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JUNE 1993



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GREENKEEPER

International

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Dunbar Golf Club, National Championship venue, looking towards the Barns Ness lighthouse



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Toro Workman heralds new era

It's not often that we can announce a revolution, but according to my spies, the new Toro Workman 3000 utility vehicle from Lely (UK) Ltd appears to have broken all records, with salesmen reporting bulging order books even before the machine becomes widely available in the UK.

Launched at BTME, The Workman 3000 is designed to overcome many fundamental weaknesses. In a conventional design of a utility vehicle, the driver and load are positioned between the front and rear axles – which reduces the load carrying area and capacity.

On the Workman 3000 the operator is situated 'out front' which gives a weight distribution improvement of up to 25% plus 27% increase in carrying area. A full 2600lbs weight can be carried with less compaction because the out front operator allows the load to be evenly distributed. This means that, for example, a 200 gallon sprayer can be carried. The Workman 3000 incorporates a unique front suspension and steering design to give a 70° powered steering turning circle, giving the manoeuvrability of three wheels with the stability of four.

The range has the option of two power units: The 3300D has a Mitsubishi 21hp three cylinder diesel engine, whilst the 3200 Workman has a 27hp three cylinder petrol engine. Both units are mid mounted and coupled to an exclusive Toro transaxle by means of an automotive bell housing and clutch to give a reliable, quiet and all enclosed power train.



The transaxle features three speed syncromesh gears for easy shift and quiet operation, plus a hi-low range for six distinct working speeds, and manual differential lock. Also featured is a third gear supervisors lock-out, which reduces the maximum speed from 23 to 13.6 mph.

Standard wheel equipment is 23x10" flotation tyres, with optional extras at 13x24". With the operator out-front the load is forward and is spread evenly

over four wheels. This practically eliminates turf scuffing – even when fully loaded.

Clearly, the Workman 3000 is the beginning of a new era in the definition of a utility vehicle and will be setting the standards for others to follow.

BIGGA at Parker Hart open day

BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas, together with sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch, will be at the Parker Hart annual open day at The University of London Athletic Ground, Motspur park, Surrey on 30 June and 1 July. Opening times are 9.30am-4.30pm.

Parker Hart extend an open invitation to all BIGGA members to attend. Refreshments will be served.

As well as BIGGA, other exhibitors include Bomford Turner, Iseki, ICI, Standard Golf (UK), Jacobsen, Mommersteeg, Vitax, Rhône Poulenc and Farnura.

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Faces and places



■ Linda Exley is yet another to join the growing ranks of females in greenkeeping, having been appointed assistant greenkeeper at Northwood GC, with specific duties and responsibilities for the upkeep of ornamental areas. Linda has a solid background in horticulture gained first at Askham Bryan College and backed with many years of teaching horticulture as an occupational therapist. Greenkeeper International joins with her many friends in the London section of BIGGA in wishing her good fortune.

■ Greenkeepers in the north east are over the moon following Tony McLure's recent outstanding victory in the Lytham Trophy, a classic event widely though unofficially recognised as the British Stroke Play championship. Tony, a greenkeeper at Whickham GC, wowed the top class field with his masterful play over Royal Lytham and St Annes, scoring 72,70,77,73 in always blustery conditions for a brilliant 292 total. Tony has long been a major force in county circles and must now be a prime contender for national honours – who knows, maybe the selectors will look seriously now at Tony for the next Walker Cup team.



■ We were delighted to read in 'Golf World' that John Philp's championship links at Carnoustie has again been voted 'Number One Course in Great Britain'. Carnoustie, always a great favourite, is always in sparkling order and we heartily endorse the verdict, whilst saluting John Philp, a highly talented course manager.



■ Arne Van Amerongen, latterly with John Philp at Carnoustie, has joined Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd as course manager for their new Hamptworth Golf & Country Club project on the edge of the New Forest. Arne's desire to increase his overall knowledge of the golf industry prompted him to join Pierson's, thus adding construction skills to his already extensive greenkeeping knowledge. The 18 hole Hamptworth course will be open for play in mid-1994.



■ Ian Harrison, BIGGA's most recent champion and current holder of the accolade 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year', is a man who knows more than a thing or two about greenkeeping. Not surprisingly, his new-found fame has brought him just rewards and he has left Darlington GC following some two decades of greenkeeping in the north-east.

His new task as course manager takes him to the proprietary-owned Mendip Spring GC, a 27 hole complex in Somerset that includes an 18 hole facility with enough water (eleven acres in total) to float the QE II, plus a nine hole par three. His many friends will surely join with Greenkeeper International in wishing Ian and his family good fortune in this delightful part of Merrie ol' England.

■ Called upon to identify 10 more or less common turf diseases, Andrew Jenkins, Southerndown GC, was the only greenkeeper to return a 100% correct quiz paper at the recent Westurf trade show. Most 'near-miss' entrants confused two similar though differing types of fairy ring. Andrew's winning entry won him a magnum of champagne.

■ Matt Williams (Midlands section) wrote to advise us of his new status, that of greenkeeper at The Belfry, which came fairly swiftly after his redundancy from Moor Hall GC. He gratefully acknowledges Peter Woodward's help and that of Dean Cleaver in bringing the matter to our attention via 'Around the Green'. We wish him well.



■ Chartridge Park GC are winners of a Kubota ride-on mower won at the annual Kubota Draw organised by the Golf Foundation – a charity established in 1952 to promote and develop golf for young people.

The Kubota 18hp G1900S ride-on was presented to Chartridge Park's course manager, Andrew Wells, by Brian Hurtle, vice president-director Kubota (UK) Ltd. Ninety four clubs qualified for this year's draw, each raising £200 or more for the Golf Foundation's appeal, which in 1992 raised over £63,000.



■ Elmwood College has recently appointed Paul Miller as lecturer in greenkeeping, adding to its number of staff as student numbers and the number of courses continue to rise.

Paul hold a BSc in Crop Science and a PhD in Herbicide Mode of Action Studies. He joins the staff at Elmwood after a year with Stirling-

based turfgrass consultants Grass Technology International Ltd. and, before that, four years as technical advisor for British Seed Houses Ltd.

■ Kubota (UK) Ltd has appointed Carlisle-based Rickerby Ltd as their new dealer for the north of England and south west Scotland.

■ Michel Mulder, marketing director of Barenbrug UK, was all smiles when I spoke to him following his completion of the London Marathon. Despite his lack of training miles, Michel completed the 26-plus miles route in exactly four hours and succeeded in raising over £700 for Cot Death Research (FSDI). Michel acknowledges the boost provided in raising such funds to his many friends in the trade, thanking them from the bottom of his heart (shouldn't that be from the bottom of his aching feet?).



■ Modus 'T' Ltd have appointed Bob Bearns of South East Groundcare as their dealer for East and West Sussex. He will also oversee other Modus 'T' dealers in the SE regarding demonstrations, open days and general enquiries.

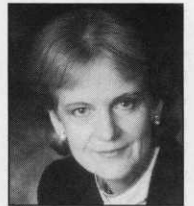
With Bob's help, Modus 'T' lay claim to a four-fold increase in sales.



■ Hayters have announced the appointment of David Sturges as their export manager. David, who has a BSc (Hons) Degree in Agricultural Technology and Management, has been with Hayters since 1987, latterly as a design and development engineer.

■ Clive Lockwood, former general manager of CDC Horticultural Equipment, has set up a new company – Lockwood Grass Machinery – and is now the sole importer of Lesco Turf Equipment for the UK. The company's objective is to carry on as before, offering sales, service and spares back-up for Lesco. Dealers are still required in certain areas – telephone 0473 289158.

■ Following a financial restructuring, (loosely referred to as a management buy-out), Rufford Top Dress (2000) Ltd have announced that Derek Cooper will take over as chairman and majority shareholder. The company founder, Frank Garvey, becomes joint managing director with responsibility for production and administration and Peter Jefford also becomes joint managing director with responsibility for sales and marketing.



■ Rachel Semiyen has been hired by BIGGA as PR and marketing consultant.

The appointment follows Rachel's success in handling press coverage of the BTME.

According to BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, "the appointment shows we understand the value that good PR can give to the professionalism of the Association.

Rachel Semiyen and her Associates have the experience and skills we were looking for to assist us in our future development."

Rachel was marketing director of Rolawn for five years.

Contact her on 0904 608355.

In Edwardian times the coastal towns of East Lothian – of which Dunbar remains an acknowledged though now slightly bedraggled jewel, with two of its once-famous hotels fallen victim to pyromania, vandalism and dereliction – were considered prime ‘watering holes’ by the glitterati and crowned heads of Europe. They came to bathe in the sea and take the air, both of which were believed to be possessed with powers of healing and recuperation, at the same time often discovered golf for the very first time. Sadly, times have changed. The glitterati have moved to the Mediterranean and beyond and, with few exceptions, the crowned heads are either deposed, dispossessed or just plain hideaways.

Whilst it is probably true that new generations don't know what they're missing, Dunbar's abiding attraction – its famous golf course – remains the worst kept secret of all, whipping those continental tourist traps into a cocked hat by continually attracting discerning golfers from every corner of the globe. Once captivated, they keep coming back. If there's one thing that needs to be said, the powers-that-be at BIGGA certainly know how to pick 'em when it comes to cornering a National Championship site – in choosing Dunbar they have excelled themselves.

As an unabashed lover of links courses, I liken myself to a retired pro bike rider I once met who declared that when he caught sight of a racing saddle his bum began to itch! My itch, albeit in another part of the anatomy, begins when I first set eyes on a tract of pure linksland hard by the sea, the light sparkling off the waves and setting a scene that never fails to enchant – God knows, on first sight of Dunbar's East Links I could hardly contain myself. I desperately wanted to drag clubs from the car boot and plead for a tee time, but my itch remained an irritation that I couldn't get at to scratch, for I had come, dammit, only to work!

Golf in some form has been played along the coastal land around Dunbar since ancient times, indeed in Scottish Acts of Parliament dated 1457 and 1491 it was decreed that weapon practices were to be held and that the playing of fut-ball and golfe was to be ‘utterly cryit downe and not be used’. In 1616 two men from the neighbouring parish of Tynninghame were censured for playing ‘at ye nyneholis’ on Sundays and in 1640 a parish minister at Dunbar was disgraced for similarly engaging in ‘gouf’ on the Sabbath. The Dunbar Golfing Society, from which the present Dunbar Golf Club claims its lineage, was instituted as long ago as 1794.

If at first sight the links at Dunbar appear simply as God, Nature and Old Tom Morris created them, in no small measure this may be accredited to the supreme skills of Graham Wood, the club's course manager for close on two decades. It soon became obvious in our discussion that he sees his life's task not only as that of caring for Dunbar's playing surfaces, but also as keeper and preserver of an area blessed with exquisite natural charm – one that must be upheld at all costs. If that appears to be ‘over the top’ I make no apologies, for the course positively reeks old world charm and is all the better for it.

Graham Wood is 42 years old, married, with two teenage offspring (his son Paul is also a budding greenkeeper, having recently taken an apprenticeship at Winterfield), and he's a native of East Lothian. He began his career at Dunbar, serving a three year apprenticeship under the late Bill Paton, followed by four more years as journeyman before making a wee trip along the coast to become head man at Monkton Hall, Musselburgh. Three years later the lure of Dun-

Dunbar town, as seen from the links' edge



'The course will simply be 'testing'

bar beckoned again and Graham, always highly respected by his peers as a master of his craft, was successful in landing the vacant head greenkeeper's job. He grinned as he said, “And here, fortunately, is where I've stayed”.

What maintenance regime does Graham employ? In a single word, the answer is ‘traditional’. “I was fortunate in training under Bill Paton,” he told me, “a craftsman who employed basic, indeed some might say old-fashioned, skills – he was steeped in common sense. He taught me the importance of traditional ways, of appreciating what turf needed, of handling it, smelling it, recognising possible problems before they happened. I remain an avowed traditionalist and I'm mean with fertiliser. We've a lot of fescue and I fight hard to keep the Poa down to minimal levels, so it's a case of on with a touch to bring some growth in spring and then starvation. I water by hand and don't find this a real problem, though quiet days are hard to come by so this often calls for night-time application. My topdressing is a mixture of loamy soil and white sand. Fungicides I apply as a preventative measure, prevention being better than cure, and once the growth is up I slit the greens and then let them burn a little – all these measures give me the quality of turf so vital for the links game”.

Quality the East Links certainly has, and character in abundance, but it must be stated here and now – Dunbar is no pushover! Let Graham, a mean five handicapper who plays ‘occasionally’ with his fellow greenkeepers, explain some its foibles and idiosyncrasies: “The course, 6,426 yards from the medal tees, has a par of 71. Three holes are played on the south side of an ancient beach wall, probably as old as the town itself, which stretches along much of the course and seems never to be out of play. After playing the third the course continues back over the wall on the narrow links beside the sea and rocky beach, the wall now to the players right. In all cases, over the wall is OB, so if there is one piece of advice I might offer BIGGA players it is ‘hit it straight and

character

says course manager **Graham Wood**, 'there'll be no broken hearts...'



The Dunbar crew

keep the ball in play'. The beach is a lateral water hazard and the burn also may come into play. To keep a good score going it is vital to keep your head around 10, 11 and 12, where the course can be deceptive, and the 12th (The Point) in particular, at 459 yards, plays long as it is often played into a breeze. Around the ninth, Barns Ness lighthouse looms large as a feature, and at the 14th green is seen The Vaults, a listed building which is preserved from removal or improvement. The green at 13 (Pot) could best be described as 'character building'. The course record is six under par; so clearly it can be tamed.

That stated, it is always a testing course and with any sort of wind the greens can be fast – I don't have to make them fast with low cutting- 3/16" is the norm – for there is no need, the wind takes over and does the rest! The nature of the greens, minimally watered to do no more than keep the grass alive, lend themselves admirably to the chip and run, rather than the high pitch and stop – interestingly, some of the pro's bent on qualifying here for The Open at Muirfield last year manufactured the screw back shot to some good effect, though I suspect that most amateurs, even those with low handicaps, will find the pitch and run much more effective, indeed I see no disgrace in using the Texas Wedge from 20 yards off".

I smiled at mention of the Texas Wedge, for just a couple of hours earlier I'd bumped into a real live Texan doing the Lothian Tour. 'Where I come from', he drawled, 'we got winds that just blow your mind. We teach 'em early – golfers with class should be a highball drinkers and a low ball hitters!'

The team at Dunbar can rightly be seen as a 'lean machine', for there is no dead weight to be found with a staff of just five, Graham included. Dunbar is famous as a breeding ground for head greenkeepers, indeed the club is proud of its ability to produce future managers and doesn't attempt to hold the tight rein, so the team tends to be young

and bursting with gung-ho. Apart from a new apprentice John Tait, there's tractor driver Scott Jenkins, assistant Gordon Craft and first assistant David Brown. To a man they are fiercely pro Dunbar and though I only met them for a short time, I would opine that the club are lucky to have them, for their enthusiasm shines through.

Graham learned of BIGGA's interest in staging the National at Dunbar through a call from Elliott Small six months ago. Both he and the club were flattered and indeed expressed pleasure at entertaining upwards of 100 greenkeepers. For Graham, preparation will call for no mean tricks or devious cunning – Dunbar GC has played host to numerous top class tournaments and for qualifying in The Open, so he's used to staging 'big ones'. Though any tournament leaves the head man on tenterhooks, on this grand occasion he'll be nervous only of judgement by his peers – I assured him he need have no such qualms. What's more, I knew he meant it when he intimated that skulduggery would play no part in his game plan, "the course will simply be 'testing' and there'll be no broken hearts".

Finally, I took my 'itch' back home, though not before making a whistle-stop tour of the wee town, sucking in the still prevalent Edwardian atmosphere and delighting in its sheer Scottishness. For me, Dunbar evokes misty apparitions of Willie Park and his cronies, of niblicks, guttie balls and old world courtesies. It has a fine beach and grand sea fishing and there's a local nature trail and a nature reserve. I'll be back, dammit, no power on earth will keep me away!

Major machinery in the Dunbar stable

- 2 Iseki tractors
- 1 Massey Ferguson Tractor Riddle
- 2 Trailer tippers
- 1 Spoon tiner/ Slit tiner
- 3 Supaturf Evenspeed spreaders
- 1 Sisis Hollow tiner
- 2 Toro TV5002 commercial rotaries
- 1 Powerscreen Rover 30
- 1 Charterhouse 1416 topdresser
- 2 Ransomes Marquis 31 mowers
- 5 Ransomes Super Auto Certes
- 1 Ryan Hollowtiner
- 3 Jacobsen Greens King IV Diesels
- 2 Utility vehicles (incl. new Mule)
- 1 Turfco turfcutter

AGM Report



BIGGA can look back on only a short history, but it is a period marked by progress and accomplishment. 1992 was no exception and confirmed the sharply rising curve in BIGGA's development which was apparent the previous year. So much happens in the Association that it is difficult to compress the detail into a report such as this. I will, however, look back over the year and then highlight the issues and concerns which face us in 1993 and beyond.

Our AGM traditionally precedes Westurf and this is now a well-established and eagerly anticipated regional event in the south-west. It meets a local need and in acknowledging the input of the regional board to the event, members of that board will be the first to acknowledge how much the event's success owes to Gordon and Marion Child. Its impact locally is great but it also contributes to BIGGA's status as a whole.

By May, the fifth and final Iseki Tournament was well into its qualifying stages and at the final at Coventry Golf Club in September, a well-presented golf course made for an exciting final and the usual keen contest for the Regional Prize. The banquet was tinged with some sadness with Iseki's decision to end their sponsorship of the event. One sensed a genuine regret amongst Iseki's staff at the decision, but we can all look back on five excellent years and a period which most certainly established the event as the premier regional tournament: bringing sections together on a regional basis which, members will recall, was the original aim in setting it up.

At last year's AGM I assured members that every effort would be made to ensure the continuance of the tournament, which since 1988 had done so much to cement member relationships at a regional level, and at the end of the year it was a particular pleasure to announce a successful conclusion to discussions with Hayters for that company to take over sponsorship of the event, to be known henceforth as the Hayter Challenge Tournament. Already it seems clear that there will be a gradual upgrading of the tournament and we can look forward optimistically to the 1993 event and beyond.

In July, The Open took us to Muirfield. Much praise was forthcoming for the course preparation by Chris Whittle and his team and this set the tone for a highly successful week. It is very much a week when the Association is 'on show' and our support team most certainly has a job to do which I believe is done with the right mixture of professionalism, hard work and enjoyment. It is not an easy event to organise from the Association's viewpoint and patience and diplomacy are often necessary on the part of the Association's officers, officials and support team. The input at regional level is important to the success of our participation and our thanks are due to the experienced (I was going to say veteran) Scottish team for their sterling efforts. It is an immensely enjoyable week and does much to enhance BIGGA's



**BIGGA is
respected as
a professional
body that
knows where
it is going...**

- Executive director NEIL THOMAS

image. We look forward to Royal St Georges, when the logistical problems will be greater than usual, but with an experienced team on hand I am sure that we can anticipate another successful week.

In August, the National Tournament took us to the farthest reaches of Kent - to the Littlestone Golf Club. Here we enjoyed a hugely warm and relaxed welcome. The wind blew and blew but the competitors persevered. The South East region had put much preparation into the event and ran a successful race night in the marquee, followed by a first class banquet. This event represents a tradition going back over many years and an annual reunion for many members. It is always good however to see fresh faces each year and we now look forward to traditional Scottish hospitality at Dunbar this coming August.

In mentioning the South East region

involvement, one cannot talk of this without mention of Norman Exley. The March edition of 'Greenkeeper International' has written of his life and work on behalf of the Association. I would just add quite simply at a personal level that he was a good friend for whom nothing on behalf of the Association was too much trouble. We all recognised his many qualities and he will be sadly missed.

