponded to just 20% of the STRI spec, though in truth we had expected it to meet



less than 5% of the requirements. The smaller fraction has eroded and blocked all the drains, leaving precious little sand above the 'engineer-designed' polypropylene bags into which the graded gravel etcetera was enclosed for bunker drainage. The local polypropylene is almost waterproof, so how he imagined the water would drain through, heaven only knows. Being a conservation conscious person, he also planted the water hazards (eleven of our holes have water) with sedges and chobe papyrus and within three months there was no surface water – all the hazards had filled with vegetation.

We have a fully computerised GAL irrigation system with Hunter pop-up sprinklers. Following planting the engineer insisted that the whole course should be watered every day, as he didn't want the

course to look blue when viewed from the hotel. When I arrived, root growth had established only to about 5cms and it has taken nearly a year to get the root system decently established. The system introduced to mow the greens was totally flummoxing – it took each mower nearly three hours to creep across each green. This caused such a problem that in order to cope, more mowing machines were indented for. This has been fine for me, for with extra machines I now have plenty of spares, which in this corner of the globe is vital as spare parts availability is undoubtedly one of our bigger problems. How envious we are when we see those magical adverts in Greenkeeper International for Toro, Sisis, Ransomes, John Deere, Hardi, Kubota and the like. Most of our stuff is home produced in Zimbabwe and

popotamus can ruin a green within minutes, so we have installed electric fencing to keep them at bay. Other small game animals include kudu, impala, waterbuck, bushbuck, baboons (other than those paying green fees), jackals, the odd lion (which enjoys killing impala on or around the third tee) and the worst warthogs in the world. They in particular cause the most damage, grubbing up the tees and surrounds and then wallowing in them as soon as it rains or as soon as irrigation water is applied. Impala, pretty creatures that they are, also create damage as they gather on a green in the evening. The sight of these creatures, with the setting sun shining on their super red coats, is really lovely, but the urine from the ewe impala is five times more potent than sheep urine, so we get these strange yellow patches that kill the grass, followed by a vigorous revival that produces dark green areas that need mowing four times a day! In addition, we have crocodiles up to 1.5m in length in our pools.

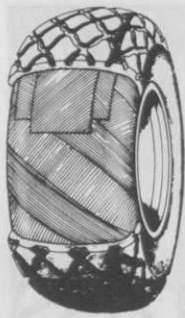
Our only other real problem, although some people wouldn't think of it as such (and knowing your weather in Great Britain, it's a problem I wouldn't swap), is the extreme dry heat (Maximum 42°C, minimum 22°C, with relative humidity at 15-20%), which prevents bents and fescues from doing well. This means that we are obliged to follow the Bermudagrass route, which has its compensations because to keep *Poa annua* at bay we spray with propyzamide (Kerb) annually. It certainly makes fertilising much less of a problem, though in reality our basic principles don't change much and we find something of interest applicable to our circumstances in every issue of Greenkeeper International.

Should any members of BIGGA happen to visit nearby Victoria Falls, they will be made most welcome here – just contact the Elephant Hills Hotel and they will radio me. I would welcome the opportunity to talk 'shop' with a kindred spirit who knows what he is doing without declaring himself an 'expert'. Isolation is a problem which I guess is not easily appreciated by most greenkeepers, but I can tell you that when I see all the splendid training courses, seminars and opportunities for social intercourse available for you people over there, my mouth really waters.

repaired right here in our workshops.

It has taken a year to rectify the mistakes that were made, mistakes that in my opinion could have been avoided by a single reading of 'The Care of the Golf Course' from the STRI. As I observed to one member of the construction committee, 'election or appointment to a green committee does not immediately endow a person with encyclopaedic knowledge of golf course construction or operation, in fact, quite the reverse is true, as such people tend to lose what little knowledge they ever had'. This truism did not go down well.

Now the course is up and running we can concentrate on simple 'golf course' problems, which in a National Park means that we have a full range of wild animals with which to contend. A Buffalo or hip-



The Twin GT by Trelleborg is a low pressure tyre. It has a large air volume and can be driven at very low inflation pressure. The large contact area, combined with low pressure, gives minimum soil compaction. The pores of the soil are not pressed together so the soil remains loose, the grass is able to absorb nutrition, and the drainage is unaffected

Making tracks

HUGH TILLEY reports on tyre options for vehicles on the golf course

Realisation that tyres are a major contributor to soil compaction has resulted in a change in the types of tyre used on golf courses, while the risk of soil compaction has been increased by greater volumes of traffic as clubs become more mechanised and use heavier equipment, typically with the use of tractor-mounted slitters and corers replacing pedestrian machines. Furthermore, it is not just greens and tees which are getting increased traffic, fairways and rough get more traffic too.

The concise dictionary definition of tyre is 'a rubber ring placed round wheel of vehicle to prevent jarring', however this only reveals one single function. Most tyres are required to transmit traction or steering forces and spread the weight of a load as well as acting as shock absorbers. Tyre technology and reliability have developed very considerably in the last few decades but then so have the demands placed upon them.

Greenkeepers give low ground pressure and minimum grass damage their highest priority and this usually takes precedence over grip. Nevertheless, grip is often required and without it smearing of the grass or soil surface is likely – a problem which may be no less important than compaction when it comes to reducing air and water permeability.

There is a direct relationship between tyre and ground pressures and most vehicles designed specifically for turf have wide low-pressure tyres, typically with pressures under 15 psi or 1.0 bar. These tyres will also have a non-aggressive

tread pattern, which will not impress or cut in, thus further minimising the danger of soil and turf damage. A useful way to assess ground pressure and damage potential is to run over some loose sand such as the edge of a bunker and measure the impression. It will be seen that traditional traction tyres such as those used on agricultural tractors are likely to leave marks fully one or two inches (25mm-50mm) deep. Ribbed steering tyres may be even worse, and because they are narrow they are liable to produce even higher contact point loadings. The worse culprits of all are two-wheel drive loader tractors with conventional single rib steering tyres.

Vulnerability to damage is also effected by soil conditions, when wet poorly structured soils such as clay are easy to compact and deform, as are some of the finer sands. Thus care needs to be taken in these circumstances. Similarly, wet conditions are also likely to produce lush grass which is more easily smeared, and of course wet conditions reduce tyre adhesion and so make slipping more likely. All tractors and most mowers are offered with various tyre options, the cheapest inevitably being the narrowest and potentially the most damaging.

Unfortunately there is a direct relationship between ground pressure and grip: greater weight provides greater grip, hence agricultural tractors which are loaded up with weight to gain traction. Fortunately grip and traction can also be increased by increasing the ground contact area or footprint, hence the market for very wide low ground pres-



If the soil is compacted the roots do not have the space they need to absorb water and nutrition. The grass becomes weak and less resistant to damage or disease

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sure (Igp) or flotation tyres and even dual wheels. These options are available for the golf course tractor, though they do mean an investment which can be quite significant as wider, stronger wheels will likely be required. Of course there is little point in putting wide wheels on the back unless the same is done for the front axle. Problems can arise with older tractors – due to the extra forces imposed on the steering system and axle – and in many cases it will be more cost effective to start with a new tractor bought with the right wheels and tyres.

There is contention over exactly what is low ground pressure, with some tyre manufacturers maintaining that their low profile tyres fitted to standard rims and operated with low inflation pressure have a low ground pressure. This is something the greenkeeper should judge for himself – try the sand-pit test.

Equally important to ground pressure is tread pattern, eg. cleated, barred or ribbed tyres produce localised higher pressures on the ground with greater grass damage. Worst offenders are new agricultural tyres designed for grip, and easy options include dual-purpose road/traction tyres such as those found on diggers, which have more rubber and are less aggressive, while full road tread patterns are even better – all of these fit standard rims. However, there are a growing number of tyres with treads specifically designed for fine turf and these are likely to be produced with a wide (or wider) profile and softer sidewalls, thus further reducing damage potential. This can be done because these tyres do not need great sidewall strength as they are not designed for traction.

'Preventing jarring' is of course one of the most important aspects of a tyre as far as the golf course is concerned, as most ride-on machinery has minimal other suspension – perhaps a sprung seat – and thus depends on the air in the tyres. Obviously the greater the pressure the harder the ride.

Tyre markings provide a great deal of information and need to be quoted in full when ordering replacement or alternative tyres. Tyre developments have complicated the marking system to the extent that it can be confusing to all but the experienced, and there are a number of traps for the unwary, particularly if trying to fit non-standard sizes and tyres on wheels produced to differing standards. While the first numbers give tyre size and the nominal rim diameter, the final alphanumeric code is now likely to be a speed/load indicator, which imparts detail of the tyre's load rating at specific maximum speeds – this code replaces the ply rating given in the past – still found on many older tyres.

Other problems in fitting alternative sized tyres and wheels include the possibility of altering rolling radius so that speeds vary. This is not significant if only the speedometer is effected, however with four wheel drive there is a danger that front and rear axle can be mismatched, leading to wind-up and potential damage to the drives. Specialists in this field should have tables to provide a list of the possible options.

Few regulations apply to golf course machinery tyres unless used on the road, when they must be 'suitable' and in good order. Health and Safety requirements will apply to inflation pressures and to maintenance, especially if you have your own compressor. However, most turf tyres operate at relatively low pressure, where there is little danger of a high pressure blow-out.

Maintenance of tyres should be a simple routine of regular inspection and pressure check. This inspection should look for wear and damage, particularly to the wall → 10



Top: Is this really necessary? Will the added weights come off when the implement is removed from the tractor? Too much weight in the wrong place is bad for both turf and tractor

Middle picture: A decent width of tyre – but it still may leave lines

Left: Ugh! Tractor 'traction' tyres at play – is this necessary?

Making tracks

9 and shoulder, as early discovery can often save sudden failure or prevent premature wear and damage. Marking the correct pressure, either on the vehicle or on the wall near the pump, makes it easier to ensure that tyres are maintained at optimum pressure. Load carriers such as trailers have a range of optimum pressures, but inevitably these have to be set for the maximum load – unless you are prepared to adjust pressures frequently.

Tyres are actually designed for a specific deflection, or bulge, and the use of pressure as a measure of inflation is purely for convenience, allowing the tyre to be set for maximum loading and preventing over-inflation. Nevertheless with non-load carriers it is perfectly practical to measure the deflection rather than put a gauge to the valve.

Some greenkeepers undertake their own repair of punctures but most rely on specialist fitters. Punctures should not be a frequent occurrence unless you have bad tracks or are abusing your tyres by driving over rocks at high speed. If you have a lot of punctures, perhaps you should first look at the specification of the tyres – chances are that they are under-specified and an alternative make or pattern may provide the simple solution. Other premature failures come from misuse, abuse and under inflation, causes about which most tyre fitters readily inform you, especially if you accuse them of supplying a faulty tyre. However, tyre faults do occur occasionally and most manufacturers are happy to give a replacement or credit when this is due.

That stated, most greenkeepers get very good value from their tyres and apart from an occasional puff of air, seldom need to touch them from the time the machine is purchased until it is sold or scrapped – this makes it vital that the right tyres are fitted right from the start.

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Trade Topics



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■ A new range of distinctively styled tractors has been launched by Renault Agriculture Ltd. Identified by the new name and logo – CERES – the new line-up has power outputs from 54 to 83 DIN hp. Of particular interest will be the availability of a creeper transmission and the ability to lock a spool valve in the open position.

Comprising four models – the Ceres 65 (54hp), Ceres 75 (65hp), Ceres 85 (75hp) and Ceres 95 (83hp) – virtually every aspect of the range is new, with the exception of the engine. The robust and fuel efficient MWM (Ceres 65, 85 and 95) and Perkins (Ceres 75) power units used in the former MX and PX models have been retained. All models are available with either two or four-wheel drive. Details, Tel: 0608 62727.



■ The Farmura range of Flo Gro Super Concentrates are now available with new colour coded, wrap-round sleeves giving comprehensive information on how to use. Analysis is also expressed in weight:volume, enabling the turf manager to calculate the exact amount of nutrient he wishes to apply. Packed in 10 litre containers there are two containers per outer. With a concentration of two to five times greater than ordinary liquid fertilisers, Super Concentrates claim major advantages in storage, handling, distribution and packaging. Details, Tel: 0233 76241/581. Fax: 0233 76419.

■ Launched for the first time in the UK in April, Supaturf's Dilute 'n Shoot has been repackaged into one litre containers. Dilute 'n Shoot is the alternative way to apply a full strength application of AquaGro Liquid in a quick one-step operation. The package now incorporates a lightweight container of AquaGro Liquid attached to a hand-held spray gun that fits into the end of a standard hose pipe.



The gun injects the correct level of AquaGro Liquid into the flow of water from the hose at a safe level for all turf areas. Details, Tel: 0455 234677.

Update



BOOKINGS FLOOD IN FOR 1994 BTME

A MASSIVE 74% of the total space sold for the 1993 BTME has already been taken up for the 1994 show – and there's still seven months to go!

More and more new companies have confirmed stand spaces, including Amazone, Charterhouse, Philip York, ALS, Brian D Pierson and John Deere. In fact, John Deere have secured one of the largest stands occupied to date. "This is due to our continuing development in the golf and turf industry in the UK and Ireland," says John Deere's Groundcare Division Manager Graham Williams. "We consider the BIGGA exhibition to be the right exhibition to promote our full range of golf course equipment."

A large number of the 1993 exhibitors are increasing the size of their stands – some by twice as much. Hardi, Rhône Poulenc, ADAS and Lloyd & Co have all booked double the amount of space they occupied last year – and in some cases, more.

The event's international flavour continues to grow with enquiries coming in from Europe and the USA.

The 1994 education programme is almost finalised and details will be announced soon. Workshops take place before the show opens and informative seminar sessions run concurrently with the exhibition.

Halls are filling fast for the Harrogate event. By 18th June, 76 companies had already paid their deposits to secure their stands. Bookings will be accepted through to the date of the show itself – but the longer companies leave it, the less choice of space will be available.

Call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 if your company would like more details and a BTME information pack.

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You could WIN your way to BTME '94, the star-spanned Exhibition and Education Seminar programme that's Number One in the industry!

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Second prize: Return rail travel, two night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions. Value: £200.

Third prize: A single night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions. Value: £100.

THIS MONTH'S BIG QUESTION

★ Who is John Deere's Groundcare Division Manager?

Keep your answer to this month's Big Question – and the three from last month – in a safe place. There'll be a question next month and a final one in September, together with full details of where to send your entry.

Note: competition not open to BIGGA staff. No cash alternatives. Full entry details in September 1993 edition of Greenkeeper International.

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THE NEED FOR SPEED

Has your club ever suffered from post-Augusta syndrome? Sometime within a few weeks of the great event you arrive at work, bleary-eyed, at six o'clock on a Sunday morning to do your duty and cut for the day's competition. Arriving at the sheds you find a note pinned to the door which reads: 'Greens are too slow. Lower cut. Green Chairman.'

