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Greenkeepers Association.
Contact us at Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

EDITOR

Chris Boiling

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR

Tim Moat

Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch

Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Carol Dutton

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

SALES AND MARKETING ASSISTANT

Louise Lunn

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
North Anston Trading Estate,
North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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address changes to BIGGA at Aldwark
Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

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GREENKEEPER International

AUGUST 1994

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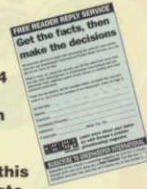
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Turnberry's own boys in blue:
greens staff in front of the leader
board at this year's Open



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– PETER MANSFIELD,
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For a BTME '95 information pack call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 – quickly! The event is almost sold out...

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A tale of Nick and George

The Open Championship is without question the premier event in the golfing calendar. For BIGGA it certainly counts as one of our 'majors'. As I write having just returned from Turnberry the Association can reflect on an excellent 'Open'. With one of our leading Course Managers, George Brown, in charge one sensed in the weeks leading up to the championship that we could be in for something special – and so it proved. The golf course was presented in exceptional condition and no less an authority than the R & A Secretary, Michael Bonalack, described it as the best Open Championship course in many years. Praise, including that of the professionals, was unanimous. First and foremost our congratulations go to George and his staff for their professionalism and a job well done.

In a wider perspective how well this reflects on our profession as a whole. To present a golf course as Turnberry was presented demands exceptional skills and great experience. Greenkeepers today are increasingly better educated and more able to take correct decisions for their golf courses amidst the myriad of conflicting theories and practices which abound within the greenkeeping profession. The combination of skills, experience and ever improving educational qualifications manifests itself in the quality of today's top Course Managers exemplified in its highest profile by George Brown and the presentation of Turnberry for the Open. Have no doubt that Turnberry advanced the cause of greenkeepers. The stature of the profession will have been enhanced. The golfing world has been shown what can be achieved, what standards can be set. It is not merely a question of resources. The vital factors are skill, experience, management, commitment, training, team work and not least a love of the profession. Those of us who were privileged to be there witnessed these factors in abundance at Turnberry.

So what of BIGGA's role? There is a misconception founded on faltering beginnings that we are present for one and only one reason – to rake bunkers. Our team is actually known as the 'Greenkeeping Support Team' and that



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

means support in its widest role as determined in consultation with the Course Manager. How well I recall my first 'Open' with the Association at Royal Lytham in 1988. There in torrid weather conditions we played a vital role in enabling play to proceed as it rained like never before. It is perhaps since that Open that the R & A has recognised the key role we have to play. If the Course Manager wants us out on the golf course early morning or late in the evening volunteers are never in short supply. A greenkeeper accompanies each match to look after the bunkers and enjoys an unsurpassed view of play. I am always impressed by the understanding our members display for the history and traditions of the game as well as their appreciation of the privileged position they enjoy during the championship. Equally they are well aware of the importance of the week for the Association. The R & A provides us with a large marquee in a central position within the tented village and this becomes a focal point for BIGGA members, guests and friends. Often the two TV sets beaming out the triumphs and disasters on the golf course are ignored as greenkeepers discuss greenkeeping – were it not ever so? The week of the championship presents the Association with a major public relations opportunity and this is manifested from start to finish by our emphasis on professionalism. Each team member is presented with two BIGGA shirts and wearing these on alternate days with grey slacks creates an immediate positive image. This dress is complemented by the BIGGA wetsuit – this year to a new design by

New top man for Turfgrass Council



Peter Helm has been appointed chief executive of the National Turfgrass Council. Peter was formerly horticultural sales manager with ICI/Zeneca. As chief executive, he will be responsible for coordinating and representing the views of the 22 member organisations of the NTC encompassing the major associations and representative bodies of those involved in natural and synthetic sports and amenity turf areas. A keen gardener, Peter had hoped to spend time improving his golf – but he now says with his new job that ambition will have to wait a while.

Crondon Park opens with a 19th hole

A new 18-hole 6,974-yard par 72 course, 9-hole par 3 course and a 300-yard two ended driving range complex has opened in Essex. The Martin Gillett-designed Crondon Park GC at Stock also boast a true 19th hole which will be used when the greenstaff are maintaining one of the other holes and to give flexibility to change the length layout and configuration of the course. The signature hole is the 4th – the green is located at the top of a moated Norman fortress.

Tanks leaflet

Butyl Products Ltd has published a new A4 four-colour leaflet describing its range of lined storage and treatment tanks. For a copy call 0277 653281 or fax 0277 657921.

BIGGA in focus

➔ Walrus and justifiably acclaimed as the most attractive wetsuit at the Open.

Lest you think it is all work and no play, there is a social side to the week. That having been said I should perhaps draw a veil over proceedings. Let us just say that greenkeepers have a good time and the caravan park was enlivened each night. If you managed to survive the cabaret which catered for varied tastes you were doing well! Whenever possible we seek college accommodation for the team but this

NEWS



Heat is on for college's tropical greens project

Myerscough College has developed what it claims is the world's first golf hole *under glass*! The Lancashire college's Warm Season Turfgrass Education Facility – pictured during construction – is designed to recreate the tropical conditions found in many Floridian and Mediterranean courses. It has bunkers, water hazards and supplementary lighting (to keep the temperature hot), and will help sportsturf students learn skills and maintenance techniques which will be relevant if they want to work in the United States or southern Europe.

The green and fairway will become operational late autumn, giving the turf and sub-tropical plants time to establish themselves. To keep bills down, only sponge balls will be used in the glasshouse.

year it had to be the caravan park. The prime problem is that of sleep or the shortage of it! The late nighters and the early risers are known to meet usually around 4.30am! The spirit remains good, however, with much forbearance shown on occasions. Next year at St Andrews we will have the benefit of Elmwood College for accommodation and this should ease this administrator's problems!

So another Open Championship passes by. As we look ahead I am mindful of the need

for newcomers to join the support team – it really is a tremendous experience. We need to balance new blood with some old hands for it pays to know the ropes. Certainly the demand for places on the team is increasing and this year we had to disappoint a number of applicants. In the forthcoming months we will need to consider a selection criteria for 1995 and beyond. We warmly thank the Scottish Region for their input to the success of the week. They won't mind me saying that they have

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Ivor Scoones would like to thank the many members who sent cards and messages of condolence following the passing of his beloved wife Sheila (Ann). These were a great source of comfort to the family during a very sad time.

■ BIGGA's vice-chairman, Barry Heaney, has scored his fourth ace. He did it with a 6 iron at Wortley's 156-yard 5th. "It was a lovely feeling but it cost me a lot of money," he said. In fact it cost him about £70, but it helped the 8-handicapper to a gross 73.

■ One of Kevin Wroe's first big jobs will be preparing for the Hayter Challenge final. 35-year-old Kevin is moving from Weston-super-Mare this month to take over as head greenkeeper at Pannal GC, near Harrogate. Pannal has a team of five greenkeeping staff.

■ Seven-handicap Barry Webster is the new course manager at Ealing GC, the 18-hole parkland course that sometimes gets watered by the River Bront. Barry, formerly assistant course manager at Harpenden, has a team of five and takes over from Julian Doughty, now at Stratford-upon-Avon GC.

■ A new research facility has been launched by ADAS Environmental at their Gleadthorpe Research Centre near Mansfield. Its purpose is to offer an independent research facility for sports and amenity turf to enable the testing of materials, turf care products and techniques in relevant soil and climatic conditions.

some extremely experienced old hands who at times are able to move mountains. Their contribution is vital.

Finally in congratulating Nick Price he was quick to point out that his inspiration for the week came in practice when he appreciated just how well the course had been set up. This brings us back to George Brown and the staff at Turnberry – the plaudits are all yours and you have set standards for the future to which others can aspire. The profession has undoubtedly moved forward.



Range of courses continues to grow

My own education is continuing with visits to Myerscough and Reaseheath colleges which not only provided me with two colleges' views on greenkeeper training but also improved my knowledge of grass identification and grass diseases. The range of courses on offer at colleges continues to grow, ranging from N/SVQ through Ordinary National and Higher National Diplomas to degree level courses. Short courses are also available covering a range of skills including Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, First Aid and Safe Lifting and Handling of Heavy Loads.

■ The GTC Training Manual, available from the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO6 2NF, has been developed as the means to monitor and record the training of greenkeepers, from raw recruit to course manager. The Manual not only meets the needs of industry but also satisfies the criteria laid down by N/SVQ to lead to the award of a nationally recognised qualification at levels 2, 3 and 4. Candidates successfully completing the sections of the Manual will also be entered on the GTC register and will be awarded the appropriate industry certificate ie. the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Craft Section), the Certificate in Golf Course Supervision (Supervisory Section) and the Certificate in Golf Course Management (Management Section). Mandatory conservation units must be completed before the Certificate in Golf Course Management will be issued. Greenkeepers who completed the 'Pink' log-book are still eligible to be entered into the GTC register. Greenkeepers can check with the GTC on 0347 838640 to see if they are registered.

■ N/SVQ assessment centres are being selected from a list of colleges and golf courses and the initial batch of seven greenkeeper assessors has completed its initial training here at Aldwark.

■ Several education and training projects were discussed and

endorsed at the recent BIGGA board meeting. These included:

Training videos

The next BIGGA sponsored training video 'Course Preparation' is due to enter production shortly. This video will cover six units of the GTC Training Manual and has been designed to be used by course managers, golf club management and colleges. The video will be produced in modular format so that the trainer can select the part or parts of the video that meet the training need.

Field guides

The next BIGGA field guide will cover 'Grass Identification'. Initial planning has taken place and production of the guide is expected in the autumn.

BIGGA reference library

Although several management and personal development books have been identified for the BIGGA reference library and the R&A are providing us with a bibliography of some of their titles, we are still looking for suggestions, from members, of suitable books. Details have yet to be finalised but we hope to provide a library which will enable members to gain access to a wide range of greenkeeping, turf management, personnel management and general management sources of information.

■ Two major BIGGA events are nearing their final stages. These are:

TORO/LELY/PGA Student of the Year

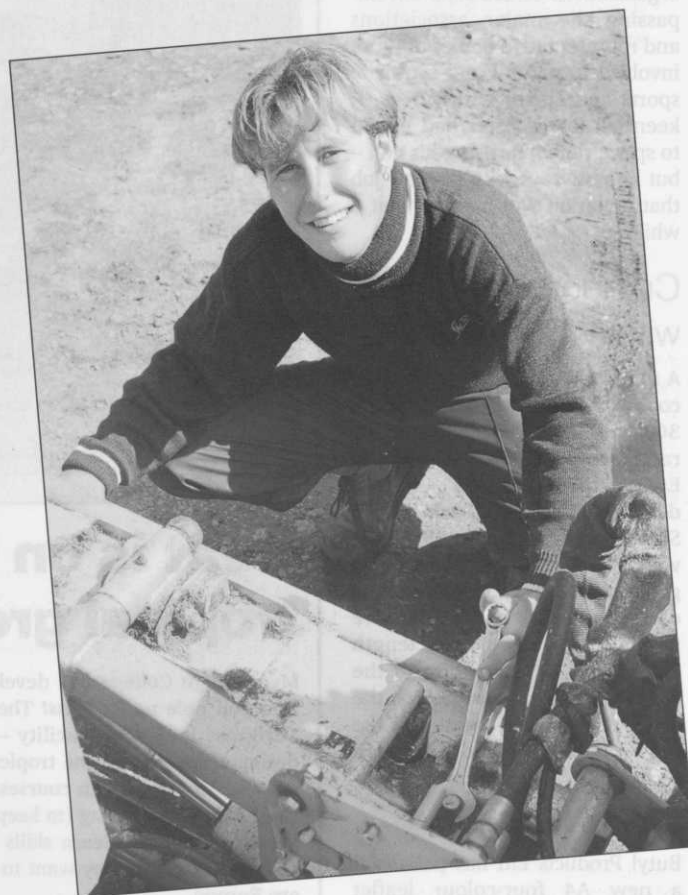
We have received 33 entries from 19 colleges for this year's Student of the Year competition. The regional finals will take place in early September and the final at Aldwark on October 2/3.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The regional courses inspections have already commenced and the finalists should be known soon. The final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 4/5.

A day in the life

The last time we did this it was snowing in some areas, so we asked five greenkeepers what they were doing on a nice hot summer's day – June 14.



STEVEN MACDONALD, 22
First assistant at Vereniging Golf Club Almeerderhout, The Netherlands, a 27-hole parkland course with a nine-hole par 3 course and driving range. Set in 297 acres, it has 1400 members. Steven has been there two years.

7am – Preparing and checking relevant machinery for all greenkeeping staff to be used today.

7.30am – Delegation of morning jobs with head greenkeeper and discuss briefly the rest of the day's work planner.

7.45am – Begin to fertilise the nine holes on our blue course with Fison's Zero Phosphate 14.0.7 (NPK), 2% iron, 2%mg, with head greenkeeper following

behind watering the greens manually with the Toro irrigation system. Application rate: 1oz per sq yd.

10am – Break.

10.20am – Resetting, tightening and checking fairway Beaver units (two) and Toro 450D fairway mower. After completing this I moved onto the Toro 1000s (four) where I reset height to 5.5mm on all machines and tightened units ready for tomorrow morning.

12.30pm – Lunch.

1.30pm – Delegation of afternoon tasks with head greenkeeper.

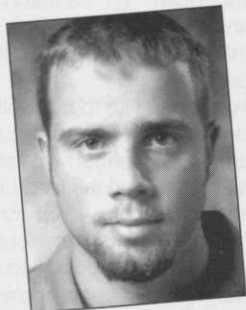
1.45pm – Working with Toro 325D set at rough height around greens with assistant greenkeeper on the yellow course in preparation for the club championship at

the weekend.

4.15pm – Refuel machine, fill in time sheet, lock up and set alarm.
Finishing time: 4.30pm

Typical day? Very typical with an organised daily work programme having been prepared by our course manager, which means everybody is always kept very busy. Slavernig! (*Dutch*)

Other comments: There is overtime during the week (Thursday and Friday) to have the course in optimal condition for the Club Championship at the weekend.



JAMES ANDREWS, 19
Apprentice greenkeeper at Hankley Common Golf Club, near Fareham, Surrey. The 18-hole heathland course is set in 90 acres and has 600 members. James started there in August '93.

6am – Hand watering greens. Due to the past few days of hot weather, dry spot has occurred on a majority of the greens. Therefore, to stay on top of this, hand watering was necessary. A wetting agent was used.

10.30am – Break for lunch.

11am – Repair burst pipe at the 13th tee.

12.30pm – Clean bottom of water tank – shoes and socks off! Water was drained from the tank and debris collected at the bottom of the tank was disposed of.

1.30-1.34pm – Water fight – course manager soaks me and helper with hose. We come off worse.

Finishing time: 2.15pm

Typical day? Not really as a large company was occupying the course. We had to be off the course by 10.30am (except to repair the burst pipe).

CLIVE RICHARDS, 33
Head greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a 27-hole parkland complex set in 120 acres with 750 members. Clive joined in April '91 as deputy and was promoted to head greenkeeper in October '92. Normal hours are 6am-2pm.



GEORGE BROOKE-POWELL, 21
Assistant greenkeeper at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course set in 200 parkland acres with 550 members. George has been there four years.

6.15am – Fill the mini digger with diesel and grease the entire machine.

6.30am – Continue with mini digger to complete trench work for the installation of a new irrigation main.

10am – Visit my local GP for some allergy relief.

11am – Repair a broken down golf buggy.

11.30am – Lunch.

12.15pm – Finish irrigation main trench work.

5pm – Excavate the irrigation main from the pump station for the connection of the new main.

6.45pm – Lock up.

Finishing time: 7pm

Typical day? Not at all due to the irrigation work being carried out. Normally my tasks would be split between mowing duties and machinery maintenance.

5.45am – Turn irrigation pumps on. (At the moment we have a problem with the wiring system on our irrigation system, so I can only water on manual. The irrigation engineer is due today.)

6am – Delegate jobs to green-staff. (We have six full-time greenkeepers including myself and a part-time gardener.)

6.15-10am – Change holes, watering the greens at each hydrant as I go round the course. (We are in a long dry spell.)

10-10.45am – Break time.

10.45am – Ring TH Whites to see if they have a Cushman front tyre in stock. They have. Took front wheel off and asked deputy to pick up new one. Ring Roffey Bros and order 25 tonne 70/30 and seaweed.

11.15am – Reset height of cut on Toro 223-D fairway machine from 1/2 to 3/4in to protect the fairways during dry spell. Greased machine all over.

12.15pm – Tried phoning for a JCB to move a large mound of soil. Failed. Will try again tomorrow. Phoned the office in the clubhouse.

12.25pm – Staff return from doing odd jobs. (New tee blocks went on the nine holes on common land, deputy came back from TH Whites, Greens King units taken off for a regrind. Various other odd jobs to finish the day.)

2pm – Staff go home. I go to office in clubhouse and book in delivery notes in the budget book. I also sign invoices and check

their numbers in my book.
Finishing time: 2.50pm

Typical day? Today there was a seniors open championship so we kept out of everyone's way after setting the course up, ie nothing was done out on the course after 10am, so it was not a typical day.

Other comments: The irrigation engineer did not turn up. When I rang to find out the reason for the delay he said he should be here tomorrow. We are one man short this week as one of my staff is at Cannington College finishing his NVQ year 2 course.

ROBIN EVANS, 27
Assistant greenkeeper at Whitby Golf Club, an 18-hole course situated on the cliff between Whitby and Sandsend. Robin has been there 11 years.

3.45am – Start work early because there's a ladies open competition. Check tractor (John Deere) ready for the day's work, ie water, diesel, oil. Put low trailer on and load up with gear ready for going around the course at 6am when the rest of the team comes in. This gear includes rakes, new flags, litter bags for emptying the bins, hole changing equipment and the strimmer.

4.15am – Strim the drive entrance and around the clubhouse area, then edge and strim the steps on the ladies' 12th tee and give them a fresh coat of paint. Make modification to the fence on the 9th tee to stop the turf wearing at the front of the tee. Then back to the sheds to join the rest of the team in the course preparation.

6am – Set to work on the course, ie raking bunkers, changing holes, picking litter off the course, emptying bins, moving markers etc.

10am – Break.

10.30am – Machinery maintenance and tidying shed out.

Finishing time: 1pm

Typical day? Not really, due to the ladies competition.



Golfing legends are stars of £40m club opening

The £40m London Golf Club's grand opening was certainly grand. It featured a £1,000-a-hole skins match between two golfing legends – Jack Nicklaus, who designed the Heritage course, and Seve Ballesteros – with Tony Jacklin making up the numbers before going to America to make his debut on the US Seniors Tour.

The opening was televised by Sky Sports and featured in several national newspapers and magazines. More than 3,500 spectators turned up to see the charity challenge which was followed by a trick shot show and long-driving exhibition.

The 7,208-yard par 72 course looked superb for the big day and, judging by the number of birdie putts sank by Nicklaus and Ballesteros, the creeping bentgrass/USGA spec greens are as good as they look.

Like many Nicklaus-designed courses, the Heritage features many big bunkers and lakes which come into play on five



holes. These lakes are outlets for an extensive drainage system as well as being strategic hazards. They are all inter-connected with a 40-million gallon reservoir providing all the water course superintendent Steve Marsden and his staff of 27, including 18 greenkeepers, could want for the 36-hole club.

Club president Masao Naga-

hara said: "My goal is for the London Golf Club to become the best golf club in Europe."

With such a good start, the Japanese developers are well on their way to achieving their dream. But they have got one thing wrong, at least geographically. The London Golf Club is not even inside the M25, it is near Brands Hatch in Kent.

All change at Force Limagrain

Force Limagrain Ltd, the UK marketing arm of Group Limagrain France, has announced a series of management changes. Ken Alderton is retiring as a director after 44 years service, but will continue to act as a consultant. His responsibilities as forage seeds director will be taken over by Keith Galley, who will be supported by Simon Mitchell as product manager. Dee Bruce assumes the role of sales coordinator at the Longstanton office.