Soon we were into the busy autumn period and the annual Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. This year brought another triumph for our team, albeit by the narrowest of margins. Members will recall that the Board changed the basis of team selection for the 1992 event and this resulted in an unfortunate reaction from a number of members during the National Tournament. The matter was subsequently referred back to the regional boards for consideration and the responses received were heavily in favour of the new selection method, which the Board has since confirmed will continue. I would urge members wishing to register their concerns to do so in the democratic manner, which our constitution allows through their sections, regions and subsequently to Board level. The petition which was raised did not reflect well on the Association and although it did not subsequently threaten our enjoyment of Littlestone, it could well have proved an unnecessary embarrassment to the Association.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award entered its fourth year and we had a most worthy winner in Barry Neville of Oaklands College. This award is set to expand this year with seven regional finals covering thirty-six colleges now entitled to enter students at Phase II Level II Craft level. The ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award went to Ian Harrison of Darlington and the final at Aldwark Manor produced fierce competition. Unfortunately the membership did not support the preliminary stages and we are very grateful to ICI Professional Products (henceforth to be known as Zeneca) for their continued support in 1993. Last year's problems have been addressed and it is pleasing to report a far greater level of interest than at the corresponding period last year.

Through October and November we again ran our successful Management Courses, this time extended to six weeks. These courses in recent years have done so much to establish our credibility within the game and I would urge many more members to take advantage of them.

By late autumn, the office scene is very clearly focused on membership subscription renewals and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. This year there were particular difficulties with the extra demands made with The Duke of York's visit, coupled with staffing problems which came at the wrong time. However, we made it and all was in place for the Opening Ceremony on 20 January. The BTME has now become a focal point each year, not only for our members but for the trade and the industry as a whole, as well as attracting

increasing European participation.

I do not need to recount the success of the BTME – this is already well documented. I would say, however, that the professionalism which we have insisted on demonstrating on all occasions is in many ways the key to our success and the status we now enjoy within the game of golf. This professionalism was very evident in Harrogate and we must always be aware of the need to maintain it at all levels. Yes, we have a successful show but there must be no complacency. The exhibition industry is highly competitive and only hard work by all those involved in the BTME will ensure its continued success, coupled with a firm and ongoing commitment from the membership to support it. Allied to this must be a vision for its future growth and development, which will demand imaginative marketing strategies and which we are now addressing.

Following the BTME, your chairman and myself, together with Carol Dutton from our marketing team, attended the GCSAA Show in Anaheim, California, where again we had our own stand. Much interest was expressed in Association membership, magazine subscriptions and the BTME. Interest was heightened this year in that two of the four Master Greenkeeper Certificate awards at Harrogate were made to our American members and this has undoubtedly generated interest within the GCSAA. The presence of BIGGA on an international stage is important and whilst we now enjoy excellent relationships with the American, Canadian and Swedish Associations, there is a clear need to consolidate our position in Europe, where many greenkeeping associations are still in their embryo stages. How pleasing therefore to witness the very real enthusiasm within Europe, which was so evident during the European Forum held at the BTME. In the space of some ninety minutes no fewer than a dozen European speakers spoke of greenkeeping developments in their countries and of the need for BIGGA to co-ordinate increased co-operation between the greenkeeping associations in Europe.

Finally we come to the National Education Conference, held at the University of Keele. What a splendid location and excellent facilities. Like the BTME, this is a focal point in our year – the setting and the programme seem just right and our members gain so much from their participation over the three days – not only in the lecture theatre but during the subsequent social inter-action. Many now make the conference an annual event for, like Harrogate, we find that once a member has attended for the first time, he needs no persuading to return again.

So far I have spoken about the major events which focus our year. Behind them lies much organisation and they need to be considered in the context of the overall growth and development of the Association. This has been a year which has seen further acceleration in the pace of our progress. At the beginning of 1992 I announced the setting-up of an Education and Development Fund and much of our market-

ing during the year has been geared towards the establishment of this fund. The Golden and Silver Key memberships have undoubtedly been successful both in terms of attracting company and individual membership. We have built a sound base for the fund but, of course, it tends to be the more committed members both within the industry and the Association who take up membership in the first year. The real test will be in sustaining the growth of the fund in 1993 and beyond. It has proved possible, however, for your Board to take three important decisions in 1992 which have been made possible only through the attraction of finance into this fund.

The long-awaited career video will soon be a reality for 'shooting' has been largely completed. Scripting, commentary and editing have yet to be finalised and whilst it will be available later in the year, it is my intention to officially launch it during the Opening Ceremony of next January's BTME, which I am certain will ensure its maximum impact.

Secondly, the first in what we hope will become a series of training videos will shortly be completed and this first video will focus on the application of pesticides and fertilisers. It is the intention to provide every golf club with a copy and it should prove a major asset for training purposes.

Thirdly, the Board has decided to proceed with a Scholarship Awards Scheme, which will enable grants to be made to deserving individuals to assist them in pursuance of their college courses. This particular initiative needs a lot of consideration and discussion and should be viewed as achievable in the medium/long terms, possibly for the start of the September 1994 academic year. So we begin to see the benefits from the establishing of this fund and I would urge members as individuals, but also through their sections and regions, to give every possible support to ensure its growth.

However much we look to others within the game to fund greenkeeper education and training programmes, there must remain an element of self provision, which will allow us to determine our own priorities and future spending programmes. The fund is important for the Association and we will continue to market it to this effect and I would urge all members, sections and regions to support it.

During the year there have been a number of changes at headquarters, some a natural consequence of growth, others reflecting the personal circumstances of staff. In June we extended our accommodation by taking on an adjacent wing which had previously enjoyed multi-purpose use by the hotel. This expansion in office space arose from two factors – the by then obvious over-crowding within the original offices and the need to plan for and accommodate the proposed new GTC education unit. Now we have offices which will satisfy our needs in the medium term, although your Board remains mindful of the need to constantly review the longer term position.

Recently your Board has seen the need to strengthen certain areas of our administration

and plan for the future. In February our new administration manager, John Pemberton, joined the Association, replacing the previous holder of the finance officer post.

With the BTME and our market leader magazine, there is a great need to strengthen our marketing team and we have recently appointed a new sales and marketing assistant, Louise Lunn. Additionally, Samantha Collins has been appointed to relieve the burden on clerical and typing services. Inevitably there will be changes of role and job responsibilities but I am sure the structure gradually being put in place will serve the Association well for the future.

Coupled with these changes have been the major developments in relation to the establishment of the GTC's new education unit. The April issue of 'Greenkeeper International' sets out the current position in relation to the new unit and also relates to developments since May of 1992, culminating in the establishment of the new unit.

It is incumbent on us all to seek a successful outcome to the deliberations of recent months, which have been designed to ensure increased funding of education and training for greenkeepers in the future. In this regard, BIGGA will continue to take the lead role. We will seek a constructive working relationship with the GTC, particularly in relation to the next phase of development of the Training Manual and the introduction of the new NVQ system, in the hope that BIGGA's experience will be utilised and that much of its pioneering work will now come to fruition. Already it is clear that the GTC does not see itself contributing financially in future to BIGGA's own educational programmes and this emphasises the importance of our own Education and Development Fund. At present the GTC remains located within our offices until the education unit is relocated in the South Lodge at Aldwark Manor in October.

On a practical level it means that the Association has now lost the services of David Golding and Sue Gudgeon, so the staffing picture at headquarters is changing. Debbie and Samantha have now been with me for four years – since May 1989 – and they at least will be familiar faces when members visit Aldwark Manor. Debbie is now Education Officer, BIGGA, taking over responsibility for BIGGA's educational programmes and award schemes. Clair Douglas has recently been appointed to the Membership Services Section and Pauline Thompson has begun work in the Finance Section.

So finally, what of our future? Most certainly we are well settled at Aldwark Manor, though its future and therefore ultimately our future remains clouded with some uncertainty. I would estimate that if our current rate of progress is maintained we might well be running into accommodation problems in around three years time. There are plans for our development at Aldwark Manor but they depend on finances becoming available both from Aldwark Manor and our own point of

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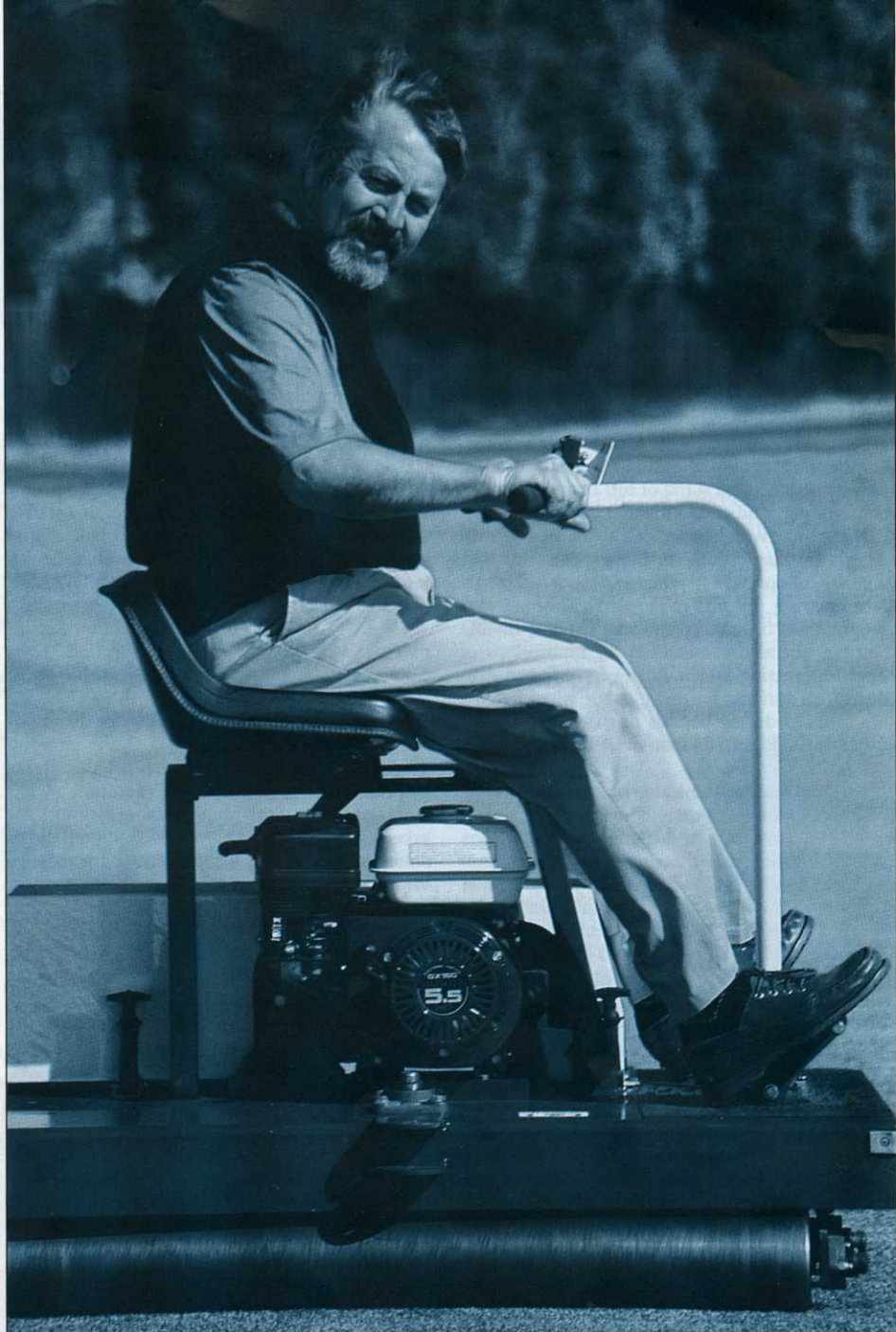
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9 → view. These plans call for our involvement with the golf course as well as for the construction of new purpose built offices for ourselves. If these plans fail to come to fruition then, at some future date, we may need to seek an unwanted move from Aldwark Manor.

If uncertainties cloud our future at Aldwark Manor, then our future standing within the game looks much brighter than it did five years ago. We have created an impression, we are respected as a professional body that knows where it is going and, quite frankly, we are generally ahead of the game in our organisation, planning, administration, professionalism and indeed pure enthusiasm.

In getting ahead of the game, we do attract antagonism from time to time, but if progress and development attracts such antagonism then we have no need to be apologetic. We will continue to set standards and hopefully the game will react favourably. We shall certainly not be detracted from doing what is right for the greenkeeping profession and right for our members. We are not yet set on a firm base. We remain dependent on membership subscriptions and income from the BTME and 'Greenkeeper International' for our very existence and much more work remains to be done to ensure the security of our income from these three principal sources. In all three areas our marketing team faces formidable challenges.

Finally, my special and sincere thanks to our chairman, Roy Kates, for all he has achieved during his year of office. Like our previous chairmen, nothing had prepared him for his shock of becoming chairman of this vibrant Association of ours. It cannot be disputed that Roy has put himself about this past year on behalf of the Association. He has particularly had to cope with the 'politics' of the new education unit and his diplomacy during this period has been first-class. His employer at Wexham Park has given excellent backing and support, which was recognised by Viscount Whitelaw during BTME. The duties of chairman demand a substantial and ever-growing commitment and Roy has given freely of his time. I would conclude by thanking him for his steadfast support during the year. I am sure the experience he has gained will be utilised for the future benefit of BIGGA.



A spot of IRONING

DAVID WHITE (pictured) discovers how to increase putting speeds without stress

Eyebrows were raised, a murmur of disquiet droned across the crowded lecture theatre. Delegates at Keele were informed yet again that in America the greatest thing since sliced bread was not the stimpmeter, not the mower that grooms, trims and cuts grass lower than a gnats eye – and certainly not those unfamiliar strains of turfgrass suited more to desert conditions than the home counties of England.

No – the use of the piece of machinery known generically as the Australian Turf Iron is, we were assured, the course superintendent's best friend, currently winning great favour and influencing people in all manner of high places.

If you can believe that what America does today Britain will do tomorrow, the Turf Iron certainly deserves closer investigation, and it was with this in mind that I visited Went- → 12

A spot of IRONING

'Don't knock it 'till you've tried it...'

11 → worth's newest course, the Edinburgh, the better to see a Turf Iron in action and to assess its capabilities.

The scenario at Wentworth is no different than that found at other courses around the country: players with low handicaps demand ultra-fast greens with nary a thought for the consequences. On the other hand, the golf course manager aims to provide a healthy stand of turf that will survive constant play and environmental extremes.

Never the twain shall meet might be the easy answer for many course managers, declaring that a golfer cannot have his cake and eat it – fast surfaces placing the turf in jeopardy. Granted that programmes of reduced mowing heights, double cutting, liberal use of groomers, applications of light topdressing and reducing fertility can produce such surfaces for a while, but when heights are lowered during periods of stress, greens can disappear quicker than cash invested in the Channel Tunnel!

Graham Matheson, head greenkeeper of Wentworth's Edinburgh course, is of the opinion that using the Turf Iron as a management tool has proved invaluable. Following a proper aeration programme, not only did he gain an increase in green speeds but he also found the iron invaluable on areas that had been returfed, the iron smoothing out minor humps and bumps with no visible signs of stress while assisting in bringing such areas into play quicker than hitherto. In addition, the machine has a place in day-to-day management after cultural operations such as

verti-draining, coring, top dressing etc. Above all, the greens on the Edinburgh course are healthy, reveal no signs of stress and are quick enough to satisfy all but the masochistic.

Simply stated, the Turf Iron is a motorised ride-on machine, its twin rollers controlled by a simple tiller device that is simplicity itself to use – indeed it is so simple that with just a few minutes tuition I was zooming over the turf in expert fashion. The makers claim no miracles, but insist that when properly used, the Turf Iron will change persistently bumpy greens into smoother, healthier and above all faster surfaces while raising mowing heights, not lowering them!

Quoting from a recent 'Green Section Record' published by the USGA Green Section, Larry Gilhuly cites a specific Turf Iron case history as follows:

"The first step was to reduce surface disruption caused by multiple aerations. With the introduction of water aeration this technique reduced (not eliminated!) standard core aeration while increasing the total number of aerations. The greens were smoother, yet the perennial *Poa annua* still possessed inconsistent characteristics. With monthly aeration to relieve compaction the superintendent began a programme of rolling greens on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The results were instantly positive as far as the membership was concerned and produced the following changes:

- 1 Reduced mowing frequency from seven to five days per week.

- 2 Discontinued all double-mowing practices.
- 3 Decreased labour time spent on greens.
- 4 A virtual halt to player complaints.

These positive results benefited the overall golf course maintenance operation. The growth and playing characteristics of the greens, however, have also changed:

- 1 An increase in mowing height from .15" (between 9/64" and 5/32") to .17" (11/64").
- 2 A consistent increase in overall average speed from 8'6" to 9'6".
- 3 An overall improvement in surface smoothness and a reduction in footprinting.
- 4 Improved daily consistency and surface firmness.
- 5 An apparent increase in rooting depth.
- 6 A slight reduction in pesticide use and a slight increase in bentgrass.

The programme described has been used for approximately one year and continues to produce outstanding results. One point that definitely rings true is that any programme that can potentially minimise pesticide usage, produce healthier turf, and provide desired putting green speed with good surface smoothness is worth a demonstration".

It seems to me that a practice of old, for rolling is indeed an old practice, in these enlightened times is surely worthy of consideration – on the premise 'don't knock it 'till you've tried it', ironing turf may well provide the answer to increasing green speeds without normally associated stress.