Knowing that you will shortly have a horde of members champing at the bit, ready to fill the course with some terrible golf and cheerful expletives, the last thing anyone would want is to have to start ripping units from machines and messing around with height bars. It is little wonder then, that in the post-Augusta days, greenkeepers have been known to roundly curse televised golf in general and Americans in particular.

One might ask at this time if the rest of the US suffers from the same backlash, or is the need for speed a driving force in American golf? Following the words of Dr Robert Brame (USGA Green Section) delivered at this year's BIGGA Education Conference, the latter would seem to be true. Not only do our American colleagues accept this, they boast to each other about speeds achieved and will go to extremes to effect improvement. For instance, cutting at one eighth of an inch has become widespread. In an effort to dissuade courses from doing this, agronomists have endorsed the use of powered ride-on rollers, recently introduced, to produce good speeds with a raised cutting height. The findings have been, however, that course superintendents are using the rollers and still cutting at one eighth to produce ever-faster surfaces. Further, grass species for greens are being selected purely for their ability to produce fast surfaces. As a result, Dr. Brame tells us that the fine courses at Pebble Beach and Pine Valley are growing stands of pure *Poa annua* because it gives the best results.

Returning to the UK, it would be fair to say that most club golf is not played under these constraints. I wonder however, how many agronomists in this country are fed up with being called to judge (to borrow a biblical expression) 'the quick and the dead'? The agronomist's consensus on cutting height for greens would seem to be as follows: a quarter of an inch is desirable; three sixteenths if you must; any less – a sharp intake of breath and 'don't tell anyone I advised it'!

It is understandable that when a sensi-

ble programme of aeration, nutrition, watering etc, has been recommended, to find greens that are nearly white through close mowing and scalped down to the soil on the smallest undulations, any agronomist may begin to despair.

Nevertheless, the stimpmeter is with us. The simple inclined-plane device that at the correct elevation causes a ball to roll more than eleven feet across a green at Augusta may now have become the short yardstick for us all. Many older greenkeepers consider the implement is only fit for testing marbles – if the user has any! Perhaps, however, the owner of a Mini may be forgiven for wanting to drive a Porsche, and the golfer likewise.

So where does this leave the greenkeeper? Opinion seems to vary on what is the balance point on cutting height to give optimum speeds and maintain a healthy sward. Some would hold that they can cut at three sixteenths all year round with no adverse effects. Others cut closer for major competitions only and allow the greens to recover afterwards. Cutting aside, it is becoming increasingly common to use other management techniques to adjust green speeds, these being multi-cutting, grooming, rolling and irrigation control.



by **TONY HOWARTH**

To offer a brief comment on each – cutting greens twice or more in different directions can increase speeds, but this follows the law of diminishing returns. Grooming aims to give speed by thinning the sward. Rolling, with the turf-iron type ride-on machine, is claimed by manufacturers to increase green speed considerably. All of the above may be helpful in achieving faster green speeds without closer mowing. I wonder, however, what the compound effects will be in terms of compaction? Even grooming means units with extra weight running over the greens.

At one time cricket wickets and golf greens were diametrically opposed in the turf management spectrum. Will we next see the introduction of the sarel roller to golf green maintenance to enable water

to penetrate the surface? Returning to the last alternative – irrigation control – this method may, if miscalculated, prove the most costly. To use the cricket analogy again, it is a requirement that a wicket is allowed to dry out in preparation for a match to inject pace. The same approach may be employed with a golf green. But at what cost? The green could become unreceptive to the approach shot and leave the golfer with an unfair challenge irrespective of his putting ability. The worst scenario could also include loss of sward due to drought stress.

All techniques designed to increase green speed may have their pitfalls, but if Curtly Ambrose turns up at your eighteenth green one day and expresses a desire to bowl on it, I think it's a fair bet that there is something wrong.

I think it is important also to look at green speed from the point of view of the golfer. If most of us could ride a docile old nag, not many would fancy his chances with a racehorse. So, it is not surprising on the day after the big competition to find the club regular standing slack-jawed on the first green as his putt snakes two feet left of the pin and ends up six feet past. His game is not set up for this level of green speed, and I would ask, is anyone's?

Augusta is a marvellous spectacle set out to test the best in the world. But when we see top golfers using cross-handed grips and chin-high putters, ostensibly to control the putting 'yips', are we doing the right thing? When a stroke becomes a nudge and a good reading becomes a good guess, I wonder.

■ As an interesting aside, the committee at Augusta National posted the cutting regimes undertaken during this year's Masters as follows: "Our fairways are now being mowed at 7/16", the tees at 3/8", the greens at 1/8", and these levels are to be maintained until the conclusion of the tournament. All mowing schedules are, of course, subject to weather conditions." Augusta's greens are Pennncross bentgrass, tees and tees Bermudagrass. The course is closed for play between May and October. – Editor.

What do you think? Do you feel the need for speed? Do you have any good techniques? Letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL.

Letters

Send your letters to the editor, *Greenkeeper International*, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

Problems of us and them

May I offer my sincere congratulations on the timely editorial highlighting the situation 'greenkeeper replaced by milkman from committee.' Granted, this was seen as a 'mere trickle that could become a flood', but there are, believe me, many similar cases that do not necessarily come to the attention of the Association.

I too suffered a similar fate – at the whim of a committee member who I apparently upset over a matter of 'policy'. I had been head greenkeeper and, latterly, course manager for 26 years. I left of my own accord and compensation was paid to me following my taking legal action.

I am of the opinion that this whole 'fire at whim' situation needs careful consideration by our Association, if only to provide help and guidance for future victims. Clubs always will face problems when short-term committee members make long-term decisions – which may be altered or scrapped at a later date. The only man to see through such course-related policies is the head greenkeeper – after all, he above all has a vested interest and he usually survives longer than any committee. Please understand, I have no wish to devalue the duties of elected committees, but in so many instances a better and closer working relationship would remove problem situations. Certainly, when we arrive at the 'milkman' situation, we are on the start of a very slippery slope indeed.

My congratulations also for a superb magazine month upon month. The content and format are excellent and the editorial style especially is of the highest calibre – our gain is Fleet Street's loss. As a long established member of the greenkeeping profession, I am as proud now of my membership in BIGGA as I have ever been. Any greenkeeper who is not a member doesn't know what he's missing – though it can be likened to doing the job with only one arm!

JOHN D LOWERY
Timperley, Cheshire

Control at a distance

The editorial comment (April '93) regarding advisors setting themselves up as surrogate greenkeepers prompts me to reply.

I see my role as one of aiding the golf course developer, the golf club and the head greenkeeper. Many head men are relatively young and have good educational qualifications, but they are often lacking experience in the field.

When I was in the 'operational front-line' I always welcomed advice on any particular problem I might have. Though I didn't always heed the advice, I found it beneficial to learn of the options available. Judging by some of

the new courses I have seen in recent weeks, there are some chronic errors still being perpetrated, this at a time when we should be able to get it right the first time around.

Well paid and experienced course managers/head greenkeepers need have nothing to fear from consultants as long as the consultant is experienced in the areas for which he is being consulted – a second opinion is always worth while, especially if it saves a limb!

DAVID JONES

International Golf Course Consultant, David Jones & Associates, Chepstow, South Wales
• *The point made in the leader – growing concern that some consultants are reportedly attempting to usurp the head greenkeeper and run a golf course by 'remote control' – remains real reason for disquiet. If my comments result in just one green committee re-thinking a suspect decision, a valuable purpose will have been served.* – Editor.

Fescue's future assured

Regarding 'Future of the Fescue' (May '93 issue), may I offer the following observations? I firmly believe that the greenkeeper should be as conscientious regarding selection of grass seed varieties and mixtures as the farmer is when selecting semen from the right breed of bull to inseminate the cow.

Yes, there is a future for the fescue, but before explaining the breakthrough in the breeding of fescue I must debate the contentious comment in the first paragraph of Tony Howarth's article – "Seldom is a top quality seed mix offered without it". I question this, being of the opinion that only seldom does a seed mix contain top quality varieties. More importantly, I ask – when have top quality varieties been used? In my experience, varieties and mixtures have all too often been selected on price alone.

Howarth asks: Is the greenkeeper able to achieve a fescue/bent green? The answer is yes, right now (and certainly in the future), with the breakthrough of Barcrown slender creeping red fescue, Baruba/Bargreen chewing fescue and with good management, the greenkeeper is able to achieve a fescue/bent green and he can also control *Poa annua*.

What do I mean by 'the breakthrough in the breeding of fescue'? Ongoing discussions with greenkeepers, architects, agronomists and our breeders has enabled them (the breeders) to collect and breed varieties which are tailor-made for golf course requirements. Nowadays, greenkeepers are confronted with more complicated influences: heavily polluted soils, low maintenance requirements, environmental laws, saline conditions and extreme wear conditions for greens and tees. All of these criteria highlight the need for accurate information, in order to match specification to demand.

In the past, many failures occurred because of poorly selected species, varieties or mixtures, (often selected merely on price), and we know for certain that even forage grasses have been used for amenity purposes. In the sixties Barenbrug started to change its breeding goals, beginning with the desire to breed new varieties which would withstand the stresses and extreme conditions required for golf. Simultaneously, our breeders became convinced that grasses bred under poorer environmental conditions, eg. on soil with low fertility levels and given less water and/or nutrition, would give a better indication of quality.

It then became clear to us that varieties bred in poor conditions performed as well as other varieties which demanded higher maintenance levels. The concept of testing new varieties under stress conditions such as drought, low fertility soil, minimal fertiliser application and pressure from diseases etc., proved successful. The first results came in the late seventies, and in the eighties a real breakthrough was achieved.

All this may clearly be seen, reflected in official independent trials conducted by institutes such as the CPRO in Holland, the INRA in France and the Sports Turf Research Institute in Britain. BIGGA members would find it worthwhile to inspect the findings contained within the booklet 'STRI Turfgrass Seed 1993', and we at Barenbrug would be happy to supply copies free of charge.

Above all, let it be stressed that with good management and the careful selection of cultivars and mixtures, rather than with the hit or miss 'bag of seed for the green' approach, healthier greens with more fescue can be assured.

MICHEL MULDER

Marketing Director, Barenbrug UK Ltd,
PO Box 2, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9NW

Please give me a chance

I have been a member of BIGGA for over five years but due to unemployment and limited finances I have been unable to renew my subscription for 1993. This has meant that I have been unable to see your excellent recruitment pages and thus my chances of finding further employment in greenkeeping are restricted. So, if any employer reading my letter would care to give a chance to a 22 year old greenkeeper with five years experience, together with Phases I and II in Greenkeeping, I would welcome their contacting me.

In the meantime, I thank BIGGA and Greenkeeper International for all they have done for the profession and look forward to the day when I can return to the fold of such a forward and excellent Association.

ROB PARKES

177 Coast Road, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 3US
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1993 13

SOLUTIONS TO

by Dr James Beard,
Director and Chief Scientist,
International Sports Turf
Institute; Professor Emeritus
of Turfgrass Science, Texas
A&M University

Most sports and recreational turfs are subjected to traffic stresses. A hidden but very important component of traffic stress is soil compaction, which is defined as the pressing together of soil particles into more dense mass. Soil compaction tends to be greater in the upper 50 to 75 mm of the root zone profile. Proneness to soil compaction tends to be greater (a) in finer textured soils such as clays, particularly in comparison to sands in the medium particle size range, (b) at higher soil water contents, and (c) with a higher amount of canopy biomass to function as a cushion to traffic stress pressures.

Traffic stress pressure aspects

Another aspect affecting soil compaction is the intensity and frequency of pressure applied during traffic stress. Basically, pressure is calculated based on the weight of the pedestrian or vehicle divided by the surface area actually in contact with the turf-soil surface. Consequently, to minimise soil compaction it is desirable to have as great a contact surface area as possible relative to the amount of weight being applied. For example, a footballer with studs or flat-cleated shoes has a majority of the weight applied on the base of the cleats, in contrast to a flat to wafer-shaped tennis shoe where the pressure is applied broadly across the full base surface area. This results in a 25-fold greater intensity of traffic pressure where stud/cleated shoes are used in contrast to flat-soled shoes. For the same reason, a golf shoe with the traditional hubs or shoulder

with spikes results in much higher pressure stress in comparison to spiked shoes with either inverted metal bases flat with the sole or else nonspiked shoes.

In terms of the frequency at which traffic pressure is applied, obviously the more frequently that pressure stresses are applied, the greater the potential for increased soil compaction problems. There are a diversity of traffic control techniques that can be used to encourage broader distribution of traffic across turfed areas. In the case of sports fields, it may necessitate developing a greater number of sports fields so that use can be reduced on any one field by rotation of play to allow turf rest and recovery periods.

Effects of soil compaction

The pressing together of soil particles into a more dense soil mass as a result of traffic pressure causes a number of problems in maintaining a healthy, dense turf. The first negative event resulting from soil compaction is the loss of macro-pore space and associated soil aeration. Turfgrass roots and beneficial soil micro-organisms require oxygen for respiration to support vital life processes. The loss of soil aeration results in (a) the inability of oxygen to move from the above external atmosphere into the root zone environment and, (b) the blockage in outward movement of excessive carbon dioxide and anaerobic gases that are potentially toxic to the turfgrass root system and beneficial micro-organisms. The loss of porosity in the root zone also significantly reduces the water infiltration and percolation rates and therefore increases the amount of precipitation lost by surface runoff. The lack of oxygen and presence of potentially toxic



Mesh system from Netlon Advanced Turf: the healthy rootzone is proven to promote quick recovery from divoting and increase the turf surface's load-bearing capacity and compaction resistance

anaerobic gases and chemicals result in functional restrictions of the turfgrass root system, and eventually root dieback, which in turn is reflected in reduced turfgrass health and eventually actual thinning of the above ground canopy.

Correcting soil compaction problems

Problems develop on extensive turf areas that can only be managed through corrective measures such as turf cultivation. By definition, turf cultivation refers to mechanical methods of selectively tilling an established turf without destroying the sod characteristics. The goal of this practice is to enhance exchange of air and water between the soil and the above atmosphere. Since soil compaction is most severe in the upper 50 to 75mm, it is important that turf cultivation operations penetrate at least 80mm, and preferably 100mm deep.

A key principle in implementation of turf cultivation operations is that they be used only as needed to correct a developing soil compaction problem. In other words, it should not be used as a



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COMPACTION

routine cultural practice, as there are negative aspects as well as positive benefits. Deep turf cultivation may never be needed on high-sand root zones constructed of the proper particle size analysis, whereas turf cultivation may be needed as frequently as monthly during the playing season on intensively trafficked, fine-textured clay soils. Symptoms used in diagnosis of soil compaction problems requiring turf cultivation include (a) a more impervious, hard soil mass as indicated by increasing difficulty in pushing a soil probe or cup cutter into the profile, (b) a reduction in the amount of water penetrating into the soil per unit of irrigation time, (c) reduced rooting depth and root number, and (d) actual thinning of the turf canopy. Turf cultivation is best accomplished when the soil is relatively moist to ensure maximum penetration and at a time of the year when moisture and tempera-



Coring: the Ryan DGA-05 high capacity airtor

ture conditions will ensure rapid turf recovery over the openings, but when the seed germination and invasion of problem weedy species are minimised.