Answers behind the answers...

Mark Smith foxed a few of you with last month's Open Namesearch, even though most of you got the final answers right. You'll find the winner and the answers on page 23, but for those of you who got there without knowing who Massy, Strath and Kirkaldy were, here are the 14 winners and their year of triumph: Hutchinson, Jock 1921; Weiskopf, Tom 1973; Nicklaus, Jack 1966, 70 and 78; Massy, Arnaud 1907; Taylor, JH (John) 1894, 1895, 1900, 1909 and 1913; Strath, Andrew 1865; Jacklin, Tony 1969; De Vicenzo, Roberto 1967; Rogers, Bill 1981; Charles, Bob 1963; Perry, Alf 1935; Kirkaldy, Hugh 1891; Lyle, Sandy 1985; Faulkner, Max 1951.

Letter to the editor

'Great show' was down to a team effort

May I, through Greenkeeper International, thank the under-noted for their support during the recent Open Golf Championship at Turnberry. The additional machinery enabled us to achieve the standard that is necessary to stage this major championship.

• Toro (The Russell Group); • Jacobsen (H Sheach); • Ransomes (Scottish Grass Machinery); • Kubota (Hamilton Bros.).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our regular suppliers (too many to list) for their support in the lead up to the tournament – not forgetting our friends and colleagues who helped cut greens, tees and paint holes etc. – not everyone's cup of tea at 4am every day.

Many thanks also to your chairman, John Millen and the dedicated few from the support team who helped fill divots on two evenings even though they had just finished bunker raking.

One can only congratulate the R&A for their professional organisation in bringing together as many as 40 contractors such as fencing, electricians, plumbers, scaffolders, caterers, BBC, Telecom, etc. to name but a few. The planning took between one and two years and during the championship approximately 5,000 people were working at Turnberry every day.

Having spent many hours at meetings with the various contractors I have to rely on a good crew. My staff, which is headed by Martin Lothian, head greenkeeper, prepared the course not only during the Open week but throughout the last two long, wet and windy winters – preparing walkways, tees, greens and revetting most of the bunkers. It is to my team and all colleagues at Turnberry that I give the biggest thanks and say "well done lads – you put on a great show."

George Brown, Golf Courses and Estates Manager, Turnberry

● Open report and pictures, Pages 12-15.

● More letters, Page 58.

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All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer six questions. Two are published this issue, two more will appear in September and the final two plus an entry form will be published in our October issue. When you have the answers to all six questions, complete the form and return it to us by October 30, 1994.



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, January 25-27, is filling up fast. Eighty-six per cent of the stand space has been sold with more than 100 companies booking space six months early.

New exhibitors for 1995 include the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Euromec Ltd, suppliers of front deck mowers, collection machines, industrial sweepers and scrubber driers. The British Association of Golf Course Constructors have said they want to return after the success of this year's show. Many companies, such as Lely UK, Hardi Sprayers and Sisis, are taking more space.

"Stand space is selling at an unprecedented rate and unless some companies book soon, we may not be able to fit them in," warns BIGGA's sales and marketing manager, Bill Lynch. "We have reached the stage now where we'll only be able to fit another 18 companies in. Although there are six months to

go before the seventh BTME, I fear some companies may leave it too late and end up disappointed."

Anyone wondering about the effectiveness of the show need only talk to two of this year's exhibitors.

Graham Williams of John Deere Ltd says: "We decided to double our stand space at the 1994 exhibition. We were not disappointed, the quality of enquiries received was excellent and has contributed towards our growth during 1994."

Chris Macgowan, sales and marketing director of Ransomes, says: "We find the BTME by far and away the most cost effective show that we take space at in the UK. It is very clearly focused on the golf market, it is extremely well attended nationwide, and because of the education programme that runs alongside the show, greenkeepers and course managers really do want to come to the show rather than merely trying to find the time to attend it. We always make a point of launching new machines at Harrogate in January – it is by far the best shop window for us."

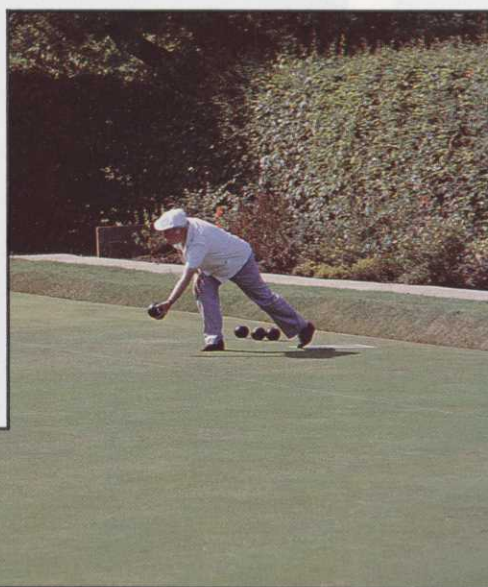
AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. Which company doubled its stand space at BTME '94?
2. Which association will take a stand at BTME '95 for the first time?

Our normal competition rules apply.

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Turnberry's Ailsa course was in amazing condition for the 123rd Open. George Brown and his team of 18 full-time staff and three temps did a brilliant job.

It's always difficult to set up a links course because you never know what the weather is going to be like but, judging by the scores, it seems they got that right, too.

George was certainly proud of it. "It would be difficult to get it better," he said.

A few days before the big week, his staff were lightly watering parts of the 6,957-yard par 70 course because the greens were going brown, then he had three days of rain which made the greens and fairways soft.

"The last three days didn't help," said George on the eve of the tournament. "On Friday evening we played golf with the R&A and the course was absolutely beautiful, the greens were firm and fast, almost crunching underneath the spikes. Mike Bonallack asked me what sort of weather I'd like and I said, 'A little shower would see us nicely for the week' and since then it's rained every day. We had 17mm on Sunday, 5 or 6mm on Monday and another 4 or 5 on Tuesday – coupled with no wind. I can't remember Turnberry going five days on the trot without a breath of wind."

For most of the competition Turnberry was blessed with sunshine and light breezes, although after one wet and windy afternoon Willie Blair was heard muttering: "I don't know why they don't hold this competition in the summer."

Before the event George had said: "It's just like having your mother-in-law over for Sunday tea, you just do a bit extra." So we asked him whether it really was that simple.

"Yes, it was," he replied, "you get the best white tablecloth out and polish the table."

But he was obviously happy. "I'm very pleased," he said, "We've received so much good publicity from the newspapers, magazines and players."

Looking around the course after the event, he said everything would soon get back to normal. Mother Nature would take care of the rough that had been trampled down by spectators; his staff would concentrate on repairing the damage to the Arran Course's 2nd and 18th fairways, which were used as a practice ground and walkway respectively, and to the original practice area, where the tented village was sited. He gave the impression that within a couple of weeks you wouldn't notice the Open had been there.

It would all be a memory – but what a memory!

● Nicked it: Nick Price congratulates George Brown and his Turnberry team.



The Open



It's the best condition I've seen an Open Championship course in the last 10-15 years – Michael Bonallack, R&A secretary



Specs appeal: Gordon Moir watches the final players come in at the 18th

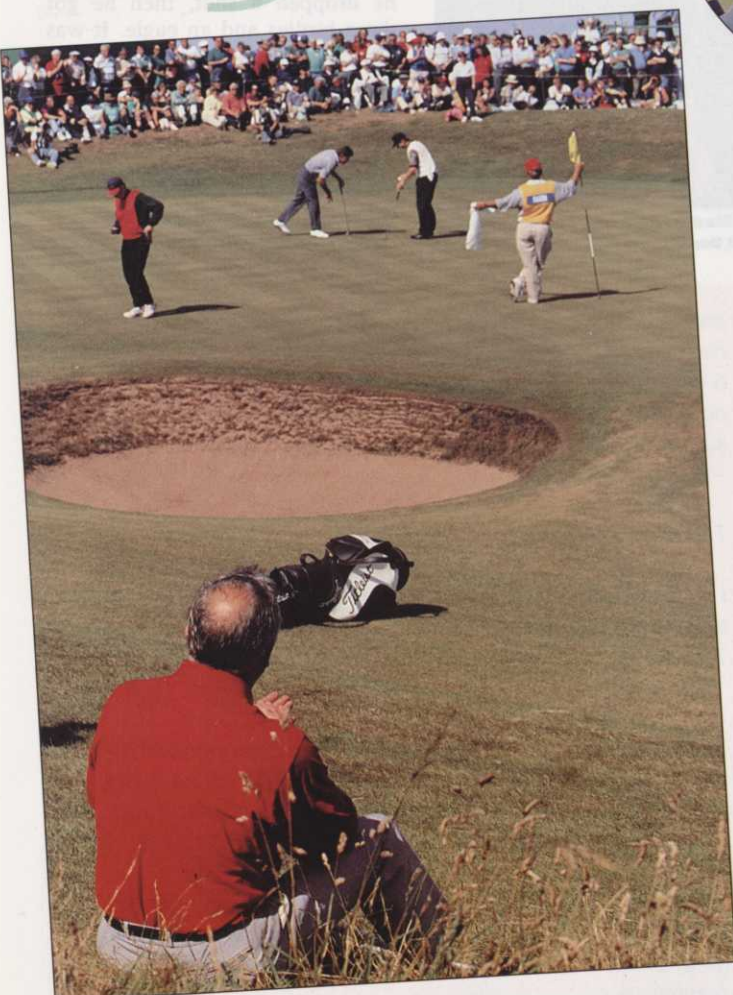


Price is right: Open Champion Nick Price meets the BIGGA support team

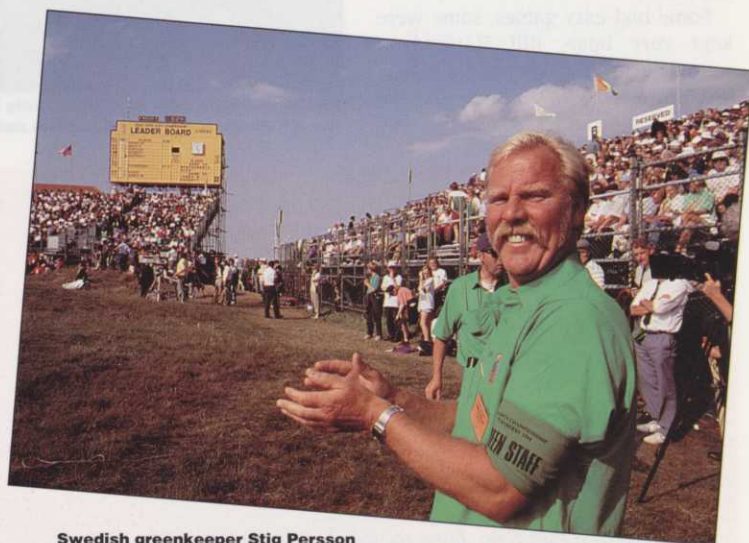
Below: Bill Hatfield

...and Duncan Smith

I have to compliment the R&A for the wonderful job in setting it up. Of all the British Opens, this is the best condition of an Open Championship I have ever seen. It is the best condition of a links course I have played in Europe. The condition is fantastic – Greg Norman



Bert Cross watches Nick Price putt out on 6th



Swedish greenkeeper Stig Persson cheers on Parnevik – before he hears what's happened in the following game

This is only the second links course I have played and I think it's awesome. The novelty is that we do not play courses like this in the United States. The way it looks, the way it plays, the different shots you have to play, it's just different, just great. You need more imagination on a course like this – Tom Lehman

The Open **BIGGA at**

Reports and photographs by **CHRIS BOILING**

Lew Brown and Buddy De Sylva must have been thinking of the bunker rakers at the Open when they decided: "The best things in life are free."

While some spectators were complaining about the cost of a day out at this year's championship – £20 entrance fee, £6 for car parking, £90 for a seat at the 18th – members of the BIGGA support team were enjoying a complimentary grandstand view of each game.

Since 1984 greenkeepers from around the country – and a few from abroad – have been drafted in for the Open to rake the bunkers and help the permanent staff with things like divoting.

This year more than 125 greenkeepers volunteered for the 52-strong team, many taking a week off work for a chance to be part of one of the most exciting Opens for years. They were close at hand for the memorable moments, like Nick Faldo playing the wrong ball, John Daly hitting two balls into the wee burn at the 16th and Nick Price's 75ft eagle putt at the 17th.

Sometimes they got a little too close to the action. Richard Heaslip, head greenkeeper at Epping Forest GC, was struck on the right arm by Tom Watson's wayward shot to the 18th green. He was later spotted recovering in the bar, using his left arm to lift pints of the beer that reaches parts that other beers can't. He said it was what the doctor ordered.

Some had easy games, some were kept very busy. Bill Hatfield, a retired head greenkeeper from Darlington, was with Andrew George when he shot an 83. About the only

holes he didn't go into sand on were the 9th, where there isn't a bunker, and the 16th, when he went into the burn. "On the 14th Andrew said to me, 'You must have blisters'. I said, 'I'm not suffering as much pain as you.' He smiled," recalls Bill.

Lee Trevino also felt sorry for his bunker raker, Willie Blair. After finding his fourth bunker in succession, the former champion patted Willie on the back and said: "Make sure they're paying you overtime, buddy!"

Who rakes for whom is decided by drawing the names out of a hat. Alec Robertson, first assistant at Grangemouth GC near Falkirk, had the honour of marching down the 18th with the last pair, Brad Faxon and Fuzzy Zoeller. He also had Brad Faxon in the first round, when he was playing with Gary Player and Jose Rivero. In the second round he had top amateur Warren Bennett, and in the

third round he had Nick Faldo and Mark Calcavecchia, who gave him a ball. It was 42-year-old Alec's seventh Open and "definitely the best as far as draws are concerned."

As it turned out, this year the penultimate pairing was the most important game. And the honour of walking down the last fairway with the '94 Open champion went to Brian Payne, head greenkeeper at Burnham Beeches GC for the past 24 years.

Brian, 52, told me: "It was a terrific atmosphere, but when you've done it for six years you know what to expect."

Many other greenkeepers were happy with their draw on the final day, too.

Dean Cleaver, 36, course manager at Gay Hill near Birmingham, had Greg Norman: "He's someone I've always admired. He played superb golf, just failed to sink the putts but it was a real experience, especially coming down the 18th. It's something I will never forget. The sound hits you and you feel part of it being inside the ropes. It's a terrific feeling." It was Dean's first Open and he was given a ball marked 'Shark' by Norman.

Russell Blackburn, one of two assistants at Castle Douglas, was with Anders Forsbrand, who shot a final round 64. "Even to be here is fantastic but that round was amazing. He started off two under, then he dropped a shot, then he got three birdies and an eagle. It was just fantastic. Coming up the 18th was the best experience ever. After his eagle at the 17th I was as hyped up as he was." The Swedish star gave Russell his glove as they walked to the 18th green. "I'm going to frame it," Russell told me, "It'll never get worn again."



BIGGA members with 'Mr Walrus' Craig Stadler: from left, Billy Merritt and Russell Black, and Ronan McKeown and Bert Cross

The course is set up magnificently, the best condition of any Open I have played in the 10 or 11 years I have played it
 – Ronan Rafferty after shooting a 65 on day 3

This is one of the best links courses I have played. Really fun
 – Brad Faxon, joint leader after three days

This is a very good course, we don't have this type in Japan. But it's difficult for me to find the line to shoot at because there's nothing to take a line on – Masashi Ozaki

The course is fantastic. Nice to see the R&A listened from the last time and I have to say they have done a great job. Greens as good as possibly they can be. Fairways in good condition and the rough is very fair, so probably the best conditions I have seen in quite a long time. It is set up perfect, and anyone scoring 10 or 15 under may win. Nothing wrong with that. Whatever happens, it is going to be a great championship
 – Seve Ballesteros on the eve of the tournament

The course is in very good shape and condition. It seems to be quite fair. It is a bit easier without the wind, but there are some long holes out there where I had to go with long irons

and fairway woods on the par 4s. The fairways are a bit narrow, but there is a stretch of semi rough on both sides 5 to 6 yards which seems to make it fair before the thick rough stuff comes. What I remember in '86 it was severe, only 3–4ft of semi and then really bad kraut, as we would say
 – Bernard Langer

The course is very good – Nick Faldo

I think the whole golf course is good. The lighthouse 9th hole is the one that stands out. I think it is the toughest on the course. They have some very tough short holes there, especially the 15th – Ernie Els

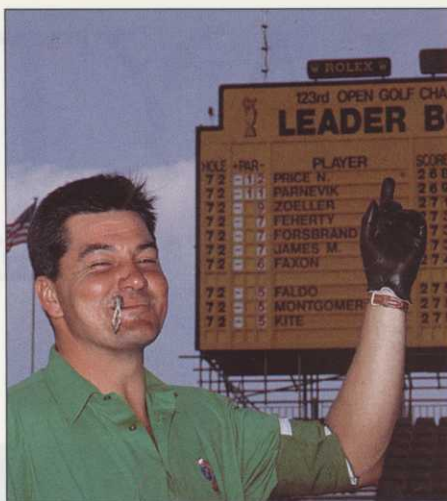
The course is in great shape and it is very straightforward – not a lot of hidden things out there. Greens do not have big, gigantic hollows and the slopes are not overly done. If you play well, you will shoot well – Corey Pavin

I think we've got a course in fantastic condition and they all agree on that. We've set the course up so players can have a go at it – Neil Roach, chairman of the R&A's championship committee

Gavin Kyle, 28, head greenkeeper at the new Sutton Park Golf Club, Surrey, was given Nick Price's glove by his caddy, Jeff 'Squeaky' Medlin, even though he was not raking for him. It was probably because Gavin, who comes from Durban in South Africa, said 'well done' in Afrikaans.

The greenkeepers are briefed to "only speak if spoken to". But if Ronan McKeown had spoken up on the 17th on the first day, the Open might have had a different result. He saw Nick Faldo play the wrong ball. "I had a feeling it wasn't his ball, but you can't say anything can you? Supposing you were wrong?"

Of course, it's not all big names and low scores. Euan Grant's threesome came in 49 over par. The UK's Lee Fickling finished with an 80 for a 20 over par total, Sweden's Anders Gillner shot 79 for +13 and Colombia's Eduardo Herrera's 79 gave him a +16



Winning hand: Gavin Kyle shows off two gifts from Nick Price – his Bridgestone glove and some "biltong", a South African dried meat which Price keeps in his bag for nutrition. Gavin, head greenkeeper at Sutton Park, which is due to open in November, comes from Durban and has been in this country 14 years.

As Brian Payne says: "It's nice to go out for people who are not household names, so you know who to look for in the future."

Ivan Hall, a retired greenkeeper, went out with Ruben Alvarez of Argentina, Peter Smith and Warren Bennett of the UK – and ended up talking to golf-mad Prince Andrew.

International

The support team is an international gathering. As well as the usual English and Scottish greenkeepers there were sisters Jean Esposito and Sue Smith from their family run Hinckley Hills Golf Club in Ohio, a Welsh course manager with Thai ties, and three greenkeepers from Sweden, who were hoping for a Jesper Parnevik victory. Maybe next year!

This year it was Nick Price who collected the Claret Jug and had the honour of being pictured with the boys and girls from BIGGA. Afterwards, when he said: "I am still a little stunned right now. It is amazing," we think he was referring to shaking hands with Jim Paton.

And when he said, "I nearly jumped out of my skin, it is like a fairy tale," he was probably recalling his visit to the loo in the greenkeepers' office. About three hours after finishing his round, Price was still giving interviews and signing autographs when he got caught short. He asked if he could use our loo. While he was in the small room, his wife Sue waited outside holding the Claret Jug.

Now that's something you don't see watching the Open on TV.



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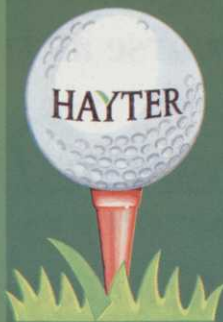
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four-wheel drive and differential lock combine to make this machine your perfect playing partner. To proceed further in your quest for perfection, call your dealer today for full details and a demonstration.