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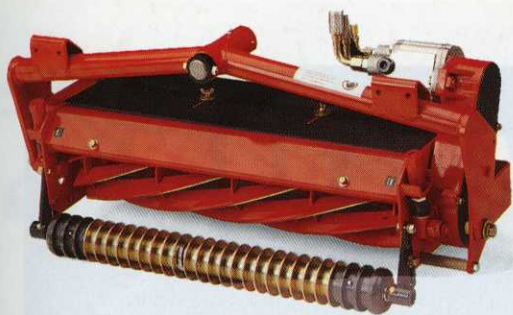
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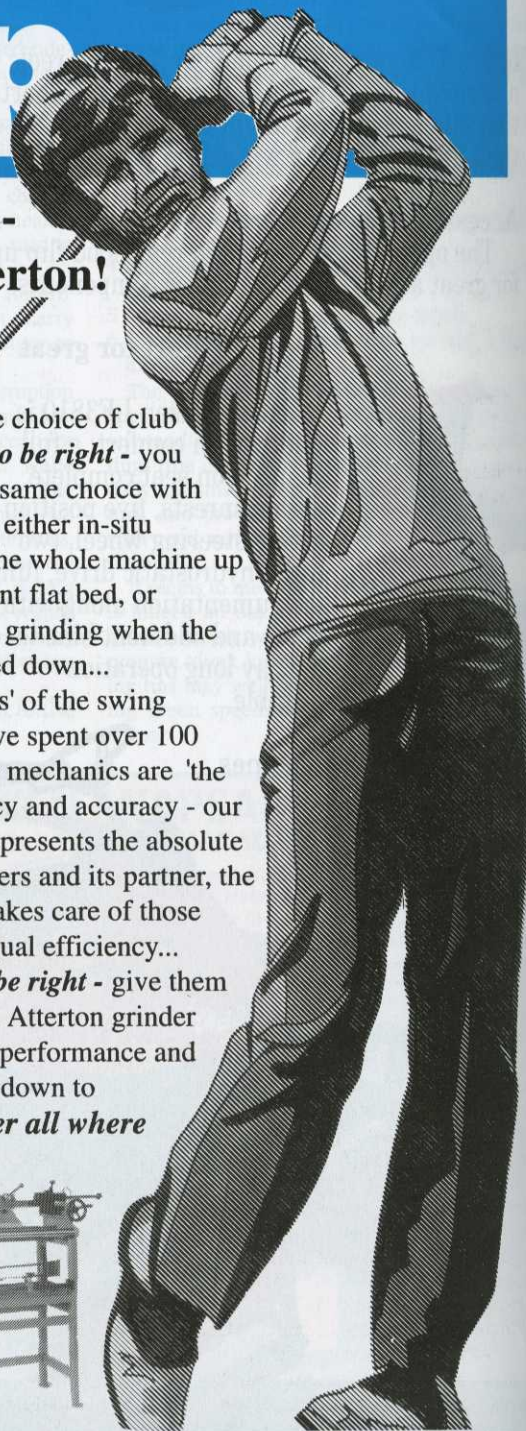
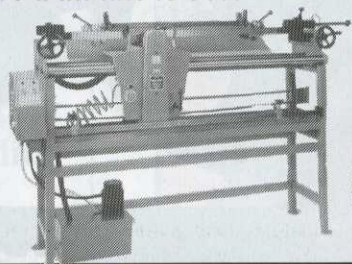
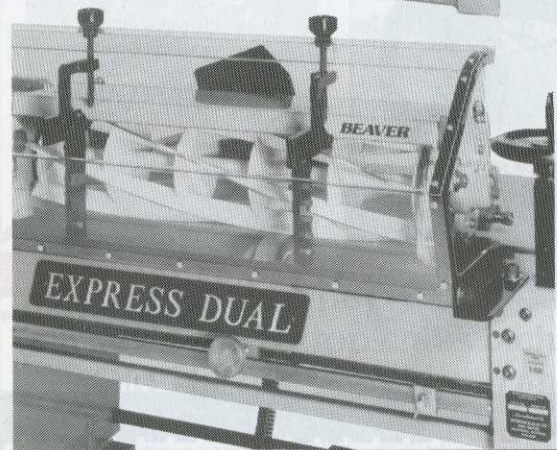
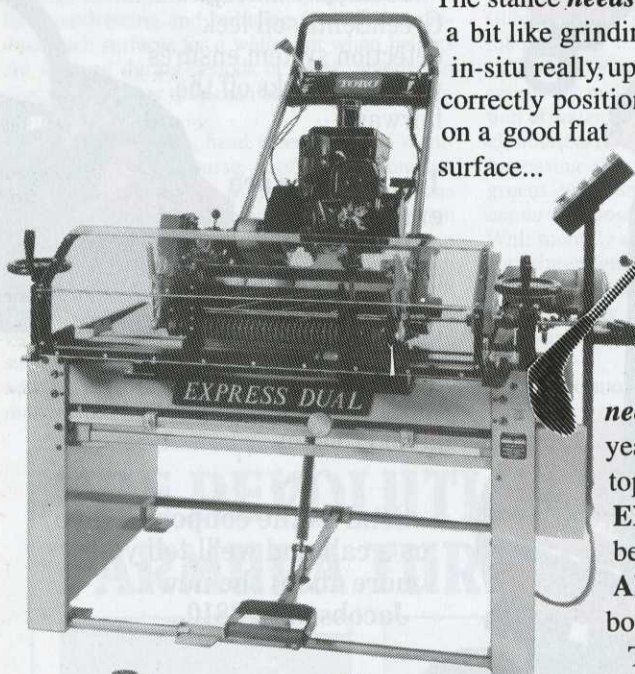
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'Utter rubbish' exposed

Reading 'Greens Must Not Be Spared', I was convinced the piece was an 'April Fool wind-up'. I sought confirmation from the editor, who assured me that the opinions expressed, questionable though they may be, were indeed genuine.

Well – where does one start to expose, discredit and denounce so much utter, irresponsible rubbish and completely unfounded statements? Mr Travers obviously has faith in his convictions and I also have convictions – I am convinced that the article was a gross insult to our profession and I will not therefore attempt to counter the idiotic statements and contradictions contained therein.

I must highlight one, however, which screams 'impossible': How can a course accommodate 2,000 rounds of golf in 14 days in the middle of winter, having regard for the hours of daylight available? That works out at 142 rounds daily, discounting the possibility that the course may not have been open for every one of those 14 days and bearing in mind also that over 26 days of the year his (Lamberhurst) course was closed.

Could it possibly be that Mr Travers – in his capacity as a PGA professional – has a vested interest in green fees? Not to mention the sale of golfing requisites – with an emphasis on luminous golf balls, studded wellington boots and the hire of sledges and aqua-lungs!

The mind boggles. Can readers imagine what must transpire at Lamberhurst GC committee meetings? Answers on a postcard!

DAVID HINDMARSH

Course Manager, Milngavie GC, Glasgow

The article 'Greens Must Not Be Spared' is a prime example of the reason why golf professionals should be kept well away from the running of golf courses.

Every greenkeeper tries to keep greens in play as much as possible, but knows equally that there are limits. In different parts of the country there are harder frosts and measurably different rainfall levels etc., which make comparisons difficult. Sure, we know that plenty of 'assist' machines exist, but can all clubs afford these for the work needed to aid recovery after adverse conditions?

It is stated, quote: 'Mike doesn't believe in temporary greens and unless conditions on the course are unpleasant and muddy the course remains open – whether the rain has bucketed down or greens are covered in frost'. That statement appears contradictory.

To my mind, professional golfers (or those responsible for arranging their tournaments) have not helped greenkeeping one little bit, eliminating many of the natural grasses by insisting that the ball 'holds' even when struck with woods and long irons.

Many are now discovering that American ideas just do not work in Britain and it is unfortunate that many such ideas have also been applied to some of our treasured seaside links, with glaringly detrimental effect.

For me, it is members golf that is most important, and my members understand that if conditions are not right they go over to play on temps for their own good. I am amazed that Mr Travers has time for three jobs, I certainly would not have time to be a golf pro.

JOHN NUDDS

Course Manager, Gerrards Cross GC. Bucks

(John Nudds is captain of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon County Golf Team and a category one player – editor).

Was the nonsense which appeared in 'Greens Must Not Be Spared' put in as bait trailed before readers to induce comment? If it was printed merely to warn members what will happen to their courses (and them) when the PGA takes over (witness what has already happened in cricket and tennis), I could excuse it, but really...!

Every line contravenes sensible greenkeeping, reveals appalling constructional errors and mistaken deductions. The winter of 1992/93 was very wet, but it was abnormally mild according to Met. Office records.

The danger is that inexperienced greenkeepers will be led astray and aggressive green chairmen will use this as a stick.

BILL BISHOP

Ross-on-Wye GC, Herefordshire

Congratulations to Mike Travers for the very brave article 'Greens Must Not Be Spared'. Whilst I cannot condone the set-up at Lamberhurst, the triple role of pro., greenkeeper and greens chairman hardly being ideal, Mike's attitude to his course and greens is to be applauded.

I too managed greens on a heavy clay base for eight years, very successfully and along similar lines to Mike. It seemed to me that in a reasonably sheltered environment, good all year-round greens could be produced from far from desirable growing mediums. Keeping the nutrient levels relatively high and the cutting heights relatively low, i.e. a whisker above an eighth during the summer and never higher than a quarter during the winter, combined with regular aeration and hole changing, gave greens that putted at between 9 & 10 on the stimpmeter all summer and greens which stood up to winter wear at speeds between 7 & 8 except under the most severe of conditions. In fact these greens were noted for miles around as quality greens, when in fact they were constructed from anything but quality materials. A word of warning however – it is absolutely essential to 'keep your finger on the pulse' as the patient can be temperamental, finicky and at times downright awkward!

I feel that Mike Travers may attract a certain amount of flak from the article. I hope this helps to redress the balance.

PAUL WORSTER

Course Manager, Minchinhampton GC, Gloucs

May I congratulate BIGGA on their excellent pesticide course, and especially Jon Allbutt for his superb tuition, which resulted in all participants gaining PA1 and PA2 exam passes with flying colours. Not only was the course first rate, but the conversation was very stimulating – and not always about pesticides or legislation either!

One talking point concerned 'Greens Must Not Be Spared'. After we had convinced ourselves that it wasn't an April Fool joke we discussed it bit by bit, to our great amusement. I know that a certain sector of our membership express fears that PGA professionals will eventually take control of their jobs, but I do not share their view. Judging by the content of Mike Travers article we have nothing to fear, especially when we keep up to the minute

via Allbutt inspired educational courses at Aldwark Manor.

One point I would like to make, however, is this: would the course be kept open in all conditions if the pro. was not making a profit from shop sales or taking a percentage from green fees?

A greenkeeper does not have this problem and the wise greenkeeper will always look after his course at all costs.

ED McCABE

Course Manager, Brokenhurst GC, Hampshire

I wonder if you can help on this? We have received a letter from Patrick Knook, a trainee greenkeeper in Holland. He is attending a school for horticulture and has spent some time working on a golf course.

To further his studies he would like to spend some time working on a British golf course, from 28 June through to 6 August.

Is it possible that one of your members could use an extra pair of hands?

KAREN SMITH

PR & Marketing Manager, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd, Ipswich. Telephone 0473 270000.

Our greenkeeper at Sandilands was having big problems with moles last year, having no luck in catching them. Though I play at Sandilands I work for another club and having some experience with these creatures I asked if I might give my method a try. He encouraged me to 'have a go'.

From the very start I had success, trapping about seven or eight, though the main problem was centred around our tenth green. Not wanting to place traps on or around the green, I enlisted the help of the catering staff and obtained some five litres of old cooking fat, pouring the whole lot down the two main runs. From that day there has been no signs of the creatures returning.

This is a tip I picked up many years ago, one which I have used hundreds of times and always with great success. I pass it on so that it may help others.

GEOFFREY KNOLES

Vice captain, Sandilands GC., (also head greenkeeper, Woodthorpe Hall GC.) Lincs

Reading April's Greenkeeper International my attention was drawn to the article 'It's Girls' Work Too'. I found this very interesting indeed – and very true to life.

I am the deputy head greenkeeper at Romiley GC, Stockport, and before this I served a sound and thorough apprenticeship at Mere G&CC under the supervision of course manager Mike Sheehan, backed up with college training at Myerscough College.

Personally, I believe that if a person demonstrates real interest, determination and enthusiasm for their job it doesn't really matter if they are male or female, they will succeed.

I can safely say that greenkeeping has proved to be a very interesting, challenging and varied career that has given me maximum job satisfaction. I am glad I took the 'risk' in choosing greenkeeping as a profession – it has certainly paid off.

DIANA K LYTHGOE

Romiley Golf Club, Stockport, Cheshire

As greenkeepers, groundsmen and anyone remotely interested in our industry headed for Long Ashton Golf Club on 28 April, they were treated to a rare glimpse of the sun – in a month that had brought more than its fair share of rain. With over 600 cars through the gate in the first hour, organisers and traders were unanimous in expressing themselves well pleased, and with the steady flow continued throughout the day this helped to make this fourth Westurf exhibition easily the best yet.

Eager to show west country folk the very best in turf care equipment and supplies, there were 68 exhibitors from around the country, taking up 114 stand spaces, and there was so much to see that figures were seen dashing from stand to stand, keen to ensure that they did not miss a single thing. Wherever one turned, it seemed there were smiling faces and the atmosphere was one of felicitousness. The BIGGA stand was kept busy with Ma Rion's turf poser and a constant stream of members dropped by to chew the fat, to renew old acquaintances, or to meet the new BIGGA chairman, John Crawford, who had travelled all the way from Scotland just to be with us.

We would like to thank our hosts, Long Ashton Golf Club, for their kindness and we hope that we added a little extra sparkle to their centenary year. A special thanks to John Crawford for his valued support and to the BIGGA staff for all they do. Finally, we acknowledge that without the support of the traders and visitors there would be no Westurf, so to them we say a very special thank you.

Now we look forward to Westurf '94, which will take place at the same venue on 27 April 1994 – see you all there.

GORDON CHILD

IN THE PICTURE: WESTURF '93



A neat team from Castle Coombe GC



Ivor Scoones, left and Gordon Child

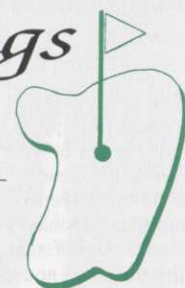


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**- DEBBIE SAVAGE,
BIGGA Education Officer**

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BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW on the 1993 series of BIGGA Management Courses.

There will be two Year 1 courses, 18-22 October and 25-29 October; Year 2, 1-5 November; Year 3, 8-12 November and Year 4, 15-19 November.

This is the fifth year of the courses and delegates who have attended in the past will be aware of the need to book early - places this year are limited and will be on a first come-first served basis. It is an intensive week for all delegates with much to be learnt from the industry's experts - much can also be gained from informal discussions in the evenings in the relaxing atmosphere of BIGGA's headquarters, Aldwark Manor Hotel.

Attendance at each week's course qualifies delegates for eight credits to go towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) has identified supervisory and management training as a priority for head greenkeepers who may never have had the opportunity to attend the type of formal training courses now available at many colleges throughout the UK and Ireland. Golf clubs who have mature head greenkeepers with no supervisory qualifications would benefit from encouraging them to attend the BIGGA Management Courses and a GTC grant of £150 per week may be available to golf clubs supporting this GTC approved course. For more information on the GTC grant, call Sue Gudgeon on 0347 838640.

The cost per week to include accommodation (twin bedded rooms), all meals and tuition fees is £450+VAT.

To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return to BIGGA together with a deposit of £100 +VAT (total: £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than 1st October, 1993. A receipted invoice will be issued immediately. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate.

If you have any queries or you need more information, call Debbie Savage on 0347 838581.



BIGGA Management Courses are approved by the Greenkeepers Training Committee.

Management Courses Autumn/Winter 1993: TIMETABLES

Year 1 18-22 October 1993 or 25-29 October 1993			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon	How to manage your time more effectively: David Illingworth	Introduction to computers: Fred Robinson
Tuesday	Computers: continued Fred Robinson	Grasses for the Golf Course: Mike Canaway/Dr Peter Hayes, STRI	Communication workshop: Nick Bisset, Askham Bryan College
Wednesday	Conservation on the Golf Course: Robert Taylor, STRI	Problems associated with the maintenance of Tees, Bunkers, Surrounds and Fairways: Stuart Ormoundroyd/Alistair Beggs	Problems associated with the maintenance of Greens: Steve Isaac/Neil Baldwin, STRI
Thursday	Health & Safety Update: Jon Allbutt		
Friday	Turf Grass Diseases: Neil Baldwin, STRI	Delegates depart following lunch	

Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon
Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm

Year 2 1-5 November 1993			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon	Assertiveness: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Report Writing: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley
Tuesday	Verbal Presentations: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Leadership: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Presentation: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley
Wednesday	Health & Safety at Work Act 1974: Jon Allbutt		
Thursday	Preparing a Health & Safety Statement of Safety Policy/Preparing a Risk Assessment (COSHH-FEPA): Jon Allbutt		
Friday	Turf nutrition: David Lawson, STRI	Delegates depart following lunch	

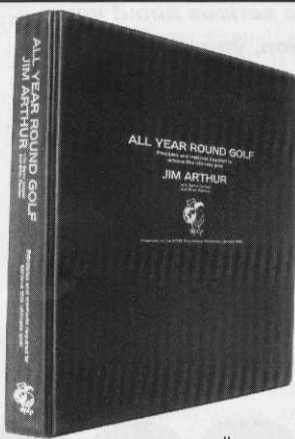
Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon
Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm

Year 3 8-12 November 1993			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon	Job Interview: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Writing and Assessing CVs: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley
Tuesday	Team Development: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Managing Performance: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	
Wednesday	Surveying: Robert Everett, STRI		Finance: What are the Options? Keith Jaynes
Thursday	Construction of Golf Greens: Brian D Pierson, British Association of Golf Course Contractors		
Friday	Preparing and Implementing a Course Policy Document: Jeff Perris, STRI	Delegates depart following lunch	

Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon
Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm

Year 4 15-19 November 1993			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon	Advanced Public Speaking: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Marketing and Customer Care: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley
Tuesday	Negotiating Skills: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	Working Under Pressure: Frank Newberry or Paul Whiteley	
Wednesday	First Aid; Ken Bick, Medical Training Services		
Thursday	Health & Safety at Work Update: Jon Allbutt		
Friday	Presenting a Course for Championships: Speaker to be announced	Delegates depart following lunch	

Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon
Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm



BIGGA BOOKS

ALL YEAR ROUND GOLF - Principles and methods required to achieve this ultimate goal by JIM ARTHUR

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by John Hacker and George Shiels

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Specifications for a Method of Putting Green Construction

edited by William H Bengeyfield.....£2.50 inc. post and packing

TO ORDER, COMPLETE THE CARD OPPOSITE PAGE 42

Debbie Savage, BIGGA's new education officer, is at the leading edge of one of the most important aspects of the Association - its educational and training programmes. RACHEL SEMLYEN talked to Debbie at Aldwark Manor

The achievement of independent funding for the newly structured Greenkeepers Training Committee is a feather in the cap of BIGGA. Its successful campaign to get formal training needs recognised reflects tremendously well on the Association. What of the Association's approach to education and how will it be progressed, now that its education officer has left to direct the GTC?

Neil Thomas, executive director, is acutely aware of the education needs that remain. "We have a priority to look after our members' education requirements just as we have always done" he says. "Whilst the GTC will concern itself mainly with long-term policy, the completion of work on the supervisory and managerial aspects of the Training Manual and the formal education of students through the colleges, I estimate that some 70% of the education and training provisions for greenkeepers remains with BIGGA. These centre around the programme we have built up for courses, awards, conferences, seminars and the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Much remains to be done and we plan to develop still further liaising on an ongoing basis with the GTC."

Who better to step into David Golding's shoes than the person on the Aldwark team who has assisted him over the past four years: Debbie Savage. Debbie, while in the position of exhibitions/membership officer has helped to set up the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, assisted with the seminar programme at Harrogate and the Education Conference and is known not only to members but also to sponsors and a wide range of industry representatives.

I went to see Debbie when the appointment was announced, but before the changes had come into being. It was the usual busy office, phones ringing, people calling and, outside on the Aldwark Manor course, golfers enjoying the spring sunshine. She told me frankly that David Golding will be "a tough act to follow, but he and I have worked together for four years and have one aim in common, the training and education of greenkeepers. Now I am looking forward to giving the education side of the job 100% of my time."

"The advantage is that everyone knows me. I have a thorough working knowledge of BIGGA in all its aspects and I understand the needs of our members. The adrenalin is starting to buzz now with enthusiasm for the task ahead. There is a tremendous amount to do, with the courses, awards, conference and seminars for a start, before we can begin to look ahead to the next stage and develop the planned scholarship awards. These I see as a most important stage in our development as we seek to provide the means for worthy students in need of financial support to attend college."

Debbie started with BIGGA soon after its arrival at Aldwark in 1989. Since then she has organised the increasingly successful BTME at Harrogate and established it as the most successful new fine turf exhibition in the country. And in her role as Membership Officer she has had to set up and run the computer systems for the membership from scratch.

"When BIGGA was established in 1987 there were some 1,300 members. Now there are 5,000. The main aim was finding out what the sections wanted for their members, providing the relevant information and making sure everything ran smoothly.

"Having been here since the beginning of the Association at Aldwark, I have seen a lot of change. We now run our own magazine as well as the exhibition and to ensure the development and growth of both we have to compete aggressively in a difficult business and financial climate. We consider our magazine to be the market leader and during the last four years we have seen the BTME become the industry's premier exhibition."

Debbie grew up in Sussex and left school at 16. She took a two year course in business administration at Worthing College of Further Education and then worked for ten years in a local solicitor's office as a legal executive for which she trained on a day release course, passing parts one and two of the Associates Examination. It was in the early eighties with marriage to a research scientist and a move to the United States, that her career in professional association work began.

She started in Washington DC with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, which was the umbrella organi-

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DEB'S DELIGHT

sation for six scientific societies within the USA with over 50,000 members. She worked in the employment section, placing graduate, post-doctoral and associate scientists in academia or industry. An affiliate society of 6,000 members, the American Society for Cell Biology then asked her to help expand their employment service. It was here she gained the experience of computerising membership services.