Coring

A form of turf cultivation involving a hollow tine to remove soil cores and leave a hole in the turf-soil profile is termed coring. There also are devices that pro-

duce an opening and lift out soil by means of drilling. Coring generally has been preferred over the years in terms of beneficial responses. There is the option of either (a) removing the soil cores, if of an undesirable soil texture, followed by topdressing with an improved root zone mix, or (b) returning the soil cores, if of an acceptable turf texture, during

which they are broken up and matted across the turf surface where they serve as a topdressing to enhance thatch decomposition. Most traditional coring machines penetrate 85 to 100mm deep. The more recent innovative development of deep tine coring units with the capability of penetrating 200 to 300mm deep has proven very beneficial in many situations. However, this does not mean that this deep penetration unit will replace the more traditional coring devices. Both approaches have a place in the culture of intensively maintained turfgrasses for sports and recreation uses.

Slicing

A form of turf cultivation involving a deep vertical cutting action that provides soil openings and loosening, but without removal of soil, is termed slicing. It typically involves V-shaped knives mounted in a circular arrangement. The penetration → 16



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15 → depth depends on the weight applied to the slicing knives. Slicing does not cause as much disruption of the turf surface as coring but, by the same token, it is not as effective in enhancing soil water and air interchange. However, it is used effectively where a soil compaction problem has started to develop in the upper 50 to 75mm that cannot be corrected by coring, because it would be objectionable to the users during periods of intense play, or when high level competitions are scheduled.

Injection displacement

A recent innovation in turf cultivation involves the development of high pressure pulses of water or air that create openings in the soil profile to varying depths up to more than 200mm. The water injection displacement unit has created a great deal of interest, and is an innovative mechanical procedure involving sophisticated mechanical engineering approaches. They are advantageous on greens in that turf cultivation is achieved with minimal surface disruption. However, in the process of soil displacement, the soil must be moved somewhere and there is the question of just how much localised soil compaction or differential displacement of certain soil particles may occur under continued use. Time and further research will answer these questions. In the meantime, turf cultivation by water injection displacement is another tool which the turf manager has available to choose, depending on the particular circumstances under which the soil compaction problem develops.

Spiking

Turf cultivation involving shallow perforations of the turf surface by solid tines or blades is termed spiking. Because the penetration is only 20 to 30mm, spiking does not correct a major soil compaction problem. Rather spiking is used to break up an impermeable organic/compacted surface layer. It can prove particularly effective on high-sand root zones of the proper particle size distribution

when the profile as a whole has an adequate infiltration rate and all that is needed is to break up the impermeable surface layer.

Preventing soil compaction

The preferred approach to solving soil compaction problems is a preventive basis. This typically involves root zone modification which tends to be relatively costly and thus is restricted to moderate to small areas such as sports fields, putting greens, and tees. The objectives of root zone modification are to select a particle size distribution that will have minimal compaction tendency, and maximum air and water exchange with the upper atmosphere. Construction starts with the proper subsurface drainage system. A 300 to 350mm deep root zone is placed over a gravel or crushed stone drain-bed of 100mm in depth. The best long-term performance has involved placement of a 50-60mm coarse sand layer above the drain-bed to create a perched hydration zone. This minimises soil drought stresses typical of sand root zones that do not possess a perched hydration zone. Construction systems such as the older Texas-USGA Method or the more recently published 1993 USGA guidelines are found to be the most effective (*see References*).

It is essential that the high-sand root zone contains a fully decomposed organic matter component to ensure proper buffering in terms of nutrient availability and protection against excessive leaching and allied environmental quality concerns. Note: the gravel, sand or organic matter materials being assessed for use in the root zone modification must be chosen based on established, detailed physical soil analysis, following the procedures outlined in the USGA guidelines.

Mesh system

A recent innovative development, one that has been researched since 1985, is use of the randomly oriented interlocking mesh element system. High-sand root zones have many advantages but they do tend to be less stable. There are a number of types of fibres available of a two-dimen-

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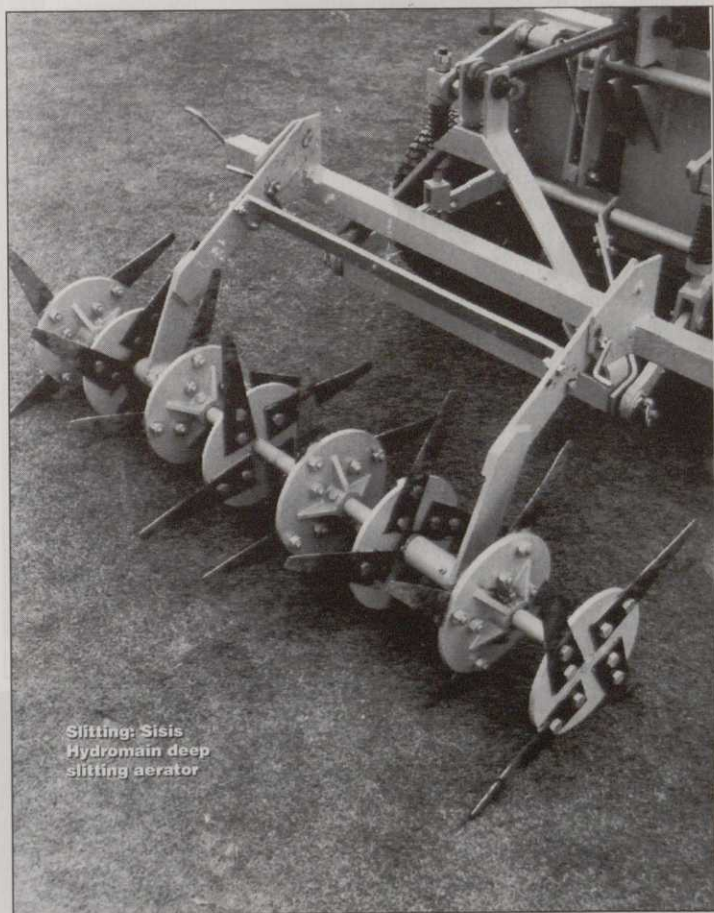
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sional nature that contribute to stabilisation of sands. However, only the three-dimensional interlocking mesh element system offers not only maximum soil stabilisation and root anchorage for reduced divoting, enhanced rate of divot turf recovery and lateral cleat tear, but also increased (a) soil water infiltration, (b) soil moisture retention, and (c) aeration, with resultant enhanced rooting and overall turfgrass health. These beneficial responses are attributed to a unique internal self-cultivation effect due to a flexing action of the three-dimensional, interlocking mesh elements randomly distributed through the upper 150mm of the root zone profile at a rate of 5kg/m³. The three-dimensional, interlocking mesh system with unique internal flexing also provides (a) a less hard surface, (b) a more uniform ball bounce, and (c) a superior load-bearing capacity. Based on eight years of detailed research, plus a number

of successful real-world constructions installed with the proper subsurface drainage systems, the mesh element system has demonstrated great promise for use on sports fields, horse race tracks, golf tees, cart paths, and intensively trafficked areas requiring high load-bearing capacities.

References

1. USGA Green Section Staff. 1993. USGA recommendation for a method of putting green construction. USGA Green Section Record. March/April. pp. 1-3.
 2. Beard, JB and SI Sifers. 1993. Stabilisation and enhancement of sand-modified root zones for high traffic sport turfs with mesh elements. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. B-1710:1-40.
- Editor's note: the interlocking mesh elements described are available world-wide as Netlon Advanced Turf. Further information concerning this process may be obtained by telephoning 0254 262431.

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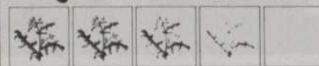
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Education

The introduction of National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications to our industry has had serious implications for greenkeeper training.

The principles of vocational qualifications are endorsed by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), however it is more than a little concerned regarding the qualification standards agreed by the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture (ILBAH) on behalf of greenkeeping.

Unfortunately, golf greenkeeping only employs around 10-11,000 persons in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and with such numbers, this does not give the profession its own Lead Body status.

However, in order to protect the greenkeeping profession, the GTC moved swiftly in producing a new Training Manual, which incorporates the standards of NVQ/SVQ Amenity Horticulture.

The manual already includes the craft level skills and work is in progress to produce supervisory and management sections by the end of this year.

The changes in education have also coincided with major changes in how our training colleges are funded. I do not intend to explain the problems they have caused,

except to say that all colleges are now self governing and will need to be cost effective. The warning is clear to all, be careful if you plan to send a greenkeeper to college, check with the GTC Education Unit and establish that the training course on offer is at the agreed level. The GTC will soon issue a directory of colleges 'approved' to provide such courses, be they craft, supervisory or management levels.

It has to be suggested that whilst NVQ/SVQs are supposed to be work-based qualifications, it would be negligent of our industry to undo



the great work carried out at some colleges and whilst we intend to very closely monitor all training courses offered for greenkeeping, it is vital that we encourage golf clubs to support the courses which are offered, to complement the widely-acclaimed Training Manual.

There will be numerous centres offering NVQ/SVQ Level 2 (Greenkeeping Option), but beware, many of these establishments have no experience in training greenkeepers or assessing standards in our profession.

The NVQ/SVQ qualification in greenkeeping is under review by the ILBAH and the GTC is continuing to lobby for the Training Manual to be recognised as a candidate's Record of Achievement for the qualification.

The responsible GTC approved colleges will be offering training courses to complement the GTC training manual, incorporating NVQ/SVQs in Amenity Horticulture.

Having set out standards in the Training Manual and agreed to endorse and approve training courses at certain colleges, we must now provide trained assessors and verifiers to monitor these standards as an industry.

The GTC wishes to train sufficient assessors and verifiers throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and funding will be made available to allow course managers and head greenkeepers to obtain the required qualifications.

Nominations are therefore invited by the GTC from course managers and head greenkeepers who wish to be considered as assessors and/or verifiers. Forward your current curriculum vitae to David Golding, Education Director, at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, or call 0347 838640 for more details.

Management Courses

Applications have been pouring in for the limited number of spaces on the 1993 Management Courses. If you have not already booked, please do so quickly using the postcard in this magazine. A deposit of £100+VAT (£117.50) is required to secure your place. A grant of £150 per week may be available from the GTC for head greenkeepers with no supervisory qualifications.

Following the success of the last three in-house pesticide courses with 100% pass rate, a further course has been scheduled for the week beginning 27th September/1st October at BIGGA HQ. The course tutor will again be Jon Allbutt, who will guide you towards the PA1 and PA2A Certificates. Cost per delegate will be £495+VAT to include accommodation, meals, tuition and testing fees. The course is limited to six delegates, so if you wish to book, call BIGGA now.

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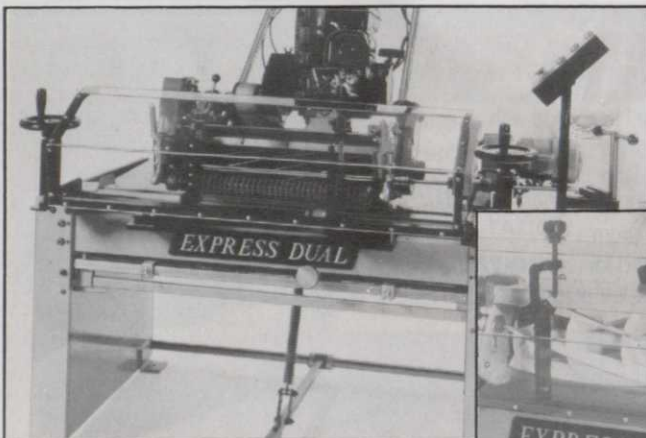
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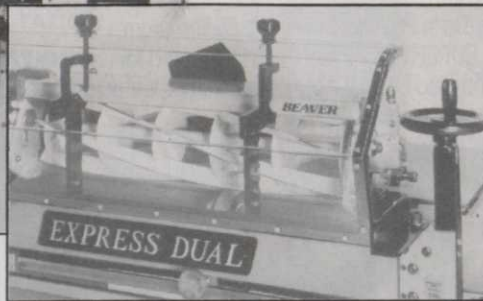
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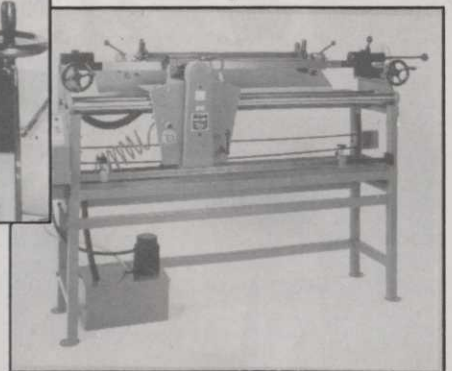


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WIDE OPEN

Mother Nature gets a helping hand from a crew of seven in preparing for this year's Open Golf Championship. DAVID WHITE reports from Royal St George's

Reaching the links at Sandwich Bay, home of the Royal St George's Golf Club and arena for the 122nd Open Golf Championship, is rather like riding a Tardis time-warp machine.

Upon leaving London there's a lovely beginning buzz as thirty or so miles of M2 motorway are gobbled up with rapidity, followed by further encouragement in taking the dual-carriageway which loops around Canterbury, for negotiating that ancient city no longer causes the hassle it once did.

So far, so good, but once free of those 'Canterbury tails' the traveller starts to slip in reverse in terms of modernity. En route to Royal St George's he must negotiate the pretty but twisting and often inadequate A257, following this tiresome frustration with a mere dollop of Sandwich by-pass before plunging aeons back in time to negotiate the town's quaint, mysterious and ridiculously narrow streets, a route infinitely more charming to pedestrians than motorists.

