

Faces and places

■ The STRI will hold four five-day courses at Bingley in the autumn of '93 and spring of '94, on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses (Monday-Friday) will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers, machinery, ecology and conservation management.

The 'Golf Only' courses begin on 1 November and 8 November '93, and in '94 on 21 February and 28 February. The cost for '93 is £185 (members) and £230 (non-members) and for '94 will be £195 (members) and £240 (non-members). Prices do not include VAT, accommodation or meals. Details: Mrs M Curran, STRI, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274 565131.



■ Allan Stow, left, technical sales advisor at Vitax, was seen sporting a larger than usual grin on his monicker at IoG. When quizzed by editor White he spoke of upcoming wedding bells, or whatever the equivalent tune is played at the 'registry'. So to Nina, the lucky gal, and to 'Stowie', the lucky lad, every happiness and good fortune!



■ What is believed to be Fife's first commercial pay and play golf course, perhaps even the first in all of Scotland, Charlton House is due to open to the public next year. Head greenkeeper David MacOwet is busy putting finishing touches to the parkland course, which overlooks the Forth, hard by a cluster of such famous member clubs as Elie, Leven and Lundin Links.

■ Parker Hart has announced the closure of its Warrington depot, declaring the operation insufficiently profitable. The company will now concentrate its resources in the south, where the appointment of Richard Gooding as sales director of their sister company, Roffey Bros., is seen as strengthening further their selling operation in the south-west.

■ Golf course architect, Martin Gillett, has developed a most distinctive style in his many years of designing courses, with an emphasis placed clearly on strategy.

Not afraid to create something different, Gillett has designed one of the longest holes in the country, the 18th at Crondon Park, Essex. It measures a full 645 yards – though golfers will be pleased to know it's downhill all the way and normally plays with the prevailing wind. An additional feature at this Gillett designed course is a 19th hole, designed as an extra to be incorporated when one hole needs to be taken out of play for maintenance – or simply to change the length and playability of the course.

Martin Gillett's current commissions include the acclaimed pay and play at Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, one of a number of such courses the development of which Martin believes are essential to the future well being of the game. Three Gillett designs have opened in the past year. Details: Tel 0277 231371.



■ David McInnes, 31, has been appointed sales manager for the south of England by turf, amenity and landscape equipment specialist, Turfmech Machinery Ltd, Hixon, Staffs.

Working from Bicester, Oxon, David takes on responsibility for sales of Turfmech machines, including vacuum collectors, tractor-mounted blowers, fine cut rotary mowers, stone buriers

and the recently-introduced trailed top dressers.

■ I don't know if league tables are kept of such things, but I understand from Whitnell Contracts Ltd, the Essex based golf course construction company, that they lay claim to a record by constructing 18 holes (and numerous water features) at Bletchingly GC in just 36 working days. In this period all works up to topsoil return and preparation were completed in readiness for turfing, which was undertaken by another contractor.

■ The first pay and play course to be constructed in the Sheffield region for over 20 years opened for play recently. The

nine hole family course at Bondhay complements the existing driving range and the new 18 hole course, which opens in 1994.



■ Cedric Johns has been appointed by the British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association as its press officer. Involved in the UK irrigation market since its early days, his knowledge and journalistic skill will be utilised to improve standards of technical awareness – both in the industry and in the education of potential end users responsible for sports turf.

Speaking of CJ's appointment, BTLIA chairman Paul de Rham said "with him on the BTLIA team we plan to step-up our professional presence in the market and broadcast the message that high standards of irrigation design, installation, its use and the conservation of water should be taken seriously by our industry and end-users alike."



■ The Toro Division of Lely (UK) Ltd announced recently a programme of nationwide 'Workman Field Days', where the acclaimed Workman 3000 maintenance vehicle, left, will be demonstrated and made

available for personal test drive; including the use of a wide range of attachments. Full details of the programme may be obtained from Toro dealers. Already well underway (it started on 13 September), the programme is proving most popular with greenkeepers and will continue until 29 October.

■ Driving Force Leisure have appointed David Murphy, latterly with Sta-Brite Supplies, as their rep. for Herts, Beds, Cambs, Northants and Warwicks.

■ The Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association is holding its first Turf Maintenance Exhibition in early November. This will bring together in Dublin suppliers of materials and services, both Irish and international, and will be the essential event for greenkeepers and those who maintain sports and leisure facilities throughout the UK and Ireland. The dates are 4-5 November and the venue is the Royal Dublin Society Showground, Ballsbridge, Dublin, which is easily accessible. Details and invitations from Fairlink Ltd., 58 Clonard Court, Balbriggan, Co Dublin. Tel: + 353 1 8411362. Fax: + 353 1 8412934.



■ Under the by-line 'they don't make 'em like that anymore', it was good to learn from John Phillips at St David's City Golf Club, Pembroke, that he still uses a turf cutter (by Patisson, I believe) which he thinks may first have seen the light of day before World War I. What's more, John tells me it still works perfectly. Does anyone know its history?

■ As a finale to their full time year of study, 15 National Certificate Greenkeeping students from Elmwood recently took a week long study tour to the Rhone – Alp region of France.

Based at the 'Lycee Horticole' they also visited France's oldest course, Golf Aix les Bains founded in 1913, and the six year old layout at Correncon en Vercors, which at over 4000 ft is under snow for four months of the year. (During this time the head greenkeeper works as a ski instructor). The 36 hole Golf Club de Lyon, and the nine hole Golf l' Isle d'Abeau were also visited during the study tour. Aspects of the design and layout and turf maintenance were discussed, and compared to the students studies at Elmwood.

Of course there was also time to relax; two of the clubs visited offered free use of their practice area. A free day enabled a look round Grenoble, then there was the coffee and croissants, warm sunshine, cool beer, alpine scenery... All things considered a successful tour was enjoyed by everyone.



■ A new recruitment consultancy, Golf Personnel UK, has been set up in Horsham, West Sussex, by Jessica Maddin, above. As the name implies, Golf Personnel UK specialises in golf trade related vacancies: club pro's, secretaries, stewards and, of course, greenkeepers – and makes no charge to applicants. Tel: 0403 823828.



■ Congratulations to Alastair Holmes, top, latterly head greenkeeper at Goswick, on his move to course manager at Seahouses GC. Also to Paul Seago, pictured below Alastair, latterly head greenkeeper at Royal West Norfolk, who takes on the exciting task of course management at East Lothian, stage managing those rare beauties – Gullane One, Two and Three. We wish them good fortune.

■ Members in Scotland and throughout the country will be saddened to hear of the passing of Harry Diamond's wife, Greta, after a long and valiant struggle against illness. Our deepest sympathies are with Harry and his family at this time.