A move to Buffalo in upstate New York, saw her take up the new position of administrative secretary of the American Crystallographic Association. This started as a voluntary body run by its members and Debbie was the first paid administrator. There she did everything with running an association of 2,000 members: from newsletters and a membership directory to organising the annual meetings and exhibitions all over the United States. It is with some pride that she says: "it is still going strong".

On returning to the UK after five years it was at York University that Debbie continued her career, helping with short courses in the chemistry department. Then she saw an advertisement in the local paper for a secretary/personal assistant for BIGGA at Aldwark. On interview, it was realised that Debbie was just the person to help develop the new Association. She was taken on, but not in the position she applied for as she was appointed administrative officer.

"At that time BIGGA was particularly looking to take on the organisation and develop-

ment of the exhibition and to manage the membership services and I suppose with my experience I was ideally suited."

Neil Thomas has more to say. "Debbie's background, her skills and total commitment to the job in hand has been a great strength, as everyone will testify. We anticipate that the transition to education officer will be as smooth as it could be. We owe that to all the members enrolled on the Master Greenkeeper Certificate and all those who participate in the various courses, award schemes, seminars and education conference."

Debbie has worked with David for three years on the development of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate scheme. With 100 currently registered, she will take over full responsibility for updating the records, logging in the credits as they come in and keeping an eye on everyone's progress.

"As more and more greenkeepers see members of their own profession being awarded the Certificate, it encourages others to take part. This year's UK recipients, Gordon Irvine and Kerran Daly, have had a high profile and this has helped. They are both now involved with helping on the Stage 2 course assessments."

Asked to comment on other aspects of BIGGA's educational and training programmes Debbie began with the BTME Seminar Programme. "There is a bank of speakers already lined up for next year. We plan to keep the mix of speakers roughly as it was last year,

with a fair number of greenkeeper members because delegates like to hear of each other's experiences."

On courses Debbie commented "We have just had three very successful in-house pesticide courses with 100% pass rates, run by Jon Allbutt. This is a popular and topical course as everyone is increasingly aware of safety rules and requirements. Our members have certainly benefited through these courses being run in-house within a learning environment at Aldwark Manor."

"In September we had the first of the public speaking courses, for members who were presenting papers at Harrogate, then in February for Board of Management members. Further courses are planned and the benefits are being seen in the many recent favourable comments on our members' performances when speaking at the BTME and the National Education Conference."

Both the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year awards are major schemes that BIGGA initiated. Outlining the development of these schemes Debbie is excited by the growth of the Student Greenkeeper award which this year will see nominations at a regional level for the first time. Meanwhile this year's ICI award has generated a substantially increased level of participation from the membership.

Debbie will continue to develop the highly successful management courses held at Aldwark Manor each October/ November which this year will run over five weeks. She sees these as "being instrumental in improving the supervisory and managerial skills of our members as well as creating the confidence for members to move from a head greenkeeper to course manager role".

One of the vital areas on which Debbie will need to concentrate is the further growth of BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. She sees this as the most important source of funding for education and training programmes particularly as the GTC has now signalled its intent to utilise its resources in directions other than towards BIGGA's own educational programmes. Debbie looks forward to the imminent career video and the first training video both of which have been made possible through the establishment of the fund.

As far as interests are concerned Debbie loves to cook and is no mean sportswoman, playing badminton to county level in her teens. She keeps meaning to take up golf. "I love watching it as I do any sport, but at the moment I only have time for weight and circuit training at the gym." She looks forward to The Open this year when she will help to organise the support team of greenkeepers. "A sun visor signed by Nick Faldo is one of my most prized possessions from The Open last year."

I asked what she sees as the real bonuses of the job. "I see myself being at the leading edge of the most important aspect of the Association - its educational and training programmes and contributing to the development of future policy. I look forward to being able to help people to develop their careers through the educational opportunities that I will be responsible for providing. I have met many greenkeeper members over the years and most are really friendly, down to earth people who are a pleasure to deal with."

Now for the



There's still a long way to go before we know all we need to know about growing grass for the golfer. HUGH TILLEY reports

The term 'conditioner' means different things to different people, and 'turf conditioners' tend to encompass a wide range of growth promoting substances which cannot legally be called fertiliser, while 'soil conditioners' include an equally diverse range of materials such as lime and pulverised fly ash, as well as chemical (soil) modifiers such as various wetters and gypsum, keserite etc, and the widest possible interpretation which can include machinery such as subsoilers or mole ploughs. While fertilisers are defined in law with required and stated nutrient levels, conditioners are not, although trading standards legislation would ensure that misleading statements are not made. Talking to many of the suppliers of conditioners it is obvious that preferred and more appropriate than 'conditioner' would be words such as stimulant, modifier, improver or enhancer.

The realisation that golf is a growth sector has resulted in several companies switching their attentions and resources from agriculture to turf, and has also led to the establishment of a number of new 'businesses' specifically to produce and market organic fertilisers and turf conditioners for golf and other amenity turfs. Several of these 'businesses' are little more than farmyard operations, with little if any back-up service for soil or tissue analysis, nor do they all have any real knowledge of agronomy or soil science, and a few are very hazy over what their product is, let alone precisely what elements it contains.

This should worry the greenkeeper and he should consider what protection he has if something goes wrong, for instance if some toxic (to grass or humans) substance is applied. Suppliers state there is minimal risk, but are they insured? Normally at worst all that happens if a spray fails to produce the results expected is that you lose your money – although it is possible you could get a refund or even more product.

There are those who imply that their products are a cure for all ills, – they should know that a plant's requirements are many and varied. Sometimes – far too often for the credibility of organic conditioners – enthusiastic salesmen have advised applying 'their' product when what is really needed is drainage, aeration or a bit of warm weather. If turf conditioners are to retain credibility it must be stressed by the seller that these products are just one aspect of a multi-part equation, that success is the sum of optimising all parts of the plant environment, and that turf conditioners can't remedy basic management and soil structure failings. What they can do very effectively is to provide a wide spectrum of ingredients to plants and/or soils that are deficient or out of balance, or provide 'catalysts' to enable the plant to utilise or optimise existing materials more effectively, and by this means they can even offer some defence against adverse soil or weather conditions.

Soil Conditioners

In contrast, 'soil conditioners' work in the soil and are usually more specific, modifying it mechanically or chemically. While the majority of these conditioners are intended to improve the soil structure there are others which are applied to improve the soil by adjusting the balance or availability of micro nutrients, minerals etc. Mechanical methods include slitting, subsoiling etc., but it also includes incorporating inert matter such as sand, Iytag and other materials into the soil to 'open' it up. Traditional chemical means of opening up a heavy clay soil is the incorporation of gypsum, which

flocculates clay particles to form a larger crumb structure. However, this material is also being seen as a source of calcium and sulphur for lighter acid soils.

Perhaps the most important chemical soil modifier of all is lime, used to reduce soil acidity or pH. Several types are available, the commonest being ground calcium carbonate, which has a very high neutralising effect. Other materials include magnesium limestone and calcified seaweed with lesser or slower neutralising effect, however they also provide other essential elements. Not being fully or instantly soluble in water means that most of these products are slow release, thus application may only be needed once in a decade.

Turf Conditioners

Turf conditioners aim to affect the plant more directly, with most being foliar feeds. They used to be categorised in the realms of 'muck and mystery', however they are coming out of the cold as an increasing number of greenkeepers and their advisers realise that grass needs more than NPK to thrive. There is no argument that healthy grass, like healthy humans, needs a complete diet, and this is the position that most of the seaweed and manure derived conditioners see for themselves, – as providers of a wide range of organic elements and enzymes etc. It is a shotgun approach – aim wide and hope to nail the problem – however is it any the worse for that?

Some of the claims made for turf conditioners are rather vague and unsubstantiated by independent trials, and even where there are trial results these generally pertain to specific conditions and locations, for instance on links courses or sand constructions which are inherently infertile and on which it is easy to apply a product and get results. Getting results in high fertility with good growing conditions may be more difficult unless there is a specific deficiency. Producing reliable trials data requires evidence in black and white, but it is not easy or cheap to carry out a fully comprehensive and replicated trial, especially when you don't know the conditioner produces its effect. Many of the suppliers of these materials are small and without significant budget for trials work, however this will change perhaps as the larger and more predatory ones gobble up the smaller suppliers – this will happen as the market grows. Many greenkeepers, (not just marketers), have found that turf conditioners do work, even if they can't always predict when and where.

Still at this point in time the main demand from greenkeepers is for fertiliser, and as a result most of the suppliers (manufacturers?) of turf conditioners actually add N P or K and perhaps other minerals to make an analysis which has sufficient nutrient to be effective as well as making a sales justification for use, – these additions may not be organic, although this will not be stressed on the packaging, so that many will believe they are buying a pure 'natural' product. This should not matter as there is no evidence to say that a plant has any preference for (natural) organic rather than (synthetic) inorganic feed. Of course it makes logistic sense to apply a complete feed, rather than to apply separate materials at differing times, and some greenkeepers already have 'cocktail time', adding a little of this and some of that to the sprayer tank. This can be dangerous unless there is a printed recommendation for tank mixing of each specific product.

The two most common bases for turf conditioner are sea-

conditioner

weed and animal excrement, both are plentiful and allow the innovative several means of processing it into an acceptable sterile product which can be bagged or otherwise packaged. Precise details of the processes are normally kept secret, but include drying and milling, distillation, bacterial action and sedimentation. Bacterial action must be the cheapest option because it is the most natural and only requires the product to be held in a tank for the bacteria to work. Temperature control may be needed to manage the process, and then it is mainly a matter of separating the liquid from the solid – both factions can then be sold.

The main claims for most turf conditioners is that they enhance root systems, increase tillering and improve grass colour. How they do this remains largely a mystery, although research is currently being undertaken into this. Certainly response is usually greater than would be anticipated from applying any pure element, and while one supplier suggests that it is the 'cytokinins' which are responsible, others suggest that it is the addition of other micro flora – bacteria, fungi, moulds, yeasts etc. – which stimulate the plant, but until research proves conclusively the what, why and when of these products the greenkeeper's best option is to keep an open mind, use what has been proven to work, and to try other options tentatively.

One of the most common additives to turf conditioners, partly due to its very effective greening effect, is iron. It is a main constituent in seaweed and has several important effects on turf, hardening it, adding colour and at the same time helping depress moss. The colourising effect is useful to the greenkeeper preparing for a tournament and it is likely to last for a couple of months, while the hardening of the grass is useful when preparing the turf towards winter. Of course the form that the iron takes is critical: it has to be soluble and it also needs to be chelated or 'buffered' so that it does not get hijacked or locked-up by other chemicals before the plant utilises it.

Possibly sitting between the two camps of soil and turf conditioning are wetters. In original form these were little more than washing-up liquids in disguise, however there has been a vast change and today's wetter is a more complex material: organic, non-ionic and bio-degradable, and of course it needs to produce the minimum of foam. Non-ionic is seen as required to avoid it reacting with other chemicals – unlike industrial cleaners. The basic purpose of a wetter is to reduce surface tension so that water spreads more readily, thus with foliar sprays it aids the spray to spread over the leaf and be more effective, while with soil applications (and composts) it is aimed at reducing the surface tension around soil particles so that the water is more readily assim-



ilated into it, which should make irrigation more effective and economic.

In the past the worse soils have been devoted to golf because they were of little use for agriculture, in fact almost by definition they were the poorest of soils. Now, however, increasing pressure for more rounds per day, 364 days of the year, means that grass is having to be 'stretched.' Fortunately most of the poorer soils respond particularly well to all forms of conditioning. In recent times agriculture has found itself with land which is not required for food production and aided by 'a suggestion' from the R&A it has looked on golf as a more productive diversification. Again this is seldom the best land, usually being the hardest and most expensive to work, so again turf or soil conditioners could be required.

Soil (or tissue) analysis and a dig into the soil structure may give clues over precise requirements, however the normal scientific criteria (of soil analyses etc) are often no better than the subjective judgment of a good greenkeeper, and he is likely to judge any action or application by the response of the turf simply by asking 'is it better?' – better meaning greener, stronger, more disease resistant, thicker, faster growing, or any of many other desirable criterion. There is still a long way to go before we know all we need to know about growing grass for the golfer, but perhaps the greenkeeper is better off while there remains a high level of art and some chance in turf preparation, – that way he has good reasons why the greens are not what others judge they should be.

Strong, prolific rooting where before it was weak: treated grass from Maxicrop

GREENKEEPER

THE COLLEGES AND THE

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are currently reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses.

The directory shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level.

The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges

to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting.

Until the report is complete, anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, telephone 0347 838640.

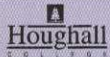
NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact Nick Bisset. Tel: 0904 702121.

Full time courses: BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Management.

Part time courses: NVQ Level II, City & Guilds Phase 3 and 4.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 091 386 1351.

Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 Years. *Part time courses:* Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management Level II - Day Release; C&G Phase III Enterprise Management - Afternoon Evening. *Short courses:* Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.



KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 0AQ. Contact Dr Ron McParlin. Tel: 0661 860808.

NVQ Level II with Greenkeeping option. Day release or block release - one to two years.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martyn Jones. Tel: 0995 40611. *Full time courses:*

National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping - 1 Year; BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management - 3 Years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Technology - 3 Years (Both these courses include one year's paid industrial experience). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; Phase III Supervisory Management; Phase IV Business Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTIA).



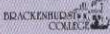
REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 0270 625131. *Full time courses:* BTEC First Diploma in horticulture (with Sports Turf Option) - 1 Year; BTEC

National Diploma in Landscape and Amenity Horticulture (with Sports Turf Option) - 2 Years (both subject to approval); BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management - 3 Years. *Part time courses:* NVQ Level I Greenkeeping - Day Release; NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping - Day or Block Release; C&G Phase III Greenkeeping - Day or Block Release; C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping - Block Release; IOG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture - Day Release; C&G Phase II Greenkeeping Machinery Maintenance - Block Release. *Short courses:* FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting and Manual Handling; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.



SOUTH MANCHESTER COLLEGE Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb.

Tel: 061 957 1526. Day Release and Full Time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.



BRACKENHURST COLLEGE Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF. Contact Brian Osbourne. Tel: 0636 812252. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management - 1 Year. *Day Release over 2 Years:* NVQ Level I Amenity Horticulture; NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with options. (Options include Greenkeeping, Hard landscaping, interior landscaping and Arboriculture). *Half day/week over 1 Year:* City & Guilds Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management. We also offer short courses in Technical, Supervisory and Management skills training appropriate to the Greenkeeping Industry. Full details from the Short Courses Unit.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 6DN. Tel: 0332 831345. Fax: 0332 830298.

Level I and II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release Course. Two Years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks starting 13th September 1993.

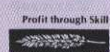


CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact David Haigh. Tel: 0223 860701.

Part time - Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences October 1993.



LINCOLNSHIRE COLLEGE Lincolnshire College of Agriculture, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs. Contact Neil Rowbottom at Student Services. Tel: 0400 72521. Day Release NVQ Level II. NCH with Greenkeeping pending approval.



MOULTON COLLEGE Moulton, Northampton NN3 1RR. Contact Stuart Phillips. Tel: 0604 491131. *Full time courses:* BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture

with Turfcare Option. *Part time courses:* NVQ Level I Amenity Horticulture - Day Release; NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Turficulture Option - Day Release; C&G Phase 3 - NVQ Level III if/when available - Day Release.



STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 0785 712209. Courses offered Craft

Level/NVQ I and II. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of 30 weeks duration (September - June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact PJ Smith. Tel: 0926 651367. *Greenkeeping courses:* NVQ Level I - Day Release; NVQ

Level II - Day Release; NVQ Level II - Block Release; NVQ Level III/City & Guilds Phase II - Day Release; NVQ Level III/City & Guilds Phase II - Block release. *New for 1993/4:* Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture with an option in Turf Culture (Subject to approval). *Professional updating courses include:* Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



BRINSBURY COLLEGE North heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 0798 873832. *Full time courses:* New Entrant to Green-

keeping Course - 36 weeks. NVQ II Greenkeeping option plus core. Approximately a third of the course is delivered on college's and local golf course. *Part time:* Day Release to NVQ II level. Both full and part time students will work both to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. An evening course will continue for the IOG National Technical Certificate. NVQ Level II may be delivered as an evening course. At present Phase III is offered in Greenkeeping Supervision and Enterprise Management. As this qualification is phased out, NVQ III and IV will be offered.



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 0732

850551. NVQ Level II Part time Day Release over two years with three periods of Block Release.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact the Academic Registrar. Tel: 0483 232424. NVQ Levels I and II

Amenity Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf specialism. Part time... one day per week for 30 weeks commencing in September.



NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S

Shaw. Tel: 081 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I and II in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II.

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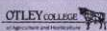
Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information supplied. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 0727 850651.

Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management: Two year part time, one day per week. Level II Year One leading to NVQ Level II. Level II Year Two leading to City & Guilds 022-4. *Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management or NVQ Level II/III. Amenity Horticulture and Greenkeeping Business Management:* Part time, one day per week. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: One year - full time. All courses commence September 1993.

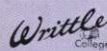


OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact John Pearson. Tel: 0473 785543.

Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture with options in Sports Turf Management. BTEC; GNVQ Level III. *Part time courses:* NVQ Levels I, II and III. Short Day and Evening courses.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 0273 890454. *Full time courses:* BTEC First Diploma (Greenkeeping Option). *Part time courses:* City & Guilds Phase II - Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management (last year of course) - Block Release; NVQ Level II - Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Sportsturf and Sportsground Maintenance - Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase III - Enterprise Management, Greenkeepers Supervision - Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase IV - Business Management - Day Release.



WRITTE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 0245 420705. City & Guilds Golf Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management (Day Release); NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, Sports Turf, Sports Ground Maintenance (Day Release); a Golf Course Management option is also included in full time three year HND landscape and Amenity Management Course. Courses for next academic year commence 4 October '93.



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Nick Rigden. Tel: 0278 652226. BTEC National Diploma in Sports Turf and Golf Course Management. BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Greenkeeping with European Studies - split sandwich period including three months working in Europe. Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level I and II (craft level).



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, near Gloucester GL19 3BE. Contact Stephen Drew. Tel: 0452 700283. Fax: 0452 700629. Courses: NVQ I, II, III - Day Release/Part time. Higher National Diploma Land Use - Full time. Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management - 3 Year Sandwich. All course are September start.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 0962 776441. *Full time courses:* National Diploma in Golf Course & Sportsground Management (3 Years); National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsground Management. *Part time - further training:* Level/Phase III and IV Courses. Short courses: ie. Sprayer Legislation, First Aid and Chainsaw Use. *Part time - New Entrant and Craft Level:* Level I: New Entrant, Level II: Craft Continuation. *Greenkeeper Training Committee - Manual:* All courses, according to the appropriate Level, will encompass the demands and requirements of the new GTC Manual.



CARDIFF INSTITUTE Cardiff Institute of Higher Education, Llandaff Centre, Western Avenue, Cardiff, Wales CF5 2YB. Contact David Thornton. Tel: 0222 551111. City & Guilds Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Two year course - part time. NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Two year course - part time. Enrolment September for all courses.



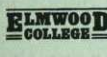
PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5LG. Contact Peter Gillard. Tel: 0656 860202/860635. *Courses offered on Day Release from September:* Greenkeeping & Sports Turf: Year I, Introductory, NVQ Level; Year II and III, Technician Level, NVQ Level I and II; Year IV, Supervisory Studies, Phase III City & Guilds; Year V, Management, Phase IV City & Guilds. BTEC 1st Diploma - Greenkeeping & Sportsturf. Part time or full time.



WELSH COLLEGE Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, Mold, Clywyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 0352 86 861 Fax: 0352 86 731. *Full time courses:* ND - Golf Course Construction Option - equivalent to NVQ Level III. NEBSM - equivalent to NVQ Level III. BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. *Part time courses:* Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management - equivalent to NVQ Level III. NVQ Level IV from Autumn 1993 (if available). NVQ Level I and II Greenkeeping. *Short courses:* Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses.