With about 650 greenkeepers attending, the first Southturf exhibition is being hailed a great success by BIGGA's South East section. They say pictures are worth 1,000 words, so here is the way our photographer saw it...



Above: Pattison's new goodies include a swivel putting flag (£9.95), a heavy-duty hole-cutter (£95), and a pear shaped tee marker made of resin not wood (£6.90). Making a comeback is the divot box (£64)

Right: John Deere has broadened its range with the addition of the Gator 4x2 utility vehicle



Above: Hayter impressed these greenkeepers with its T44

Left: The Huxley Multi-Depth Aerator attracted a lot of interest alongside its sister greensmowers, hydraulic reel mower and ride-on rotary mowers



Right: A new-style Big Bird bunker rake with shortened teeth that are angled back and supports to stop it twisting is given its first public showing by Tacit. It costs £14.50. Also shown is the improved Laser holecutter with upgraded blades and a self-setting depth gauge costing £110



Job shock for greenkeeper

A head greenkeeper went to a section golf day and found out his job was being advertised. A fellow head greenkeeper told him a friend from Scotland was interested in the post and had phoned him inquiring about the course. The job had been advertised in Golf Weekly and the Scottish greenkeeper had replied to a PO Box number.

The head greenkeeper, who has asked not to be named at this stage, says he hasn't been sacked yet but that after seven years at the Essex club he has received two written warnings for different things in the past six months from a secretary who has been in his job for about a year.

"Suddenly he is picking holes in everything I do," says the head greenkeeper, who was about to call a meeting with the chairman and captain as we went to press.

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RHÔNE-POULENC

The greens were cut once a week, they had a fence round them to keep the cattle off and the annual maintenance budget was £10. The greenkeeper's wages were less than 50p a week and his equipment included a horse. Such was the lot of a greenkeeper when Bedale Golf Club was formed 100 years ago. John Walker, a past captain and vice-president of the Yorkshire club, sifts through a hundred years of committee minutes to see how the life and work of the greenkeeper has changed.

What a greenkeeper could expect 100 years ago:

Ten bob a week and a horse...

In looking back at greenkeeping practices it should be borne in mind that a parkland golf course 100 years ago was far removed from the present manicured masterpiece. Indeed, it was basic in the extreme, with tees identified by markers on fairways, which were themselves cut to the height of today's semi rough, whilst greens were cut probably once a week, or less. As land was primarily for agriculture purposes, golf was mainly undertaken during the winter months. However, the speedy construction of a golf course is highlighted in Bedale's case by the fact that a general meeting was held on November 20 1894 with the purpose of forming a golf club, and an exhibition match was played on December 6 between the two greenkeeper/ professionals from Richmond and Studley Royal Golf Clubs.

It is clear from the records that the greens were fenced to protect them from cattle, and the cost for this work in 1913 was £14/18/11 (£14.85) for nine greens, with £2 for the flags!

For the period between 1895 and 1915, the cost of maintenance for the course never exceeded £10 per annum, and this included cutting and rolling greens. It would appear that the fairways were cut by the tenant farmer. After 1915 the course declined, and there are no records until 1919, when it was decided to reform it in April.

A price of £1/1/0 (£1.05) for preparing nine tees was accepted from JH Raper, the Hornby Castle Golf Club groundsman. In 1919 it was necessary to fence the greens again, and wood and wire were given for this work, together with ammunition boxes for sand on the tees. The fairways, during this period, and indeed for many years to come, were cut by the tenant farmer three times a year, at a cost of £17, but who undertook the cutting of the greens is unrecorded, it must be assumed that a groundsman was used. In 1921, the course moved to adjoining land and in March the committee agreed the price for the making of seven greens and eight tees at £17/10/0 (£17.50).

They also agreed to pay 6/- (30p) for putting down moles, and £2 for cutting hedges. In addition to all this it was decided to purchase a stone roller for 30/- (£1.50p) for rolling the greens. J Myers was appointed groundsman in 1921 at a wage of 10/- (50p) per week, and this was the rate paid for groundsmen for many years. Complaints about the length of the grass on the fairways were common, which was not surprising when one considers the infrequency of cutting. The condition of the greens were subject to a request by the club to the landlord for

permission to use sand from the rabbit warren on the course to mix with the basic slag for dressing the greens. Half a ton of basic slag was purchased to spread on rough patches. This year also saw the purchase of a greens cutter for a price of £5/7/6 (£5.35). The accounts for the end of 1922 detail the cost of grass-cutting at £1/12/6 (£1.63), the groundsman's wage at £26/10/- (£26.50) and worm killer at 5/- (25p).

By 1923, a decision was taken to hire "Sir William Gray's cutters" three or four times a year, so obviously the groundsman was now responsible for this work, as well as the greens. The rent of the course this year was increased from £3 to £5 per annum.

'The committee got rid of the horse in the winter when it was not needed'

1924 saw the appointment of a new groundsman at a wage of 5/- for each cutting of all the greens, and 3/- (15p) for rolling. This price was also to include the filling of the sand boxes. By 1925, the groundsman was instructed to take responsibility to cut the fairways, and to this end a grass cutter was purchased for £20, together with a horse! The committee got rid of the horse in the winter when it was not needed.

A 14in Pensylvannia roller mower was purchased this year, so the groundsman now had at least two major pieces of equipment. An inspection of the grass cutters by Messrs Shanks & Son identified £5 worth of repairs

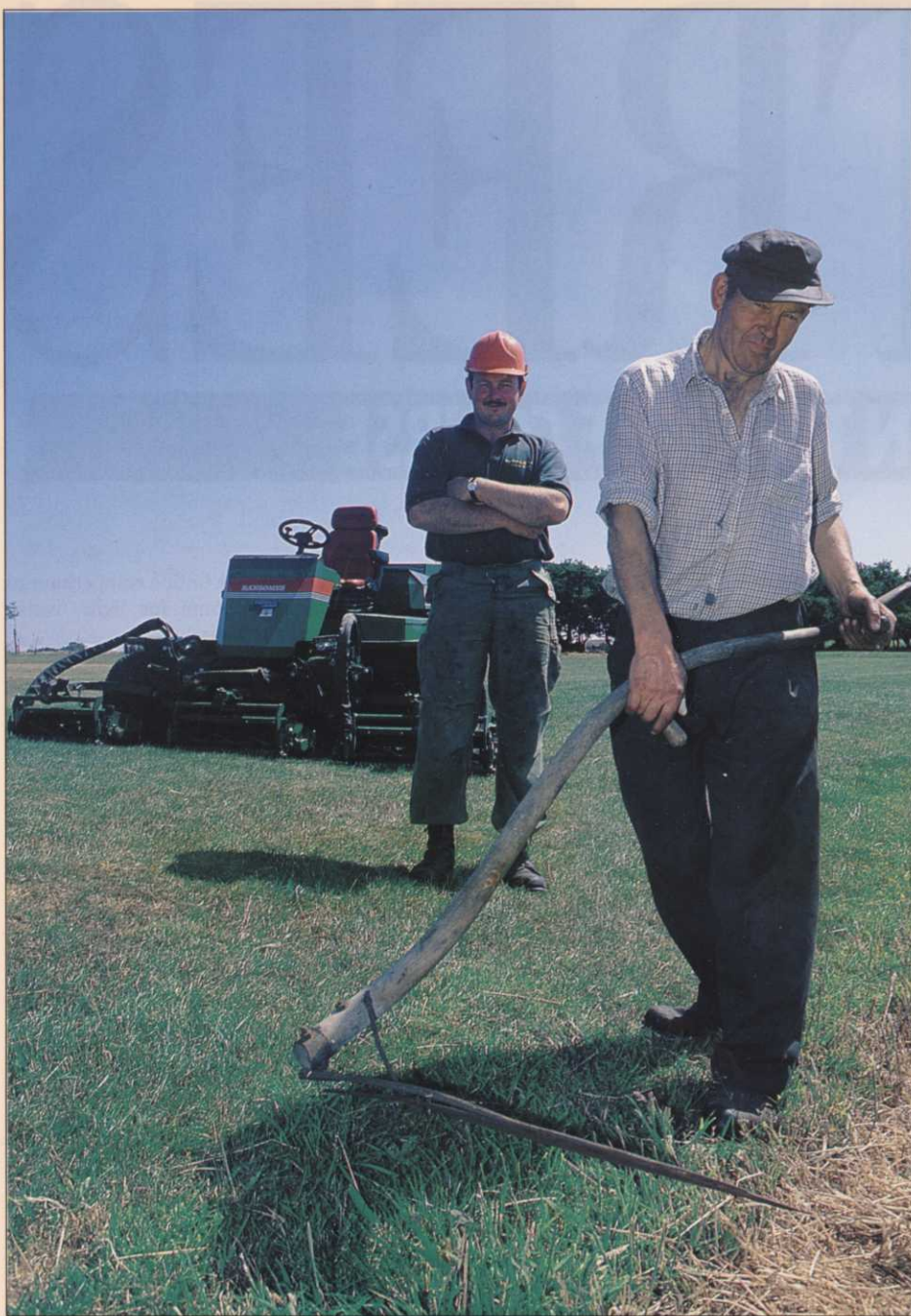
needed, and this was reluctantly approved at the AGM.

The year 1928 saw the appointment of JH Raper as groundsman/professional, who was to remain at Bedale for about 30 years. His initial wage in 1928 was £1 per week.

One of Raper's early tasks was to convince the committee to convert the fairway single cutter to a triple unit at a cost of £40. This obviously reduced the fairway cutting time, but the cutters were still horse-drawn! In 1932, the course moved to a new site some way from the existing, and Raper not only designed the new course, but was responsible for obtaining labour and supervising the construction. In consideration for which the committee purchased a bicycle for him to get between the two courses during the transition and on conclusion paid him an honorarium of £10. In 1933 Raper was asked to attend a sale and bid for a secondhand Atco cutter. Committee permission was given to bid up to £11 for the machine, the price to include commission and other charges.

Raper requested the committee to lay down his duties, which they did as follows: "The professional was expected to keep the course in the same pleasing condition which the committee appreciate as he had done in the past, and endeavour to carry out to the satisfaction of the greens committee any directions that they may find it necessary to give him." Clear, concise, and no doubt a model for many of our course manager/head greenkeepers even today! The committee in 1934, following a request from Raper, agreed to pay his National Health Insurance of 1/6 (7.5p) per week, and his wage was increased to £1/6/6 (£1.30).

The question of purchasing a vehicle to pull the fairway cutter had been considered and



A cut above: George Holland with one of Bedale's original scythes unearthed during a clearance. Looking on is Neil Austwick, with the course's more up to date means of keeping the place in trim

rejected previously, for reasons of cost, but in 1935 Bedale Garage offered to sell them a secondhand car for £10. This was agreed by the committee after running costs had been explored, as it would allow Raper to complete the job in a shorter time, allowing him more time for other work! However, before the purchase was finally agreed, the secretary was instructed to write to the makers of the cutters to check the speed that they could be pulled.

The club showed their generosity to Raper in 1937 by making him a gift of £5 so that he could go on holiday, however, the secretary was told to inform him that he was not to expect an annual present! In 1939, a new motor mower for the greens was purchased, at a cost of £23/10/0 (£23.50).

During the whole of the war period, the question of spares machinery was uppermost in the greens committee and Raper's mind, and that was not helped by the fact that the car used for towing the cutters was a Citroen, for which no spares were available. In addition to all this, Raper was not only expected to carry out his normal greenkeeper's work, but

to keep the clubhouse clean and take the competition entrance fees.

By 1946, Raper had got the committee to agree to the appointment of a groundsman, on the basis of £3/10/0 (£3.50) per week for 31 weeks, and £2/10/0 (£2.50) for the remaining 21 weeks over the winter. This staffing situation did not last long, for by 1951 the membership had declined to 62, and it was decided to dispense with the services of the groundsman, so Raper found himself back carrying out all work with the volunteer help of the members.

The greens were causing a problem in 1948, and worming them was decided with the purchase of 2cwt of Fison's Special Worm Killer, at £2 per cwt. Although the original Citroen car had been dispensed with in 1948, further secondhand cars were used to tow the fairway cutters. Motor mowers for greens had caused problems, but the committee felt unable to purchase a new one with the problems of the falling membership, and it was not until 1957 that a 20in Ransomes Green Cutter was purchased for £121.

The tractor situation was again causing a problem, for the car had been replaced by a tractor, although no records are available, but in 1958 a 1953 Ferguson tractor was purchased for £255, subject to a complete overhaul, a new near-side tyre, and a three months' guarantee! It was decided to keep the old tractor, so for a period Bedale Golf Club owned two tractors. By 1958, a further greenkeeper was appointed and as this was the year of Raper's retirement he was obviously the head man, and for most of his time, the only man, although references to additional temporary help are frequently made. The salary paid was not very great for the greenkeeper, Hodgson, decided that he would be better off during the winter with unemployment benefit. The committee felt he was a good man, and they should keep him, they eventually agreed a wage of £3/10/0 (£3.50) per week.

In 1960, it was decided to introduce water to the course, and various systems were tried. Eventually a Rain King sprinkler was decided, with 400 yds of large bore tubing. The costs are not detailed, but the larger pump cost £85, a smaller one having proved unsatisfactory.

In 1967, the course moved finally to its present location, although additional land amounting to 30 acres was subsequently purchased in 1989. The development of the new course, in 1957, was carried out mainly by the members, as the greenkeeping staff had to maintain the existing course, and could only be spared occasionally. However, this was not the case when the additional 30 acres were developed by golf architects Hawtrees who produced a scheme which also re-organised the existing course at the same time. Whilst the overall contract work was supervised by the architect, day-to-day supervision was carried out by the head greenkeeper/course manager, Garry Munro, a valuable experience for a newly appointed member of staff in 1989. The machinery used on the course since 1967 has shown many increases over the years, as indeed has staff, from one to three to the present day – course manager, first and second greenkeepers, and two staff on agricultural wages.

Greenkeeping machinery in 1994 comprises: For the greens – Toro GM 3000D, Jacobsen Greens King with scarifying units and three Ransomes Auto-certies; for the tees, aprons and approaches – Jacobsen Tri-King (Diesel); for the fairways – Beaver LM 508 gangs (hydraulic); rough and semi – Ransomes MK10 and Mk12; tractors – Ford 39/30 with loader and case International 484; compact tractors – Ford 12/10 and Kubota 15/50 with mounted mower; sundries – 1 Flymo, 1 strimmer, 2 rotary mowers, Hardi BL 200 Sprayer; aeration equipment – Coremaster for hollow coring, Sisis Greens Slitter, and Sisis Fairway Slitter; Scarifying – Sisis twin-headed scarifier, Wessex 5ft Littermiser; Irrigation – Toro system with 3000 controller, Toro 655 heads (700 on new tees).

In the '70s and '80s all servicing work was carried out by outside contractors at costs of up to £8,000, but now all this work is carried out in-house with the exception of grinding which will also be carried out in-house in the future.

All this is far removed from 1894, but it is fair to remind readers of the state of the course then.

Michael Bird examines tree establishment and takes a look at what's available for the golf course

TREES

ON THE GOLF COURSE

Unless faced with totally hostile growing conditions or relying solely on the natural contours of the land to provide interest, protection or a challenge to golfers, trees are regarded as an essential element on the majority of courses.

Able to provide shape, shade and shelter, trees can be used to achieve four principle aims:

- Strategic, helping to define the line of a hole, for example, by forcing a dog-leg or for use in the place of bunkers.
- Protective, separating groups of golfers to limit danger from stray

balls landing on neighbouring fairways or in the 'no mans land' between tees and greens.

- Screening, to hide buildings or separate roadways from the playing area and also reduce the risk of balls being driven onto roads, paths or built-up areas.

- Cosmetic, adding colour, interest and an attractive appearance to the course.

Furthermore, trees are also used to reduce soil erosion, to provide shelter from the wind and, in the case of single specimens, to add variety or a degree of difficulty to an otherwise

straightforward hole.

Irrespective of their ultimate purpose, trees should always be selected to fit in with the surrounding area, stresses Peter Dowle, tree specialist with landscape design consultancy, the Julian Dowle Partnership.

"There are sufficient varieties available to meet all of the different applications required on a golf course," he pointed out. "The aim should be to plant species which harmonise with the existing landscape, rather than choose examples which stick out like a sore thumb."

To that end, he advises that trees be considered with a design objective as well as with a practical goal. All too often, trees are planted which are capable of doing the job for which they are intended, yet do nothing to enhance their surroundings due to inappropriate colour or shape.

"A little care over selection will be amply repaid in years ahead," he commented. "Not only will the plantings be of practical benefit but they will also look good and enhance the appearance and reputation of the course."

Apart from environmental considerations, Mr Dowle advocates the use of a check list to help choose and establish the right tree both from a practical and aesthetic point of view:

- Ensure that the tree is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended.
- Select a variety which is suited to the soil type, the aspect and the available light.
- Position the tree so that it does

not provide undue competition to its neighbours for light, water and nutrients.

- Ensure that water is readily available, especially for the first year or two in the case of new plantings.

- Ensure that sufficient access is available for machines and golfers to minimise the risk of damage or distress to the tree.

When it comes to buying trees, avoid "bargain basement" offers, advises Peter Dowle. "Unless you are able to inspect the new trees first, there is no way of knowing how they have been handled or treated by the grower prior to despatch," he explained.

"Deal with a reputable nursery and seek professional advice if unsure of any aspect of selection, handling or planting."

Trees of up to 10cm (4in) girth measured 1m (39in) from soil level will be supplied normally in bare root form. It is essential that these do not dry out.

The usual measure taken by the supplier to prevent dehydration involves dipping the roots in a moisture-retaining solution prior to sealing them in a bag. If there is to be a delay of a week or more before planting, it is

advisable to remove the bag and "heel-in" the roots in a soil trench.

Trees with a girth greater than 10cm at 1m above soil level should come with a hessian or wire mesh wrapped root ball which provides both support and moisture until ready to plant.

Normally, most trees will be available for delivery from late autumn onwards when they are effectively dormant. Planting can



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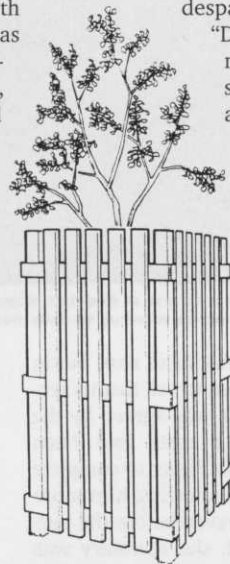
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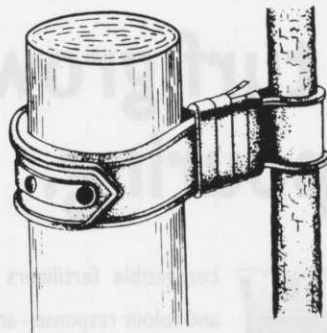
take place from November until March, depending on soil and weather conditions. "If one has a choice, get new trees into the ground before Christmas," commented Mr Dowle. "This will allow them to settle in well ahead of the growing season."

Soil preparation for planting should be carried out when the trees have arrived on the course to ensure that the hole is of the correct size for the roots and that the tree is planted in freshly-turned soil.

For smaller trees of up to 8cm girth at 1m above soil level, an auger is an ideal implement for producing a hole, creating an excellent soil mixing action without compaction at depth. Powered augers of up to 46cm (18in) diameter can be hired or purchased from specialist firms.

Larger specimens with a root ball will need an excavated hole and care should be taken to avoid smearing the base which will adversely affect drainage.

In all cases, the soil replaced around the tree roots should be



Standard tree tie from R Proctor & Son features a unique spacer system which splits as the tree grows enabling the tie to adjust itself to the greater stem diameter.

mixed with a suitable compost. This can be a proprietary tree or shrub planting medium or a mix of material such as composted bark and spent mushroom compost plus a slow-release fertiliser. If watering periods are likely to be irregular, then a handful of water-retaining crystals in the soil will be beneficial

Always firm down the soil around the stem. A slow-release

granular herbicide scattered close to the tree will reduce competition from weeds and grasses and make mowing easier and safer. Alternatively, a mulching mat made of wool, polythene, felt or polypropylene laid around the tree will limit weed growth and also reduce water loss and raise soil temperature.