Taking the one-way system, the driver should force himself to ignore the few out-of-character

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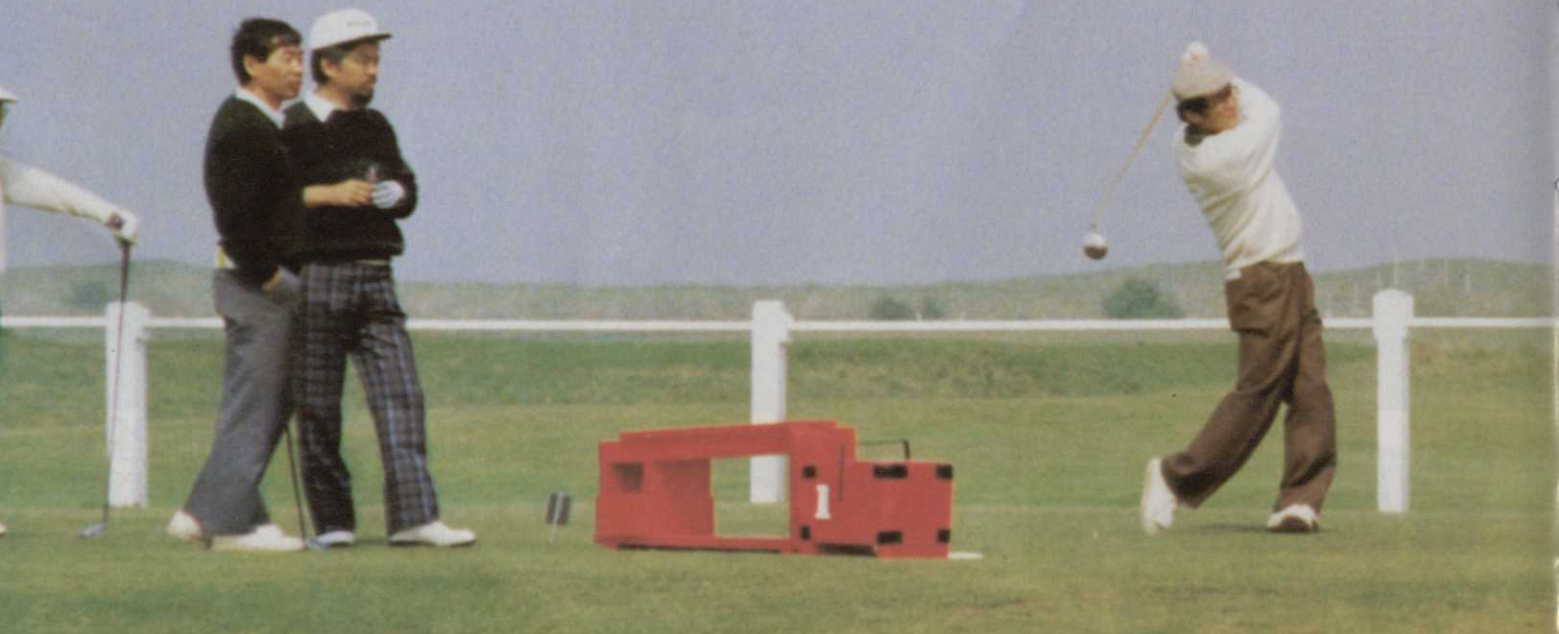


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'We've never ever seen the need to apply fertiliser on the fairway...'



21 → semi's as he leaves the medieval town of Sandwich behind, for suddenly and surprisingly he will come upon an unimposing driveway leading to a comfortable and imposing clubhouse that once was an old Kentish farmhouse. He will have entered the time warp – a place that transports a body back to a style that has survived almost all onslaught of modernity, together with a golf course that is often called the St Andrews of the South, though personally I liken it more to Muirfield, for it shares the same quality of spaciousness and detachment.

Visiting the course in April, I found it difficult to picture this little corner of Kent invaded by hordes of cashmere-sweatered grockles during Open week, for of all Royal St Georges' great characteristics, its greatest is its solitude. In all of its many guises it is a glorious place to golf – on a day when the sea mists swirl over the 'umps and 'ollows it is a place of mystery, when the sunlight shines and pirouettes on the waves across Pegwell Bay it is in a world of its own, isolated maybe, but the skylarks will sing their lungs out and the white cliffs of nearby Ramsgate will positively glow. As for the the wind, was there ever a links worthy of the name that didn't boast a blow – a links just isn't a links without a force seven charging in from the south west – though when storms roll in off the North Sea, Royal St George's can reduce giants to gibbering idiots and it is altogether

too much for players of moderate skill.

'Mother Nature is quite wonderful', I observed, as the club's head greenkeeper, Derek Scarborough, drove me round the course in his trusty Cushman. 'Yes', he replied, 'though what you see today shouldn't be credited to her alone, for this is down to Nature and seven men – she gets a fair share of help from my crew'. Derek Scarborough

PREVIOUS OPEN WINNERS AT ROYAL ST GEORGE'S

1894	John Henry Taylor
1899	Harry Vardon
1904	Jack White
1911	Harry Vardon
1922	Walter Hagen
1928	Walter Hagen
1932	Gene Sarazen
1934	Henry Cotton
1938	Reg Whitcombe
1949	Bobby Locke
1981	Bill Rogers
1985	Sandy Lyle

has been at the club since 1966, leaving Woodhall Spa to become Ralph Davis's assistant and in 1976 taking over the headship when Davis retired. This Open Championship will be the club's thirteenth and Derek's third, though for three of his crew it will be their first. As Derek pointed out, 1981 was undoubtedly a huge challenge as none of

them had been involved in an Open before, though the club is no stranger to the big event and has hosted Amateur Championships, Walker Cups and a European Amateur Team Championship, as well as jointly hosting, with Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, the public schools 'old boy' spring bean-feast that is the Halford Hewitt.

Derek Scarborough appears the very epitome of calm, a man who seems content to let the madness of the world wash over him – I've never met a greenkeeper so laid back – as though he's preparing the course for a monthly medal. 'Of course', he said, 'preparing for The Open is still a challenge, but it hasn't got any harder, for you must understand that I attempt to keep the course in first class condition all the time'. Point taken, but hadn't certain things changed, I asked. Observing that the course had been relatively quiet prior to the '81 Open, Derek is of the opinion that now it seems everyone wants to play and this has obviously brought about some changes in the course maintenance programme. If pressed, he will admit that the Vertidrain is used a little more frequently, but more than anything he puts Royal St George's fine appearance and irresistible turf down to 'just routine maintenance and good greenkeeping practices. 'Yes', he says, 'the course is marvellous, all down to Nature and the crew' – he grins, but you feel it – I could sense it – he's very proud of his team.

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Looking at the course it is easy to see why he is optimism personified, for he tells me that there are no problems, no diseases, and there's plenty of fescue sprouting. The weather (my visit was in April) had been kind, the course was 'looking great' and now they were hoping for kind weather during Open week. 'And if it rains continuously?', I ask. 'Well, the organisation of the course for The Open under R&A appointed agronomist David Stansfield, along with the club committee and The Championship committee, is programmed to the n'th degree, so nothing is left to chance. Being on sandy soil the course drains well -and I honestly don't envisage any problems in that respect, though we need good weather if only to keep the spectators happy'.

The programme leading up to The Open is one of 'business as usual' - with top dressing for the greens done with a mix of the club's own making, using sandy soil taken from fields adjacent to the course, a source sufficient to last well into the next century. Green cutting, normally done with triplexes, moves gradually toward pedestrian Ransomes Auto-Certes as The Open gets nearer, the better to obtain the finish, desired speeds and consistency required. This cutting routine with the Auto-Certes begins at first twice weekly in May, progressing to three, four, five and finally seven days a week as 'the big one' looms close. Blade settings begin at 3/16"

and are very gradually lowered to a minimum of 1/8" - 'we cannot go lower', he told me, 'for the green undulations just would not permit it'. Verticutting takes place twice weekly, greens are watered 'when necessary' and only 'just enough' is applied to keep them healthy - say five minutes each evening, dependent upon God's own contribution.

'We've never overseeded the greens', Derek declared, 'we don't need to, though of course we repair divots on tees and fairways using a proper selected mix. What's more, we've never ever seen the need to apply fertiliser on the fairways'.

In truth, the main cause for concern comes not from golfers but from those terrible twins, wind and erosion - and it was erosion that prompted the Royal St George's committee to instruct Brian Pierson a year or so ago to undertake the complete restoration and revetting of some 75 bunkers - representing about three quarters of the total bunker population. If solitude is one of Royal St George's outstanding characteristics, its bunkers are another - not flat and purposeless like the seashore, but greedy, jeering obstructions that have as great a psychological effect as any I've ever experienced. It's as though they lie around, challenging and defiant, waiting to put the player completely off his stroke. Pierson's have done a wizard job.

Another contractor had recently vacated

the links, having achieved what Derek described as 'a good kill' - in a single day of labour wiping out the irritation of daisies and clover on all the treated fairways. The staff meantime had applied Supertox to the greens and this also had achieved the desired effect - weed free putting surfaces.

Those putting surfaces are Royal St George's third outstanding characteristic, for many a match has been lost on its teasing and mischievous greens when the player's talent elsewhere has been beyond reproach. Most are big, all are undulating, each has hidden fall and slope to catch the unwary - all are infuriatingly cunning... and a drying wind can make them skin slick.

Come the hour the team - comprising Tony Adamo, Chris Marsh, Robin Holloway, Graham Royden, Neil Metcalf and Dennis French - will be on tenterhooks. The course will close for seven days to permit a last roundelay of fine-tuning and the greens will feel the mower blades nip over them at least twice a day. Sandwich's solitude will evaporate, but at a time when too many championship courses have compromised their integrity, were the ghost of Dr Laidlaw Purves to return he'd find the old girl he created much the same as when he left her, deceptive, mean, magnificent - and a terrific test of golf... which should cause Derek Scarborough's men to feel rather pleased with themselves.

GRASS

There will of course be many who read this article who are expert at grass identification – an essential facet of advanced greenkeeping education. Nevertheless, I never cease to be amazed at the very poor level of skill in the identification of grasses in mown turf, and not just by new entrants to the profession.

Yet accuracy in this aspect of greenkeeping training and practice is equally vital to both sound advice and sound management. This inability to pick out even half a dozen of the commonest grasses in mown turf is by no means confined to practical greenkeepers. Advisers, who should know better, not only mis-identify species but confirm their errors in writing! I have in my possession a report from an agronomist purporting to show that on the course he was advising, 'the greens are some of the best annual meadow grass greens I have ever seen' – and those were greens which had been managed on sensible lines for a score of years and which were dominantly *Agrostis*! In another case, the virtues of *Pennecross* were being extolled by one designer whose enthusiasm was matched only by his ignorance, saying it was an excellent, rapidly establishing grass entirely suitable for our climatic and soil conditions, as demonstrated by the greens on his fairly recently built course in the south east – when their grass cover was in fact 100% *Poa annua*, all the *Pennecross* having been killed by a combination of bad management and our cold wet winters.

I well remember on one north-



In this, the first of a two-part feature, straight-talking agronomist JIM ARTHUR gets back to basics

ern California course, their superintendent defending his statement that his 100% *Poa annua* greens were *Pennecross*, on the grounds that they spent so much money every autumn on overseeding the greens that 'they had to be *Pennecross*'. But then he added that he was a chemist not a botanist!

Mis-identification is not confined to confusing bad species with desirable ones. I remember one unconvinced greenkeeper swearing that the 'invading' *Agrostis* and fescue in greens, responding to better management, was in his view annual meadow grass and 'his' annual meadow grass greens were, he swore, *Agrostis*!

I fully accept that identification is not always easy and I confess that I have been picked up more

than once by on-the-ball greenkeepers, when confusing fine-leaved native links bents with equally fine-leaved fescue, relying on the colour change – in winter – of *Agrostis*, often bronze or purple tinged due to frost. So was the fescue. We all make mistakes! It is, in fact, the general appearance and colour, different of course at different times of the year, which give the first clues, but closer examination is always wise, as I know full well, despite the problems of getting down to eye level, with my arthritic knees.

One thing is certain. There is very limited value in teaching grass identification from the examination of mature grasses growing in 'museums' or as 'pot plants'. Any reasonably observant person can be trained to identify common grasses in the flowering head stage. Thrusting bouquets of seeding grasses into students' hands is no way to teach them what is undoubtedly the most important aspect of their craft – the identification of grass species in mown turf.

Luckily, there only a relatively few grasses which are of economic importance in turf, either as beneficial species or as undesirable weeds. I am fully aware that there are well over a hundred grass species (excluding cereals) in the family *Gramineae*, as well as an enormous number of strains. Many, however, are so rare and so localised that even in a lifetime of botanising there are

still a few that I have not seen. My 'life-list' was immeasurably helped by being trained in the field over 45 years ago by a botanist with an international reputation, Bingley's senior adviser, the late Richard Libbey, and on our joint visits to links courses we wagered the first round of drinks that evening on the number of grass species identified in the fairways.

However, if any young (or indeed older) greenkeepers can reasonably accurately identify a very small number of useful species and half a dozen harmful or undesirable 'weeds', then he will have the edge on many 'experts', ranging from university professors to so called turf doctors. Any educational course on grass identification in turf must be based on turf samples (hole cuts from mown grass). You do not see many grasses flowering in close mown turf and even that ubiquitous pest annual meadow grass hardly throws up flowering stems, but flowers and seeds under the blades of the mower.

Of course, practice makes perfect and in time species which can be easily confused, especially at first glance, can be picked out. Initially it is enough to be able to identify the relatively few useful species – when all the rest can be dismissed as irrelevant to greenkeeping, if not actual weeds – in the sure knowledge that few will be able to contradict you!

What then are these species on whose identification correct management must be based? In today's greenkeeping there are really only three species which it is essential to correctly identify, if

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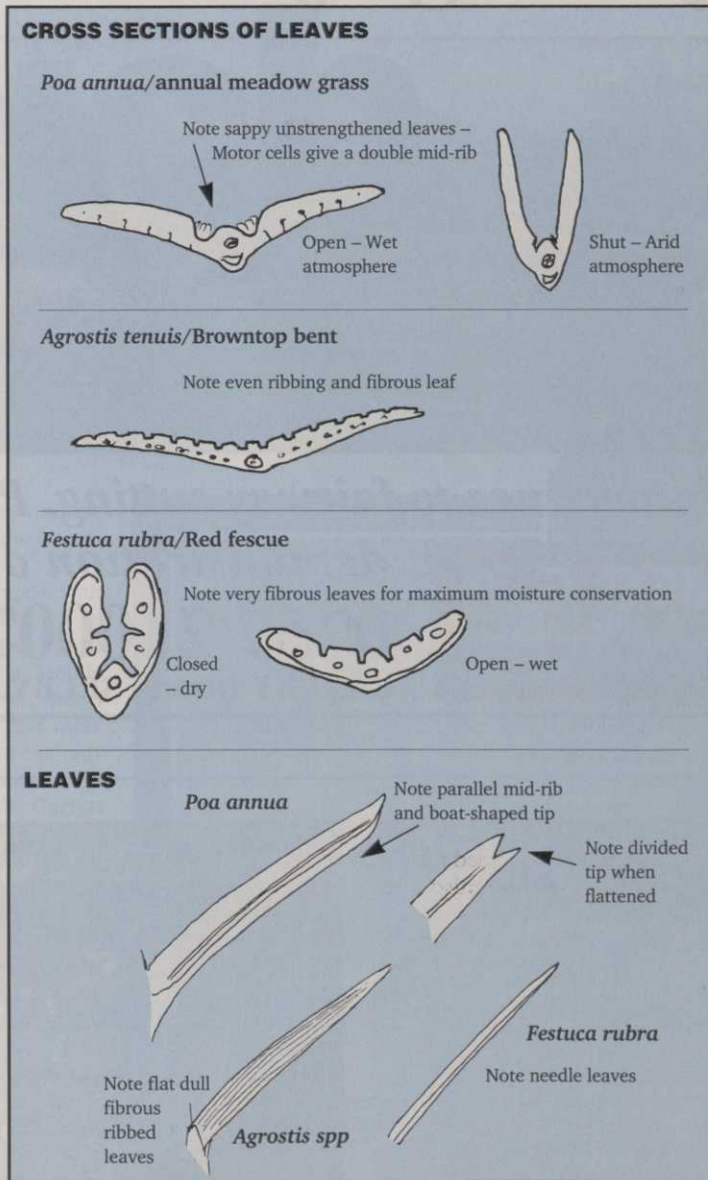
only to be able to assess the progress or otherwise of a line of management or to identify and treat problems (or otherwise), which the dominance of a particular species indicates. These three are the bents (*Agrostis spp*), fine fescues (*Festuca rubra*) and the meadow grasses (*Poa spp*). It is a quirk of botanical fate that the last two, the first so much our ideal grass and the last containing that enemy of greenkeeping, *Poa annua*, are botanically closely related.