DUNDEE COLLEGE Old Glamis Road, Dundee DD3 8LE. Contact G Carr. Tel: 0382 819021 Fax: 0382 88117. Courses offered: SVQ units & SCOTVEC Modules in Greenkeeping HNC in Golf course management. Attendance: Block Release and Day Release. Duration: 36 weeks from September 1993. Registration: June and August.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 0334 52781. Scottish Vocational Qualifications Levels I and II in conjunction with the GTC Training Manual: available as a block release and full time course. National Certificate in Greenkeeping: available on a 3 year block release and full time course. Six week specialist modular programme including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. Six week continuous block in the winter. National Certificate in Supervisory Skills: available as a distance learning course with one week at College. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management: available as full time, day release and distance learning. Progression into the Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management from September '94.



KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UT. Contact J Dudgeon. Tel: 0292 281511. SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping - Day Release up to three years. Students can enrol at any time.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE Langside College School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 041 647 6300. SCOTVEC National Certificate - 3 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.



OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 0506 854387. *Full and part time courses:* Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; National Certificate Modular and Scottish Vocational Qualification Level I and II. National Certificate in Hort. Machinery. Short specialist courses - including safe use of chemicals, operation of greenkeeping machinery.



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Geoff Jenkins. Tel: 08494 62114. Day Release course in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Two Year course leading to NVQ and Certificate in Greenkeeping for those completing additional working practices as specified by the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Course runs from September - May.



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 0103531 371 636. Phase II Greenkeeping - Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping - Block Release, one week, three times per year.

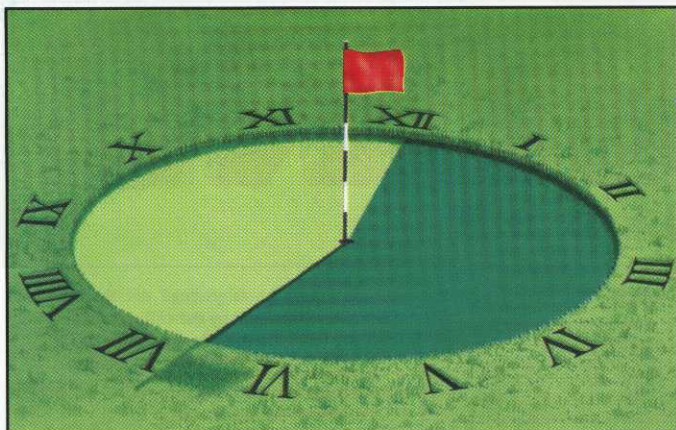
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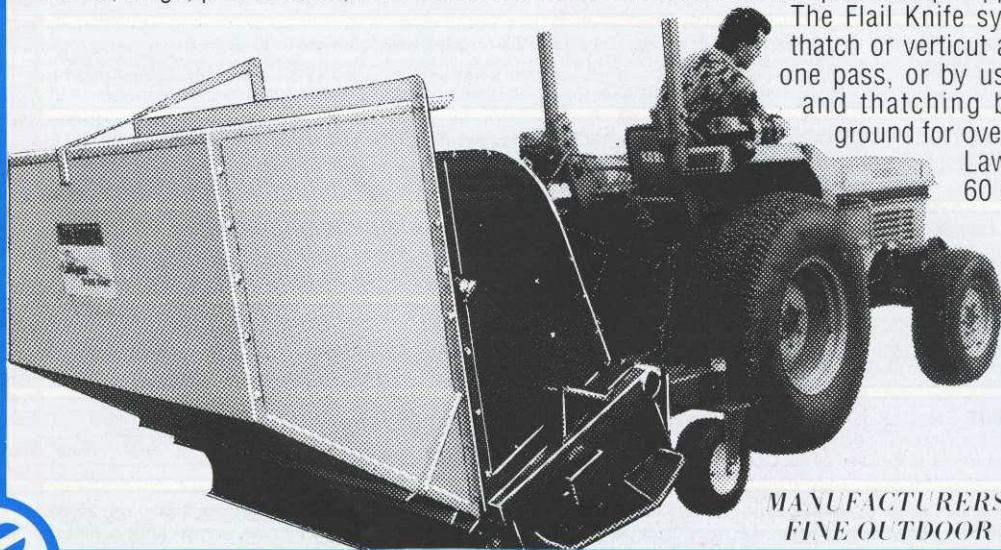
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Beyond dispute, the 'hottest ticket in town' for any golf event has to be those precious little holographed numbers produced each year for The Masters, tickets which cost just \$100 for the whole week. Indeed, so precious have they become that a whole mini-industry erupts each year, with travel companies happy to pay hugely inflated prices in order that they may sell 'Masters Packages' which include air flights, Cadillac limo's, swanky hotels and champagne receptions on the lawns of some of Augusta's stately homes. Despite valiant and increasingly successful attempts by the Masters committee to bring transgressors to book, men have been known to cheat and lie for tickets, on occasions even ending up in jail by attempting to produce forgeries. How refreshing then, to discover that American golf course superintendents may enter Augusta National on production of a Class One membership card, whilst those superintendents engaged on the course during the tournament are invited to return later in the year for a round over the hallowed grounds. It's enlightening, heartening, and indicative of the high regard that such an exclusive body has for those who care for America's courses.

By contrast, the miserly administrators of the 1993 Ryder Cup have seen fit to snub our profession by refusing point blank to grant any concessions to British greenkeepers, though in a letter sent in answer to an official BIGGA request, a director was quick to point out that 'of course, all your members will be most welcome to purchase tickets'.

Murmurs of discontent are rumbling throughout the States at the high cost of Ryder Cup tickets (£242 for Patrons) and the exorbitant prices bandied around by hotels in and around

Birmingham. Though tickets can be had, the preferred method of ticket sale appears to be the package (at prices starting around \$1,300 *without* airfare), and American pro's are encouraged to earn sales commission by referring golfers through PGA Travel, the monopoly agency in America for the biennial matches. One such includes riding with the big-wigs on Concorde, invites to the opening and closing ceremonies, tickets that include VIP hospitality at the 18th and five star accommodation and luxury travel, all for a tag of - wait for it - just \$13,000 per person! With that sort of obscene extravagance, it's no surprise that Britain's greenkeepers are left out in the cold. Frankly, I think the whole thing stinks!

■ It appears that I opened a fine bag of worms in April with the publication of 'Greens must not be spared', and though I did not share Mr Travers' views and indeed agonised over printing them, I decided that his comments deserved exposure if only to reveal the professional golfer's viewpoint, which so often appears to be in direct opposition to those of the greenkeeper. Often there are occasions when I don't agree with an expressed opinion, indeed I didn't entirely concur with the view that worn approaches and walk-off areas would benefit from an annual application of nitrogen fertiliser, when such problems are not due to nutritional deficiencies but to compaction and abrasion, best dealt with by corrective aeration or traffic control. No, the point I make is that I am the editor not the judge, and must leave adjudication to my readers. The fact that so many of you ask questions and refuse to take opinion as gospel truth is one that I find refreshing - keep those letters rolling, please.

DAVID WHITE

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A SHARE OF OUR £600 BTME '94 COMPETITION



BTME PRIZES ARE JUST THE TICKET!

THE FIRST THREE QUESTIONS

1. In our April issue's BTME Update we carried a letter of congratulation from a sales director of one of the industry's leading companies - what is his name?
2. In the BTME column in May, we introduced our new sales and marketing assistant with special responsibility for the BTME - what is her name?
3. In this month's BTME Update we indicate the number of promotional information packs which have already been sent to interested companies - how many?

Here's your chance to WIN your way to BTME '94!

Starting this month and every month until September, we will be posing a number of easy to answer questions. All you need to do is keep your answers handy and safe until our September BTME Update, which will have the final questions and details of where to send your entry.

There will be three winners. First prize will go to the sender of the correct answers, whose entry is drawn first from the hat. He or she will win:

★ Return rail travel to the prestigious venue in Harrogate, three night's accommodation in a top class hotel and entry into ALL the educational seminar sessions. Prize value: £300.

Sender of the second correct entry drawn wins:

★ Return rail travel, two night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions. Prize value: £200.

The third entry drawn wins for the sender:

★ A single night's accommodation and a seat at all the seminars. Prize value: £100.

Answer the first set of questions, left, hold on to your answers - and YOU could be a BTME winner!

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

WITH less than two weeks to go to the deadline, some 20 per cent of 1993 exhibitors had booked - and paid their deposit - for stand space at BTME '94.

As at June 1, the total for bookings was expected to be much higher - underlining companies' willingness to invest so early in such a major event

New company enquiries are coming in all the time, following the despatch of 757 BTME '94 promotional information packs. Potential newcomers are asking about large stand spaces - look out for more and more exhibition stands in 1994 which will be as big as has ever been seen at BTME.

One notable addition to next year's show will be the British Golf Course Constructors Association, who are to exhibit for the first time.

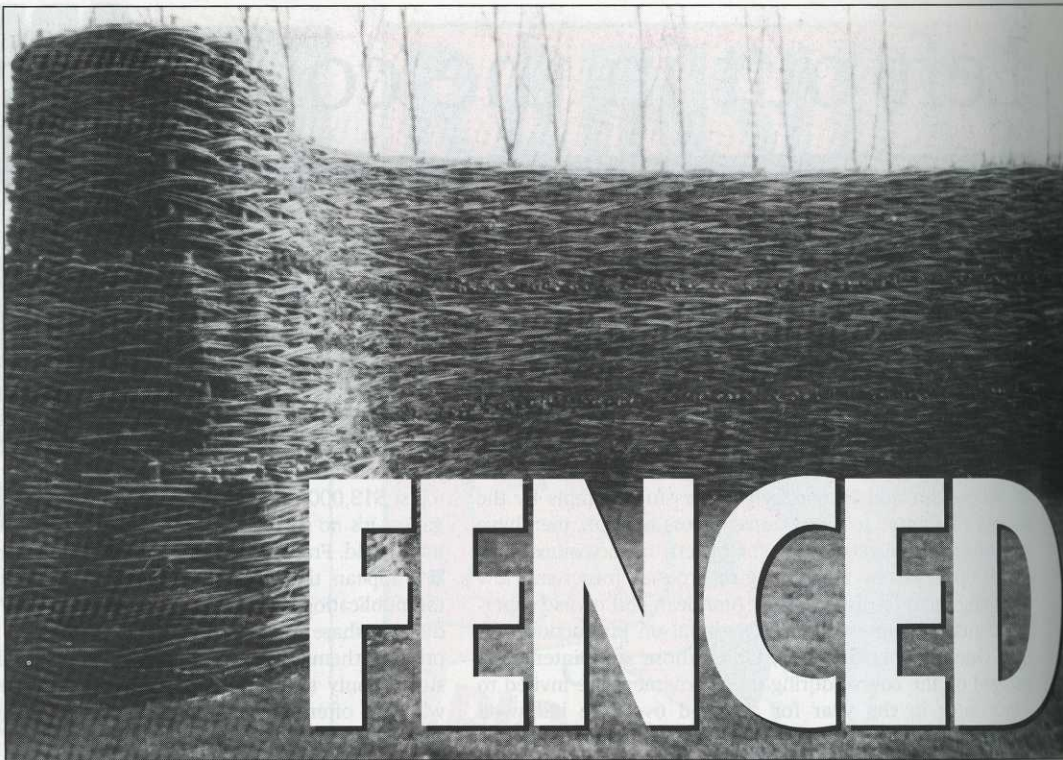
A big welcome awaits them... and maybe you, too? Call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 if your company would like a BTME '94 information pack.

Anyone considering installing a new fence for the first time in a decade could be forgiven for being overwhelmed by the virtually endless permutation of designs, materials and specifications now on offer.

Gone are the days when one might have to choose between wooden post and rail, continuous steel bar or chain link, depending on the site, the security requirements and the appearance of the final job. Not only are there fence types and materials available to suit one's every need, but the quality and specification of the structure will, in most cases, be covered by a British standard.

Glancing at the BSI list for fencing, one will find that the majority of popular fencing systems in use are subject to one or more of the 16 parts contained in BS 1722 with regard to their design and quality of manufacture. This safeguard, recognised nationally, must be the starting point for anyone considering a new fence, says Mr Ray Smith, chairman of the European Fencing Industry Association (EFIA). "Irrespective of the size of contract, quality has to be the principal criteria for all specifications," he stresses. To ensure quality of materials, Smith advises buyers to insist that the selected product conforms to all requirements of BS1722.

Even when the fencing is purely



What to buy and what's available, by MICHAEL BIRD

of a decorative nature or manufactured to a patented design, he recommends that the fence and gate structures and the quality of the materials used comply with any applicable Clauses contained

within BS 1722. "Similarly, it is advisable also to ensure that the manufacturer and the installing contractor have been awarded or have applied for BS 5750, the quality assurance accreditation," com-

ments Smith. "I would also like to ascertain that they are a member of an approved trade association."

The only professional bodies currently found within the UK are the EFIA and the Fencing Contractors

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IN



Two pictures; same fence: a woven willow wall forms an excellent screen against noise and entry, bursting into leaf in spring.

Photographs courtesy of CD Brown Landscaping

Association. Both are represented on British Standards committees and subscribe to government training schemes to help improve the quality of workmanship in manufacture and on site.

Fencing systems can be categorised into four basic types according to their function. These are security, protection, decoration and direction. Most fences found on golf courses are likely to have to perform at least two of the above roles, and sometimes three or all four. The requirements for the fence's design and structure will vary but should normally include four factors: Low maintenance, aesthetically and environmentally acceptable, cost-effective to buy and erect, and fit for the purpose for which it is intended.

Of course, in the case of security fencing intended to keep intruders out, the appearance of the fence will often take second place to the need to provide appropriate protection to property, people and equipment. There are three basic types of security fence, all able to prevent entry to an increasing degree. The simplest is chain link, available in rolls up to 3.6m wide. Usually galvanised and plastic coated, this material is certainly one of the least costly to buy and erect per metre and has the advantage of being able to follow ground contours closely. It can also be buried to deter burrowing by foxes and rabbits. Aesthetically pleasing, especially when selected in dark green, chain link can be combined with other materials such as knitted or knotted nylon netting to form an excellent ball stop on driving

ranges and alongside fairways close to roads and houses. Chain link can be installed up to 6m high or greater, but it is most important to have adequate supports at such heights. It also becomes costly here (around £100 metre), due to the increased difficulty of erection.

Another fencing system able to combine security, protection and decoration is weld mesh. The wider advantages of this material came to be recognised little more than 10 years ago, when it was being used principally as a reinforcing medium in concrete. Stood vertically, weld mesh can form an excellent barrier against entry and prevent golf balls straying from the course or range. A major benefit of the material is the welded joint at each metal rod intersection which makes it far more difficult and time consuming to cut through than chain link. Galvanised only or with a plastic coating, weld mesh is available in heights up to 5.5m and is suitable for installation onto most types of metal post. It can be combined with other materials, such as chain link, nylon net or barbed wire, to form a suitable barrier against unwanted entry or exit. Interesting variations providing improved strength, appearance and security include a 'V' or 'W' shape pressed horizontally into the panels, folded tops and bases and special posts with anti-vandal fixings. Weld mesh also makes an excellent ball stop.

If security is the principal requirement, there are few more formidable barriers than corrugated or 'W' section steel palisade or pale fencing. Comprising a series

of closely-spaced vertical bars with horizontal rails 300mm from the top and bottom for added strength, palisade is manufactured in heights up to 3.6m with a variety of head 'points' depending on the required level of security. Features include anti-tamper rivet heads, cup square bolts for fence to post fixing and a choice of finishes to suit the surroundings. Palisade fences are suitable for vulnerable course perimeters and to protect buildings and compounds where machinery, materials and fuels are stored.

Security, and the appearance of fencing, can be enhanced significantly by planting trees and shrubs adjacent to the fence. It is important, however, to leave sufficient space for maintenance and to prevent vegetation growing through and over the barrier which could assist an intruder. A useful tip is to take a close look at your fencing system from the other side. All too often, a well-planned fence from the inside can look dreadful to the passer-by or neighbour and create antagonism and ill-feeling.

One fence designed to be secure, environmentally friendly and minimise noise levels by up to 30 decibels comprises living willow planted and woven to form two closely-spaced walls with soil in between. In autumn and winter the structure resembles a wicker basket. In spring and summer, leaf growth greens up the wall, encouraging birds and other wild life. A non-greening alternative to willow is reed thatch.

Apart from discouraging human entry, fencing is often needed to protect turf and new plantings

against vermin, livestock and, sometimes, golfers. For newly-planted areas, galvanised wire mesh netting, buried to 150mm and lapped outwards horizontally a further 150mm at full depth, will prevent access by most small animals. Inexpensive, it can be readily installed by staff using pressure-treated timber posts 10m apart.

Rabbit netting is best erected just before the main growing season so that vegetation grows through the lower part of the mesh quickly to prevent rabbits from finding a way underneath. In exposed areas, a windbreak made of open weave polyester will provide protection for young trees and prevent soil erosion, by reducing the speed and chilling effect of the wind.

If sheep, cattle or deer are a problem, then wire stock fence topped, if necessary, with high visibility tape or barbed wire is an excellent solution. On courses adjacent to farm or parkland, the landowner will normally pay close attention to his or her fencing. Those neighbouring common or moor land and other wide, open spaces will have to establish the optimum solution for their individual situation.

If vandalism is not a problem, then simple continuous steel bar, spike or bow top mild steel or wooden post and rail fencing are likely to be the most economical and simple to erect, combined with an attractive screening hedge or row of trees. Alternative fencing materials are concrete and plastic, with the advantage of minimal maintenance, long life and the ability to specify a colour to match the surroundings. These benefits mean that such materials are being used increasingly for decorative fences on entrance drives and other areas close to the club house.

Portable temporary fencing to protect course works and ground under repair or direct cars, players and spectators along specified roadways can range from the simple rope or plastic chain suspended on pigtail steel pins to brightly coloured polyethylene mesh to crush-type barriers manufactured of galvanised tubular steel. The latter may be free-standing on splayed legs or, for added security, slot into concrete blocks.

There are, literally, hundreds of fencing systems to choose from and this article has concentrated on just the main types on the market without making any specific recommendations regarding product name or manufacturer. Anyone wishing further information on the two fencing trade associations mentioned or advice on particular designs or products and the British Standards covering their manufacture or installation is invited to contact Mr Ray Smith, chairman of the European Fencing Industries Association, on 0386 792033.

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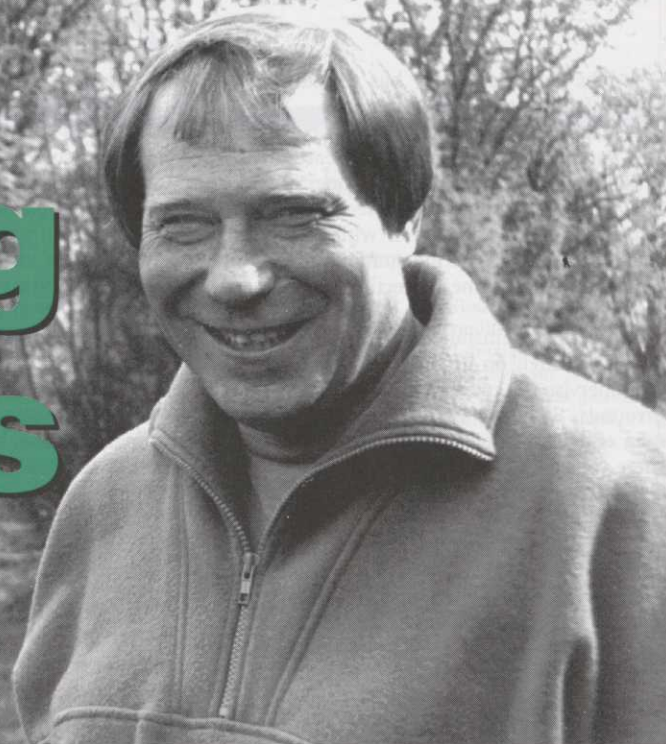
GOLF CONSTRUCTION XXIV

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Watching the grass grow



You've got to admire the way some people drive a tractor. I have an image of Bob Hornegold trundling up and down a fairway pulling a roller behind him. At the time, he was furious because someone hadn't finish a job and if it was to be done in time, he had to do it himself. So he did, working his anger out on the job – and the tractor.