Staking is recommended for all trees of 6cm girth or more to prevent stem movement disturbing the roots. Smaller specimens should not move unduly in the wind, but stakes can be beneficial, an action which will be appreciated also by golfers.

A single stake and tie are normally adequate for the smaller bare-root tree. Those planted with root balls will require two or three stakes positioned outside the root ball's span with a cross member and rubber collar support. An alternative method involves anchoring at ground level using a frame and steel rope guying system.

In every case, ties should be selected which hold the tree

securely but do not chafe or cut into the stem, with regular inspections carried out once the tree is actively growing.

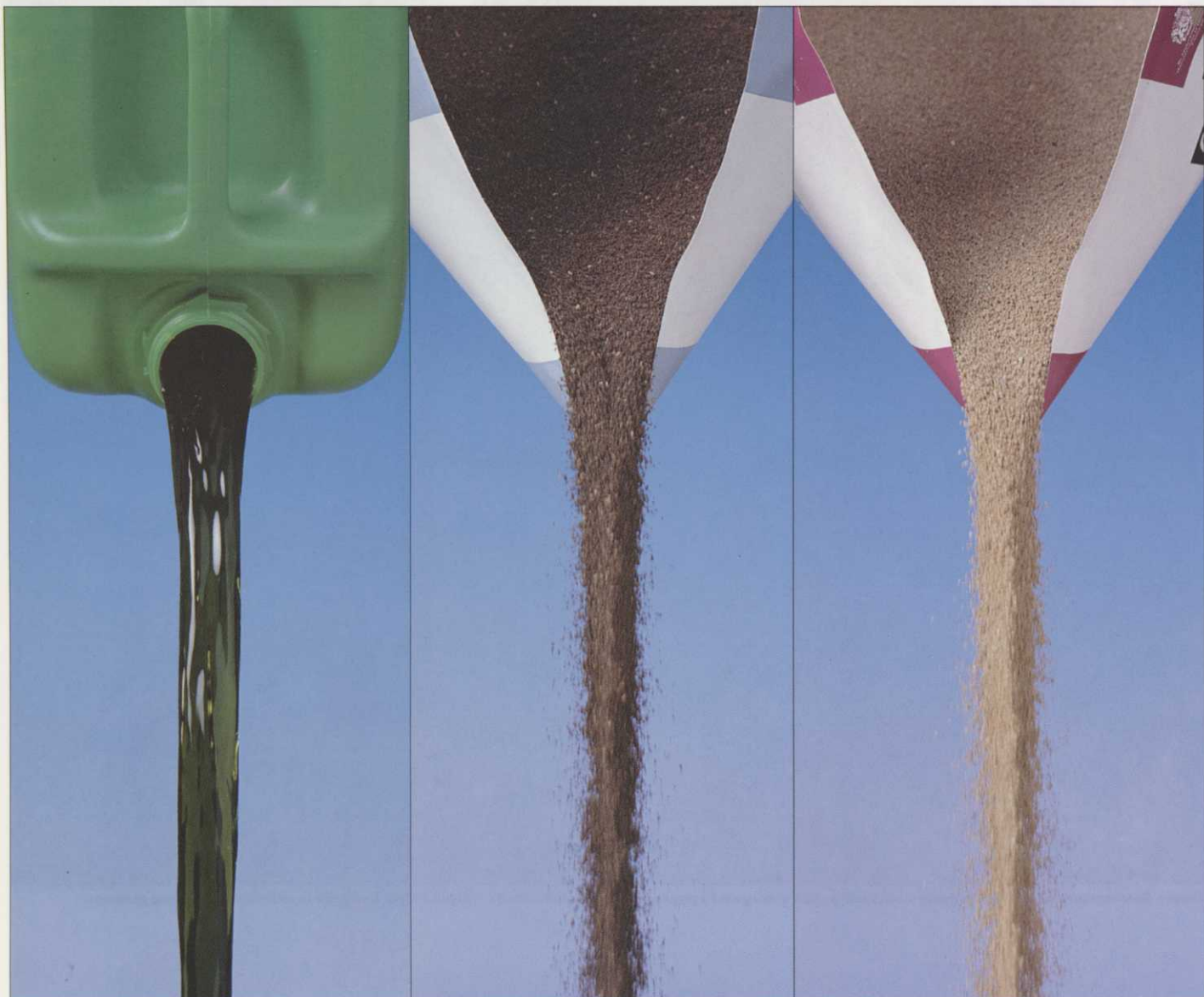
A wide range of protective devices is available for most sizes of tree to help limit damage from wind, vermin, chemicals, machines and golfers. Ranging from a simple PVC spiral wrap to UV-stabilised polypropylene with built-in stake ties, shelters are offered in a range of colours, diameters and heights to suit the tree and location.

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Against the benefits, however, must be set the cost of each shelter, which may be more than the tree, and the fact that any insect or fungal attack may not be readily visible.

Exposed areas will often benefit from a staged planting programme, with a hardy shelter belt being established first to protect more valuable, delicate

➔ 23



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Acorn's Shelterguard is made from a laminate of plastic netting and polythene sheet. Here, it is used in conjunction with the company's Treespat mulching mat

21 varieties planted in later years. Particularly difficult areas should be planted with more trees than necessary to allow for future thinning.

Protection against rabbit, hare or deer attack is best provided with individual tree mesh guards or suitably high and robust fencing erected around a newly-planted area.

"Selecting and establishing new trees is not a simple task," concludes Peter Dowle. "If in any doubt, always seek specialist help to ensure that every tree planted will be right for the job, right for

the location and has the best possible chance of survival."

● A concise guide to trees suitable for strategic, protective, screening or cosmetic purposes on golf courses has been produced by the Julian Dowle Partnership. Included is a brief description of each tree together with details on colour, expected height after 20 years and tolerance to water (excessive and lack of). The guide can be obtained by writing to Peter Dowle, The Julian Dowle Partnership, The Old Malt House, Newent, Glos GL18 1AY.

Product sources

Looking for shelters, guards, supports, ties and other tree planting aids? Contact these suppliers for literature and prices:

Acorn Planting Products Ltd, Loddon, Norwich NR14 6JD.
Tel: (0508) 28763.

Blenheim Estate Sawmills, Combe, Witney OX8 8ET
Tel: (0993) 881206.

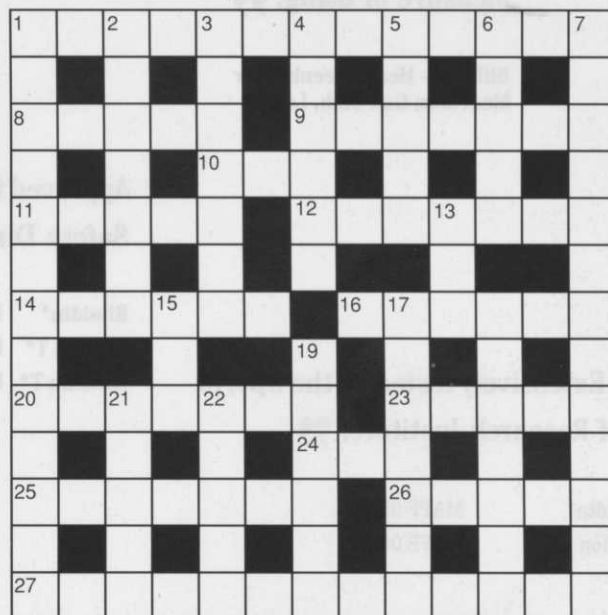
Correx Plastics, Bristol Road, Gloucester GL1 5SG.
Tel: (0452) 301893.

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Compiled by Mark G Smith



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1 (L. Anastatica Hierochuntica), otherwise known as "Resurrection Plant" (4,2,7)
- 8 Leaf vein or rib (5)
- 9 Heavy rough (slang) (7)
- 10 'p' 17th letter of the Greek alphabet, which represents liquid density in formulae (3)
- 11 Hole known as "Railway" on Carnoustie Championship Links (5)
- 12 Commonest of the British ferns (L. Pteris Aquilina), found on heathland courses (7)
- 14 A plant does it to thrive in unfamiliar surroundings (6)
- 16 Facility provided for player's families at the bigger tournaments (6)
- 20 Heavy duty mower, eg. a Wessex (7)
- 23 Scottish county containing Duff House Royal and Royal Talair Golf Courses (5)
- 24 Beyond the course boundary or white posts (abbrev) (1,1,1)
- 25 De Vincenzo of Argentina, Open Champion in 1967 (7)
- 26 Makers of "The Trooper" off-road vehicle (5)
- 27 Publications helping players to judge distance (7,6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Irish Golfer who headed the PGA Order of Merit in 1989 (5,8)
- 2 The common lilac (L. Vulgaris) (7)
- 3 Apply too much power to a shot (4-3)
- 4 Surname of the former British Ryder Cup player known as "Dr Golf" (6)
- 5 Strong Creeping Red Fescue (L. Festuca Rubra) (5)
- 6 Common name of Calcium Carbonate; used to make acid soils fertile (5)
- 7 Old fashioned method of expressing a round of 71 (3,5,5)
- 13 Charles R., US Amateur Champion in 1949 and 1958 (3)
- 15 Units in which tyre pressures may be expressed (abbrev) (1,1,1)
- 17 Refuse a poor shot! (7)
- 18 Become victorious over a Horse Chestnut we hear (7)
- 19 Manufacturer's indentation on a club face (6)
- 21 Alternative name for a tree (5)
- 22 An insect in the grub or caterpillar state (5)

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Closing date August 26, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

Winner of last month's Namesearch competition was Christopher Powley, first assistant at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club. Correct answers were: Faulkner, Max, 1951 and Royal Portrush. If you were wondering who the champions in the Namesearch were, turn to Page 10.

Name:
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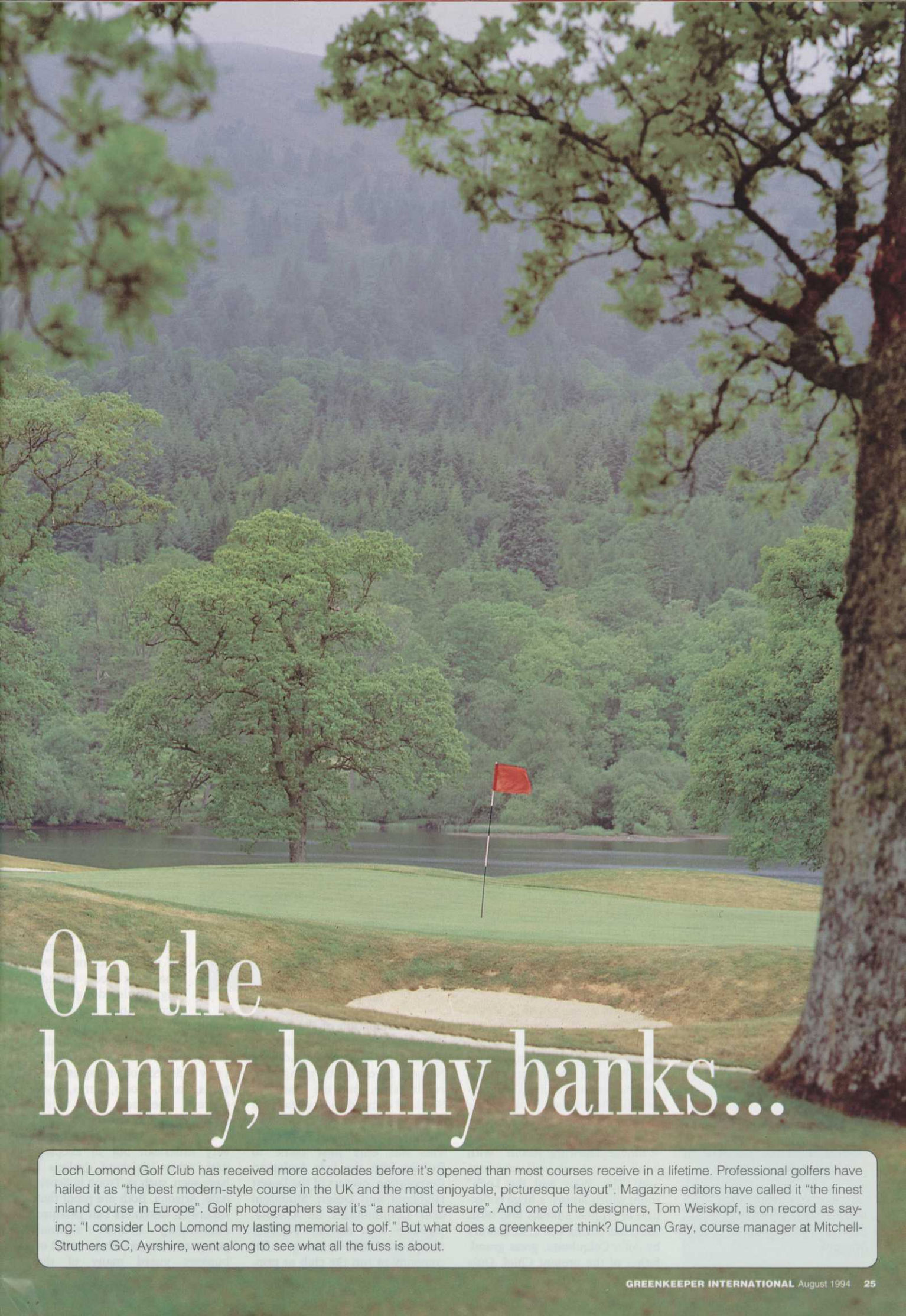
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On the bonny, bonny banks...

Loch Lomond Golf Club has received more accolades before it's opened than most courses receive in a lifetime. Professional golfers have hailed it as "the best modern-style course in the UK and the most enjoyable, picturesque layout". Magazine editors have called it "the finest inland course in Europe". Golf photographers say it's "a national treasure". And one of the designers, Tom Weiskopf, is on record as saying: "I consider Loch Lomond my lasting memorial to golf." But what does a greenkeeper think? Duncan Gray, course manager at Mitchell-Struthers GC, Ayrshire, went along to see what all the fuss is about.

Loch Lomond

A greenkeeper's verdict

What's already been said about the course

"I consider Loch Lomond my lasting memorial to golf" – designer Tom Weiskopf. "I truly believe it is one of the 10 most outstanding courses in the world."

"Loch Lomond may be the finest inland course not only in Great Britain but all of Europe" – George Peper, editor-in-chief, *Golf Magazine*.

"I think Loch Lomond is one of the best courses I've played. It's the best modern-style course in the UK and the most enjoyable, picturesque layout" – Ian Baker-Finch.

"If I had to play the same golf course every day of the year, I wouldn't have to look a lot further than Loch Lomond. Not only is the setting magnificent... but the quality of the design and maintenance of the course makes it a pleasure to play" – Sandy Lyle.

"A site most golf architects would sell their souls for" – Bill Robertson, *Today's Golfer*

"It is one of the most beautiful, peaceful places I have ever seen, and the golf course is superb" – Lyle Anderson

"A national treasure. The finest inland course in Europe" – photographer Brian Morgan.

Loch Lomond conjures up images of vast expanses of water bordered by majestic backdrops of mountainsides and, to be honest, the reality is, if anything, even better. It is in this setting that the latest addition to Scotland's unparalleled array of fine golf courses has been created.

When Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish were asked to create a layout befitting such a setting I have to say my first reaction was to ask if it was possible for an American design team to create something that would not look completely out of place in a situation and climate so foreign to their way of thinking. It was with this thought in mind that I paid a visit to the Loch Lomond Golf Club earlier this year.

The site, Rossdhu-in-Luss, has been the family home of the Chiefs of the Clan Colquhoun since the 12th century and is steeped in the rich heritage of the area. Deeds of courage and treachery, stories of passion, love and revenge, saints, blackguards and even black magic abound. The family mansion, Rossdhu House, was built in the 18th century and is a magnificent building which is to become the main clubhouse. Among the many special features are the "Chinese Drawing Room" with hand painted silk wall coverings and "The Moor and the Loch" room which houses a huge collection of stuffed animals and birds collected during the 19th century by John Colquhoun, great grandfather of the present Chief. Only

specimens shot by himself, and latterly his sons, were admitted to the collection. Next to Rossdhu House is the ruin of the original castle home of the Colquhoun clan, no doubt haunted by the ghost of an earlier John Colquhoun who was a necromancer skilled in black magic, and was the last known person to openly practice witchcraft in Scotland.

This then was the background into which Stirling Investments asked Weiskopf and Morrish to mould a true test of golf.

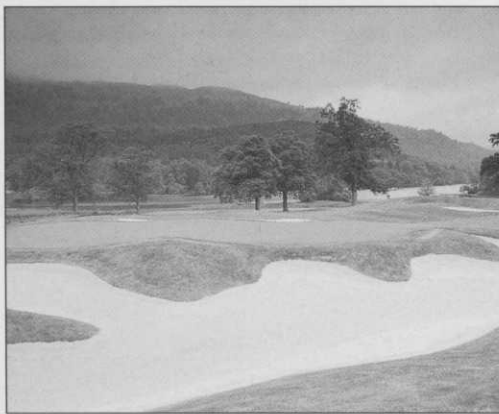
cial shareholders.

The course has been carved through some very inhospitable areas with possibly the biggest problem being the stretch from the 13th to the 16th which was very wet peat bog. Luckily, at the time of building, the new Luss bypass was being constructed and huge quantities of blasted rock were available. This was used to infill all the fairway areas down to solid bedrock, or in deep areas, on top of a layer of terram. The displaced peat was then used, in conjunction with sand, to form a seed bed on top of the rock.

Over 200 acres of ground has been allocated for each course which together with the abundance of trees allows each hole to appear isolated giving a great feeling of peace and solitude and allowing the teeming wildlife to live in harmony with the golfers. On my walk round I noted hundreds of native and imported specimen trees, including maple, douglas fir, Scots pine, giant red-

wood, monkey puzzle, yew and limes. Also huge bands of rhododendron and azaleas. The wildlife I saw included golden eagles, buzzards, foxes, stoats, hares, jays, ospreys, roe and sitka deer, swans, pheasants and herons.

The design concept is certainly very American but in keeping with other Weiskopf designs I have seen, such as Troon in Scotland, Arizona. Both are proof that American designers can produce outstanding courses without going over the top. Huge bands of bunkers guard many of the



The 9th green

The completion of the first of the planned two courses has been delayed for several years due to Stirling Investments going into receivership, but the Bank of Scotland decided to go ahead and finish the first course in order to secure the future of the project. This has only now come to fruition with the Lyle Anderson Corporation, owners of the Desert Highland and Desert Mountain Golf Communities in Arizona, together with another Phoenix company, DMB, forming a UK company to run the club as prin-



Above: the 17th green across Loch Lomond. On Page 25: the 9th green looking west.

Photographs by Gavin Newman

greens, some of which have fairly severe undulations and the golfer must face several very intimidating long carries over marshland which all add up to a pretty severe test of golf.

Construction methods were to USGA specifications, and although the green surfaces are fairly hard, the creeping bent grass was looking very healthy at the time of my visit. *Poa* is kept at bay by hand picking every few weeks and although the surrounds are fairly heavily infested I could see no sign of it on the greens. Fairway drainage is proving to be a major headache as the original construction was of the run-off and collection system. Over the past two years or so Dave Sammells of Edinburgh Landscapes, the company which has been growing in and maintaining the course for the bank, has installed over 20,000 metres of herringbone drainage, with the intention of installing another 10,000 metres shortly. In con-

What it will cost the golfer

When the course formally opens in 1995 it will be an international membership club with member costs closely related to actual use.

Initially, membership is by invitation only. After a while existing members will be able to sponsor new members.

The 'international' membership is designed for golfers who only visit Scotland occasionally. For them, during the launch phase, the initiation fee is £1,000, which includes the first six rounds of golf for member or member and spouse but no guest privileges. After that per round fees comparable to

other well-known courses will be charged. Annual dues – described as "modest" – will begin in 1996.