There is of course no substitute for field training by a really knowledgeable grass man. It is, I suppose, the same with bird watching. For someone like myself who has been bird watching for 65 years – (and what a suspect hobby it was pre-war and how sophisticated it has all become, with all the twitchers 'artillery' and communication systems) – a glimpse of a bird will tell me at once either what it is – or more important still, suggest that it is something out of the ordinary. There is much in common with bird and grass watching. The first glimpse is equivalent to the first impression – the 'jizz' of the bird. Colour (so variable with the season), texture, reflected light, turf density, upright or spreading growth – all help to group the turf under dominant species.

Some grasses never blend easily with others in a multi-species sward. Fine fescues especially tend to grow in distinct zones, whereas *Agrostis* generally but not invariably mixes well with annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). In passing, look carefully at the margins of such zones. If they are clearly defined, this indicates active growth outwards and so management is favouring that grass. If the margins are indeterminate, with other species 'probing' into the zone, then that grass is suffering and present treatment is not favouring it.

Experience is the best teacher in such matters – you will quickly get to recognise the distinctive greyish or yellow green colour of fine fescue in winter. (Of course, when greens are growing fast, whether fertilised or not, and a uniform green, this masks any colour variations.)

Bents, especially creeping bent



(*Agrostis stolonifera*), turn almost purple after frost and because they have ribbed leaves which do not reflect the light, always look dull. Closer examination will confirm the species within reasonable limits of accuracy. Cross sections of leaves (illustrated) show what to look for. The bents (*Agrostis*) with very close parallel ribs on upper leaf surfaces are quite distinctively different, even to the naked eye, from the fibrous needle leaves of fine fescues and especially the soft, stubby, sappy leaves of our old enemy annual meadow grass. Indeed all the *Poa* species show the same twin parallel mid-rib, (created by two lines of motor cells which open and close the leaf blade in response to wet or dry weather, to produce

the effect of a double, parallel mid-rib as illustrated. Note that all the *Poa* family have leaf-tips shaped like the bow of a boat, and if flattened out, the point splits to give two tips (as illustrated).

One of the problems of grass identification is that the same species can have very varied forms, none more so than *Poa annua*. These forms range from the coarse open growth of the short lived (10 week life cycle) invasive type, colonising any bare ground, to the biennial fine leaved form which characterises old established, over-fed and over-watered greens – in extreme cases forming 'pads', to the detriment of putting surfaces but in its best form responding to frequent mowing and verticutting to pro-

duce tolerable, indeed sometimes excellent, putting surfaces in the growing season.

Two other *Poa*'s are found but are not important in golf greenkeeping. Rough stalked meadow grass, (*Poa trivialis*), is a surface growing (stoloniferous) perennial which is useless in turf. Smooth stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) has masses of rhizomes and is sometimes advised for tees and fairways. Its main disadvantage is that it dies out under close mowing. Its characteristic blue green leaves (with marked boat-shaped tips and double mid rib) are unmistakable – giving it its US name of Kentucky blue-grass. It is not in my view as important as some would have us believe.

Equally, the *Agrostis* species can be very variable. The characteristic surface running stems of creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) are not often seen on greens, but more commonly on less frequently or closely mown surrounds. They contrast, not just with browntop (*Agrostis tenuis*) but with the Penncross family (*A. palustris*) (which is not to be confused with our creeping bent, though often so described on the other side of the Atlantic). This grass is totally unsatisfactory for any area where there is a long, drawn-out, cold, wet winter, as it becomes dormant, sickly, pale and weak under these conditions. For those areas where there is no winter (and no dormancy therefore) or where there is no winter golf, as courses are under feet of snow, it is ideal, being a rapid establisher and with proper management, money and man power it can produce superb surfaces, whether this be in Mediterranean zones, Asia, NZ North Island, or of course certain areas of the United States, but by no means all of them. Under more temperate climates it produces thatch second to none and after dormancy it is so weakened that it soon becomes invaded and eventually replaced by annual meadow grass, even with the skilled management and high budgets which enable it to survive longer.

■ Next month we will deal with the useless or weed grasses, always remembering that what is a rubbishy weed to a greenkeeper can be a productive crop plant to a farmer.

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Keep in touch

MICHAEL BIRD examines communications on the golf course

“OK then Steve, tell me why you wouldn't recommend Citizens Band radio for on-course communications?”

Silence, while Steve Garrett composes an appropriate answer: “Let's put it like this,” he begins. “If I say that CB radio is the equivalent of a crazy golf course and Private Mobile Radio is the equivalent of St Andrews, then I think your readers will understand that there is a world of difference between what can only be described as amateur and professional wireless communications systems.” Mr Garrett ought to know. As sales manager for Cotswold Telecommunications Ltd. he is responsible for advising on and supplying two-way radio systems, cellular radio telephones and radiopaging systems to customers throughout southern England. The company secured the British Standards Institute's BS 5750 part 2 accreditation more than a year ago and is the largest privately-owned provider of mobile communications services in the region with additional sales and service centres at Newton Abbot and Truro.

“Don't think I'm out to knock CB radio,” continues Mr Garrett. “As a public access system, it has an accepted role to play as a low cost means for people on the move or on their own to keep in touch. However, if you want a private conversation with one or more of your staff without worrying about a complete stranger listening or butting in, then CB is not the answer. It has to be Private Mobile Radio, normally known as PMR.”

Why Private? Because each system is allocated a specific operating frequency by the Department of Trade and Industry enabling private communication between all equipment tuned to the same frequency. To prevent others 'tuning in', all equipment has to be pre-set by the supplier to the frequency given by the DTI to each licence holder for use on the assigned channel, with other users within a prescribed area – usually up to 40 miles radius – being 'locked out', preventing access to your designated frequency.

There are four principal frequency bands available to PMR users, each offering a different transmitting characteristic to suit the loca-



Top: Hand portables offer maximum flexibility but can be limited in their range in hilly or built-up areas. In these cases, a fixed base station or community repeater service can improve signal reception.

Above: A base station with appropriate amplifier and aerial can be used to communicate with mobile and portable radio sets over a radius of up to 25 miles.

tion, topography and density of buildings and other obstructions. The bands are VHF low, mid and high, and UHF, each with their own range of frequencies one of which is allocated to the user by the DTI. A preferred frequency band can be indicated on the licence application although if a specific channel is required, the reason must be given.

In London, because of the high demand for PMR during the late 1970s and early 1980s, no new frequencies have been allocated for more than five years, new users having to wait until someone else gives up an existing fre-

quency. Although the UHF band is geographically restricted, it is ideal in built-up areas due to its ability to penetrate steel and concrete better than VHF signals. On the other hand, radio waves produced on VHF low band hug the contours giving good coverage in hilly areas while VHF high band is able to travel long distances in a straight line, producing a high quality signal on open terrain.

These variations in signal characteristics make a thorough site survey the fundamental starting point for anyone considering installing a mobile radio communications system. Mr



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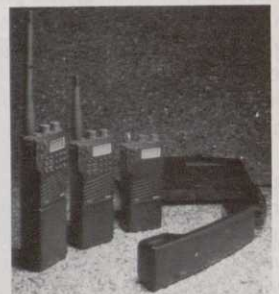
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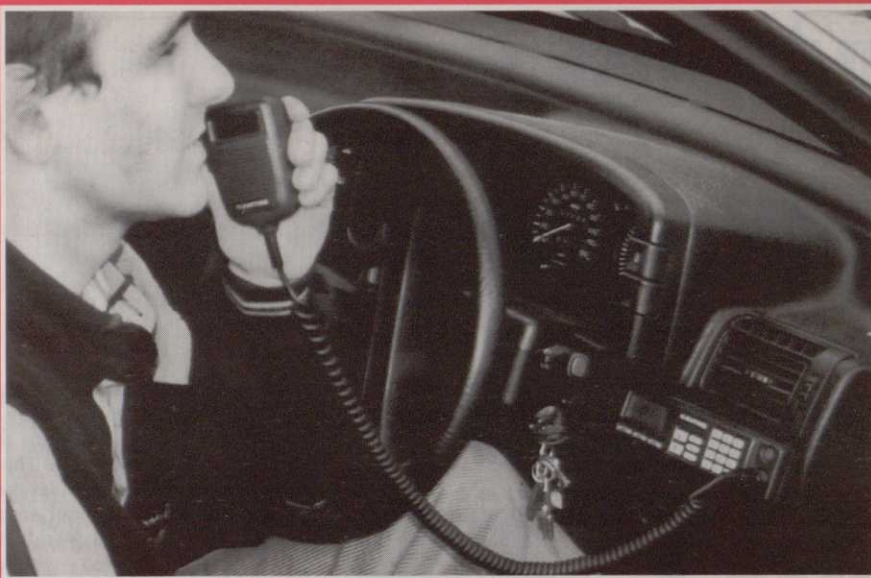
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Mobile radios are suitable for installing in most vehicles enabling two-way communication with other mobiles and a base station, according to the licence type.

Keep in touch

regional or local coverage at lower cost and this could be appropriate for a club within the M25 area where new PMR frequency allocations are restricted.

If two-way voice contact is not essential, then the most economical form of communication is the pager. Comprising a simple one-way system, it uses a similar national network of landlines and relay base stations to that used by National Band Three. The basic pager uses a 'bleep' signal to alert the carrier that he or she should make contact with base. On more sophisticated systems, a message can be displayed on the pager's screen while the most advanced offer one-way voice communication. The disadvantage with most pagers is that communication can be from the base only, eliminating the opportunity for a conversation between two handsets.

And what about cellular telephones? Steve Garrett reckons that he can dissuade anyone working in a fixed location from investing in a mobile telephone for routine or even emergency communications with fellow members of staff. "A mobile radio system can be installed and operated for a known monthly figure, with no call charges," he points out, "If you're always going to be talking to the same people, a mobile telephone will usually prove a far more costly alternative."

A final word of advice concerns after-sales service. "Don't assume that the equipment you choose is going to prove totally trouble-free," he comments. "Dust, water, vibration and knocks can upset even the best-protected electronic circuitry. Mobile radios also need re-tuning from time to time. Buy from a reputable company able to provide the level of service that you would expect from any other supplier of golf course equipment. There is no mandatory requirement for suppliers of communications equipment to be members of any industry association or governing body, so beware of shady operators who may not be around tomorrow."

27 ➤ Garrett points out that no-one wanting to do the job properly should attempt to do it themselves. "There is plenty of cheap equipment advertised, but once purchased, you could very well find yourself on your own," he says. "Although it is possible to apply for a licence and be up and running within a few days, users can find that they have selected the wrong equipment, the wrong frequency or even the wrong licence for their specific requirements."

There are two basic types of licence appropriate to golf course applications, both costing from £120 a year. The first is 'local area', permitting wireless communications within a 3km (1.9 mile) radius of a permanent base station transmitting at a maximum five watts power. This system can be used to link a base station in the office with mobile radios in vehicles and hand portables carried by staff. If all the work is carried out within the confines of the course, a local area licence may be appropriate for all one's needs, depending on the findings of the site survey.

If, however, there is a need to keep in touch with staff and management over a greater area, particularly when leaving the course to collect parts or to maintain other leisure facilities in the locality, then a 'wide area' licence is likely to be more suitable. This licence normally allows a maximum transmission signal strength of 25 watts from a permanent location, with coverage averaging about a mile per watt of output, depending on the lie of the land and any obstructions such as buildings.

The basic wide area service operates on a dual frequency basis, enabling the base station radio to talk to mobiles on one frequency and receive calls on another. It does not allow for direct mobile to mobile contact. For this, one needs to apply for a 'talk-through' facility, using the base station as a relay to enable one mobile or hand portable to connect directly to another. Here, aerial type, location and direction are vital for the optimum operation of the system. "A fixed base station with a permanently installed aerial at or close to the highest point on the course will produce a consistently better signal on undulating terrain than two hand portables with built-in aerials," points out Mr Garrett. "For that reason, where a site survey highlights variable signal strength, we

would advise routing all communications via the base station using a talk-through facility. "A further option is to use a 'connection' service via one of the community repeaters which have been installed by communications companies nationwide and available on a monthly air time rental of around £10 to £15 per mobile radio set, inclusive of the licence fee but not the equipment.

Cotswold Telecommunications, for example, has community repeaters located on masts on most of the highest hills from Worcestershire down to Cornwall. Consisting of an aerial and transceiver (combined transmitter and receiver), it enables subscribers to communicate with other mobile radios on the same frequency over the complete area covered by the community repeater's aerial - typically a 30 to 40 mile radius.

With a base trigger station in the office linked to an aerial pointing at the community repeater, all mobile and hand portable radios on the course should be able to communicate with each other, subject to the terrain, at considerably lower cost than attempting to overcome the problem using all one's own equipment. Indeed, there need be no capital outlay at all, as rental options are normally available for the full range of mobile telecommunications equipment available, irrespective of the licence type or system selected.

A further option which provides nationwide mobile radio coverage, yet is suitable also for those in cities where new frequency allocations are restricted, is National Band Three. Using a network of land lines and hilltop aerials, this service is used principally by distribution and haulage companies throughout Britain paying a monthly subscription per mobile set, with no call charges. National Band Three is available also with just



Mobile communications equipment will need servicing, repair and occasional retuning to the manufacturer's specifications. Ensure that your supplier has the facilities and expertise.

Why must we flounder with inconsistent advice?

It was great to see such well argued and thought provoking articles by Arne van Amerongen and Tony Howarth in the May issue. My first reaction was to note that the subject matter was basically the everlasting debate about *Poa annua*, fescue and bent. All this indicates to me that after twenty years of political in-fighting between rigid dogma and liberal experimentation by agronomists, we are no further forward toward any consensus on even the basic ground rules, such as grass species and subsequent management.

I am sure we all agree that pure fescue greens licked keen by sea breezes are the only true golf greens. On established greens anywhere, management by Arthurian principles is the best way to try and emulate them. New constructions on inland sites are, however, surely a case apart. The specification of the seed mix and in many cases the planning of the aftercare is generally in the hands of agronomists.

Some stick doggedly to sowing fescue where it is surrounded by *Poa annua*. The new sward, subjected to heavy play and minimalist policies can only result in a weak turf ripe for invasion. Others sow creeping bents with scant regard for whether the resources to manage such a grass (including the ability to limit winter play) are in existence or not. Whatever has been tried, it seems there has been very little success in producing *Poa annua* free greens. Those that have owe it more to a cut-it-out-and-patch-it policy that any my granny could have come up with. Mind you, for those who have the resources, as yet it is a better solution than anything agronomic.