Bob is not a greenkeeper, he is a specialist finishing works manager. He works on a contract basis for golf course construction projects. He may work directly for a developer – as part of a project management package with his colleague Ian Martin – or he sometimes sub-contracts to the main contractor.

A qualified greenkeeper for many years, he set up his own business five years ago, and owns £40,000 worth of specialist machinery which he uses intensively for bringing new courses into play and then rebuilds and refurbishes as necessary during the months following completion. This sounds a tall order but it comes easily to a trained mechanic, which he is, having once had a passion for motor racing. He took it up competitively for a while, retiring after a 'near thing' nearly finished him off. I'm sure he brings racing skills to his tractor driving.

Construction and maintenance consultancy forms the backbone of his company. He has been consulted by clubs all over the country and in Europe. When he undertakes finishing works, though, it is a more long-term affair and calls on all the combined skills and experience of his 30 years in the business. It is the final stage of construction.

Project management is the framework within which Bob is usually employed, and in concept, it is a good-value, high-quality alternative to contracted golf course construction. It offers greater financial control to developers who want more direct involvement than if they employed a contractor to build the course. This is because

You'd be hard pressed to find anything that Bob Hornegold (pictured), hasn't done.
MAJA MIHAJLOVIC catches up with the greenkeeper turned specialist finishing works manager

the contractor has to concern himself with making some profit and covering his administration costs, and this will inevitably influence the way he runs the project. Whereas if the developer takes the administration on himself and employs Ian and Bob, for example, as project managers, he will pay them a time-related fee, and together they will negotiate prices for materials directly with the suppliers, making the choices themselves of how best to balance quality and cost on each essential item.

At West Park, a brand new 36-hole course at Silverstone, Ian Martin project managed the construction and Bob Hornegold took on the finishing works and maintenance contract. The developer, Jeff Sargeant, is quite clear that having his course construction project managed was by far the best option, but then he was prepared to wade into the hard work of co-ordinating the whole thing himself. To be effective he needed the close collaboration and support of the project managers. It's an intense relationship at the best of times, even if those involved are meek – that's not a word you'd apply to Hornegold, though. So if the developer is determined enough, and not too sensitive to a little friction, great things can come of it, as they obviously have done at West Park.

Jeff Sargeant, politely noting that Bob doesn't suffer fools gladly, unreservedly acknowledges Bob's skill and professionalism. "He knows his

job inside out... and he has produced for us some of the best greens in the country. When people come here, they think they're playing on a much more mature course than one which only opened its last nine holes two weeks ago."

You can't get much higher praise than that and it is due to his thoroughness – Sargeant calls it perfectionism – and eye for detail, based on a rigorous understanding of construction principles, that he achieves such fine results.

The finishing works begin after the construction manager has built the first green or tee in its subsoil form, establishing the contours according to the architect's drawing. Ian will also have installed and backfilled the drains and spread the gravel drainage carpet. At this point, Bob begins by spreading the blinding layer with a 360° tracked excavator. It is hand raked to mimic the contours in the subsoil base. He then spreads the rootzone mix, which is normally an 80:20 sand and fensoil mix – specified by the architect and approved by the agronomist – also with a tracked excavator.

These three layers – drainage carpet, blinding layer and rootzone – form a drainage system recommended by the USGA for the construction of putting greens. The next stage is to prepare the rootzone for seeding, and this is begun by compacting the mix in several ways, first, with the flotation tyres of a mini-tractor, then with a Wessex Grader attached to the mini-tractor. Bob usually carries out this operation himself, as the contours have to be carefully maintained through what is now about 400mm of drainage material.

The compaction continues with 'heeling in' – it takes some time, is an old-fashioned, laborious, monotonous process, but one which Bob believes is the most effective method of ridding the greens of compaction irregularities. It involves the whole team shuffling on their heels like penguins all over the greens and ➤ 30

29 ➔ tees and supposedly has the additional benefit of creating a good team spirit.

After the pub or a quick nap, out comes the Toro Sandpro, with groover, to create a tilth. Fertiliser is scattered with a Cyclone Spreader and the sowing is done with a seeder, followed by travelling over the green with a Sandpro minus the groover. The indentations created by the tyres provide some protection for the seed until it germinates.

While this painstaking process is being worked through on greens and tees, Bob will also supervise the cultivation of the fairways and surrounds. Stone 12mm and larger is removed using either a Harley Power Rake or a Blec, or where the stone is especially bad, a Rotadairon or Buryvator. This process will in itself create a suitable tilth on which to spread the fertiliser and sow the seed. Finally, the seeded surfaces are rolled. He also ensures that the irrigation system has been correctly installed and primed ready for when the seed is sown.

To help him complete the work he says he needs a good assistant. In the past he had a young foreman called Keith Cracknell. Keith ended up staying at Golf de Chantilly where they had been employed on the finishing and maintenance contract, so Bob lost a valuable colleague. Apart from his assistant, he will employ local contract labourers, so that, for a project like West Park, Bob and his foreman will each head a team of about five men.

"So how do you get a whole load of people to do what you want them to in the time you want them to do it?" I ask. He smiles and says he thinks fairness is very important, firmness nearly so, but also, "training can only do so much to make a good manager, but when it comes down to it, I think it's something you've either got or not. Not everyone can do it".

Knowing how to start and keep the team working hard and using the right methods is fundamental to co-ordinating any contract. An essential skill for any head greenkeeper, strong man-management becomes all the more crucial when big budgets and strict timetables are at stake. Jeff Sargeant also paid tribute to him on this score: "He works his men hard, but he leads them from the front, which is a rare thing. He expects no more or less of them than of himself – but he's a good motivator, and most importantly, he gets the job done." I thought of Bob steaming up the fairway in his tractor...

Bob's facility with construction is certainly based on good experience accumulated over many years and seems to come also from a special aptitude for understanding form and structure in a 3-dimensional way. His experience in construction has included employment at Lords and Leyton Orient FC. At the end of each football season, the whole pitch is stripped and rebuilt. He sometimes feels that old golf courses could benefit from this kind of treatment. Instead they are expected to go on forever under thousands of feet and trolley wheels.

His time as construction manager for the Alliss/Thomas partnership at the Airlinks Course, Heston and at Old Thorns was testing but very valuable experience. Airlinks was built on a landfill site and there were problems with methane. They were also experimenting with pure sand greens and Penncross bent grass. Not as much was then known about the necessary regime for this kind of green, so the need for intensive feeding and scarifying programmes

was not really appreciated or catered for in terms of staff. To add to the misery, the course was a pay-as-you-play and suffered heavy use. They faced the consequences, and lost all the greens. Experience comes in many forms.

This seems particularly true in Bob Horne-gold's case, and when it comes to the final, perhaps the most exciting stage of the creation – watching the grass grow and establish – it is worth noting that he has been a head greenkeeper on courses all over the country for a total of 12 years. These include Dyrham Park, Chigwell and the Harry Colt-designed Thorndon Park. And throughout his work in construction and maintenance, he has worked in collaboration with the best agronomists in the country.



'Fair enough, learn all the different theories, know what they are, but then don't just stick to one'

Sowing the seed marks the end of the finishing works. On some projects he is not brought in at all before this point is reached, undertaking only the growing-in and maintenance of the course. There is apparently nothing relaxing, though, about watching grass grow, since the first signs of germination spark off a period of feverish activity. Bob will need to check on the growth of the new crop every day, keeping watch over the sward and looking carefully for signs of disease. He needs to be able to recognise the signs and know how to remedy any problem at its earliest manifestation before it gets the chance to devastate the whole crop. This is the time in its life when grass is at its most vulnerable, so the regime is very intensive. Apart from other diseases, the presence of worms and rabbits can also cause serious problems and have to be dealt with one way or another.

The first mow is done when the height reaches 25mm on greens and tees, 37mm on surrounds, 50mm on fairways and 75mm in areas of rough. The regime is from that moment on as intensive as that on any course, and is co-ordinated with a still constant programme of topdressing, fertilising, treating with pesticide, fungicide, lumbricide, herbicide etc. This is also the time Bob likes to bring in a new head greenkeeper. He will brief him thoroughly and be available to help and guide for as long as he is needed.

Given ideal conditions, the new course can be open for play within a year from seeding. This obviously depends on a number of factors. So I asked Bob about the effect of budget and time constraints, always more apparent at the closing stages of a project, on his work. After all, the pace of growing grass would seem to be incompatible with the pressure put on new projects by the financiers. In answer, Bob can look you in the eye and say that if he manages the growing-in he knows he can produce high quality grass by opening day. He accepts that it is a commercial venture and he's realistic about that, and confident of his ability. He has brought a green

from seed into play in a matter of four months, from May to August, and in the face of this, he is left little convinced of the value of using turf at all. It was working in the USA that taught him how fast a good quality grass crop can be made to grow, and he has always been prepared to put into practice the things he learnt over there, when appropriate.

A theorist however he is not. Neither does he seem retrospective in his views. He is really much more a pragmatist. "Fair enough, learn all the different theories, know what they are, but then don't just stick to one. He has, himself, what amounts to many years educational training – being dyslexic made it that much harder for him to express himself in writing, but he overcame the difficulties and came out with the highest national marks for his City and Guilds, Stage 2 (as opposed to Phase 2) Greenkeeping Option. Since then he has gone on to Myer-scough College where he finally completed his training in 1982. You could say stubbornness is another of his strengths.

His success in getting appointed to such jobs as West Park depends greatly on his having good contacts among the architects who are in a position to recommend specialists to developers. He has worked with Donald Steel, Cameron Sinclair, Tom Macauley, and Jonathan Gaunt. He has an eye for design and can apparently recognise the above architects' drawing styles one from the other. One of his favourites is Tom Simpson, original designer of Chantilly where he worked a while ago, and Jonathan Gaunt has suggested that greenkeepers of 'vintage' courses by the likes of Colt or Mackenzie will look instinctively for similar qualities in a new golf course.

Bob confirms that a good dialogue with the architect is very necessary to success. In return, architects can be sure that they will see their construction drawings correctly interpreted on the ground – no routine thing, it's not a skill many have perfected. He is able to visualise what a contour will look like when it has been built up with the blinding and rootzone layers, and how it should marry-in with the surrounds and how it will affect maintenance in particular, but also, play.

There again even his knowledge of the game itself is the product of experience gained at the most competitive levels, having once played to a low handicap and having caddied on the Tour. You'd be hard-pressed to find anything, in fact, that Bob hasn't done at one time or another.

If he sounds a hard nut to crack, it's probably true, but it would be unfair not to acknowledge that he has a warmth and loyalty that have won him great respect among his friends and admirers, even among less committed acquaintances.

But the thing that strikes me most is his incredible range and adaptability. He has done so many things, gone in so many different directions. Although he would seem to have the solid career behind him that contains the makings of the well-respected professional, he is in many ways a non-conformist, and there is a sense that he could still head down another path entirely if the opportunity arose. Or, if the mood ever takes him, he could go from strength top strength in his burgeoning golf course management practice.

■ The author, Maja Mihajlovic, is a writer whose speciality subjects include golf course architecture, design and maintenance practices.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that 'Around The Green' copy for August MUST reach the editor before July 1st.

LONDON

The Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier was held at Highgate GC. The

response to this first event of 1993 was encouraging with a field of 41 players – the weather was superb and the course was in excellent condition. I would like to thank Derek Mason and his staff for preparing the course and Highgate GC for making us so welcome. RESULTS: 1st overall, Colin Forde 40 points.

Qualifiers for the next round: 0-9: Mick Sherris, Glenn Gibbons, Darren Burdis, Robert Phillips. 10-18: Russell Ling, Doug Smith, Peter Preston, Don Penn-Howard. 19-28: Colin Forde, Terry Colville, Dick Dunne, Pat Swinn. Nearest the Pin, Derek Mason and Colin Forde. Longest Drive, Craig Handyside. Good luck to all who qualified and a special thank you to the 'trade' for their support – your help is always appreciated.

The next tournament will be on 12 July at Muswell Hill GC, commencing at 3.00pm. The cost is £8.50 and entries are required before 7 July.

Congratulations to Don and Lu Penn-Howard on the recent birth of their baby son, Jack. We send our best wishes for the future. Finally, will members attending The Open make sure that they call into the BIGGA tent for refreshments and, of course, a chat.



TONY DUNSTAN

NORTH EAST

Over 40 members attended our annual Spring Competition at Ryton GC on April 22. Despite all the rain experi-

enced recently, Paul 'Pop' Robison and his staff had the course in excellent condition and our thanks therefore must go to the club committee for courtesies extended, to the stewardess for an excellent meal, and to Paul and his crew for great golfing surfaces. At a mere £6.00 (including the meal, raffle tickets and sweep entrance), that's what you might call good value.

Our thanks also to the captain of Ryton GC for presenting our prizes, to Steve Hitchcock from Hayter for taking time to travel from Mansfield to present the leading scores for the qualifying round of the Hayter Challenge Tournament, and to all those companies listed here for their donations: Hayter, Ryton Gravel Co., Wm. Thompson's of Prudhoe, Shorts of Whitburn, Inturf, Sisis, Fisons, Rickerby's, Fewster's, Aitken's, Stewarts of Edinburgh, David Dixon's, Bill Thompson (Top Dressings), and Turf Care Supplies. Last but not least, my thanks to Bill Lynch, sales and marketing manager of BIGGA, for attending our day out – I hope you enjoyed yourself, Bill – you know you can't beat Geordie hospitality!

RESULTS: Low Gross – M Latham (Hexham GC) 69. Low Nett – S Thompson (Arcot Hall GC) 76-14=62. Assistant's Cup – M Gunn (Tyneside GC) 72-6=66. Other scores: D Sharkey (Ryton) 73-4=69. C Parkinson (Pontiland) 75-6=69. R Black (Westerhope) 77-7=70. P Robison (Ryton) 76-6=70. B Hughes (Whickham) 91-20=71. S Cram (Slaley) 83-12=71. B Udberg (Tynemouth) 87-15=72. D Jennings (Newbiggin) 75-3=72. B Wilson (Stocksfield) 77-5=72. T Harrison (Stocksfield) 96-24=72. R Bell (Slaley) 89-17=72. G Baxter (South Shields) 83-11=72.

Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifiers: (0-9) – M Gunn, M Latham, D Sharkey. (10-18) S Thompson, S Cram, R Bell. (19-28) – B Hughes, T Harrison, A Wright. Reserves (0-9) – C Parkinson and P Robison. (10-18) – B Udberg and G Baxter. (19-28) – M Harvey and A Parkin. JIMMY RICHARDSON



SOUTH WALES

Our first competition of the season got underway on 15 April at Llanishen GC, where 32 golfers fought for the Cardiff Cup and a place in the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional finals. The attendance was good and the weather even better, producing some excellent golf over a short but superb and well manicured course. Congratulations to Colin and his staff for their efforts, we were told 'they have

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31 → been at it like (Hayter) Beaver's for the last three days". The competition was won by a new member, Robert Johnston (Newport GC), with a 65 (which was one shot off the course record). Robert was presented with the Cardiff Cup, wine and silver wine goblets. Second was Andrew Jenkins (Southendown GC) with a 67, (cut glass rose bowl, wine and silver wine goblets). Qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional finals are: 0-9: R Johnston. A Jenkins. T M Jones. P H Thomas. I Morris. 10-19: M Norfolk. P Lacey. P Lloyd. J B Jones. P Swain. 20+: R Kitchner. D Williams. L Hallett. P Huish. I Ellis. Reserves are V Northey, D Jones, B Price respectively. Our thanks to Llanishen GC (especially Bill Huff) for a gracious welcome and to the caterers for an excellent meal. Also GEM Professional, Ted Hopkins, Avoncorp, Peter Hampton and, especially, Robin Boyes of Hayter's, who witnessed everyone putting out on the eighteenth.

To finish on a sad note, Tony Howard, Maxwell Hart's South Wales representative, recently passed away. Tony, always a jovial fellow, was well known in our region and will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences go to his wife and family.



PETER LACEY

SHEFFIELD

For those members unable to attend the National Conference at Keele, I must report a tremendous success. This was the first time I have attended such an event and I found it both worthwhile and extremely enjoyable. The talks, food, accommodation and entertainment, together with the welcome and hospitality shown to all delegates, all were excellent.

Those lectures that stayed in my mind afterwards were Prestbury's Anthony Davies with 'I Did It My Way' and Gordon Child's 'Past Present And Future'. Anthony kept us attentive with his excellent delivery and humour and Gordon gave a good talk based on a common sense approach to greenkeeping. Gordon made an important point, one which we should all take notice: 'don't take your work home with you!' Notwithstanding the aforementioned, my favourite was that given by George Brown on 'Being 'Open Minded'. George was so natural with his delivery. I think he took the same attitude about public speaking as that when using his new computer - **** it! I found it so interesting to have an insight into Turnberry and how the club operates, with all the pluses and minuses that go into running an Open Championship course. George's slide presentation and humorous delivery was one to be emulated. All of which reminds me of a joke David White told me: A speaker noticed that a delegate had fallen asleep on the front row and asked the gent sitting next to him if he would kindly wake him up. The gent replied, "No way - you sent the bugger off, you wake him!"

Well done to all the speakers; especially our own members, who did us proud. The atmosphere, company and entertainment was very relaxed and even the shyest of characters would have found it difficult not to join in the fun. Speaking of fun reminds me of another joke told by the after-dinner speaker - "that Neil Thomas had streaked through a flower show and won first prize for the dried flower arrangement!"

On a more serious note, thanks to Neil, David Golding, Sam Flint and Debbie Savage for all the arrangements made on our behalf - what a team. Thanks also to our editor, David White, whose presence always makes such occasions enjoyable; and to Huw Parry for chairing the conference in such a professional manner.

NEW MEMBERS: The section welcomes: Glynn Hancock (Abbeylea GC), George Croft (Doncaster Town Moor GC), Craig Duncan (Sickleholme GC), James Pryop (Sheffield Recreation Dept), Anthony Booth (Hickleton GC), Andrew Rouston (Hillsborough GC) and Eric Chambers (Mitchell Industries Ltd).

RETIRED MEMBER: The committee is pleased to announce that the Board has approved Mr Eric Palmer as a retired member, this after 50 years of service to greenkeeping.

RULES OF GOLF: The February lecture on the Rules of Golf proved popular with 44 attending. Sincere thanks to Peter Greenhaugh, captain of Brough GC and a member of the R&A Rules Committee, for coming along to educate us on an important subject.

AROUND THE GREEN



GEM TRIP: Thirty greenkeepers attended the outing to Gem Chemicals, Accrington, Lancs. The outing was most worthwhile and interesting. Thanks to Graham Walker, Gem's area representative, for arranging the day.

1993/94 LECTURES: If any members have a suggestion or contact for the next lecture programme will they please call me. We are hoping to print a fixtures leaflet and mail-shot everyone in order to keep them informed. If you don't let me know your views, I cannot arrange things for you. Tel: 0298 813374 anytime.

The section would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rotherham GC for their generous support throughout the year. For the past five years Rotherham have hosted our winter lectures, which is very much appreciated by BIGGA and its members. The club are well recognised for putting something back into the game by supporting the education of greenkeepers. Thanks also to David Milbourne, Rotherham's course manager, for his liaison with the club on our behalf.

ANNUAL GOLF FIXTURES

Annual Tournament: 21 July - (Lindrick)

Autumn Tournament: TBA - Stocksbridge GC.

The competition secretary is Mr Barry Heaney. If any member requires information regarding fixtures they should not hesitate to contact him. Tel: 0742-884063.

All BIGGA golf fixtures require smart appropriate dress on the course and jacket and tie in the clubhouse. I wish you all a 'dry patch free' season.