'Regular' membership is being offered initially for £3,350 including the first six rounds of golf by a member or member and spouse. Regular membership carries guest privileges. Additional rounds are available at a "reasonable price".

The club will also have a limited number of Scottish memberships.

Future plans include cottage-style accommodation near the 220-year-old manor house for members and guests.

come fairly quickly.

The many streams running through the course have been crossed with hand built dry stone bridges and many of the tees are

supported by dry stone walls. An undisturbed dry stone dyke crosses the 2nd fairway in front of the green with the unusual feature of the ground behind the wall being on the same level as the top stones.

One feature which I was particularly pleased to see was the extensive practice ground adjacent to the 1st tee, set into a huge depression with target greens and tees at both ends.

Now that the future of the club has been secured, thoughts have turned to the creation of the intended sister course, to be designed by Jack Nicklaus, and having looked over the site I will certainly look forward to that with great anticipation.

As I drove down the exit road winding past the 17th and 18th holes near to the old castle, I could swear the old necromancer was chuckling at the thought of so many balls vanishing into a watery grave.

I'll be back!

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

EAST ANGLIA

Reymeston Golf Club, Norfolk was the venue for the happy wanderers and a good day it was too. Non-stop sunshine on a lovely course prepared by Paul Gould and his team.

Reymeston is a new course which has been done properly (a rarity these days). A lot of money must have been spent and the course was allowed time before the happy hackers were allowed out. The result being a course that will still be there in years to come. Well done to all concerned. Meanwhile back at the ranch the day's golf went as follows: in the 0-20 section Alan Carter was first with 38pts, and Roger Plummer second with 37pts. There were, however, some unkind comments about the 21-28 section as Richard Mitchell (Eaton) was first with 33 pts and yours truly (Eaton) was second with 28pts. They are now calling us Butch and Sundance and questioning our parentage. Guest prize was won by K Taylor (35pts). Prizes were presented by Steve Hand 'el capitano', and donated by Messrs Collier's, Sisis, Rushbrooks, Kings, Rigby Taylor and CMW. Thanks to all at Reymeston for a super day.

By the first tee (just digressing) I saw a really rare sight. So rare it could be compared with snow in the Sahara. It was a greenkeeper unwrapping a new ball! after severe interrogation Lyndon said he didn't actually buy it, he won it in a raffle. I think he was showing off in front of his lady captain

EVENTS DIARY

September 6-8: Saltex (previously loG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate

November 9-10: Scotsturf, Ingleston, Edinburgh

December 1: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

January 25-27, 1995: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre

guest. Once a poser always a poser.

Talking of posers, did anyone see big Bobby Chessham? Not only is he trying to find a brimmed hat that will protrude further than his bread basket (something like a sombrero might make it) but he has also bought himself a set of Pings. He is quick to point out, however, that they are secondhand, rather like saying I've got a 'Roller' but it's an old one. Hydromain 25s must be going like hot cakes.



Enough banter, Uncle Sam is looking for venues for next year's golfing exploits. Is anyone kind enough to give a golf day to the few whose expertise (and hard work) gives enjoyment to so many?

MICK LATHROPE

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Spring Tournament at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club produced the following winners and Hayter Challenge Trophy qualifiers: Cat one - A Partridge, T Mears, D Crocher; Cat two - A Reed, R Lawton, A Naisbitt; Cat three - C Fiddell, C Powley, B Walker.

Winner of the Hi Speed Trophy was C Fiddell with 47 points. The Assistants Trophy was won by C Powley (39 points), the longest drive by T Mears and nearest the pin was Bob Lawton.

Thanks to the trade for prizes and helping on the day, especially Norman Sheddon of Aitkens, Henry Blanchard of Vitax, Clive Higginbotham of ICI and Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc. Visitors included BIGGA's new education officer Ken Richardson and membership officer Clare Douglas.

New section sponsors are Carburol Oil and Platt Harris.

New members include Raymond Mathers of Billingham Golf Club and Alex Russell of Bedale Golf Club.

Phillip Tones is now first assistant at Chester-le-Street. Harry Lees has left Billingham Golf Club after 21 years service.

BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH-WEST

Not a lot of news this month as we have not had



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any tournaments since the last section news, and nobody contacted me with any information, but I still need a team for the Stewards Match in September, at Fishwick Golf Club, so if you fancy a good day out give me a ring on 051 724 5412.

I would like to welcome Chris Whittle back to the North-West, and congratulate Chris on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale. Any news, views, births, marriages, or just plain gossip, give me a ring.



BERT CROSS

NORTHERN

Our Presidents Day at Wetherby Golf Club on Wednesday was a great day according to our president, Bill Mountain. There was good weather, good food, a course in very good condition and the new clubhouse is excellent. The club's president and captain gave our members a very warm welcome, informing us that we were one of the first to use the new clubhouse. I could not attend as I was on holiday, but I have been informed that the members that did attend had an excellent day out. I must thank Ian Thompson, course manager, and his team at Wetherby for preparing such an excellent course for our members. I must also thank Wetherby Golf Club for allowing us the use of their beautiful course and clubhouse and to the captain for presenting the prizes to the winners. Before I give you the winners I would like to say thank you to our president for making this day possible and for putting on a fantastic prize table. The winners: 1st division - 1, D Collins; 2, M Cordingley; 3, R Smith; 2nd division - 1, L Kirkbright; 2, A J Baxby; 3, D Cockburn; Jubilee Cup - C Garnett; Highest score - M Bryant; Reps and guests - A Dyson 67-3=64.

Ray Jackson from Bradford Moor Golf Club is off to work in Germany. On behalf of the Northern Section may I wish you all the best.

I welcome to the section the following new members: Richard Trafford (Normanton G C), Phillip Mansfield (Cottingham G C) and John Beavan (Spofforth G C). Any information you require please ring 0274 568128. As you are all aware the Northern Section in conjunction with B&W Lawnmowers held a demonstration day at Northcliffe Golf Club on June 29. Thank you to the members that did turn up, I hope you were all suitably impressed with the machinery. When I arrived I thought Nigel Mansell was driving some of the machines with the speed they were going. Anyway, everyone that did attend were well fed and watered by our hosts, B&W. Thank you to David Betram and Ken Watson for organising the day. Last but not least thanks to Ken Christie, head greenkeeper at Northcliffe for his help arranging the day.

For your information all golfing venues are fully booked except there are a few places left for our Autumn Tournament at Alwoodley Golf Club on Wednesday October 12 - not a lot - if you have forgot, book now.



PAT MURPHY

SURREY

The Cresta Cup held at Laleham Golf Club was well attended on what turned out to be a blistering hot day. Congratulations to John Ross and staff for a finely turned out golf course and thanks also to Laleham Golf Club for allowing us to use the course and club facilities. Result: 1 - T Edwards; 2 - S Kirkham; 3 - G Holland.

The recent Southturf exhibition proved to be a huge success. Congratulations to the South East regional committee on their flawless organisation. I'm sure this will now become an annual event. By 3pm 5-600 visitors and members had passed the gates. A higher number than expected.

Tickets for the dinner dance on November 11 have now started to move, so interested parties should contact the committee. Tickets are £18.00.

Congratulations to Roger Glazier, previously of Cuddington Golf Club upon his appointment as greenkeeper mechanic at Foxhills Golf Club.

Also education wise, Dr S Shaw reports that

Around the Green



Nescot are now able to offer NVQ Level 3 as approved by GTC.

Forthcoming events include The Parker Salver at Purley Downs Golf Club, Turkey Trot at Kingswood Golf Club in December. Also, the first winter lecture by Bill Oliver of Hardi Sprayers is to be held at Kingswood Golf Club on November 9.

DAVID GIBBS

LONDON

The winner of our summer tournament at Old Ford Manor G C was Paul Brown with 41 points. Runner-up was Fred Read with 39 points, one point ahead of Don Wilson. Longest drive was Craig Handyside, nearest the pin Gary Speller. Darren Burdis won the putting competition.

I would like to thank Old Ford Manor for the hospitality shown to us and especially Ian Semple and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. I would also like to mention the catering manager for the excellent meal and the captain of Old Ford Manor for his presence throughout the day. The turnout of 51 players was our best yet and it is encouraging to see so many new faces.

The Southturf exhibition was well supported by our section and the coach provided was a great success. The prize draw was won by Jeff Robinson from Sudbury G C and he collected his BIGGA waterproofs from John Millen.

I would like to congratulate Stuart Green for his recent award and work placement at Gleneagles. Stuart was chosen along with five other students for the Gleneagles excellence in golf award. He represents Reaseheath College and will be working in the Monarch's, King's and Queen's courses for the year. Well done Stuart and best wishes for the future.



TONY DUNSTAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

Kennay Golf Club's Richard Sweeney and Green of Scotland's Maurice Gray are the latest new members to welcome to the section. Maurice is an agronomist with Greens, co-sponsors for this December's one day conference in Aberdeen. Section members are reminded that application forms will go out this month along with the autumn outing forms. This gives you first chance to book a place before the forms go out in general later, you have been warned! The outing is to Murrayshall on September 7. This lovely golf course, set in Perthshire countryside is loved after Jim Low and his staff. Numbers are limited, so get your entry in quickly to ensure participation.

Mixed fortunes for North members at the Hayter Scottish finals and the Scottish golf tournament. The great news from Duddingston, venue for the Hayter qualifier, was that four North lads won through to represent Scotland in the Hayter final next month. Kevin Peace (Inverurie), Kevin Fowler (Fortrose), Robbie Allan (Hazlehead) and Leslie Rae (Montrose) will fly the flag for the section and hopefully bring the trophy back to Scotland. There was a good turnout from the North at the "Scottish" in a field of more than 100 golfers but no major prizes came North. Fortrose's George Pateron equalled the winning scratch score of 74 but missed out on the prizes altogether on the better inward half rule as there were a few 74s.

This year's AGM goes back to the south of the section with the venue being Letham Grange Golf Club. The date will probably be December 8 or 15. More details to follow.

I only received one inquiry about first aid courses, so I assume every course has a first aider

with up to date training, if not then get in touch on 0862 894402 and I will try to set something up.

IAIN MACLEOD

KENT

The regional final of the Hayter Tournament once again proved to be the "end of the road" for many of our Kent qualifiers. The only member definitely going on to the final in September is Haydon Hayes in the 19-28 handicap category, although Jim Wakelin does still stand a slim chance of a trip to the final, qualifying as reserve in the 0-9 category. Perhaps this once again proves that our handicaps in Kent are more realistic than our regional counterparts, or that we are so hard working that we have little or no time to practice or play as much golf. Well, hopefully you will be able to make time for our Autumn Tournament. October 24 sees us visit the Chart Hills Golf Club for 27 holes plus the usual culinary accompaniments. The price for the day will be in the region of £25. Many thanks go to Chart Hills for extending the invitation to us and I am sure that it will prove to be very well attended and interesting day, for many of us it is the first chance to see this much publicised Nick Faldo course. Details will no doubt be sent to you nearer the date.

On the Kent committee front, we anticipate the addition of Denegate Ridge's Rob Lucas to our smaller band. Rob perhaps brings a unique dimension to the committee - as its only volunteer!

February '95 will see us stage a seminar/workshop at Hadlow College. With the structure of the NVQ courses in greenkeeping, your attendance at all seminars and work-related courses can be invaluable and a record of attendance can count as evidence of learning in particular topics. Although there is a part to be played in our local college towards greenkeeping qualifications, much of the course requirements are largely based on previously gained skill that can easily be assessed or proven by previous written evidence.

As you may be aware, Kent leads the country in beginning the latest training programme and to this end now has greenkeepers that are recognised as being competent to "assess" those in the NVQ levels 1-3. At present myself, David Wood, Chris Mardon and shortly Tony Bennett and Mike Smith. The structure of the courses is ideal for those wishing to be recognised by a certificate and get qualified. A brief glance through the GTC's Training Manual will easily demonstrate to most greenstaff that they already have the majority of the skills required, simply by past experience. So for those of you, young or old, thinking about becoming qualified, adding to the list of achievements in the CV



why not contact Dave Geoff at Hadlow College, myself, or even David Golding at the GTC for further details and see how easy and straight forward it could be.

PAUL COPSEY

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our new summer meeting, sponsored by MST and Jacobsen, was held at Yelverton GC. Numbers for the day were slightly disappointing with the workshop having to be cancelled at the last minute due to poor support. I wish to apologise to those of you who arrived for the workshop only to find it had been cancelled. The golfing members played a stableford competition for the Jacobsen Trophy over the excellently presented moorland course which is a credit to Steve Redman and his staff. Winner of the Jacobsen Trophy was Teignmouth's A Woolnough, second was J Mitchell (Perranporth) and third C Rawlings (Padbrook).

All three prize winners returned scores of 33pts, with the result being decided on the back nine holes. After an excellent evening meal our raffle with the first prize of a place on the 1995 regional trip to BTME concluded the day. First ticket drawn out of the hat by David Withers, business manager for Jacobsen, was Roy Battishill, course manager at St Mellion. The section would like to thank Jacobsen and local dealers MST for sponsoring the day and to Yelverton GC and all their staff for making our afternoon so enjoyable.

My own club, Bude and North Cornwall GC was the venue for this year's Hayter regional final. As always this event was superbly run by Gordon and Marion Child and didn't Huw Parry do a good job as starter and scorer! Congratulations to C Rawlings and S Milne on qualifying for the National final, but the section's team couldn't hold on to the sectional shield, which was won by the South West for the second time. During the days running up to this event, I had the pleasure to meet the "Hayter support team" consisting of Robin and John, with Hayters back-up service as good as the team running it, it is no wonder Hayters have become leaders in our market.

On concluding this report I would like to inform you that two of our members, Peter Stringer and Tony Ramsden, have recently spent time in hospital. We wish both of you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you fully recovered at a meeting during the winter programme, also we would like to wish Steve Dommert of DGM a speedy recovery from his broken leg.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH COAST

We were all very sorry to hear of Royal Winchester's clubhouse being destroyed by fire. The section has for many years enjoyed the hospitality of the club for their December meeting and dinner. Also from Royal Winchester I hear that Kevin Unsworth has left to take up a new position at the new Paultons Golf Centre.

Sparsholt College has established a bursary to assist students experiencing financial difficulties. This has become a problem at the college over the past few years of recession and some students would have to discontinue their studies without help. The committee have therefore felt it appropriate that the section make a donation of £200 towards the fund.

A section seminar is to be organised during March 1995 at Sparsholt College. All members should have received notification of this giving them the opportunity to suggest possible subjects for the seminar. If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, please do so as this will enable us to tailor the seminar to the section needs. A working party has been established to organise the seminar and is due to meet during September.

Eric James, a familiar face in the section for many years, has retired. Eric was one of the founder members of the section in 1969 and has served on the committee ever since. He has been chairman and vice chairman as well as twice serving as national chairman. He assures me that he is still playing and enjoying the courses that he knows so well. I am sure that we all wish Eric a long and happy retirement.

It was sad to learn that Paul Drodge has decided to leave Highcliff Castle after 14 years due to problems with the club.

During June I was able to visit the Isle of Wight for a morning lecture programme and visit Sandown and Shanklin Golf Club during the afternoon. The tour of the course was led by Paul Knight, the head greenkeeper. Paul is a long standing member of BIGGA having been involved in greenkeeping all his working life. He was involved in a serious road accident on his motorcycle a year ago and is making a good if slow recovery. The accident though has not dampened his enthusiasm for his course. The only let down of the day was the weather for after days of fine sunshine the rain came down and the wind blew while I was there. The committee is looking into the possibility of staging one of the section tournaments on the island during either 1995 or 1996.

ALAN MITCHELL

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Section chairman Jim Easton is on the move from Scotland to Surrey. Jim is leaving Stirling Golf Club to take up the appointment of head greenkeeper at Royal Blackheath Golf Club. (There is a strong rumour that he is moving, rather than to find a new joke to tell at this year's annual dinner. Is this true, Jim?) Best wishes and every success for the

Around the Green



future go to Jim, Margaret and family from everyone in the section.

Everyone should have received the entry forms for the five-a-side football tournament which is taking place next month, so if you intend entering a team, please return your forms as soon as possible. If you would like to enter a team, but cannot get five players from your own club, then you may make up a team from other courses as long as everyone is a member of the Association. Likewise with patrons of the Scottish Region, teams may be made up of players from more than one company, as long as they are all patrons of the Region, (this could create some interesting combinations).

Details of some future events: Tuesday November 2 - Lecture by British Seed Houses, time and venue to be confirmed; Tuesday November 29 - Section AGM at Abersour Golf Club and a talk on course presentation by Jimmy Kidd, director of turfgrass management at Gleneagles, at Burntisland Golf Club, date and time to be confirmed. A full list of section events for the winter period will be circulated shortly.

Response to the questionnaire sent out earlier this year was dismal, to say the least, but at least some members took time to return them with the outcome as follows: Health and safety 12, first aid 14, education 11, chemicals 11, fertilisers/irrigation 10, grass seeds 7, course construction 16, machinery 12, course presentation 15, thatch and compaction 10, additional golf tournaments 8, man management 1, quiz night 1, chain saw training 1, machinery repairs maintenance 1.



Efforts will be made to organise as many of the above subjects as possible during the coming months.

JOHN CRAWFORD

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual Summer Tournament, held over Lothianburn GC, was very poorly attended which makes you wonder if it is worthwhile holding it at all. However, our grateful thanks go to head greenkeeper Stuart Melville and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, despite the recent very dry condition; to the captain and committee for the courtesy; and to the catering staff for the meals etc.

Chris Whittle, course manager at Muirfield, has decided on pastures new. Chris is leaving later this year to take over Royal Birkdale and the section wish him all the best. Another on the move is Robert Hogarth, ex-Peebles GC who, after a short spell as a salesman; has returned to the greenkeeping profession as head greenkeeper at Interleithen GC. We all wish Robert the best and will hopefully see him again at our many events which he has supported throughout the years.

A change has taken place to the qualifying for next year's Hayter Finals. Qualifying will take place over two tournaments - the Autumn and the Spring with the best aggregate scores going through to the regional finals. Please note that the first qualifier will be the Autumn at Uphall in September followed by the Spring in April.

As secretary, I personally find a tremendous difference this year since the re-organising of the committee under chairman Peter Ormiston. You may remember that I said earlier that Peter had issued jobs to all committee members and put them into various groups; social, match and education. This is certainly working as I find I have very little to do during events and at last can go to the match committee, social committee and education.

Dance tickets this year are going like hot cakes. I would advise anyone who has not yet booked

theirs, to do it now or miss out on the highlight of the year.

The next big event on our calendar is the "Willie Woods". This will be held on August 17 at Murrayfield GC. Entry forms will be out in plenty of time, but make sure they are returned early as we are limited to 40 people.

Another change this year will be the AGM on November 23. Instead of the usual morning lecture, a "Texas Scramble" has been organised with the AGM taking place after this match. More details will follow. It is hoped by the introduction of this more members will attend.

All winter lectures have now been organised and waiting to be rubber stamped at the next committee meeting. The social committee have done a great job, I only hope they get your support.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST

Excellent individual and team performances on two occasions throughout June has meant that South West greenkeepers have triumphed in two golfing events recently.

The first success was in the Hayter regional final held at Bude Golf Club. A full strength team produced first places in each of the three categories, a second place in category 1 and a third place in category 3. Best score of the day was achieved by Paul Legg with a nett 68. With an overall section result such as this the section team shield was presented to the South West by last year's holders Devon and Cornwall.

Thanks must go to the sponsors, Hayter, for their continued support, to Richard Whyman for the unenviable task of producing a first class course for scrutiny by so many fellow professionals and to Bude Golf Club for their hospitality. The below mentioned qualifiers will play in the final at Pannal Golf Club near Harrogate on September 22. South West section qualifiers for each category 1 - 1, Robert Barrett nett 69; 2, Paul Godwin nett 71; category 2 - 1, Robin Greaves nett 69; category 3 - 1, Paul Legg nett 68, 3, Peter Seivour nett 71.