Whilst all other sectors of the turf industry have formed associations to agree basic standards there seems to be no consensus among agronomists. It seems that anyone can become an agronomist and that a new theory is a necessary entrance qualification. If there were four agronomists in a crowded room you would have no trouble finding them. Each would be in his corner expounding his latest ideas, none would agree.

Where does all this inconsistent advice leave the poor greenkeeper? Five years down the road on a new construction he either feels guilt-ridden for applying extra fertiliser to achieve any kind of grass cover, or ashamed of the thin, bumpy greens because he sticks rigidly to agro-

nomical policies which are plainly not appropriate and have already failed to cope with the wear.

Some consensus needs to be reached among agronomists about what is and what is not possible under today's conditions. The first rule of management is that all objectives must be attainable. If they are not then morale suffers and job satisfaction goes out of the window. Luckily, greenkeepers work with their feet on the ground: there are no handy ledges from which to jump.

At a time when the reliability of physical laboratory tests has been seriously questioned, with no apparent response from the Sports Turf Research Institute, what confidence can the greenkeeper have to get on with the job of applying agronomic principles and yet be sure of the outcome. In such difficult times we need the combined strength of all our respected agronomists working together to help greenkeepers. Standards and guide-lines need to be formulated and explained to the client in no uncertain terms, even to the extent of saying that if they want creeping bent greens then they should have separate winter greens, or in certain inland situations, if they want fescue/ bent greens they may need to restrict play or implement a policy of re-turfing every six to ten years. Whatever is required, it needs spelling out clearly so that greenkeepers do not take the blame for disappointed customers with impossible dreams.

If you are about to embark on a new project in hostile meadow grass country, my advice would be to seek out the agronomist who drew up the seed mix and rootzone specification and ask him for a detailed management programme for establishment and future maintenance.

If it is not forthcoming, then inform your employer that he is about to buy the equivalent of an expensive car with no service manual and no guarantee. If there is a programme, agree it in detail, follow it, monitor it and as soon as something goes wrong – call in your employer and the agronomist to agree a plan of action. Last of all, have a large turf nursery and half a dozen two inch pluggers ready and waiting.

■ Having got that off my chest, I must comment on Jim Arthur's wormkilling article in the same issue. Mr Arthur is properly revered in greenkeeping circles for the enormous support he has given greenkeepers and for the humorous and forthright way he has imparted his vast knowledge to anyone who cared to listen – and indeed some who did not! Given this background I am understandably reluctant to criticise, but the tone of his article suggested he expected criticism and I would hate to disappoint him. The gist of his complaint seemed to be that interfering busybodies had deprived us of lead arsenate. Well, three cheers for interfering busybodies. As someone who can remember walking up and down in white, billowing clouds with a hanky tied round my mouth, I am appalled by the idea of using such chemicals and frankly can hardly believe I was told to use them – even then.

Mr Arthur states that lead arsenate has not killed any greenkeepers, something that no-one can be sure of, nor can we be sure whether it has caused serious medical problems or not. It is debatable whether, in the hands of a conscientious course manager, it constitutes a danger, but he knows very well that some are more conscientious than

others and accidents can happen.

There is also the manufacture and disposal of waste products from such nasties to consider. Though our own chemical companies are no doubt well regulated, our second-class citizens in third world countries are often exploited – with scant regard for their health and safety. The sooner such materials are resigned to the dustbin of history the better. At a time when golf courses need to advertise their environmental awareness to survive, we need mention of 'good ole' lead arsenate like we need artificial greens!

There was a time when the 'Greens' were thought of as a cranky few, but Mr Arthur better take note that they now are important enough to have sustained viable organic farming, a mass industry of environmentally friendly products, saved and protected countless species of flora and fauna and to have representation in every serious political party in the Western world. What were the 'Greens' are now a large section of our society who understand that if the Earth's resources are left in the hands of a few free marketeers, with commercial exploitation by the unscrupulous, then there would be no reduction in CFC's so that we might have freedom to enjoy the sun like our forefathers without the now serious risk of skin cancer, no introduction of lead free petrol to protect our children's health and no whales to marvel at.

I whole-heartedly agree that we must banish the worm for fine turf to thrive. Worm activity lasts around six months and this necessitates three spray applications of Thiphanate methyl at a cost of £1200 per annum to keep our twenty-seven holes worm free. If this amount of expenditure is barely enough to warrant registration of chemicals, then what chance lead arsenate being applied every eight years? If it had not been banned it would surely have disappeared long ago due to lack of market.

I have nothing but admiration for Jim Arthur and publicly thank him for all the times he has sparked lights in my brain and brought a smile to my lips. However, my loyalties lie with my staff, my members and my little piece of England, the stewardship of which I am all the more grateful for – as any Scot down here should be.

■ The author, Kerran Daly, MGC, is course manager at the Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club.



Master Greenkeeper **KERRAN DALY** joins the *Poa* debate and questions Jim Arthur on ways to kill worms

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield's David Chappell (Grange Park GC), has been appointed course manager of Bond Hay G&CC, Worksop. David has served 27 years as a greenkeeper, starting in 1966 at Rotherham GC under the watchful eye of Harry Herringham, in 1971 moving to Grange Park as head greenkeeper where he has remained for the past 22 years. David is most enthusiastic about his appointment and is looking forward to working alongside architect Donald Steel and the development team. The Bond Hay site is an 18 hole (pay and play + membership) and a 9 hole Par Three. There will also be a driving range and clay pigeon shoot facility. The 9 hole will be open around August '93, and the 18 will start construction (it is hoped) in July '93, with an opening target of September '94. A keen golfer, David is married to Gillian and they have a daughter, Jenny. We send our best wishes to them and we shall certainly look forward to playing Bond Hay in the future.

The Spring Tournament was held at Notts GC Hollinwell, with an excellent turn-out of 50 competitors. The course proved difficult, with a stiff breeze and a lot of rusty swings after the winter rest, reflected in the scores of all save one well-tuned member, Wollaton Park's Martin Scothern, who comfortably won the Presidents Prize and the first division Hayter qualifying prize with a marvellous score of gross 75 nett 76 (yes, you guessed it, Martin's handicap is plus one). What a credit Martin is to our profession. The day was not without a few hiccups, with our competition secretary, Barry Heaney, having to stand on his soap box voicing his favourite saying, "I'm sorry, but you are out of order!". I don't know if his comments were directed at our players or those Hollinwell members who enthusiastically cheered on the England football team during the prize presentation, but seriously, it was a real treat to play Hollinwell, especially at a time when the gorse was in full bloom. Our thanks must go to head greenkeeper Graham Armsom & his staff for presenting us with a superb course, which must be rated one of the finest inland courses in Britain. Every hole has its own individual character and the setting is idyllic. For members who were not lucky enough to take part - make every effort to visit Hollinwell and witness this truly magnificent course. Thanks to secretary John Walker for making us so welcome, and stewardess June for looking after our appetites. Thanks also to Barry Heaney for the administration and finally to Hayter for sponsoring the prizes and for the goodies on the first tee.

Results (nett) : (1-9) - M Scothern 76, S J Currie 78, I Whitehead 78. (10-18) I Collett 81, M Coultas 81, A Whittington 83. (19-28) S Mason 76, M Crossland 78, P Unwin 79.

Spring Tournament Winners. R Ullathorpe 81, D Neve 81, M Coutas 81, S Currie 78, I Whitehead 78, M Crossland 78, P Unwin 79.

Annual Tournament: 21 July at Lindrick GC, tee off 10.30am & 2.30pm. Please book early and return your form and remittance by the closing date to Barry Heaney. Tel: 0742 884063. No late entries will be accepted.

Please contact me with any news on 0298 813374, or write to Stoneyford, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 6QU.

JANE RYAN

KENT

April 26 saw a large turn-out for our visit to the new London Golf Club, with 45+ members viewing developments and enjoying a very interesting afternoon. Thanks for this visit must go to Joe Paulin and his staff and I am pleased to note that we can anticipate a similar trip to see the progress of the works, perhaps in October. As for our golf, again another very large turn-out for our Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Trophy qualifier at Rochester & Cobham on 10 May. Many thanks to our gracious hosts at the club, especially to Barry Coveney and his green staff for turning out the course in such fine condition. It must be somewhat daunting to have over 40 greenkeepers arrive on your doorstep first thing Monday morning, though perhaps not quite as disconcerting as the prospect of having BR blaze its Channel Tunnel Rail Link slap-bang through the middle of your beautifully prepared course. We all hope things work out for the best.

As for the results - here goes. The Rigby Taylor morning Stableford was won by Jason Bean with 35 points, hotly pursued by Dave Vidler, Richard Hopgood, Nigel Stapley and John Wakelin. All received very attractive cut glass trophies courtesy of Bernard Dibbams and Rigby Taylor, although the winner had to go home minus the top trophy as someone forgot to bring it along! Yes, that someone was last year's winner, our section secretary David Wood - perhaps it is superglued to the mantelpiece? The main Hayter Medal 0-9 handicap section was won by new boy, or boyo, Huw Morgan with a nett 72, with other qualifiers (in order) being John Wakelin, Mike Smith and Steve Suttle. Reserve Ian Rawlins. The 10-18 group was won by another new participant, Richard Hopgood with a nett 71, followed by Malcolm Arthur, Peter Biscoe, Derek Keen, and reserve Rob Lucas. The 19-28 winner was Rob Purrell, followed by Steve Johnstone, John Millen, Nigel Stapley, and reserve Steve Phillips. I hope luck shines on you all at The Weald of Kent, which takes place after this report goes to press. The scratch prize (on count back), went to Huw Morgan with an 80. Many thanks to Hayter for the prizes, goodie bags and flags - and for making the effort to show their machines around the clubhouse. One other prize was 'nearest the pin' at the 16th, kindly donated by Barry Coveney and won by John Millen. Finally, thanks to our other friends from the trade for coming along to support our events and providing the raffle prizes.

Another interesting recent event saw a small number of greenkeepers attend the second annual Kent Golf Union Seminar for secretaries and club committee officials, held at the Weald of Kent GC on 12 May. The main topics were Health & Safety by Jon Allbutt and the progress of greenkeeper training by John Millen, supported by Hadlow College's liaison officer, D Geoff, and principle training officer, J. Curtis. Jon Allbutt's session left many looking a bit uncomfortable at the prospect of grappling with their responsibilities regarding new provisions from HSE. Greenkeeper training is definitely heading in the right direction, with John Millen working locally behind the scenes for some time, along with the Kent Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, in developing a recognised National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in greenkeeping. This will be based at Had-

low College and will replace the old City & Guilds examinations. The details and principles of the new NVQ are somewhat lengthy for me to outline here, but no doubt they will soon be made available to us all.



Late news: A summer tournament (18 holes) will be staged at Moatlands GC on 26 July. For further details, call David Wood on 0342-850875.

PAUL COPSEY

CLEVELAND

As reported in the June issue, Ian Harrison has left Darlington GC to become course manager of the Mendip Spring GC, Avon. We take this opportunity to wish Ian, his wife Carol and their daughters Nicky and Kelly every happiness in this new venture. On the same subject, Paul Moore, who has worked at Darlington GC for 14 years, has been appointed 'acting' head greenkeeper for six months.

A visit to Wynyard Hall, Wolviston, took place in May, led by Terence Redding, owner of Maxel Golf. A large number of greenkeepers turned out to view the new course under construction, designed by Steve McFarlane of Hawtree & Co. Tees and greens are nearing completion and the drainage system utilises storage tanks. The course is built over 150 acres and is 6600 yards in length. A further 150 acres are planned for housing development on this attractive rolling countryside site.



The annual golf match against the Eaglescliffe GC green committee is set for late July. Members will be contacted by Ian Holloran.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH WALES

Congratulations are again due to Marion and Gordon Child for what was undoubtedly the most successful Westurf to date. We gathered in the sunshine at Long Ashton to admire the vast array of modern equipment and sparkling machinery, and ideas were exchanged and working methods discussed with both familiar and unfamiliar members of the trade. It was reassuring to see so many members from our section supporting this growing annual event, more so when our very own Andrew Jenkins (Southerndown GC) won the Spot the Disease competition, held on the BIGGA stand. Andrew won a bottle of bubbly but has assured me that he won't pop the cork until the birth of his baby, (due in June, though hopefully not on the 8th, when we will be in Clevedon).

On 12 May we held our annual competition for the Jacobsen Cup, Waycott Cup and Browns Shield, at the Alice Spring GC in Usk. The event was made all the more special this year by playing over a course owned by our sponsor, Keith Morgan (Keith Morgan Mowers), the Jacobsen main dealer for South Wales. The competition was played over 18 holes on the newly constructed Kings Course at Alice Springs, though a poor entry of just 17 battled for honours.

Results: Overall winner - Peter Lacey (yours truly), nett 68 - Jacobsen Cup + crystal brandy glasses. Second - Andrew Jenkins, nett 70 - Waycott Cup + set of head covers. Best gross - Vincent Northey, 76 (37 back nine) - Browns Shield + crystal brandy glasses. Second gross - Robert Johnston, 76 (38 back nine). Winner of the

31 → longest drive competition was Mike Jones and winner of nearest the pin (17th) was yours truly.

Special thanks to Keith Morgan, not only for allowing us the courtesy of one of his courses but for providing, as always, a superb prize table. Anybody with any relevant information for our summer newsletter should contact me on 0792 - 233923.



PETER LACEY

DEVON & CORNWALL

Not much to report this month, as we are all busy cutting grass like mad – yes Bill, even on a links course!

I am nearing completion of our fixture card for next season and this will be winging its way to you very soon. Our thanks go again to Devon Garden Machinery, for they have kindly sponsored the fixture card for yet another year.

Our Cornish summer evening meetings are now in full swing, with the agenda being to arrive at 7.00pm, followed by a walk round the course and rounding off with a Cornish pasty and a pint! The remaining dates and venues are: 13 July, Truro GC. 17 August, Lostwithiel GC, 14 September, Mullion GC. If you would like to attend, please contact Bill Mitchell on 0872 571283 at least one week before the venue date.



RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION

Results of the Hayter Challenge Tournament Regional qualifier, held at Clevedon GC on 8 June: (all scores nett)

Category One: 1st L Millar Jnr 69, 2nd C Fudge 71, 3rd B Newcombe, 72 (on back nine), Reserve S Rattenbury 72. Mug – R Whyman 89.

Category Two: 1st M Blake 71, 2nd L Walter 72, 3rd B Ridgeway 73, Reserve V Lewer 74. Mug – P Lacey 92.

Category Three: 1st S White 67, 2nd P Jackson 70, 3rd N Macityre 72, Reserve P Baynton 76. Mug – P Huish 92.

The Regional Shield was won by the Devon and Cornwall section.

GORDON CHILD

EAST ANGLIA

No, we're not dead, just resting a bit. Two meetings to catch up on, the first being at Gosfield Lakes where 23 members and guests took part in the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier. We were very pleased to welcome the captain, Mr Pat Stephenson, as our guest and thank him for kindly presenting the prizes, also the head greenkeeper, Alan Sharp, who recently moved to Gosfield from North Wales. He has a handicap of five, which could prove very handy.