JANE RYAN

NORTH WEST

The first competition of the year for the NW section was the annual match against North Wales on 26 April at Llanymynech GC. Unfortunately, we could only muster a team of 12 and our opponents had to lend us two men. The final result was once again a halved match with three wins each and one halved game. This is the third year of this competition and the score stands at one win for N Wales and two halved matches, so lets hope that next year we can field a complete team and even the score.

Llanymynech GC is set in one of the most scenic parts of North Wales, with magnificent views and some fantastic golf holes. The course was in great condition considering how early in the year it was, the ground having not warmed sufficiently for much growth. During my game, and as usual seeing more of the course than most players, I was amazed at the wealth of wild flora in the semi-rough and further afield. I counted five types of orchid and many more wild flowers such as violets, cowslips, primulas and other species. I admit to being a great supporter of encouraging wild flora on golf courses and, lets face it, if your ball is a little wayward at least you are rewarded with the sight of a group of wild orchids in flower while searching for your ball. Many thanks to the North Wales section and Llanymynech GC for a great day.

Our next tournament will be the summer meeting at Warrington GC on Monday 5 July. All entries must be in by Tuesday 29 June, sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport. SH12 1HX, enclosing a deposit of £10.00. The tee will be available from 1.30 pm and teeing times will be allocated on the day. Smart dress is essential. If you require any further information or have any news, please contact me on 051 724 5412.



BERT CROSS

MID ANGLIA

Mid Herts GC was the venue for our first competition

of 1993 on 22 April, a 36 hole event attracting an entry of 40 greenkeepers and trade members. As a qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, competition to represent our section was fierce.

RESULTS: 1st John Gentles (Griffin GC) 68 pts. 2nd Tim McCreadie (Royston GC) 67 pts. 3rd Gerald Bruce (Berkhamsted GC) 67 pts. 4th Nick Burchill (Weston Turville GC) 67 pts. (n.b.: second to fourth places decided on the best PM round). The best morning round was Nick Burchill with 36 points, but as he received fourth overall in the main section, the prize was taken by Frank Scullion (Dunstable Downs GC) with 35 points. Best afternoon round was Ken Bunting (Ashridge GC) with a very fine 37 points. Longest Drive was won by Chris Brook (Family Golf Centre) and Nearest the Pin by Gavin Simkins (Mount Pleasant GC).

Our main sponsor was Rigby Taylor, and our thanks must go to Colin White for his sterling efforts on the day and for providing such an excellent prize table. The golf course itself was in super shape for such an early time of the year, and credit must go to David Forsyth and his team for providing us with such excellent putting surfaces. I know that David and his staff had a 5.30am start to prepare the course, so thanks once again. Our thanks also to Mid Herts for making us so welcome and providing us with an excellent evening meal. It was nice also to see our loyal trade members in attendance yet again and we thank them for their support.

Qualifiers for the regional finals of the Hayter Challenge Tournament, scheduled for play over Northampton GC on 14 July, are: (0-9) Gerald Bruce, Tim McCreadie, John Moorhouse and Frank Scullion, (reserves Ken Bunting and Gary Boulton). (10-18) John Gentles, Eddie O'Hanlon, Mark Ellis and Lee Cox, (reserves Neil Whittaker and Gavin Simkins). (19-28) Nick Burchill, Paul Lockett, Ian Jones and Dave Piggott, (reserves Mark Hendry and Richard Saunders). Congratulations to all qualifiers, I hope you do well in the regional finals.

The first section match is against the BB&O at Harewood Downs on Tuesday 20 July starting at 2.30pm. Harewood Downs GC is in Bucks, the format being ten each side. Anyone wishing to play should contact me before 5 July as I am on holiday from that date, away for two weeks.

A match against the London section is arranged for Thursday 2 September at Knebworth GC, and we will play the Midlands section at Dunstable Downs GC on 10 August. Details of entry and arrangements for these matches will be published nearer the time.



PAUL LOCKETT

SURREY

Our Spring Tournament was held at Coombe Hill GC on Tuesday 20 April. Despite fine, sunny weather and a well presented golf course, the 36 hole format took its toll on the field as reflected in the scoring. **RESULTS:** Winner R Hook (147), Runner-Up S Haynes (150). 3rd I Hogg (151) 4th D Langheim. Scratch R Jacks (161) Best am - R Glazier (73) Best pm - N Whittaker (71) Trade - J Hobbs (161).

Our thanks to Coombe Hill GC for their hospitality and courtesy of the course, to Sandy and his team for the fine conditions, and to club captain Mr David Harris for presenting the prizes.

This event was also the qualifying round for the Hayter Challenge Tournament and the following qualified in their respective categories: (1-9) D Langheim, S Haynes and D Worsfold. (10-18) R Hook, D Wyborn, B Eastman and G Pitfield. (19-24) J Roberts, I Smith, T McGill and D Sullivan. Please note that the regional final will take place at Weald of Kent GC on 29 June. If you have qualified and cannot play, please contact Derek ASAP, who will then arrange for a reserve player to take part.

Forthcoming events include the Cresta Cup, due to take place about the time this magazine reaches your door (If you have not entered, don't go!), and the England V Scotland match on 21 July. Remember to keep a check on your handicaps, as they are liable to adjustment even though you may not have achieved sub-par scores.

If in doubt, contact Mike Yorston, your handicap secretary.

ROGER TYDEMAN

AYRSHIRE

Our Spring Outing was staged at Southernness on 20 April. The trip down from Ayrshire to Galloway, normally a delight and most enjoyable with lovely scenery, was made a nightmare by torrential rain and although not too bad on arrival, it was an effort to get a few hardy teams out for the morning scramble. Thankfully the rain eased after an early soaking and before the 'main event', the sun actually showed its face for the first time in months (or so it seemed!). With typical greenkeepers eye for the weather, cars began to roll into the car park, eventually giving us one of the best entries in recent years. After an excellent round, Ayrshire chairman Derek Wilson thanked the club for granting us courtesy of the course, the steward for an excellent 'feed', and especially the greenkeeping staff for having the course in such great order. RESULTS: (scratch) Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 77. (1st Class) Stephen Higgins (Ardeer GC) 81-7=74. William McMeikan (Turnberry Hotel GC) 83-9=72. (2nd Class) David Whiffin (Dumfries & County) 84-11=73. Derek Wilson (Irvine GC) 84-10=74. (3rd Class) Paul Rae (Brunston Castle) 93-19=74. Jim Paton (West Kilbride GC) 95-19=76. (Trade) Derek Duthie (Aitken's) 81-5=76. (Veterans) George Brown (Turnberry) - who nearly played to his age! (Texas Scramble) 1st - Messrs Drain, Rae, MacLachlan and Mercer. 2nd - Messrs Carruthers, Buxton, Ross and McCartney.

Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifiers - (0-9) Ian McNab, Stephen Higgins, William McMeikan and Neil Carruthers. Reserve - Keith McCartney. (10-18) David Whiffin, Derek Wilson, Sid Mercer and Gordon Heron. Reserve - Duncan Gray. (19-28) Paul Rae, Jim Paton, Stephen Knaggs and Gary Crosby. (no reserve).

One snippet of news concerns the feat of Calum Taylor, son of Powfoot head greenkeeper, Ian Taylor. Calum became the first player to hole in one during a medal round at Powfoot in over seven years. It came at the 270 yard fifth, well done, Calum!

Once again may I remind you that this is your column. Without your help it is difficult to find material to keep it going. Please 'phone me on 0292 70929 if you have anything to contribute.

DUNCAN GRAY

CLEVELAND

The Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier was staged at Bedale GC, to whom we offer thanks for use of their fine course. We also must thank Gary Munro and his staff for the fine conditions prevailing after heavy rain. RESULTS: (0-9) - D Croacher, T Mears and G Pyle. (10-18) - B Lee, R McCabe and I Holloran. (19-28) - C Powley, B Walker and P Tones. The Hi-Speed Trophy was won by D Croacher, Best Assistant Trophy by C Powley and Best Visitor by B Thompson. Our thanks to the clubhouse staff and to our sponsors.

The section will help fund a minibus to take the Cleveland team to the regional qualifying event.

BRUCE BURNELL

WEST SCOTLAND

Hamilton GC was the venue for our Spring Meeting on 22 April. Our thanks to captain Alex Galloway and his committee for the courtesy of their delightful course; and to head greenkeeper Peter Hall and his staff for such excellent preparation, this despite the month being one of the wettest and duller in the record books. Thanks also to Mrs Scott and her staff for fine catering and to John Scott for keeping the games running on time.

The medal competition over 18 holes, which was also the qualifying round for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, was attended by 64 members, guests and trade associates. RESULTS: (Scratch) - Scott Ballantyne (Cowglen) 74. (1st Class) - Steven Hogg (Drumpellier) 75-4=71. Stuart Taylor (Killermont) 75-1=74. Sandy Bulloch (Mount Ellen) 78-3=75. (2nd Class) - David Montgomery (Cawder) 83-12=71 [best inward nine], Drew McKechnie (Douglas Park) 85-14=71. David Cole (Dumbarton) 87-13=74. (3rd Class) - David Mowatt (Killermont) 100-25=75. Neil Henry (East Kilbride) 105-26=79. Kevin McGuire (Drumpellier) 101-20=81. (Trade) - Derek Duthie (Aitken's) 80-5=75. (New Member) Simon Murray (Douglas Park) 108-17=91. Nearest the pin on 12th - Craig Wyllie (Killermont). Leading

AROUND THE GREEN



apprentice - Graham Smith (Cardross) 88-12=76. Football card winner - Andrew McDowell (Torrance House).

The North V South return football match was played on 14 March and following their first leg 9-1 defeat, the North team (following four weeks of intensive training under the critical eye of player/manager Alistair Connell) gained sweet revenge - with a 4-3 victory!

Finally, the Autumn Meeting will be staged at Drumpellier GC on 15 September and the Annual Dinner at the Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow, on 20 November. A good turn-out is anticipated at both events.

SANDY BULLOCH



NORTH WALES

Once again Curzon Park GC was the venue for the North Wales Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier. RESULTS:- Members - 1st. A. Golding 79-12-67, 2nd. J. Westcott, 3rd. J. Humphries. Guests 1st. Mrs. Val Mee 91-27-64, 2nd. B. Dickens, 3rd. D. Lomas. Best gross went to Aled Hughes of Porthmadoc with a score of 77-3-74. Nearest the pin on the 8th was sponsored by ACORN, and the winner was P. Gabriel. The Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifiers were (0-9) A. Hughes, J. Hughes and J. Moody. (10-18) A. Golding, J. Westcott and J. Humphries. (19-28) J. L. Jones, H. Jones and P. Jeffries.

The day was a huge success with 115 players competing for over 40 prizes in total. Many thanks to the sponsors: Hayter, R Campey, Hi-Speed Oils, Gem, Grace Sierra, Acorn, Bruera, Mommersteeg, LP Gas, J Osman and D P Williams. If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies.

May I also congratulate P Sproston and his staff for presenting a course in such excellent condition, and the caterers and bar staff for a superb meal. Last but not least, our thanks to the captain, committee and members of Curzon Park for allowing us the courtesy to play our Spring Tournament at their club. Once again, many, many thanks.

Llanymynech was the setting for our match against the North West on 26 April. What a good match it was, with three wins apiece and one halved game, so once again North Wales gets to keep the shield. (Sorry lads and best of luck next year). Congratulations to course manager Allen Lewis and his staff for an excellent course, and to the catering staff for a fine meal and service.

Would members please note - regarding future events, make sure that entrance fees are returned before the closing date as any sent after the closing date will in future not be

accepted. As you may appreciate, these competitions take a lot of organising, so please send those forms back early.

DAVID PROCTOR

EAST MIDLANDS

The Spring Tournament was held this year at Breadsall Priory G&CC. A windy day made for a testing game on the Moorland course - a new addition opened only last year. Gordon, the course manager, summed it up when he said 'you'll see no flies up here!'.

The roll of honour reads as follows: (0-9) Russ Allen 78-8=70, David Johnson 79-6=73, Dave Leatherland 82-9=73. (10-18) Stuart Swann 87-17=70, Richard Fletcher 82-10=72, Martin Hopkins 89-17=72. (19-28) Brian Baldwin 90-28=62, Mark Bindley 92-21=69, Ian Dunmore 96-22=74. Trade & Associate - Peter Fell 82-11=71.

I would like to offer the section's thanks to Pat Wolf and all the staff at Breadsall Priory for giving us such an enjoyable day.

The section is pleased, as ever, to welcome new members - Martin Johnson from Hinkley GC and Stuart Swann from Ramsdale, who has already made his mark!

Finally, particular congratulations to Brian Baldwin, the only player not to have been 'Bindleyed' for some considerable time, and thanks to all the committee for their help on the day - also to Grace Fretter. Our tournaments would not be the same without you!

TONY HOWARTH



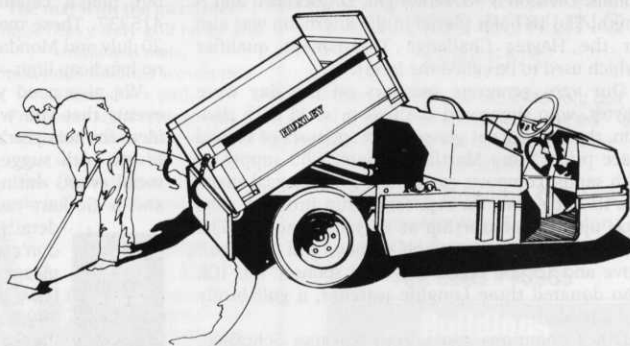
NORTH SCOTLAND

The section's membership drive must now be in full flow as we welcome the following new members, Andrew Tait, Ellon GC, Douglas Boyle and Colin Forbes, Aboyne GC, Neil Kidd, Keith GC, Colin Mackay, Forres GC, Barry Britton, Caird Park, Dundee, George Rollo, Gairloch GC and Scott Cruickshank, Murcar GC, Aberdeen. It is great to see so many new members joining and we hope they will play an active part by attending section out- → 34

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33 → ings etc. We especially welcome Colin Mackay, who contacted me in January to see if I could help him in his quest to get into greenkeeping. Unfortunately, I was unable to help but it was good to see that he has managed to get himself a job at Forres. In addition we welcome Gary Blyth, latterly of the Central Scotland section, who has transferred to take the head greenkeeper's post at Blair Atholl GC, Perthshire.

I attended this year's AGM in York and must say I was disappointed by the turnout. Considering we now have 5,000 members I would have thought there would be more than 36 at the AGM. Maybe holding it during BTME next year will ensure a better turnout. Congratulations to John Crawford on taking over as chairman – we wish him all the best during his year in office. I certainly enjoyed the train journey home!

Unfortunately our trips to the Stewart Turf Farms were not a success. I suppose there was insufficient time for people to make arrangements. Undaunted, we plan to run them later in the year, when we hope to fill a couple of buses. It did not help that spring was a bit late this year and some severe weather had left inland courses with fallen trees to clear up, Perthshire courses with severe flooding; and some links courses with tons of sand covering them. It can only get better, can't it? Greenkeeping certainly is not a dull job!

This month sees the Scottish National Tournament at Brunston Castle, Ayrshire. I know it is a long trek to Ayrshire but I nevertheless hope to see a good turnout from the section. I'm told it will be well worth the trip, as Brunston is a fine new course.

Finally, I have a request to make on behalf of Neil MacDonald of M&M Turf. At this year's Scottish conference he was given an engraved glass for sponsoring an earlier North conference. He placed this at the back of his stand and at the end of the day it had vanished. I'm sure somebody picked it up by mistake, perhaps thinking it was a freebie as it was on the stand. There may some embarrassment about returning it and if this is the case, send it to me at 21 Hartfield St., Tain, Ross-shire IV9 1DH, or direct to Neil at 'The Muirs', Kinross, KY13 7AU. No name is required.



IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH

Sand Moor GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament on 21 April. Our thanks to the captain and committee for the courtesy of play on their delightful course and to Robert Barnes and his staff for preparing the course for us. The competition was held over 27 holes, nine holes Stableford in the morning and an 18 hole medal in the afternoon. The winner of the Stableford was A Smith. Other results: Scratch Cup winner – S Midgley. Division 1 – S Midgley, M Lealman and R Gee. Division 2 – T Jarvis, R Smith and D Collins. Division 3 – L Kirkbright, D Cockburn and A Smith. The 18 holes played in the afternoon was also for the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier (which used to be called the Iseki).

Our very generous sponsors on the day were Hayter, who sponsored the first prize in each division, these being cut glasses. The sponsors of second place prizes were Martin Brothers, who supply us with sands, composts etc. I must say a special thank you to Andy Law, the rep. for Martin Brothers, who took up this sponsorship at very little notice. The prizes donated were a golf trolley, golf bag, golf glove and 15 golf balls. Our third sponsor was ICI, who donated three Longlife watches, a golf brolley and a holdall.

Other donations came from Norman Schofield, S.T.S., Graham Walker, GEM, Peter Marshall from Pattissons and Norman Shedden from Aitkens. I must also thank Norman once again for marking the score cards for us. There are still a few places left for our golf days, please forward your deposit of £10.00 to me.



PAT MURPHY

SOUTH WEST

Simon Shipley of Henbury GC used skill, local knowledge, good luck and anything else he could lay his hands on to win the section Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier at Henbury GC in April. Simon's win was, in fact, a record six shots over the rest of

AROUND THE GREEN



the field, and represented his first success in many years of trying. (I did the decent thing and sent his card to the club secretary by recorded delivery – he was promptly cut by four strokes!).

Henbury was a credit to its staff, both indoors and out, with the course in spectacular condition so early in the season. Our thanks go to Alf Neale and his staff for the preparation, to the steward for the excellent meal, and to the committee for having us.

The full list of qualifiers for the regional final is: (Div 1) – P Godwin 71, C Fudge 74, J Kane 75, S Rattenbury 76 and Paul Worster 78. [reserve N Wilson]. (Div 2) – S Shipley 61, P Burrows 67, J Scoones 70, P Connert 72 and M Pearse 74. [reserve S Framcom]. (Div 3) – P Baynton 75, A Johnson 78, C SEaley 80, L Johnson 82 and J Cooper 84. [reserve T Humphrey].

Another score worthy of note was that of Martin Samuel of Rigby Taylor. As an associate member Martin was not eligible for the Hayter team, but his nett score of 71 (off 28) was good enough to win a BIGGA tie bar as a memento. Well played, Martin!

Thanks also go to Messrs Hayter, Roffey Bros., Avoncrop, Farmura and Rigby Taylor for prizes.

Finally, many thanks to all our dedicated helpers before, during and after Westurf. Robin Greaves, Chris King, Kevin Green and Robin Williams spring to mind, to name but a few. Well done also to those who made the effort to attend, it was a super show and well worth a day out. Thanks for your support.



PAUL WORSTER

BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON

A big thanks to all who made our recent Gentleman's Dinner at Beaconsfield GC such a great success. To secretary Peter Anderson, to head greenkeeper Bill Paterson and his talented staff for preparation of a fine course in such excellent condition, and in particular to our guest speaker, David White, who made sure that everyone had a marvellous evening.

We would still like to see more eager members representing the BB&O in golf matches, specifically against Mid-Anglia and the big grudge match against the secretaries! If you are interested please contact our match captain, David Goodchild, on 0296 415337. These matches are scheduled for Tuesday 20 July and Monday 26 July respectively and there is no handicap limit – so all are welcome.

We also need your ideas for any future social events that you would like us to stage – and any ideas for next year's lecture programme. Call or write to me with suggestions. We will be running two social events during the summer – Ten pin bowling and a Go-kart racing evening. A letter outlining details will be mailed soon and if you don't receive it by the end of June, please contact me.

Have you received your fixture card for 1993? Call me if you've been missed off the list – my number is 0628 829208.