More recently our second victory came at Clevedon Golf Club on June 28 in the annual match versus the secretaries. Team captain Dave Neale began his captaincy on a winning note by selecting a dozen section members who braved the afternoon heat on what was the hottest day of the year so far, to produce a convincing win, the final score being 41/2 to 11/2 points. Avoncrop Amenity Products are the sponsors of the event and many thanks are extended to them for their generosity in presenting a prize to each member of the winning team, providing wine during the meal, and donating the event's shield held last year by the secretaries. Thanks also go to Clevedon GC for the use of their facilities.

KEVIN GREEN

SOUTH WALES

Our regional Hayter Challenge finals were recently held at the Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, Cornwall.

The course, a beautifully undulating, well manicured course with slick, smooth greens is known to be one of the South West's most challenging links courses. This it proved to be (for me anyway) and a most worthy host to this event, now in its second year of sponsorship.

The 6222yard long course, not over long, but long enough if you know what I mean, was demanding but fair and was presented to the highest of standards. For this we thank Richard Whyman and his team of greenstaff. To the committee and staff at Bude Golf Club, praises cannot be sung loud enough. Nothing was of too much bother or trouble and everybody was both friendly and courteous.

Gordon and Marion Child's organisation was as excellent as ever, with everything running true to form, as was Hayters and hats off to Hayters for without their splendid support this event would not be possible. Thank you Kim Macfie!

Our only qualifier through to the Hayter Challenge Finals, on September 22 at the Pannal Golf

Club, Harrogate, was Chriss Thomas. Chriss, a 14 handicap golfer, works out of the Southerndown Golf Club. Mike Jones of the INCO Golf Club and David Gladwin of Carmarthen both qualified as reserves for their respective categories.

On Saturday June 25 Pencoed College hosted its annual open day, BIGGA was in attendance with stand space displaying merchandise such as the "Keeper of the Green" and "Setting the Standard" videos and magazines, and section committee members were present all day to answer questions regarding membership, training etc. The weather was warm and sunny and the attendance was exceptional, a most interesting and entertaining day, definitely a date to remember for next year's diary. Thanks to Peter Gillard of Pencoed College for his help and to the principal, Mr JDB Thomas, for affording us the opportunity.



PETER LACEY

EAST MIDLANDS

Firstly a reminder to all entrants of the pairs and single K/O. Semi-final matches must be played by the 15th of this month.

Not a lot to report, only to say congratulations to Richard Barker for his sponsored golf day in which he completed 180 holes of golf from 5am-9pm for various charities and still managed to come to work the next day.

All members should receive their entry forms for this year's remaining golf tournaments, before the end of the month. Please return them to me one at a time (after each proceeding tournament) and before each closing date.



ANTONY BINDLEY

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Renfrew Golf Club June 21 1994

At 4am it was raining so heavily in the West of Scotland I had visions of a flooded Renfrew. However lady luck was with us and by 9am all was set to go. Fraser Ross and his merry men had the

Around the Green



course in great condition and 110 stout men and true (sorry 109 men and a lady) set out in pursuit of glory and honours. Gary Lewis and his team of caterers produced excellent food all day long and the bar staff looked after all our other needs. The vice-captain, Bobby Ferguson, and green chairman David Love joined us on the course during the day and captain Jack Bill presented the prizes.

This is Renfrew's centenary year and Gordon Moir, Scottish Region chairman, in his speech thanked the captain and the council in allowing us the use of the club in such a busy year and presented him with a plaque from the Scottish Region.

And as for the results, everyone seemed to think the scoring should have been better in the conditions, may be too many underestimated Renfrew's

trees, there are many of them and most of them in very strategic places. Definite winners during the day were those with their cameras ready when the club's resident fox, a vixen, strolled across the putting green amongst everyone at lunch time and stopped to have her lunch from the hands of chef Gary Lewis, now we know why they have a stone model of a fox in the middle of the putting green.

Our special thanks go to all the Scottish Region patrons who sponsor this event every year, we are most grateful. Our thanks also go to Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) who performed above and beyond the call of duty in selling all the raffle tickets and to Ian McKay (SISIS) who donated the much coveted bottle of Laphroaig to the raffle.

Results: Scottish Champion - Stuart McCrindle, 74 scratch; Best Nett - George Brown (Turnberry) 74-5-69; 1st Class - 1, Archie Dunn (Auchterarder) 76-6-70; 2, Alistair Connell (Cawder) 77-6-71; 3, Sany Bulloch (Haggs Castle) 74-3-71; 2nd Class - 1, Ian Wilson (Hamilton) 84-15-69; 2, Paul Rae (Brunston Castle) 90-17-73; Andrew McDowall (Torrance House) 89-16-73; 3rd Class - 1, Neil Henry (Langlands) 100-25-75; 2, Graham Hobbs (Torpin Hill) 95-20-75; 3, Hugh McLatchie (Peterhead) 96-21-75; Best head greenkeeper - John Young (Dougalston) 87-17-70; Best assistant - James Sievwright (Auchterarder) 78-5-73; Best apprentice - Kevin Fowler (Fortrose) 85-11-74; Veteran - Alex Wallace (Dollan) 81-11-70; Trade/guests - 1, Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) 85-14-71; 2, Pat Allen (Stewarts) 77-5-72; Team prize - West Section.

The course at Duddingston was in excellent condition considering the very dry cold spell with no growth. Adam Gordon and his team had worked wonders to get it ready for the Hayter regional final.

Fifty-seven players were joined by guests Gordon Moir, Scottish region chairman, and John Pemberton from HQ, on the lovely dry day.

You only have to look at the scores to see it is a tough course. But these don't show how tough it is to find. Many of the Ayrshire lads took as long to get there as they did to go round!

HAYTER

Hayter Challenge Scottish Region Finals held at Duddingston Golf Club. 1st Class - 1, David Gall (Cardross) 79-9-70; 2, Kevin Peace (Inverurie) 78-5-73; 3, Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 77-4-73; 2nd Class - 1, David Montgomery (Cawder) 81-11-70; 2, Dick Dugan (Glencarse) 84-10-74; 3, Kevin Fowler (Fortrose) 86-11-75; 3rd Class - Leslie Rae (Montrose) 95-24-71; 2, Stephen Knaggs (Dumfries & County) 96-25-71; 3, Robert Allan (Hazelhead) 101-26-75.

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Twin oaks at the final green at Leeds Golf Centre

High flier comes back down to earth

It must surely be unique for a man who has ruled the skies to set his sights on trying to become equally proficient on the earth as well and yet that is the proud ambition of Robert Bailey, a 46-year-old Leeds businessman.

During the last decade or so, Robert has twice been world hang-gliding champion and he also led Britain to two world championship team successes in 1981 and 1985.

He set up a successful hang-gliding and microlite coaching school and the money he made from this, plus income from buying and selling parts of Rufforth (near York) and Dalton (near

Malcolm Huntington visits Leeds Golf Centre (Wike Ridge Golf Course) at Shadwell, Leeds, to see how the 27-hole development, which includes a driving range and a golf academy, is faring under its new head greenkeeper. First, he talks to owner Robert Bailey

Thirsk) airfields at a decent profit, enabled him to think of something completely different.

And that something was building a golf course on what he describes as "a perfect site" on Wike Ridge Lane, Shadwell on the outskirts of Leeds and just off the road to Harrogate.

"I had received support from my bank manager at Nat West and managed to put together a package which enabled me to start looking at potential sites,"

says Leeds-born Bailey, who is married with three children and lives close to the new golf development.

Formerly part of the Harewood estate, consisting of heathland countryside, the land on which the golf course now stands was sold to a farmer in 1952, but it was found to be only moderately good for growing crops.

This led Bailey, after his extensive search, beginning talks in 1989, although it wasn't until

April 1993 that the first sod was turned.

Work progressed so rapidly that the nine-hole par 3 Oaks Course was opened in September last year along with the David Leadbetter Golf Academy (which recently moved to Kent), plus the driving range.

Then, in May of this year, the 6,620-yard par 72 18-hole Wike Ridge course was unveiled.

It is an impressive package and Bailey and his club manager, Chris Brockbank, are determined to make the centre even more impressive and successful.

A fine purpose-built clubhouse, constructed from Yorkshire stone,



An under cover driving range, complete with floodlights: easy to maintain and incredibly popular

There was a time when driving ranges in this country were built completely separately from golf clubs, which either hadn't the space or didn't feel the need for this facility.

But how times change as many of the new clubs being built these days are having driving ranges incorporated into their plans.

One such club is the Leeds Golf Centre near the pretty village of Wike just outside Leeds in an area which boasts some fine courses within almost a stone's throw – Moortown, Scarcraft, Moor Allerton, Sand Moor, Headingley and Alwoodley.

It is from Alwoodley that Arron Whitney, pictured, the Leeds Centre's new head greenkeeper came, taking up his new post on July 1. Whitney, 29, who was born and bred in Leeds, had only been in his post for just over a week when I talked to him about the club and its facilities.

It has not taken him long to gain tremendous enthusiasm for the centre and the new challenges ahead of him.

"I had been at Alwoodley for four years and I was at Moor Allerton as an assistant before that, but when I got the opportunity to join this new complex, it didn't take me long to accept the position," said Whitney.

"We have a nine-hole course called the Oaks opened last September and an 18-hole course – Wike Ridge – which was played on for the first time in May. But what I particularly – and more importantly the members – like is the driving range which is a tremendous asset to us.

"We have 20 driving positions, all under cover and all floodlit so that we can use the facility every day, 365 days a year if we wanted to.



"And I must say it is proving exceptionally popular. Often after play has ended for the day every single driving position is occupied so you can tell how much members and visitors enjoy the facility.

"One of the greatest things about it from a greenkeeper's point of view is that it is so easily maintained.

"Although we have been cutting the fairways on the golf courses three times a week and the greens every day, the driv-

ing range has only needed cutting once a week, so it is not labour intensive.

"We are properly geared up to deal with everything and the gang mowers pull three ball collecting discs which can be increased to five if we need to.

"A basket of 50 balls costs £2 and the facility is nearly always in big demand from what I have seen so far," he added.

Whitney, who lives in Middleton, near Leeds, heads a team of six other greenkeepers.

"We have had no problems to date and I am really delighted about the way things are going. We put on feed of 12-5-3 in the first week of July and we are getting there. It will take time of course, but my initial reaction is that things are going well," said Whitney.

Another of the club's excellent facilities is a large practice area, plus a smaller one for juniors and this is particularly well used at weekends when the youngsters have more time.

There is also a golf academy. Initially this was the David Leadbetter Golf Academy but this has now moved to Chart Hills, Kent, and the club are in the process of setting up one of their own in its place. As we went to press, plans were to open this in September.

was opened last November and visitors find hot home-cooked food served throughout the day and well into the evening. An on-licence means that the facilities can be enjoyed by both visitors and members.

In the clubhouse golfers will find a few things different to the 'normal' scene.

"I was determined to get rid of the snobbishness of what I call the Jag and gin and tonic brigade which is so elitist," says Bailey.

"While there will be no compromise on high standards, there won't be any question of ties and jackets being mandatory in the clubhouse after 6.30pm and ladies being discouraged as happens in so many clubs.

"We will also allow smart jeans because I believe it is what people have between their ears that counts most rather than how they dress. Sensible people know how to dress and also know they must not pull a trolley over a green. They also know that pitch marks need to be repaired and divots replaced.

"There have been quite a few courses built in recent years and this has led to smaller waiting lists for existing clubs, but I believe that the potential of golf is more in providing a facility for the bank clerks and the insurance agents etc, in other words the man in the street.

"And as far as Leeds is concerned, the major need has been for a pay-and-play course, as Roundhay has been the only municipal course in the area for many years.

"Our new facility takes care of both as we are going to have members in addition to pay and play. Beginners, women and juniors are equally welcome.

"I want to take out the silly element, the politics and the snobbery. Those who watched the TV programme about Northwood will know what I mean."

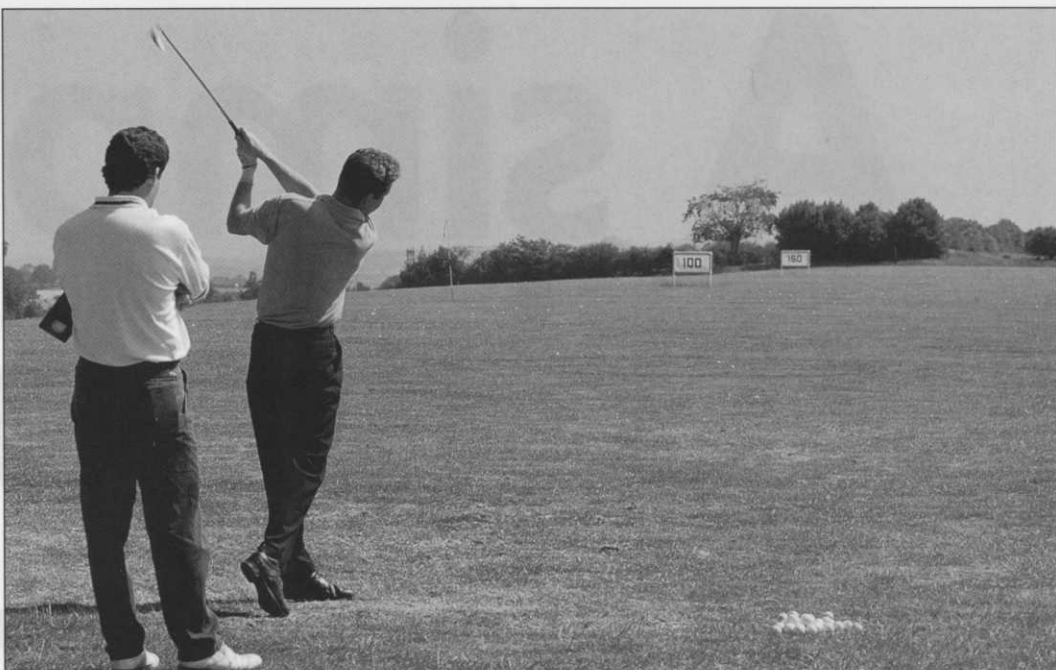
Bailey believes that what he is building and improving is "a dream come true", and after talking to him for some time in the clubhouse, there is no doubting the sincerity of this determined man.

He has left nothing to chance as he has sought the advice of experts.

The well-known international course architect and journalist Donald Steel was chosen to design the courses. Steel says: "The crucial ingredient of any good course is the mixture of challenge and enjoyment it provides for all classes of golfer. The Wike Ridge and Oaks courses will pass that test with flying colours."

Agronomist David Stansfield from Professional Sportsturf Design, Preston, has advised Robert Bailey. Inturf supplied the turf for the Oaks course and Rolawn for the Wike Ridge course.

The experienced Colin Geddes, formerly greenkeeper on the Jack Nicklaus Jr designed Hanbury



Manor, was asked to be clerk of works and consultant and he advised on the turf and seed to be used.

Bailey advertised in Greenkeeper International for staff and was pleased with the response. "Men applied from Scotland down to Kent, but in the end I opted for a local man," he says.

Country lover

Bailey is a country lover. "I potted about with gardening in my flying days when I had time, but now I have more of this vital commodity, my heart is really in the countryside.

"We have planted gorse and thousands of trees, including hawthorn, guelder rose, ash, alder, birch, sloe, holly and rowan.

"I am a lover of natural beauty and I am hoping that my ultimate

ambition of having the whole area maturing slowly will create something we will all be proud of, in addition to having a good atmosphere in the club.

Unlike many owners of golf courses, Bailey takes a very close and keen interest in greenkeeping and he didn't hesitate when I asked him about cutting heights on the course and other technical details.

"While I don't interfere with professionals who know their job, I love learning about the skills necessary.

"We are currently cutting the greens at 7mm, the collars at 15mm and the fairways at 15mm.

"We like to keep the semi rough at about 2in (5cm), the junior rough at 3ins (7.5cm) and the rough at 18ins (45cm).

"I learned a very early lesson about rough. I was told by some

low handicap players to keep the course tight and let the rough come in a bit, but I quickly found out that we needed a much wider fairway and semi-rough areas because the vast majority of players don't have low handicaps and tend to spray the ball about a bit.

"They were spending a lot of time looking for balls and you don't win friends that way or attract them back to the course, so we cut the rough back.

"In the early days we turfed fairways where needed and also overseeded them (there was already a lot of natural grassland) and also turfed the greens and overseeded them as well.

"All greens have been built to USGA specification."

Bailey was equally assured when I asked him which type of machinery was being used. He quickly rattled off: Three Toro GMs, two Toro 216 triples for fairways and surrounds, six Ransomes Auto-cert 22in greens machines, five hydraulic Huxleys, seven Ransomes seven trails, five Lloyds trailed, set of five Toro rough cutters, set of five Ransomes trailed sports cutters, Iseki compact tractor, Kubota compact tractor, two Ford tractors, National tractor.

The tees, greens and surrounds have a fully computerised Toro irrigation system. More than 20 miles of 80mm drains were laid 700mm below the surface with gravel to within 100mm of the surface by Holts of Pontefract.

But more important than all the details is what it adds up to – and that is an impressive complex of which Bailey and his team can be proud.

Club manager Chris Brockbank, left and Leeds Golf Centre owner Robert Bailey outside the clubhouse.



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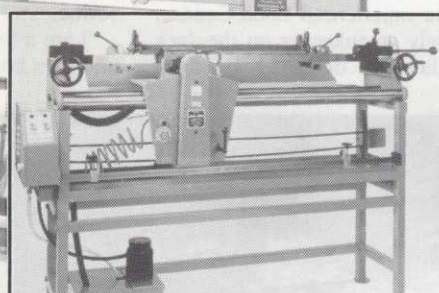
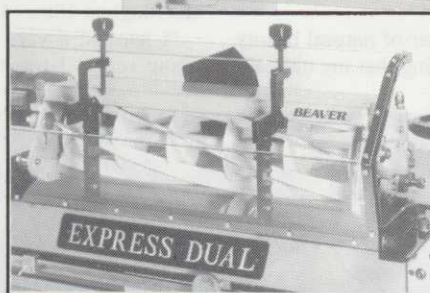
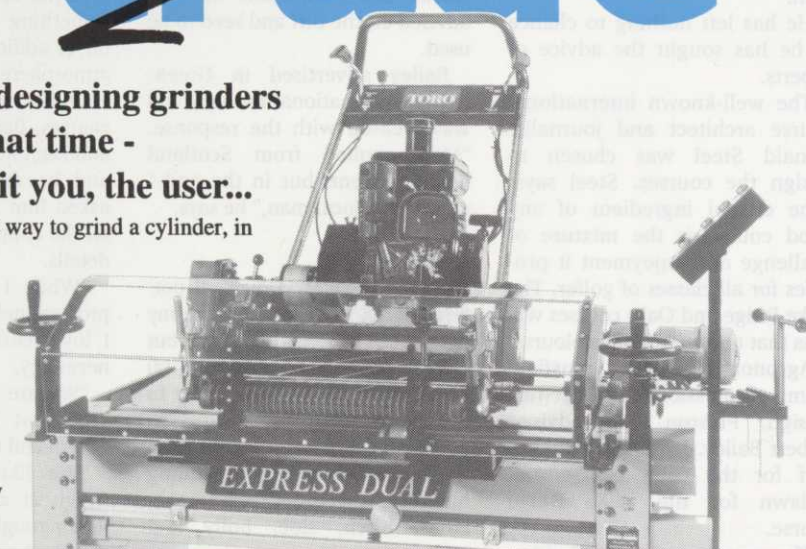
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SALTEX PREVIEW

Saltex (formerly IoG) returns to the Royal Windsor Racecourse from September 6-8. Here are some of the new products you can see:



The SISIS Autospred

SISIS EQUIPMENT

Sisis Equipment will be launching a combined scarifier/ sweeper/ collector – the Fibagroom – which uses the well-proven contra-rotation principle. The Fibagroom features two independently floating heads with easily adjusted depth setting. The reels comprise Veemo scarifying blades interspersed with brushes so that the fibre removed is simultaneously collected into the large capacity, high-tip hopper. When the hi-tip hopper is full it can be emptied directly into a skip or trailer without the operator leaving his seat. The counter balanced hopper returns to the working position automatically. Other new products to look out for include an independently powered top-dresser, the Autospred, and a range of land clearers and beach cleaners.

eases by a fungicide and polymer film coat. Rhone-Poulenc says the result is seed mixtures which “germinate and emerge more reliably than ordinary seed”.