The qualifiers are as follows (please say 'yes, sir' when your name is called): H'cap 0-9 Andy Sheehan, Alan Sharp, Glen Norris, Alan Carter (reserve Steve Denton). H'cap 10-18 Paul Gould, Simon Barnaby (plays for Spurs), Tom Smith (played for Liverpool), Michael Peters (played for West Ham) and sub Stewart McGeogh (who doesn't play at all – he's Scottish!). H'cap 19-28 Steve Millard, Toddy Huddleston, Keith Chinnery. Prizes were donated by our ever present trade lads representing Rushbrooks, Sisis, Fisons, Kings, Colliers, and Rhone Poulenc. Our thanks to all at Gosfield Lakes for a most enjoyable day.

The second match was at Ufford Park G&CC, sponsored by Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rhone Poulenc and Fisons. It was well attended and we all split into teams – but I don't know who won what. Alan Sharp scored 32 points (I told you he'd be handy – he's off three now) whilst Messrs Peters, Tims and Carter all scored 31 points. Uncle Sam was 'nearest the pin' and Robert Whiting played like a fish but managed to get in the 'longest drive'. £56 was raised for the Save the Children Fund and a good day was had by all. Our thanks once again to our sponsors and to Ufford Park for their hospitality

Around the Green



(and I didn't once mention the greens).

I would like to end on a serious note. In the April issue I read the biggest load of rubbish about 'Greens must not be spared' and frankly did not expect to see such an article in a greenkeeping magazine – the Beano maybe, though I expect Biffo the Bear would have done a better job. After years of trying to rectify the effects of over-watering and over-feeding and the resulting *Poa annua* we come across an article expressing the views of an ex-apprentice greenkeeper who after just six years thinks he knows it all. If *Poa annua* is wanted, his method is the sure way to get it, but if you want quality – then please ignore the whole thing. The trouble is that a lot of other amateurs – i.e. green chairmen – will be waving it about like the gospel. If ever proof was needed that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'...



MICK LATHROPE

NORTHERN

To begin, may I thank Kevin Garfitt of Pontefract and District GC, Allan Gamble of Pannal GC, and Arthur Mason of Millfield Golf Complex, for applying to represent us in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award. I am pleased to inform members that Allan Gamble has been chosen to represent the Northern section.

I am also pleased to welcome the following new section members: Gordon Morritt, Mathew Mortimer, Peter Hay and Robert Briston (Pike Hills GC), Gavin Hawker (Silsden GC), Richard Pull (Knaresborough GC), Robert Walker (Bracken Ghyll GC), Nigel Wild (Skipton GC), Joe Mellor (West Bowling GC), Alan Crowther (Woodsome Hall GC), Mark McEvoy (Malton & Norton GC), Simon Wood (West Bradford GC), Graham Bates (Cleckheaton GC), Lee Hebden (Garforth GC), David Brierley (Kirklees Leisure Services), Paul Jackson (Castlefields GC), Kevin Garfitt (Pontefract and Dist. GC), Mark Jones (Cocksford GC), Phillip Basteley (South Bradford GC), Andrew Preston and Robert Burnett (Pannel GC), Brian Dean, Dominic Parr and Lee Dacre (Moor Allerton GC), Adrian Anderson and Matthew Houseman (Harrogate GC), Nicholas Hodgson (ShIPLEY GC), Robert Crossley (Calverley GC), M A Cordingley (Kirklees Council), Matthew Green (Rawdon GC), Stephen Roebuck (Crosland GC), John Heaton (Filey GC) and Derek Wilkinson and Malcolm Hawker (Keighley GC).

If any new members (or old-established members, for that matter) require any information whatsoever, please contact me on 0274 568128. There are still a few places left for our golfing events, so if you have not yet booked please do so immediately by sending your name and a £10.00 deposit to me. In doing so, you will avoid disappointment.



PAT MURPHY

NORTH WEST

Fine weather, an excellent course and good food – all these awaited the North West section when the Spring Tournament was played at Birchwood GC on 10 May. Keith Addison and his staff had this very testing course in beautiful condition and, as is their custom, Birchwood GC made us very welcome. Once again the prize table was well furnished, mainly by our friends in the trade, and the NW section would like to thank them for their generosity and support. The tournament was also a qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final, which will have been played over

Workshop GC by the time this report reaches you. Even with this added attraction the number of competitors was low, with only 28 members playing. As usual there were some excellent scores and most of the prizes were taken by low handicap players. The following qualified for the regional final: 0-9: Paul Pearce. Mike Sheehan. Bill Horvath. 10-18: Paul Smith. Robert Janovskis. Chris Hulme. 19-28: John Wright. Gerard Corness.

Our next golf will be the Roses Match at Fulford GC on Tuesday 3 August. A team of 16 will be required, so if you would like the opportunity to play this very fine course and represent the NW section, please contact me as soon as possible.

There will be a visit to the GEM Professional factory towards the end of August, although the date has not yet been finalised. Further details will be in

the August section news, but in the meantime it would be advisable to contact me as soon as possible as only 20-25 people can be managed at a time. My number is 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTH WALES

Last month saw the retirement of John Jones, who joined the greenkeeping staff of Abergele and Pensarn GC in 1986, having been a member of the club for 27 years. In 1971 he was made captain of the new Abergele and Pensarn GC and in 1989 he captained the Denbyshire Golf Union. During 1991-1993 he was president of the North Wales Four Counties Golf Association and during that period he was also captain of the Past Captains of Denbyshire. Additionally in that year he held the presidency of the North Wales Junior Golf Association and all in all he has been a very busy man in North Wales Golf. On behalf of section members I would like to wish John a very happy retirement and to thank him for all he has done for golf in North Wales. Congratulations to Pat Valentine (otherwise known as Curly, though I can't think why), who has taken over from John – we wish him well.

On 6 October our Autumn Tournament will be held at Pwllheli GC, so reserve the date in your diaries. Forms will be handed out nearer the time.

A trip to the Gem factory at Oswaldtwistle will be arranged for late July or early August and there will also be a trip to Haydock Park Show on 29 or 30 September. Interested? Contact me – David Proctor – or Terry Adamson.

Apologies to Gem Professional for not including them in last month's magazine, for they kindly sponsored our match at Llanymynech against the North West Section, also to Pro Turf, sponsors of our events, who for some reason have not been mentioned in the section notes – Sorry Glyn.

DAVID PROCTOR

SOUTH COAST

Our Summer Tournament will be held at Alresford GC on Thursday 29 July, teeing off from 2.00 pm. The closing date for entries is 19 July and the entry fee is £13.50. The member and guest competition will be the usual four-ball better-ball format, played over 18 holes. A guest may be either a member of your own club or a greenkeeper from a different club.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the correct fee, should be sent to: Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Oakford, BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset. DT11 8EA. Tel: 0258 861482.

SPRING TOURNAMENT From a disappointing field of only 25 players, the South Coast greenkeepers were the guests of Sherbourne GC and although the field was small, the quality of golf was of a very high standard. The morning round produced a new Nita Stimson winner in Joe Newman (Downshire) with a score of 74 nett, whilst Paul Jackson (Ferndown) stole the morning show with a sparkling 67 nett. In the afternoon, Brian Forder (Southampton) made sure of retaining the

Tregunna Trophy by shooting a gross 78 to add to his 77 in the morning. Bernard Emberly (Knighton Heath) made a brave attempt with an afternoon round of 77, but was pipped for runner-up spot by Joe Newman, who returned a gross 75, which was the best 18 hole score of the day.

The prizes were kindly sponsored by Huxleys Garden Machinery Ltd., and our section president, Jim Fry. Dave Rogers of Sta-Brite kindly donated wine for the prize table and prizes were distributed by Eddie Fox and Jim Fry (sponsors) and by the host club captain, John Heyes.

Results : THE NITA STIMSON TROPHY (over 50's low nett) Joe Newman 81-7=74. THE TREGUNNA TROPHY (low gross 36 holes) Brian Forder 77+78=155. THE ROWES ROSE BOWL (runner-up 36 holes gross) Joe Newman 81+75=156. THE ROFFEY CUP (Low nett 36 holes) Paul Jackson 67+70=137. THE DENYER CUP (runner-up nett 36 holes) Terry Patchin (Hockley) 71+71=142. THE CHRISTOPHER FRY TROPHY (under 25's low nett 36 holes) Mark Diment (Knighton Heath)

73+75=148. Lowest surviving gross (am) Bernard Emberley -75. Lowest surviving nett (am) Jamie Friend -71. Lowest surviving gross (pm) Ted West -77. Lowest surviving nett (pm) Ian McLean -70.



BOB DENNIS

LONDON

Congratulations to Linda Exley on her recent Northwood GC appointment. We wish you well, Linda, and look forward to seeing you at many of our functions. We also welcome Paul McDowell (Sandy Lodge) to the committee and thank him for his support.

The date for the Emergency First Aid course is now set and will take place at the St John Ambulance Centre, St Albans, on 20 August. The four-hour session will cost £18 per person and members wishing to participate should contact me before 13 August.

The summer four-ball tournament is now well under way and I would urge all participants to play their matches before the deadline. Remember also that the most important thing of all is to enjoy your golf.



Please keep me informed of any news, no matter how insignificant, and if you have any queries or need for information - call the hot line on 081 9595629.

TONY DUNSTAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Many thanks to all who attended the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier at Burnham Beeches. I know you found the course impressive and were equally impressed by the club's head greenkeeper, Brian Payne Snr., who holed his second shot on the third for an 'eagle' two. Talk about setting up the course for yourself.... he event turned into an even bigger family affair when Brian Payne Jnr. carded two nett 69's to walk away with the silverware!

RESULTS: 1st nett - B Payne Jnr. 1st gross - M Smith. 1st a.m. - P Simpson, 2nd a.m. - J Teixeira. 1st p.m. - P Reeve, 2nd p.m. - B Payne Snr.

We thank Burnham Beeches GC for their generous hospitality, in particular the secretary, steward, and catering staff for their help in making the day run so smoothly - and of course to Brian Payne and his staff for producing an excellent course. Last, thanks to all the trade members: Sta-Brite, Rigby Taylor, Driving Force Leisure (Europe), Risboro' Turf and Parker-Hart, and special thank to Barry Halls and Hayter for coming along and getting involved - an involvement that we all appreciate and one that will, I'm sure, go from strength to strength in the future.

Has everyone received the 1993 fixture card? If the answer is 'no', let me know and I will send one immediately.

We would still like to have more section members representing BB&O in golf matches, in partic-

Around the Green



ular against the Mid Anglia section and The Secretaries (the big grudge match). If you are interested please contact our match captain, David Goodchild, on 0296 415337. These matches will be staged on Tuesday 20 July and Monday 26 July and there is NO handicap limit - all are welcome.

Do you want to try your hand at go-karting? If this appeals and you have not yet received the information, contact me ASAP. Remember that the invitation is open to friends and family alike.

Finally, we need your ideas for social events that you might like to see staged next year, also brain-waves for next year's lecture programme. Ring or write to me with your valued input, please.



RAY CLARK

NORTH SCOTLAND

Another two new members to welcome this month: James Mackay from Wick GC and Neil Whyte from Elgin GC - two young lads to whom we wish a long and enjoyable career in greenkeeping.

The Spring Outing to Murcar, Aberdeen was a great success despite the now familiar atrocious weather! We thank Murcar for their hospitality and especially Chris Pearson and his staff for the condition of the course. Ninety members, guests and trade representatives were present, with 84 braving the elements and playing. The prize winners were: Scratch - 1st George Paterson (Fortrose) 77, 2nd Iain MacLeod (Tain) 80 (also winner of the Committee Trophy). Class 1 - 1st Chris Pearson (Murcar) 79-6=73, 2nd Robert Patterson (Royal Dornoch) 81-4=77 BIH, 3rd Kevin Peace (Peterhead) 81-4=77. Class 2 - 1st Stewart McBain (Nigg Bay) 86-10=76 BIH, 2nd Colin Mackay (Forres) 84-8=76, 3rd Sam Morrison (Royal Aberdeen) 87-10=77. Class 3 - 1st Michael Clark (Kingussie) 90-16=74, 2nd Wilson Morrison (Alford) 93-18=75, 3rd Hughie McLatchie (Peterhead) 99-21=78. Apprentice - 1st James Stewart (Strathpeffer) 86-11=75, 2nd Barry Cameron (Inverurie) 86-9=77. Veteran - 1st Roy Donald (Oldmeldrum) 79-5=74, 2nd John Taylor (retired) 84-5=79. Trade Shield - Kevin Brunton (Souters) 71 - Scr=71. Guest - Keith Loades 84-6=78 BIH. Booby Prize - Stuart Hogg (Fortrose). Eric Pickard (Ellon) won the longest drive at the 18th, with a drive that finished through the green, whilst Royal Dornoch men Robert Patterson and Eoin Riddell won the nearest the hole prizes. Our thanks to Murcar professional, A White, for donating these prizes.

The winner of the free draw for a BIGGA blazer was Derek Roy (Nairn Dunbar), and our four lucky winners in the 200 Club were (January) £30 - Ian Carson (Nairn), (February) £30 Iain Grant (Alyth), (March) £40 - Steve Sullivan (Craigiehill) and (April) £100 - Kenny Anderson, formerly of Newmasher but now at Sheringham GC, Norfolk. Raffle prize winners were too numerous to mention.

Congratulations to George Hampton (Pitlochry) on winning the seniors event in the Scottish Professional Golfers Championship at Dalmahoy. George is a regular at our section events and is putting up a trophy to be played for at our Autumn Outing. Transferring to our section is George's neighbour from Blair Atholl, Gary Blyth - maybe George will bring him to our Autumn Outing.

I have pleasure in reporting that three North members have qualified to represent Scotland in the Hayter Challenge Tournament later this year. Leading from the front in the Scottish qualifier at

Stirling, chairman Sam Morrison came second in class two with a nett 72, whilst in class three



Hazelhead's Keith Wood with a fine nett 63 and Morris Rogers (Fraserburgh) with a nett 70 were also successful. We wish them success in the final at Sand Moor GC, Yorkshire, in September.

IAIN MACLEOD

SCOTTISH REGION



Pictured at the recent Dundee College student prize presentations, sponsored by BIGGA Scottish Region, are James Fox (Dundee United FC), Steven Peffers (Carnoustie - first year prize winner), Colin Anderson (Tayside Regional Council youth training managing agent), Peter Fox (Dundee United FC, second year prize winner), Robert Whitehead (Camperdown GC, third year prize winner) and John Philp (Links Supervisor, Carnoustie).

The awards were presented by Alisdair MacLaren (Abernethy GC), who is also education convenor for the North section.