RAY CLARK

DEVON & CORNWALL

This year's Westurf Trade Exhibition, held at the popular venue of Long Ashton GC, Bristol, broke all records – with more trade companies exhibiting their wares and visitor numbers well in excess of last year.

The section would like to thank Marion and Gordon Child for all their hard work in running Westurf so professionally, for with yet another successful conclusion to Westurf the region will be able to continue to subsidise its educational programmes for you! Only your support of Westurf has made this possible. Westurf '94 will be on Wednesday 27 April, again at Long Ashton. Pencil the date in your diary today.

Our next meeting will be the Guest Day on Wednesday 7 July, with tee times reserved from 12.00 noon. Non-golfers are most welcome, with the traditional 'course walk' starting from the clubhouse at 4.00pm. The evening meal will begin at approx. 7.00pm, followed by David Golding, education director of the GTC, who will present his after-dinner speech on 'Greenkeeping Education'. As many of you may know, David has taken up the position of education director with the Greenkeeper Training Committee, which is backed by the R&A and the Home Golfing Unions. A large turn-out would be most appreciated.



Finally, may I wish all those players who have qualified for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final the best of golfing luck.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The second ten pin bowling night was held at Falkirk on 3 April and again everyone enjoyed a great night. With six teams competing there was keen competition for the 'superb' trophy.

Where are all the ten pin bowlers in the east of the section? So far there has been no response to the challenge from the Falkirk teams – to stage an East v West match at Glenrothes – so come on lads, let's see how good you are.

The Spring Tournament at Falkirk Tryst on 29 April saw our highest attendance yet, with 70 members and guests attending. An excellent day with kind weather (for a change!) and a warming sun – a complete contrast to the many previous weeks of rain.

Head greenkeeper Charlie Fotheringham and his staff had the course in superb condition and with the bar and catering staff continuing the same high standard, Falkirk Tryst really did us proud. Our sincere thanks to everyone at Falkirk for making us welcome, especially club captain Jim McAlister and secretary Don Wallace for joining us and also for accommodating us at short notice. Thanks also to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

RESULTS: Scratch - T Gilchrist (Falkirk Tryst), The M&M Trophy. Best Nett: J Cowan (Cumbernauld), The Souter Trophy. 1st Class 1st hcp – A Wallace (Dollar) The Russell/Toro Trophy. 1st Class 2nd hcp – D Peddie (Alloa). 2nd Class 1st hcp – B Docherty (Alloa), The Huxley Trophy. 2nd Class 2nd hcp – J Oliver (Pitreevie). Stewart's Quach – C Fotheringham & T Gilchrist (Falkirk Tryst) Trade – I Thomson (Provan Chemicals). Guests -D Wallis (Grange-mouth). Two Ball Foursomes – A O'Hara Jnr & A O'Hara Snr.

Unable as I was to attend the tournament until evening time, this report was compiled following a conversation with section chairman Duncan Peddie, who was so 'high spirited' that he forgot to invite the captain to present the prizes! His memory returned in time to invite him to draw the raffle – the most important part of any tournament.



I am in the process of organising lectures, visits, demo's etc, for the winter (1993 was a very short year!), so if you have some ideas for inclusion – contact me ASAP.

JOHN CRAWFORD

EAST SCOTLAND

Seahouses GC was the setting for our annual Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifying event. We arrived on a cold April day to find the hospitality excellent, and our grateful thanks go to secretary John Stevens, head greenkeeper Ralph Bullock, and chairman Ron Bewley for making this such a successful day.

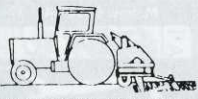
When this tournament was first mooted for Seahouses it was thought that the long distance may have deterred many from going, though this certainly was not the case – with 47 members, guests and trade attending. How nice it was to see Bill Lynch there, but disappointing that no rep. from Hayter's attended. The only other hiccup was that recently retired Duncan Herd overslept and missed the coach! Duncan has done so much for the various associations over the years and a presentation was to be have been made 'For services to the Industry'. This however will be made at a later date. Another great piece of news for Duncan is that at the AGM he was elected a life member of the Association, ➤ 42

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

★ **Lucky winner of our May competition is Mr F A New, course manager/head greenkeeper at Royal North Devon Golf Club. The few minutes Mr New spent looking through the Buyers' Guide section has paid handsome dividends - £50 cash is on its way, with the compliments of Greenkeeper International. It could YOUR TURN to win this month!**

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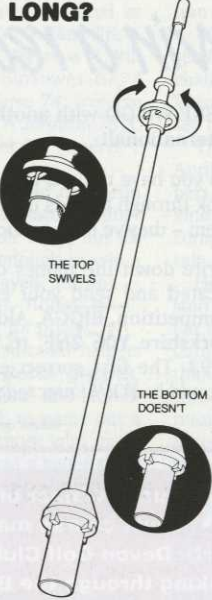
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STA-BRITE SUPPLIES Ltd the leading distributor of turf care products and sports equipment in the South, is looking for an energetic Sales Representative with a proven track record of success in selling amenity turf care supplies in a territory stretching from Birmingham to South Wales.

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Chris Sharp, Sales Director
STA-BRITE SUPPLIES LIMITED
Unit 7 Bessemer Park, Bessemer Road
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STA-BRITE

STA-BRITE SUPPLIES LIMITED



Sunningdale Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess relevant certificates in spraying and chainsaw use and be experienced in all aspects of heathland management. Salary in accordance with BIGGA rates, plus bonus paid out three times annually. Single accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing to:
The Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,
Ridgemoat Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 9RR

RECRUITMENT

ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB

(New 27 hole course under construction)

and

REDBOURN GOLF CLUB

(Existing 27 hole course)

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

(to manage both courses)

Applicants must be of the highest calibre and have suitable qualifications and experience in every aspect of course and budget management combined with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate at least five years experience with quality facilities. Experience of growing in a new course will be an advantage.

Applications are also invited for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT

(Aldwickbury Park Golf Club)

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced.

No accommodation is available with either position.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Martin Gillett
Golf Course Architect
44 Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9AX

The Hamburger Golf-Club e.v./Falkenstein

One of the most beautiful championship courses in Germany, with a great tradition and therefore very demanding, is looking for 1994 for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

The 18-hole course (56 hectares) was designed in the 1920s by a famous British golf course architect and nestles in a hilly landscape with deciduous and coniferous forest and heathland.

If you are interested in this position and have corresponding qualifications, please contact Mr Peter Bockelmann (board member) and supply us with the necessary documents in support of your application.

Hamburger Golf-Club e.v.
In de Barga 59
2000 Hamburg 55
Federal Republic of Germany

RECRUITMENT

Mount Murray Hotel & Country Club Isle of Man

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This challenging position is to take over the final growing in period prior to opening in spring 1994 of our 18 hole course designed and constructed under the supervision of the Sports Turf Research Institute.

The successful applicant will be a fully qualified and experienced Head Greenkeeper with knowledge of sand/peat greens, computerised irrigation systems and modern machinery.

The successful applicant will have to recruit and develop a team of greenkeepers and liaise with the head gardener.

Excellent accommodation will be provided.

Please reply in confidence with full CV and salary required to:

**Gary Spence, Spence Realty Ltd,
Stanhope House, Market Street,
Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 3QD**

Directorate of Recreational and Cultural Services

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Scale 3 £9,930 – £10,644 per annum

Applications are invited from fully qualified and experienced Greenkeepers to maintain Crookhill Park Municipal Golf Course. Applicants must be able to show proven ability in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be capable of supervising manual staff. They should have at least three years experience and ideally previous supervisory experience of Golf Course Management. Preference will be given to persons holding the National Diploma in Turf Culture or relevant City and Guilds certificate. A driving licence will be required. A modern semi detached house located on site is available.

**Application forms and further details available from the Job Shop, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster DN1 1BN.
Telephone (0302) 734020.**

Closing date is 25th June 1993.

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Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council



The Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applicants irrespective of race, sex or disability.



Colville Park Golf Club

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, properly qualified and have the ability to lead, motivate and work with existing staff.

Applications in writing to include full CV to:

The Golf Club Secretary, Colville Park Golf Club, Jerviston Estate, Motherwell ML1 4UG

Beauty Hill Golf Course Newmachar, Aberdeen

Permanent positions to start immediately due to construction of Beauty Hill Golf Course —

GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Good rates of pay and conditions.

Send full details of past employment and experience to:

**Beauty Hill Golf Course
c/o W A G Lorimer, 4 Lymm Brook, Whitbarrow Road,
Lymm, Cheshire WA13 9AP**

Greenkeeping Section
**LECTURER IN
GREENKEEPING**
(new post)

Salary Scale up to £20,226

Applicants must have had experience at First Assistant/Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager level for a minimum of three years.

A qualification in craft level greenkeeping is essential. A supervisory and/or management qualification would also be advantageous.

The successful candidate will be, in the main, teaching to craft level students although some teaching to higher level students is likely at a future date.

Application forms and further information are available from the Personnel Manager, Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB.
Telephone (0334) 52781.

**ELMWOOD
COLLEGE**

GRASSMOOR
GOLF CENTRE • CHESTERFIELD

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above vacancy.

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

Experience in growing in a new course is an advantage.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Golf Consultancy Ltd.,
Grassmoor Golf Centre, North Wingfield Road,
Grassmoor, Chesterfield S42 5EA**

34 → the first in the section.

With the course in excellent condition, thanks to Ralph and his staff, the tournament began at 9.00 am. Scores were very good considering very few had played the course before. RESULTS: Best nett - G.Hobbs (Torphin). Scratch - C.Graham (Gowick). 1st class. G.Wood (Dunbar). 2nd class R.Bullock (Seahouses). 3rd class D.Marshall (Duddingstone). Veteran over 50 years. W.Blair (Kingsknowe). Guest J.Faucet (Lothianburn). Trade J.Robertson (Richard Aitken Ltd). Two Ball J.Neilson and G.Milliken.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge are: 1st Class - C.Grahame, G.Ferguson, T.C.Roger & T.Murray. 2nd class - R.Bullock, S.Melville, J.Lockerby & C.Yeaman. 3rd class - G.Hobbs, D.Marshall, A.Forrest & R.Hogarth.

Nine East section members took the long journey to York for the AGM on 21 April, this proving very successful as at long last AOB was added to the constitution. It was also a big day for Scotland in other ways when our Scottish chairman, John Crawford, put on the red jacket to become national chairman. All our best wishes go to John on his achieving this high honour.

What happened to our trade members on the quiz night? Did they think the questions would be too difficult, or can they only answer questions on their own products? Only three companies bothered to contact me, but despite this it was a very good night. Our thanks go to social convener, Steve Dixon, for his organisation and to those who took part.

The social side will take a back seat for a few months as, like me, you will all be busy on your own courses. In due course you will be notified of the forthcoming skittles night and, of course, the dance.

Membership in the section is again on the up, with many more realising the benefits of BIGGA. That stated, there are still a few who remain unpaid, though we are confident these will be paid soon!

We are all looking forward to the National Tournament at Dunbar in early August, where a large turnout is expected from the section. Everything has been organised; more about that in the next report.

WILLIE BLAIR

MIDLANDS

I start my section notes on a very sad note by inform-

AROUND THE GREEN



ing members that Trevor Howard died recently. Trevor, who recently worked for Maxwell Hart and before that for many years with ALS, was a good friend and colleague to all of us, as well as being a true supporter of BIGGA and, especially, the Midlands section. He will be sadly missed, though more importantly will be remembered for the fine person he was. Our thoughts are with his wife and family and we send our sincere condolences.

On 14 April we held our Spring Tournament at Moseley GC and, as normal, played this over 27 holes. The weather was kind after the recent wet period and made for good scoring. We thank Bob and his staff for a well turned-out course and also Moseley GC for the use of their fine facilities and for such good catering. The winner of the nett prize with a score of 102:5 was V Lee, second P Holtham (106) and third A Luckman (106). The gross prize was won by M Hughes with a score of 115.

DEAN CLEAVER

SUSSEX

The Spring Tournament this year took us across the border to the newly constructed Wildwoods GC, Surrey, for an 18 hole medal (AM) sponsored by John Shaw Machinery and a Stableford (PM), sponsored by Rigby Taylor Ltd.

The event got off to a nervous start with the first negotiated over water - complete with two wandering swans! The water hazard was the first of many and most of the 51 competitors lost a few golf balls.

Hazards overcome, the next problem was handling

the speed of the pure agrostis greens, and talking to Billy McMillan afterwards, he said to come back in a few weeks and see what quick greens are really about! The day progressed well, albeit slowly, with everyone enjoying the warm, sunny but windy conditions. Our thanks to Billy and his team for producing such excellent surfaces.

The day was rounded off nicely with a fine meal held in the restored oak-beamed clubhouse, followed with prize presentations made by George Barr in his inimitable fashion. Apart from issuing the prizes, George presented Derek Coomber with a case of wine, this in gratitude for all his work as our section secretary over many years.

RESULTS: John Shaw Machinery Medal: (Greenkeepers) 1st William Francis, 2nd Paul Kimber, 3rd Adam Envis. (Trade & Guests) 1st Bert Merriot, 2nd Brian Wilmott. Rigby Taylor Stableford: (Greenkeepers) 1st Rolan Hughes, 2nd George Barr, 3rd Brian Finn. (Trade & Guests) 1st Nick Silva.

In closing, we thank the following for their generosity and hospitality - the directors, professional, green staff and caterers at Wildwoods GC, and the co-sponsors, John Shaw and Rigby Taylor.

MARK WILTON

COMING UP

June 9-10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warks

June 22: BIGGA Scottish Championships, Brunston Castle Golf Club, Ayrshire

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, Warks



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loads, you won't be paying your men to stand around doing nothing. And if there's no fork-lift on site, don't worry... our mechanical off-loading facilities will ease the burden.

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out where our distributors are nationwide, give us a call on 0652 650555. We will also send you a copy of our brochure. And to see for yourself why Tillers is the name behind Britain's top-rated turf we can send you a sample next day, as well.

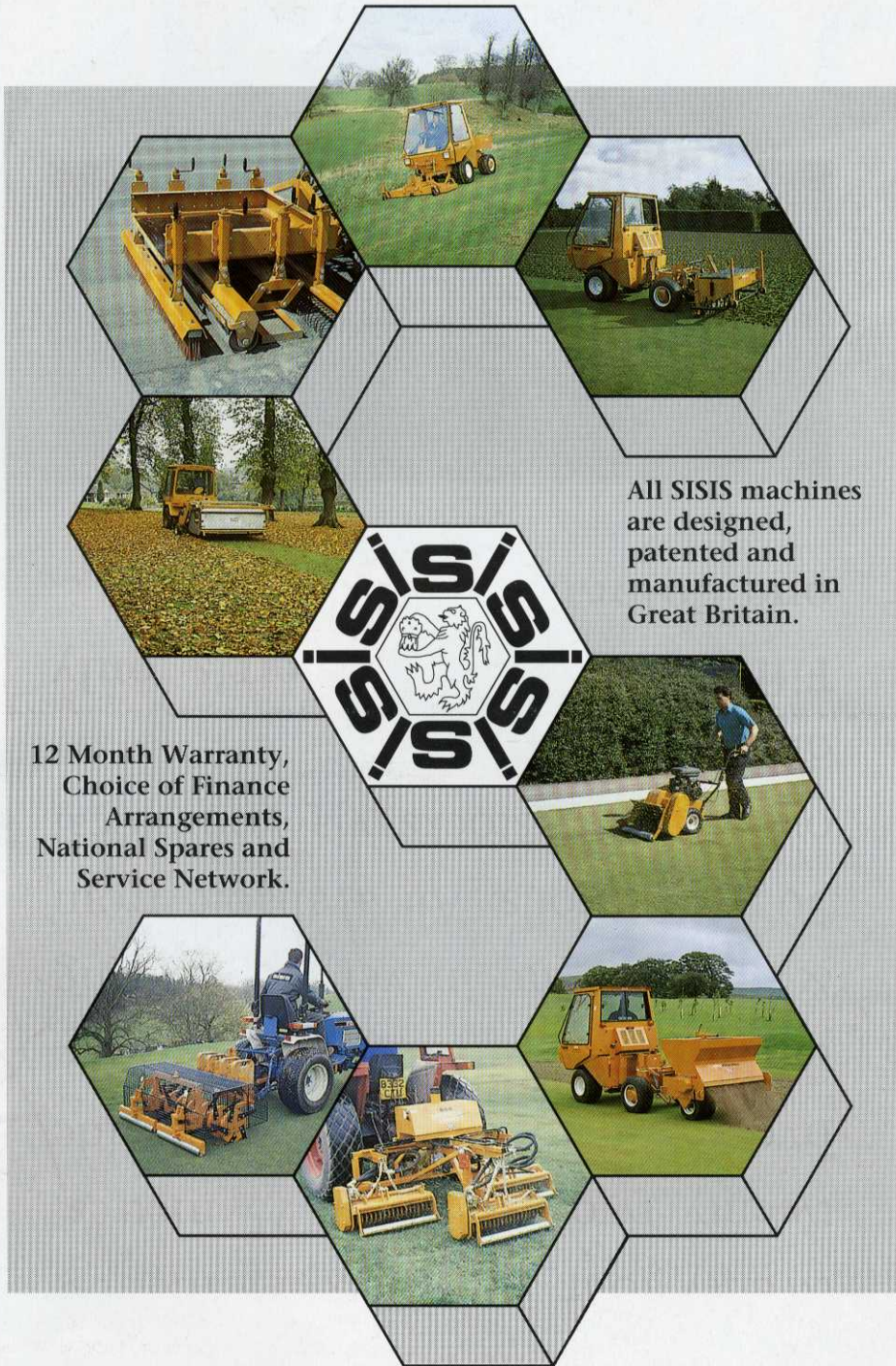


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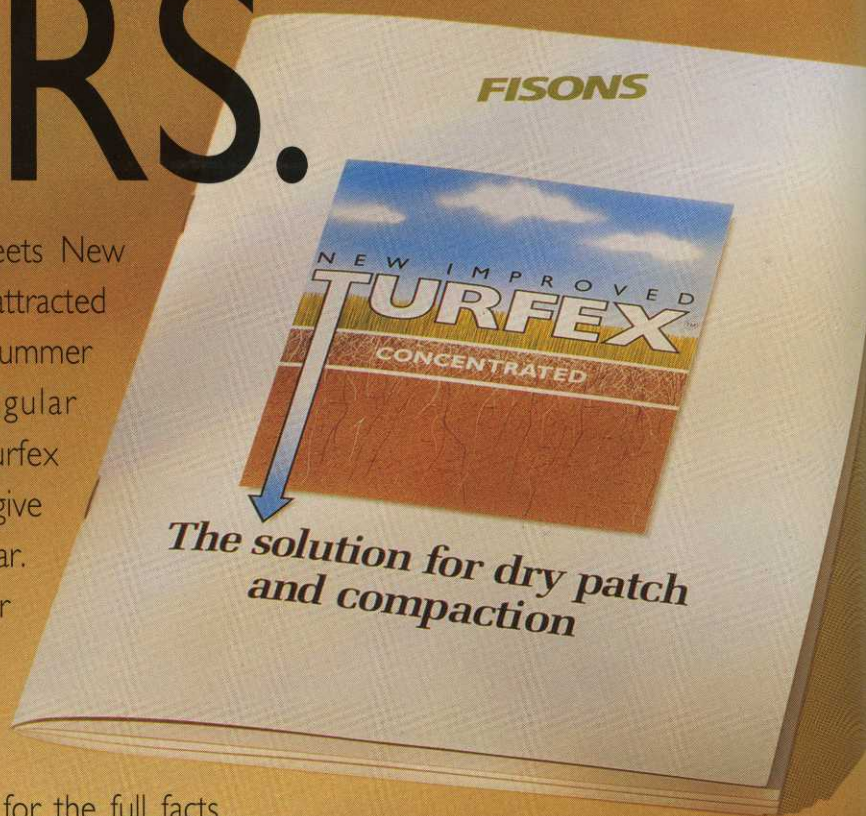
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