INTURF

Inturf will be showing its latest range of turf. In addition to the pure fescue (SS5) and standard production SS1 fescue/bent, Inturf now has a pure sown bent grass turf. All types on both big and small rolls are available in a variety of cultivars selected from the top five seed houses in the country. All golf turf is grown on sand or loam/sand land and Inturf has its own treatment for Poa annua control. In the case of the pure bents turf some areas have been left untreated deliberately so that Poa annua can freely develop in the sward. This has been done in reaction to the fact that a large proportion of putting surfaces in the British Isles are made up of bent grasses and Poa annua predominantly.

SPORTS GROUND IRRIGATION

Sports Ground Irrigation will be showing the new Hunter 650 and 750 valve-in-head, part-circle sprinkler for the first time in Europe. These two new products will be of interest to greenkeepers looking to irrigate their fairways.

RHONE-POULENC

New from Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products is the Guardian range of quality grass seed mixtures. Each of the mixtures is named after a precious stone – or jewel. From Emerald to Opal, each has been formulated to meet the performance and playing requirements of specific sportsturf areas. A feature of this new range is that every seed is protected against soil borne dis-

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The Dowdeswell Titan outfield slitter comes in working widths of 6ft and 8ft

Also on display will be the Otterbine air flo system for lake and pond management – a system designed to clean up water features by aeration.

STANDARD GOLF

Standard Golf (UK) Ltd will be exhibiting all that you will need to equip a course. And the Wokingham-based company says they are all “highly affordable and durable products”. New to the

range are the Tee Mats. Manufactured with top quality Wilton weave, sports quality synthetic grass, the new Tee Mats have a foam/felt underlay instead of the traditional rubber base. “This makes the mat more user-friendly, giving the feel of grass but kinder to the joints,” says chairman and managing director Duncan Stewart. The mats also feature tee holes that are individually protected from wear and

extruded EPDM edging strips can be fitted around the edges of the mat. Prices start at £99.

DOWDESWELL ENGINEERING

Dowdeswell Engineering will be introducing an uprated version of its 8ft Roller Mower. Featuring three cutting rotors in place of the previous four, the new model is able to work with greater efficiency in thick or fine grass of up to 5in (127mm) long due to the improved air flow and more even spread of cut material beneath the machine's hood. Suitable for mounting on tractors from 25-55hp, both the new 8ft (2.4m) and the existing 6ft (1.8m) Roller Mowers have shaft and belt drive to the cutting rotors. Turn handles enable height of cut to be adjusted easily up to a maximum of 3.5in (9cm) on the machine's full width front and rear rollers, which allow the machine to follow ground contours.

SOILCARE

Soilcare will be launching its

Deep Drill machine – 60 masonry drills, 5/8in diameter reaching 10in deep. Soilcare says it is ideal for aerating greens and tees as “it does not mar the surface”. The Ipswich firm will also be demonstrating the Terralift machines. The probe has a working depth of 1 or 1.5m and simultaneously injects dried milled seaweed for turf or tree mix for root feeding around trees.

UNDERGEAR EQUIPMENT

Goodyear's UK distributors Undergear will be launching the 23 x 14.00-12 Softrac II which has been developed specially for Cushman machines. The tread and width are designed to minimise turf damage while maximising grip. A range of golf, soffrac and Terra Tires will also be on show.

MJT CONTRACTS

The latest model in the Trilo range – the SF150 out-front suction unit – will be launched by MJT Contracts. Designed to be mounted on any golf truck (ie

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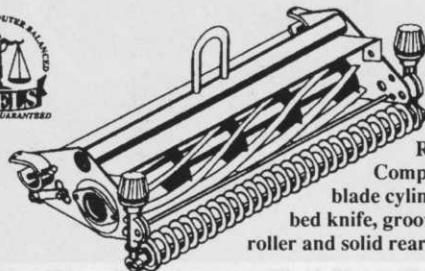
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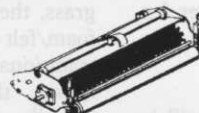
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DIXON & HOLLIDAY

Dixon & Holliday Ltd will be showing its new Alpina VIP42 knapsack brushcutter which can be operated for extended periods on power demanding operations. Powered by a 41cc two-stroke motor made by Alpina, the unit has a well padded frame with wide straps which have a quick release clip for ease of putting on and taking off. The machine, which can be used right or left handed, has a 1.5ltr (2.7pint) fuel tank, diaphragm carburettor, priming bulb and solid state ignition. A wide range of attachments is available for the unit.

H PATTISSON & CO LTD

H Pattisson & Co Ltd has more than a new logo and catalogue to show, it also has new products, including the Premier Hole Cup Cutter with 14in heavy-duty blades and a universal Swivel Tube Flag complemented by the same design as a 6D Swivel Putting Flag. Also on show is the colour impregnated solid resin Pear Shaped Tee Marker.

MULTI-CORE AERATORS LTD

Aeration equipment specialists Multi-Core will be showing its full range – two tractor mounted and two pedestrian operated

machines. The TM1500 1.5m wide tractor is robust enough to handle greens and fairways alike. It is fully sealed and boasts productivity of 67,000sqft per hour. For the customer with a smaller tractor, there is the TM1000, a machine bought recently by Colin Urvin of Dusseldorfer GC, Ratingen, Germany. He is pictured below taking delivery of the first machine sold to Europe by Multi-Core from managing director Ian Waddington. A variety of different heads and tines will also be on display.



LLOYDS

Lloyds will be using Saltex to launch its motor triple mower, the Lloyds Elite. This is a general purpose highway and verge mower available with either 4, 6 or 9 bladed cutting units. Also being launched is the Leda Hydraulic 7 Mower Trailer which is basically the big brother of the current Leda Hydraulic 5 Mower Trailer. These will be exhibited alongside the 24in version of the Paladin Fine Turf Mower launched earlier this year.

TURF MACHINERY LTD

The show marks the debut of the Maruyama range of professional trimmers and brushcutters from

Turf Machinery Ltd. The range encompasses models with engine capacities from 20cc up to 42cc. Cutting heads include a choice of auto-feed or standard two-line nylon monofilament units as well as bracken and saw blades. Also on show will be Maruyama's Multi-Cutter machine comprising a base 26cc engine unit with a range of specialist attachments including trimmer, edger, hedge-cutter, tiller and chainsaw.

BARENBRUG

Part of the Barenbrug display on stand K13/14 at Saltex will be the best all bent overseeding mixture available in the UK, claims Barenbrug, and appropriately called Bar All Bent. Intended for greens and ornamental lawns, the mixture is 50/50 Heriot and Bardot, top Browntop bents with improved compactness, disease resistance and slow growth.

Of a more robust nature will be Bar 7, a heavy duty sports mixture favoured by Premier Division football clubs such as Everton and Sheffield Wednesday, rugby

clubs the likes of Cardiff Arms Park and even cricket squares. Made up from three high quality dwarf perennial ryegrasses – Barclay, Barlow and Barrage 50/15/35 – Bar 7 will provide the smallest local club, on a far more modest budget, with a superb playing surface exhibiting outstanding wear qualities from a finer, denser sward with lower cutting requirements.

GARFITTS INTERNATIONAL

New from Garfitts International will be a range of complete replacement cutting and scarifying units suitable for fitting to Toro, Jacobsen and Ransomes mowers. The units are built to the same exacting standards as Garfitts' individual cylinders, bed knives, rotary blades and other components, says the firm. Also new is the range of Draper workshop tools and accessories and a selection of safety equipment and protective clothing.

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- The Berkshire Golf Club
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- Turnberry Hotel
- Wellingborough Golf Club
- West Herts Golf Club
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- Whitecraigs Golf Club

AD
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73

E & S SPORTSGROUND CONTRACTORS

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Contact: Richard Veitch
The Fairways, King Street Lane, Winnersh,
Wokingham, Berks RG11 5AX

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REF
248

The ^{new}VERSATILE Nikken Knapsack mower/trimmer

- Mows steep banks easily & safely
- Trims bunker edges quickly & neatly
- Also performs all the duties of a normal trimmer and brushcutter
- Hedgecutting and cultivating heads also available

which makes the Nikken Knapsack the ideal machine for every golf course



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B73 DEMO
AREA AT
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The unique **Hover Hood** gives the operator freedom and manoeuvrability to cut steep banks quickly and easily. Knapsack design gives him the freedom and balance to mow even the most difficult banks.

With the hood removed and the blade changed the machine quickly becomes an efficient edge trimmer.

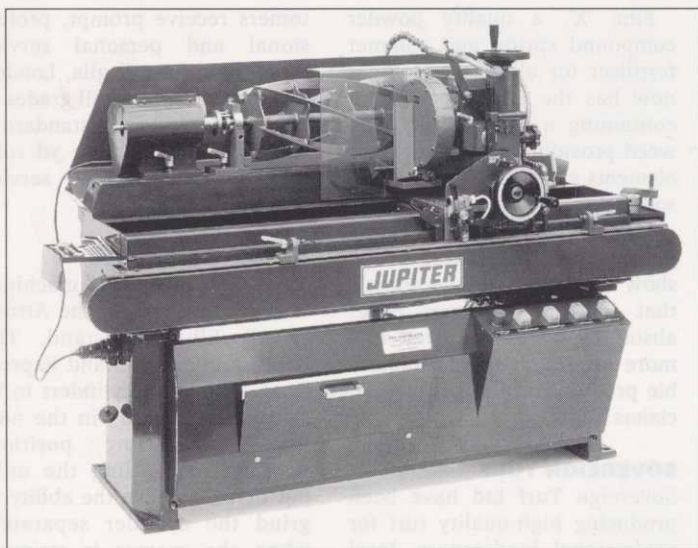
Knapsack design effectively removes the engine from flying sand so eliminates a major cause of wear and breakdown.

Dixon & Holliday Ltd,

Unit 22, Bassett Down Industrial Estate,
Hay Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 9QP.

Tel - sales: 0462 700547. works: 0793 845199. Fax - 0793 845191

AD
REF
214



The Jupiter grinder from Eric Hunter

range of environmentally sensitive management products. Of particular interest will be the advanced range of Super Concentrate fertilisers and the improved Turf Irons fitted with rubber rollers for increased grip in damp conditions. Also on show will be

the range of Farmura Liquid Organic Fertilisers, Ferrosol, Blazon and Superpaver Grass Reinforcement.

ERIC HUNTER GRINDERS

The staff at Eric Hunter Grinders will show you how to grind

mower cylinders correctly. They point out that there is a world of difference between grinding and sharpening. They say their machines are designed to accurately grind a 'relief angle' to each blade rather than grind the high back part of the cylinder blade level with the front edge, which leaves a radiused curve or 'flat' top to each blade. Their machines remove the back part of each blade completely, leaving a perfect cutting edge so there is no longer any friction against the bed-knife. The claimed results are a cleaner cut, much longer bed-knife life, lower fuel bills, less adjustment, longer engine and transmission life, no back-lapping and far fewer problems throughout the cutting season.

RANSOMES

Three new products and a number of improvements to other machines are to be unveiled by Ransomes. Making its public debut in Britain will be the Ransomes E-Plex triple greens mower, an all-electric machine

featuring very quiet, pollution-free and economical operation thanks to the use of a battery powerpack and electric drive motors in place of the normal engine, hydrostatic transmission and hydraulic system. Eight 6-volt batteries give the Ransomes E-Plex sufficient mowing capacity for a minimum of nine greens. Standard features include three 22in (559mm) steerable floating mowing heads available with nine or 11 blades, fingertip operating controls and a single foot pedal for mowing speed control. Also new will be the Ransomes 7 series range of ride-on, out-front rotary mowers and a low-cost 'Junior' version of its Cushman Turf Truckster.

NATURE FIRST

Nature First, a leading supplier of semi and mature trees, will be there to discuss its stocks and its fleet of modern tree spades.

VITAX

Two new products will be launched at Saltext by Vitax.

Heriot & Bardot

Favourite bentgrasses for fine, close grown turf outscore the usual.

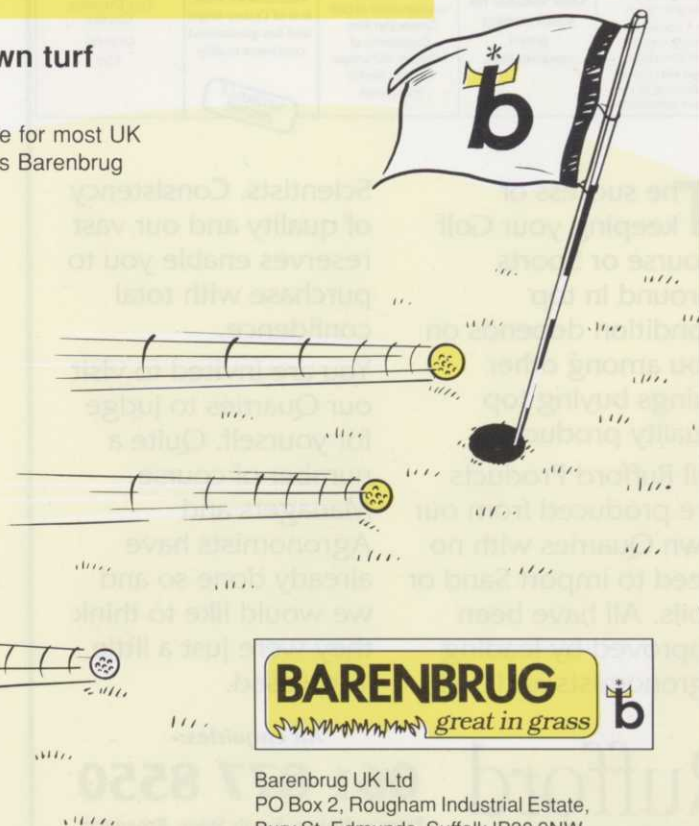
Although 'Highland' browntop bent is generally acceptable for most UK situations, for very fine turf such as golf and bowling greens Barenbrug advises finer and denser cultivars like Heriot and Bardot.

HERIOT

BARDOT

HIGHLAND

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Super 1742- A dressing dominated by the medium sand fraction.
No. 1- Medium/Fine Dressing from our famous Nucks Wood Quarry.
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Budget mix- Coarse grade Dressing for cost-effective applications.

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Free draining lime free sands for Top Dressings, Bunkers, Drainage and Winter Sports Pitches.
Sand suitable for USGA putting green construction.

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Can meet USGA Specification, standard and individual mixes available for construction/reconstruction of Golf Greens and Tees. Consistency of materials and unique delivery service guaranteed.

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Especially blended for Golf Tees and Fairway Divotting.
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Scientists. Consistency of quality and our vast reserves enable you to purchase with total confidence.

You are invited to visit our Quarries to judge for yourself. Quite a number of course Managers and Agronomists have already done so and we would like to think they were just a little impressed.

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Rufford

TOP-DRESS SUPPLIES

Fine 'X', a quality powder compound spring and summer fertiliser for all fine turf areas now has the added benefit of containing a high quality seaweed providing a range of trace elements and acting as a natural soil and turf tonic.

The other product whose name will be announced at the show is a water storage granule that is over 30 times faster absorbing water and over 40% more absorbent than comparable products on the UK market, claims Vitax.

SOVEREIGN TURF

Sovereign Turf Ltd have been producing high-quality turf for professional landscapers, local authorities and sports clubs since 1987. Top rated STRI cultivars, light, sandy soil and innovative management techniques ensure that Sovereign turf is of a consistently high quality and available all year round. During the past two years a network of distribution agents has been built up which ensures that cus-

tomers receive prompt, professional and personal service throughout East Anglia, London and the South East. All grades of turf are harvested in standard 1 sq yd or jumbo 25 sq yd rolls with a supply and lay service also available.

ATTERTON & ELLIS

Two new grinding machines will be unveiled on the Atterton & Ellis Ltd stand. The Express Dual 1000 and Express Dual 2000 allow cylinders to be sharpened 'in-situ', in the normal grass-cutting position, without dismantling the unit, but they also have the ability to grind the cylinder separately when the mower is stripped down. The 2000 also features a relief grinding attachment, allowing greenkeepers who so wish to grind a relief off the back of the cutting edge of the cylinder, and an electric drive lifting table. Also on show will be a range of Atterton Angle-master bottom blade grinders.

Take a leaf out
of our book...



TRILO

Vacuum
Sweepers

Trilo's combination of high power vacuum, brush, scarifier and wanderhose, gives the power and versatility to cope with leaves, thatch, cuttings, hollow cores and litter.

With the new SF150 designed to mount on any golf truck, Trilo now offer five different models - so there's a Trilo to suit your needs!



For hire or sales contact:

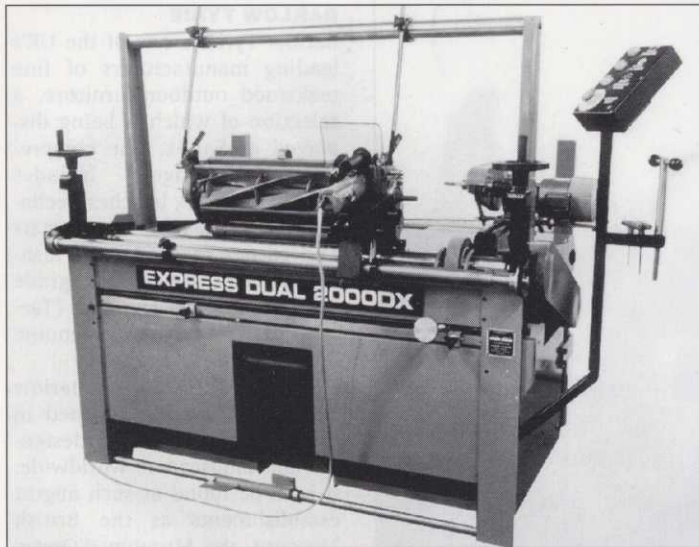
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The new Atterton Express Dual 2000, fitted with relief grinding attachment

OCMIS IRRIGATION

Ocmis are irrigation experts with a referral driven reputation in problem solving, system design, manufacture and supply, installation and servicing to the golf, sports turf, agriculture and water industries.

Their aim is to promote improved performance and better long term value to the golfing industry. In short, efficient watering systems built to last from the outset and a maintenance and refurbishment facility to provide a reliable lifetime expectancy.



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Why suffer turf problems associated with compacted soil?

Our Deep Drill machine will create a pattern of sixty 5/8" holes, up to 10" deep, on a 5" spacing, in one movement, leaving an unmarred surface.

RESULTS IN • Relief of compaction • Improved aeration and percolation of water to the root zone • Deeper, wider and more vigorous root development • Holes offer a way of introducing fresh media to the soil • Healing time of three to four days • Drills through dry patch.

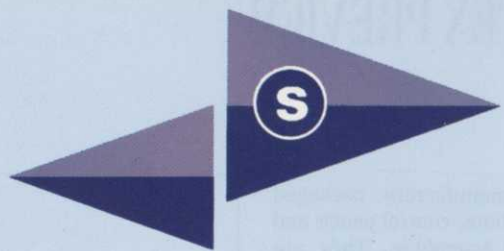
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Colours:
Red,
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Blue,
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Flat, 16-gauge Steel Tee and Tee Distance Markers are 6.5" (16.5cm) in diameter with a 1/2" lip that can be easily stepped into the ground. They're brightly coloured for high visibility.

Furnished with screw-in galvanized spike.

Tee Marker and Steel Tee Distance Markers at £7.19 each.
Colours: Red, White, Blue, Yellow.



Brass Tee Distance Markers are made of solid cast brass, with personalized 2 or 3 digit yardage cast in the surface. When ordering, specify yardage for each marker. 4.25" (10.8cm) diameter. Furnished with screw-in galvanized steel spike.

Brass Tee Distance Marker from £18.00 each.