MID ANGLIA

First round matches of the Lodgeway Tractor Four-Ball Tournament were played during May and although one match has still to be played (as of 31 May) I can give the following results: D Croxton and I Oliver (Cold Ashton) beat B Allonby and B Wright (Letchworth). C Brook and E O'Hanlon (Chesfield Downs FGC) beat J Wells (Brocket Hall) and P Simmons (Verulam). A Freeman and D Lowe (Northants County) beat M Morgan and J Gentles (Griffin). K Bunting (Ashridge) and R McKeown (Arkley) beat R Saunders and J Burton (St Neots). P Lockett (S. Beds) and R Coogan (Stockwood Pk) received a first round bye due to odd numbers.

The Summer Tournament is being held on 31 July at St Neots, a 36 hole tourney. Closing date is three weeks prior, so as you read this, panic, pull out the cheque book - and enter!

A match against BB&O section has been arranged for 20 July at Harewood Downs, ten a side, starting at 2.30pm. If you wish to represent the section please contact a committee member (as I am not sure who is organising the match). Good luck to all our representatives in the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final at Northants County on 14 July.



Finally, a match has been arranged at Dunstable Downs GC on 10 August against the Midlands section. John Wells is organiser, so contact him if you wish to play.

PAUL LOCKETT

SOUTH WEST

The merry merry month of May saw a major break in the South West. For 'donkeys years' the section have been enjoying the delights of the historic Westonbirt School golf course for the ever-popular Greenkeeper & Amateur Greensomes. Originally inaugurated in 1964 to celebrate the centenary of the school, success eventually overcame the tournament, with the vastly increased number of competitors over-running the charming little nine-hole course. The decision was reluctantly taken to move to a larger course. Our eternal thanks go to Westonbirt, and to the bursar John Hall, for the welcome and support we have enjoyed over the years. (I did hear a rumour that the course may be extended to 18 holes one day, in which case it might be just au revoir, not goodbye). ➔ 42

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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ **Lucky winner of our June competition is Mr T Reynolds, from Dartford, Kent. Mr Reynolds is set to pocket a useful £50 courtesy of Greenkeeper International - and all for spending just a few minutes looking through the Buyers' Guide section. It could YOUR TURN to win this month - enter today!**

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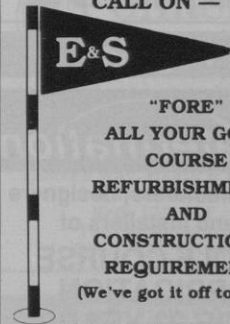
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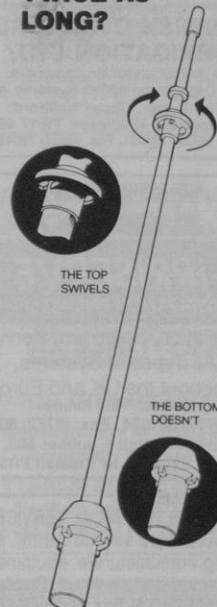
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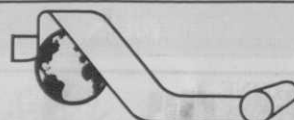
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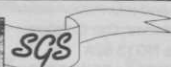
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require an

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Applications in writing, with details of age and experience to:

**The Secretary, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road,
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Chestfield Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

No accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Chestfield Golf Club, 103 Chestfield Road,
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3LU**

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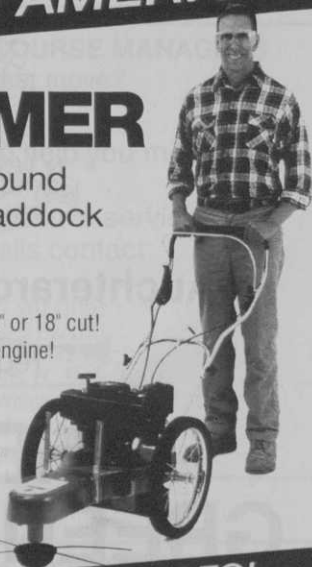
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require a

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No accommodation available.

For further details and application form, please contact:

**The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End,
Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX.**
Telephone: (0582) 712580

AD
REF
413

Hatfield Hall Golf Course - Wakefield

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for new 18 hole golf course and driving range currently under construction in Wakefield. This is a major course built to USGA specifications which will ultimately be part of a hotel and leisure complex.

The course is currently being seeded and is programmed to open in June 1994. The person appointed will be required to build up a greenkeeping team and take the course through from seeding to opening.

Applicants must have experience of new course development, be good controllers of budgets and manpower.

Salary by negotiation, excellent working conditions within an experienced professional team.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Managing Director
Tyton Design Limited
The Tytherington Club, Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 2JP**

The Tytherington Club

requires an experienced

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its 18 hole Championship course.

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Applicants must have experience of USGA greens, be good at budgeting control and man management.

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Write with full CV and names of three referees to:

**The Managing Director
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Palheiro Golf Club, Madeira, Portugal

COURSE MANAGER

Required for this new 18 hole course, designed by Cabell Robinson, and presently being completed. Built close to the world famous Quinta da Palheiro sub-tropical gardens, the course sits in wooded and colourful surroundings and has been planted with Bermuda grass.

We are searching for a qualified Course Manager, ideally experienced with Bermuda grass, who can demonstrate day to day management and inter-personal skills, with a proven ability in training at grass roots level.

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Apply in writing with full CV by Airmail or Fax (010 351 91 792 456) to:

**John Stocker, Managing Director,
Sociedade Turistica Palheiro Golfe SA,
Palheiro Ferreiro, Sao Goncalo, 9000 Funchal, Madeira**



Auchterarder Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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

Appointment to commence 1st October 1993.

Applicants should apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Mr W Campbell,
Auchterarder Golf Club, Orchil Road,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LS**

Telephone: 0764 662804

Crocketts Manor Golf and Country Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

For this brand new 18 hole parkland course (currently under construction), and 9 hole par 3 course.

Would suit young enthusiastic person with the ability to build their own team.

Salary in line with BIGGA rates.

No accommodation.

In the first instance please write, giving details of CV, qualifications and experience to:

R. Owen Esq.
Crocketts Manor Golf and Country Club
Henley-in-Arden
Warwickshire



Laleham Golf Club Chertsey

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This busy 18 hole parkland course requires applicants with recognised qualifications. Experience in all aspects of course maintenance, budgetary control, machinery maintenance and irrigation essential.

An ability to manage, lead and motivate staff is a priority, to include training and education.

No accommodation available. Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Laleham Golf Club
Laleham Reach, Chertsey KT16 8RP

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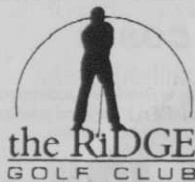
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The Ridge Golf Club

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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Apply with CV and relevant certificates to:

The Course Manager, The Ridge Golf Club, Chartway Street, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3DL

Golf Club Darmstadt

in Germany require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

Golf Club Darmstadt is a nine hole golf course which was rebuilt three years ago. It is situated in a beautiful area of central Germany approximately 20 miles south of Frankfurt. We are looking for a fully qualified person with at least three years experience as a Head Greenkeeper.

Salary negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

Assistance will be given in finding accommodation.

It is envisaged that shortlisted candidates would be initially interviewed in the UK.

Prospective candidates should apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr Norbert Ebert
Golf Club Darmstadt, Dippelshof,
64367 Muehlthal, Germany

33 → Incidentally, best wishes and a speedy recovery to John Hall following his back operation.

Where do we go from here? Enter Derek Eves, who generously threw open the doors of Painswick Golf Club. This course has to be one of the most natural, scenic courses anywhere in the country and at 4800 yards, albeit up-hill and down-dale, it made for exactly the enjoyable sort of day we have become used to. Painswick has long had the reputation for being the friendliest of clubs and it certainly lived up to its reputation. The golf was keenly fought, as usual, and the full results are as follows: 1st L. Johnson (22) & R. Hodgson (18) 41 pts. 2nd. D. Eves (24) & K. Johnson (11) 40 pts. 3rd. N. Wilson (9) & A. Young (9) 39 pts. 4th. A. Johnson (28) & J. Stubbs (28) 38 pts. 5th. P. Corfield (15) & S. Gallier (16) 38 pts.

Our sincere thanks to Painswick GC for being such good hosts, and to all the club staff, both indoors & out, for making the day such a success. I am looking forward to next year when the competition moves to another very traditional club, Minchinhampton Old Course.

Having seen such a wonderful display of wild flowers at Painswick, I wonder, in these days of the decline of traditional wild plants such as the cowslip, primrose, spider orchid etc, do we really need to worry? It seems that the farmers have come up with another plant which is rapidly becoming indigenous – oil seed rape. In the Cotswolds, any patch of bare ground, roadside verge or hedgerow is rapidly becoming overgrown with the stuff. Never mind, I'm reliably informed that a strong mix of 2-4-D & Dicamba – plus a flamethrower – keeps it in check!

Finally, congratulations to Jon Leigh on producing a booklet with some very sound and down to earth



advice for golfers on how to get the best from their course by looking after it while playing. It may all be glorified etiquette, but he'll go far that boy! (and he's one of ours).
PAUL WORSTER

Around the Green



AYRSHIRE

The section 50/50 draw is now up and running, though anyone wishing to join can still do so by sending the sum of £6.00 to Jim Paton ASAP. First results may be expected in the next issue.

A good turn-out of members visited Stewarts of Edinburgh in May, and after inspecting the turf nursery in the morning, a light lunch was provided before going on to look at the fertiliser and compost making plants. Our thanks to Stewarts for a most enjoyable day.

A demonstration of the Hydroject was held at Kirkcudbright GC by M&M Products. It was good to see so many greenkeepers from the Dumfries and Galloway area turning up for this – let's see you all at the other BIGGA events lads.

Our representatives in the Hayter Challenge Tournament area finals at Stirling did well, with Douglas Drain and Paul Rae winning prizes. We wish them good luck in the final.



I have to apologise for being brief but all the news coming in from the section appears to have been lost in the post – again! Hopefully there will be more next month.
DUNCAN GRAY

SURREY

The wettest May for seven years turned many parkland courses into virtual grass factories and really tested out the available mowing equipment – what a headache! It seems to be one extreme or

another nowadays – wet or dry – with no happy medium... or has it always been like this?

July is normally a quiet month for golf events within the section, with only the England v Scotland match scheduled (Walton Heath 21 July). Hopefully the Huxley Bowl will be progressing toward its latter stages without delay and please remember that it is the responsibility of the winning pair to notify Derek with their result.

Looking ahead to August, the McMillan Tankard takes place at its traditional venue – Sunningdale – on 12 August. Please ensure that entries are dispatched before their 'sell-by' date!

Hopefully this section will be well represented at The Open Championship – if you have volunteered to help, please be sure to attend.

ROGER TYDEMAN

COMING UP

July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent

July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida, USA

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.

October 12-13: Kubota Challenge, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

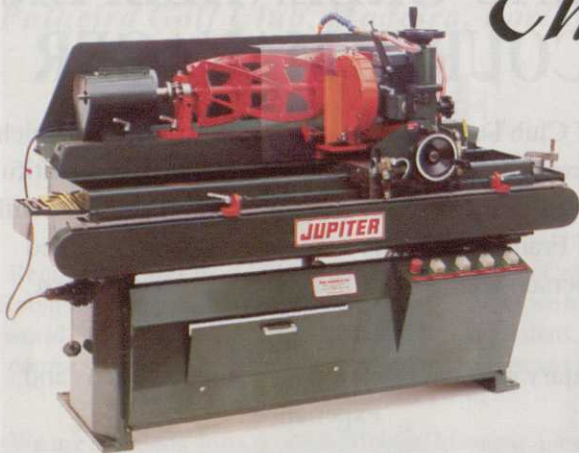
December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.



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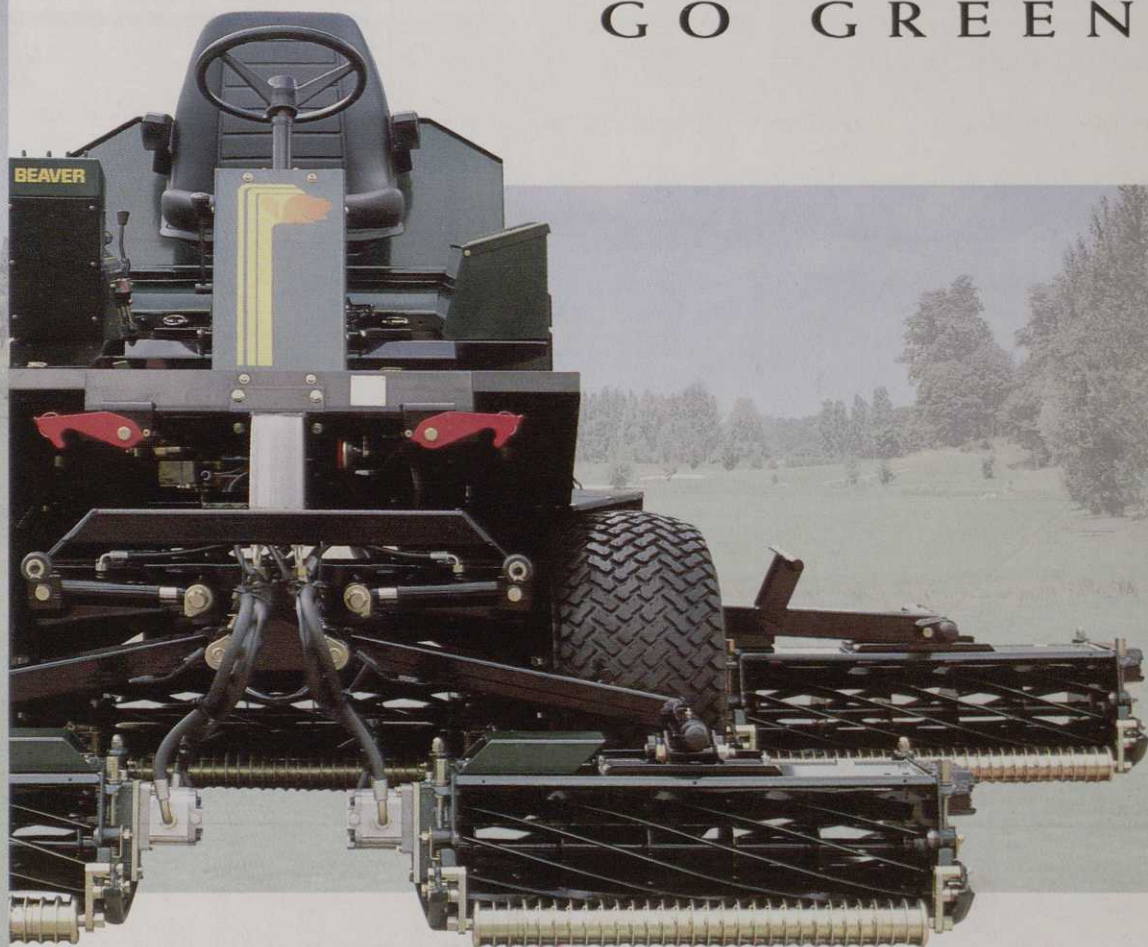
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- Harpenden Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
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- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
- Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
- Omonde Fields Golf Club
- Piltown Golf Club
- Ponteland Golf Club
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
- Royal Dornoch Golf Club
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Rye Golf Club
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