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The Maxwell Hart Building, 612 Reading Road, Winnersh,
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Telephone: 0734 788044. Fax: 0734 785805

SEE US AT SALTEX P27-P29

AD
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AD
REF
421

SALTEX PREVIEW

They manufacture packaged pump stations, control panels and manifold assemblies. They are national stockists of all types of pressure pipe, fittings and valves, sprinklers, mobile irrigators, pump units, pressure vessels, control panels, electric cable and accessories.

KUBOTA

Kubota will be showing a wide range of compact tractors including its latest, the 29hp ST-30. Other tractors include units from the B50 series and the larger L series as well as the 16hp B7100 compact model which now incorporates hydrostatic transmission. The latest Kubota ride-on mowers will also be available for viewing, including the front mounted rotary 18hp F1900 model and the 18hp G1900 which features four-wheel steer. Portable generators, pumps, a range of walk-behind mowers, brushcutters and hedge trimmers complete the line-up.

MOMMERSTEEG

Mommersteeg offer grass seed



For maximum operator comfort, the Kubota 29.1 (DIN) hp ST-30 compact tractor has been designed to keep engine noise and tractor vibration to a minimum

mixtures for every possible use. Their new range of turf mixtures will be on display throughout Saltext. These are suitable for a

wide range of sport, amenity and landscape uses. And experienced technical staff will be on hand to discuss your potential needs.

BARLOW TYRIE

Barlow Tyrie is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of fine teakwood outdoor furniture, a selection of which is being displayed at Saltext. The comprehensive range includes armchairs, seats, benches, recliners, loungers, tables, tree seats and corner seats. All are fashioned from the highest grade plantation-grown Java teak (*Tectona grandis*, the only genuine teak).

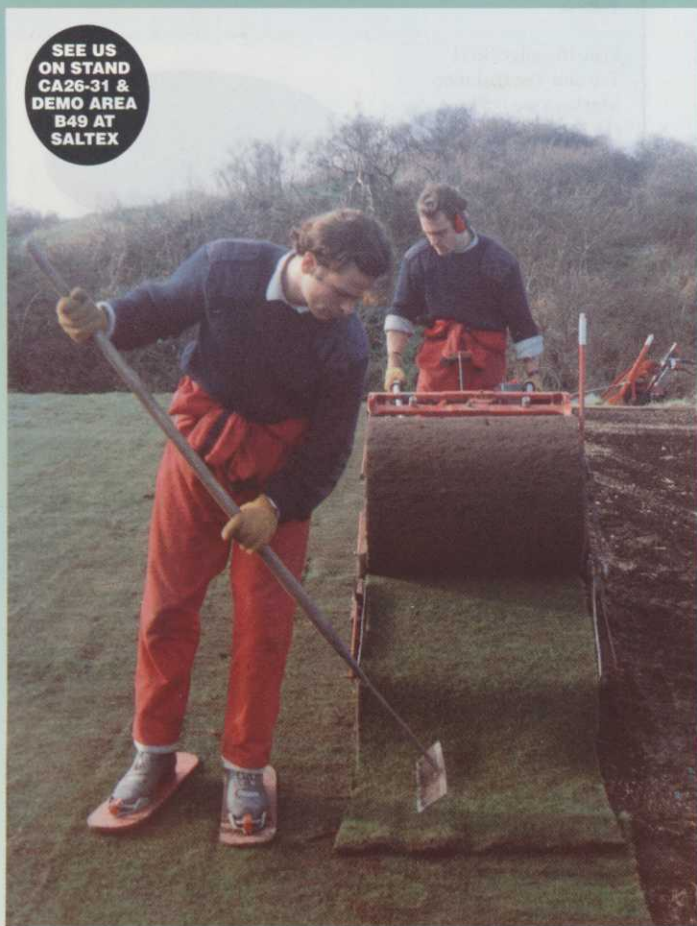
The classic lines of Barlow Tyrie furniture has resulted in their being specified by designers and landscapers worldwide. It is to be found at such august establishments as the British Museum, the Museum d'Orsay, Paris; the Barcelona Olympic village, Spain and Wentworth Golf Club.

WATERMATION

Watermation, the British irrigation company, will be showing new developments and products in their range at Windsor.

They have a new small con-

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troller, suitable for both domestic and professional use, retailing at a very competitive price. This controller, named EPIC (easily programmable irrigation controller) is suitable for bowling, tennis and general landscape use and is available in 6, 12, 18, 24 and 30 stations.

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have the experience of a highly professional and competent team who have a detailed knowledge of all aspects of natural turf.



Toro has introduced a subsidised finance scheme for its Workman 3000 Series vehicles. A Workman 3000 Series petrol vehicle (pictured) costing £11,590 can now be obtained for £206 a month. Details from your Toro dealer or Lely UK on 0480 476971.



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Write down the names of the three ads where the £50 notes are located and send your entries on a postcard to: **Note the Notes Competition**, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF, to be received by first post Friday, August 26, 1994. The first correct entry drawn after that date will win £50. It could be YOU! Enter today - and Note the Notes!

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

★ The greenkeeper with an eye for detail last month was Mr R N Maltby, course manager of Wheatley Golf Club who scoops the cash prize of a very nice £50. Will it be your turn for success next month? Get searching - note the notes and be a winner with Greenkeeper International!

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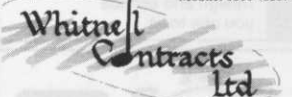
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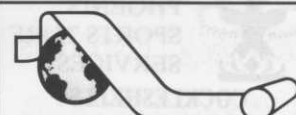
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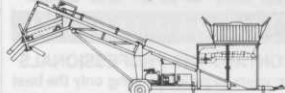
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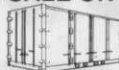


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Closing date: Monday August 22nd 1994

RECRUITMENT

Bristol and Clifton Golf Club

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from experienced greenkeepers who possess the necessary management and supervisory skills with appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and detailed knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

Salary negotiable

No accommodation available.

Replies in writing with full CV together with name and address of two referees to:

The Managing Secretary
Bristol and Clifton Golf Club
Beggar Bush Lane, Failand,
Bristol BS8 3TH

Southerndown Golf Club

requires an

EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an 18 hole championship downland links course.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and have a proven record in all aspects of course management and machinery maintenance.

The ideal candidate must have the ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain healthy and safety requirements.

Salary negotiable but will be commensurate with the importance of this position.

No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary
Southerndown Golf Club, Ewenny,
Nr Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan CF32 0QP



THE LONDON GOLF CLUB

"Simply Europe's Best"

requires qualified

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

The London Golf Club is a multi-million pound private members club with the finest maintenance facility in Europe. Comprising of

two 18 hole golf courses, built to USGA specifications: The Heritage Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus, seeded with Providence 1019 creeping bent; and the International Course, designed by Ron Kirby of Golden Bear Design, seeded with colonial bents and fescues. We are situated on 560 acres in the heart of Kent, but only 25 miles from central London.

The London Golf Club officially opened on 10th July 1992 and we now look to complement our greens staff team with highly motivated, enthusiastic greenkeepers to maintain the high standards that have been determined.

The ideal candidates will be suitably qualified (spraying certificates would be an advantage), hard working and conscientious. The salary will be negotiable according to age and experience.

Apply in writing, enclosing CV to:

**Stephen Marsden, Courses Superintendent,
Greenkeepers Compound, The London Golf Club Plc,
South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN**

Düsseldorfer Golf Club e.V.

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Required for 18 hole course in Germany. Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping maintenance and have a good knowledge of modern machinery.

Salary negotiable. Accommodation available.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr C. Irvine, Düsseldorfer Golf Club e.V.
Rommeljansweg, 40882 Ratingen**

Harborne Golf Club

(Birmingham)

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Required to join an enthusiastic team on this well known Midland Course. Applicants should have approximately four years experience and will be expected to attend Greenkeeper Courses as relevant.

Apply in writing to:

**The Secretary, Harborne Golf Club,
40 Tennal Road, Harborne, Birmingham B32 2JE**

Zeewolde Golfclub

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Zeewolde golf club in the Netherlands, founded in 1984 in the reclaimed Flevopolder, wishes to appoint a Head Greenkeeper to replace the present holder of this position who is leaving the club on 1 September 1994.

The existing 18 hole course and a 9 hole pitch and putt course are situated in attractive rural surroundings about 30 miles east of Amsterdam. In the next few years the 18 hole course will be extended with another 9 holes in woodland.

Applicants should be fully qualified with experience in modern greenkeeping methods, irrigation systems and the management of personnel and maintenance contractors. Experience in course construction and maintenance in the growing-in phase is an advantage.

The club will assist in finding accommodation and the salary and other benefits are negotiable.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Stichting Openbaar Golf Zeewolde,
Postbox 47, 3890 AA Zeewolde, The Netherlands**



Birchwood Golf Club Ltd

require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management.

The ability to motivate and direct staff together with a practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices and equipment maintenance is essential.

Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable.

Please reply in writing with full CV to:

**Mr Peter Baume, Birchwood Golf Club, Kelvin Close,
Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PB**

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

Salary negotiable

West Park is a flourishing 36-hole parkland and lakeland course of superior construction. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of course quality.

We seek an Assistant Head Greenkeeper or person with several years experience in a similar role at an 18-hole course (or larger).

You should have the necessary qualifications, (including PA2 for spraying) along with a good understanding of Automatic Irrigation Systems and an ability to control staff.

In return we offer a good salary, fringe benefits and career potential. Please apply in writing with current CV and salary to:

Mark Smith, Course Manager,

WEST PARK Golf & Country Club,

Whittlebury, Nr Towcester, Northants, NN12 8XW



CONTRACTS MANAGER IRRIGATION

The leading sports turf irrigation contractor in the North East urgently requires an experienced contracts manager.

If you feel you have the following skills, we'd like to hear from you:

- A proven track record of experience in the industry
- The ability to manage projects large and small
- The skill to get the best from the teams you manage
- The tenacity to work with dedication, enthusiasm and efficiency

If successful, you will be joining a company whose steady and growing success has been built on service.

Salary and benefits will be commensurate with your experience and ability.

If you would enjoy this challenging opportunity forward your CV to:

David Franklin
Par 4 (Irrigation) Ltd
Unit 18, Camphill Close, Dallamires Lane,
Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1TT

Loch Lomond Golf Club GREENKEEPERS REQUIRED

The 18-hole Loch Lomond Golf Club, designed by Tom Weiskopf, requires enthusiastic Greenkeepers to join their Golf Course maintenance team. Construction of the new 18-hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus is due to start in the spring of 1995.

Also

QUALIFIED GOLF COURSE MECHANIC

We are seeking an enthusiastic, well organised individual to oversee the equipment maintenance operation for our facility.

The successful applicant will play a key role in setting up and managing the following:

1. Planning and construction of the maintenance facility
2. Setting up preventative maintenance program for all machinery
3. Organising parts inventory
4. Evaluating all new equipment to be purchased by the Golf Club.

If you are interested in either position, please send CV to

**Ken Siems, Loch Lomond Golf Club, Rosdhu House, Luss,
by Alexandria, Dunbartonshire G83 8NT. Tel: 0436 860223**

Servewell Grounds Ltd
require the following staff for 18 hole
Northants Golf Course

GOLF/SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Experience and/or qualifications in Golf Course Management/Maintenance essential, particularly sand constructed greens. Management experience essential to develop this part of the business.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Enthusiastic and motivated with knowledge of turf culture and experience of sand suspended greens. Would suit first assistant greenkeeper wishing to progress.

Both positions offer an attractive remuneration package and good prospects.

Apply with full CV to:

**Mr M Lusty, Servewell Grounds Limited,
Herriard Park Gardens, Herriard,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2PL**



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Applicants must be well organised and self motivated with a background in golf course or sports turf maintenance.

Basic salary plus commission and usual company benefits will be offered.

Applications and CV to:

**John Holt, Rigby Taylor Ltd,
Garside Street, Bolton BL1 4AE**

BOURNE

AREA SALES MANAGER HANTS/SURREY

Due to continued expansion of our Amenity Division we require an experienced salesperson to market our high quality range of sportsturf and amenity products in Hants/Surrey. We already have an established, comprehensive client base in Kent and Sussex and are the South East's distributor for top of the range products e.g. Dunlop Sports Sands and Fendress.

The ideal candidate will be experienced in selling into the amenity marketplace particularly local councils, and a knowledge of amenity contracting would be an advantage. A good salary with commission and a company care are offered to the right person, preferably resident in the sales area. To apply write enclosing a CV to:

**Dick Reid, Amenity Director, John Bourne & Co. Ltd.,
Head Office, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QG**

Why practical knowledge beats the theories

A month in hospital has enabled me to catch up on the last year's articles. Compaction seems to be dealt with monthly! Cure, aspirin for a headache, no cost effective workable answers. No one addresses the fundamental causes, or produces remedies, that are cost effective.

What has eventually really made me write to you is your March issue (Tom O'Brien at Royal Birkdale) How he and so many very good men like him can manage to carry on with nothing else but contradictory theoretical advice is quite amazing.

The following practical thoughts you may find interesting, the condition of many playing surfaces, and new golf courses in particular, are of very poor quality. However I do believe that Performance Standards have a vital role to play in specifying the construction of an installation.

My views are based on many years of practical experience creating playing surfaces. Unfortunately too many projects are specified by agronomists with an abundance of theory but little understanding of the practical aspects of what is required. Agronomy and its never-ending tentacles are the main factors that are responsible for standards, inadequate specifications and, seemingly, a total misunderstanding of what grass really needs to grow and perform to high standards, when subject to severe use and extremes of weather.

Those who doubt this should look closely at the golf courses constructed over the last few years, and the condition of 92 clubs in the Football League. Almost without exception, there is water in excess, mud in abundance, compaction and overall yearly deterioration. This is a worldwide problem. Mud is everywhere, whether we look at Australian Rules, Rugby, American Football or other sports, we have mud.

As I have said on many occasions before, today's agronomists are yesteryear's brilliant pupils, but many are so full of theory that they are still at the top of their theoretical trees. The trouble is that the practicalities of what the industry fundamentally needs have not yet been written. So how can they learn, and the trees keep falling down.

The owner/customer. The patient who needs good practical,

cost-effective help and advice.

The architect. The qualified golf course architect. Most architects presume that they know; they presume that their brief is to create. Wrong, very wrong. Theirs is not to alter our beautiful countryside. We have more than enough championship golf course blots on the landscape, half finished poor ideas – most like battlefields. We need membership courses and pay as you play courses, to be enjoyed by the majority with greens, tees and fairways that blend into the landscape. More trees should be planted for the next generation and golf courses should be virtually hidden, evolved from the landscape, not made.

Contractors. The reputable contractors know what to do, but they are supplied with a hotchpotch of information; a specification, part architect, part suppliers, part agronomist, all thinking that compatibility is something between them and their neighbours' wives. No thought is given to soils, sands etc which may or may not grow good grass. Most contractors know that with earth moving it's not what you do, but how you do it, and when. I have seen no specification mention that the operation depending on the soil moisture content etc.

Woe betide the contractor who says we must stop now because of poor ground conditions. No! Time is of the essence; it's too costly to stop. Earth moving – oh what a bore! Strip, stockpile, store and hope to God that when it comes

out it will be better than when it went in. No chance! Deprived of air, organic matter ignored, compacted beyond all recognition, it is often rolled into submission.

Soil for stockpiles should be prepared, (whoever heard of such an exercise?), have additives included and be resuscitated when it is replaced. There are ways to do this cost-effectively. Soil treated this way will make good fairways etc.

Now we come to the subject of worldwide debate.

Greens. Our friends the agronomists now come into full bloom, waxing lyrical but again nearly all completely ignoring compatibility. Their pet theories abound; like a party political broadcast, fact is submerged by theory. Percentages of sand/soil mixes vary like the daily rainfall forecasts. There is no thought that little grows easily in sand or that sand is inherently unstable. That sand is the main ingredient for concrete is never allowed to linger. After so many years we really need to ask some fundamental questions about what we are trying to achieve.

We wish to grow grass to be abused, to tolerate strange conditions, and to function effectively. Where and how do we start?

Many take the easy road, proprietary topdress mixes or the like, which are basically a concoction of sands, silts and clays, or in the case of the pack leaders a mix of unstable sands, and pray.

We need three basic ingredients

in our structures:

- 1 Air (rarely mentioned, often totally ignored);
- 2 Moisture.
- 3 Nutrition and natural organic matter.

All three must be compatible, easy to maintain and improve annually. The structure must by definition be permeable and stabilised for heavy traffic.

It is now possible to produce high quality, free draining, mud-free, non-compactable, stabilised rootzones for each and every sport wishing to use natural grass intensively. I know, I have done this and am doing it cost-effectively. After two decades it still works.

Finally, our overworked and under-informed greenkeepers and groundsmen. Let education concentrate on the structures they have to work with. Everything else is of little import if the structures are inadequate.

It is now possible to restructure surface soils cost-effectively. Surface soil, for those still in doubt, is the area below the grass that varies from 150 mm (6in) to 300 mm (12in) in depth. That wonderful area produced by poor specifications; the area for thatch, black layer and various degrees of compaction.

Our ultimate aim is to ensure that this layer performs to its best ability and the starting point to achieve this aim is to set out the performance standards that we want to attain, not in isolation, but as a basis from which we can draw up our construction specifications.

Dixie Thompson,
Chester Moor, Co Durham

South Turf was excellent, but...

What a show! I refer of course to South Turf. Can I congratulate the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association's South East section on an excellent exhibition.

Gem Professional had a wonderful show and met many new customers. David Wood and the team were exceptionally helpful and the weather they provided was second to none. I hope this is to become an annual event and ensure you of our support in the future. Sadly I have two complaints, neither aimed at BIGGA, that I feel are worthy of mention.

Firstly, I would question the quality of Southern pork pies (negotiations are under way to obtain licence to provide Lancashire pies next year) and, secondly, I must protest at Ron Jobson's inhospitable approach when asked for the loan of his hat during the heat of the afternoon! (Who said this was a friendly industry?)

In conclusion my thanks again to the BIGGA and in particular David Wood and his team for an excellent, well run exhibition.

AW Hardie, sales manager,
Gem Professional,
Oswaldtwistle

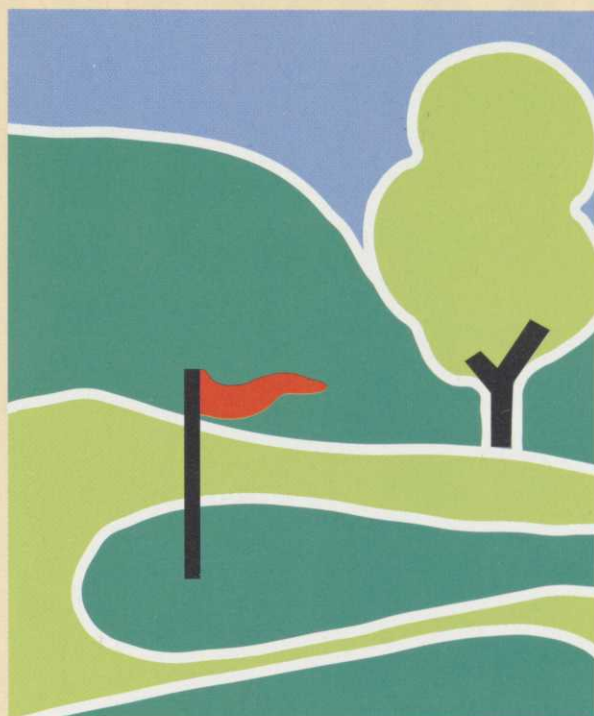
Message for all

A word of warning to fellow greenkeepers: if ever you are tempted to leave off any safety equipment – it may be uncomfortable on a hot day, for example – my advice is *don't!*

My safety boots saved me from losing my foot in an accident. Don't think the unexpected won't happen to you.

My thanks to Richard Whyman and all at Devon and Cornwall section for the basket of fruit sent to my hospital bed, the phone call from BIGGA HQ and the good wishes from everyone.

Peter Stringer,
Isle of Scilly Golf Club



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