

*Change may be the name of the game in the world of golf as new clubs, new schemes and new courses develop rapidly. But there's also a place for constancy. Malcolm Huntington paid a visit to one such organisation, Easingwold Golf Club in Yorkshire, where continuity is a driving influence...*

**T**here were some prestigious jobs going in last month's Greenkeeper International: Royal Birkdale, St Pierre, the London Golf Club...

But Jeff Waind, pictured right, head greenkeeper at Easingwold Golf Club near York, wouldn't swap his course for any of them. He loves his job. And he's been doing it for 25 years.

"We only come this way once, so it must be good to enjoy the job you do," said Jeff, when I talked to him in his comfortable room at the end of one of his workshops alongside the 18th fairway.

The rain poured down, the fairways were flooded and, like many places, the course was closed, so he had time to reminisce about his life at the club.

"If you enjoy your job, you stick to it. I have been very happy here and have no intention of applying for another post elsewhere.

"If they will have me, I want to be here for the rest of my working days. In any case, it would be too much of an upheaval.

"My wife Carol works in Easingwold and so does our daughter, Tina, so I can't imagine I could possibly be happier anywhere else," said the contented Waind, who was born in Thurnscoe, near Doncaster, 49 years ago, but has lived most of his life at Yearsley and Easingwold.

It is a far cry from early working days after he had left Easingwold School.

"I worked at Thornton Lodge Farm and then had a couple of years on the dustbins with North Yorkshire Council."

It was at that time that John Knowlson, who was Easingwold's chairman of greens at the time, asked him to work part-time with Charlie Tennant and George Banks.

"I liked it so much that when I was asked if I would take over the job full-time in 1968, I jumped at the chance.

"I was on my own when the club was only nine holes, but once they started building the new nine in 1973, they took on more staff and we now have four."

Waind has carefully overseen the growth of those nine holes, which had been laid out by golf course architects, Hawtree, and



## Here for life

watching them develop has been one of his greatest joys.

Are there any changes he would have made with the benefit of hindsight?

"No, I have to say that with the 96 acres of land to be used, the people who have been associated with the club over many years have made good use of it.

"The course drains very well because it's on sandy soil and we have never had any major problems, or any returfing to do over the years.

"We have a fair number of rabbits on the course and they do some damage, but we try to keep on top of them by one means or another..."

Naturally, he has seen a lot of changes over the years, the development of specialised machinery being one of the biggest. "We used to cut all our greens with a walk-behind 14" lawnmower, now we have Toro triples which cost a lot of money, but do a very good job.

"We also have water sprinklers on all greens and tees and also on one or two fairways.

"I would say this has been one

of the biggest time-savers. It's all a far cry from the days when we used to come down in the middle of the night to move the hosepipe. Now the water is all metered in any case."

Like most dedicated greenkeepers, he often works longer than the 39 hours prescribed, but he has no complaints about that.

"If you have a job to do, you just get on with it."

Jeff's favourite hole on the 6,285-yard course is the 13th, a 171-yard par 3 across a lake to an elevated green.

So does he ever fancy actually playing golf on the course he has carefully tended over 25 years?

"Not really. I spend a lot of time at the club, so you could say my wife is a golf widow of another kind. I don't think I could spend all night and all day here," he laughed. "But I have been known to hit a few balls down the practice ground near the 18th, although I haven't had time to do that for 18 months."

● Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ TWO OF THE BIG NAMES in turf and grass equipment, Iseki and Massey Ferguson, have agreed plans to co-operate in the British and Irish markets. This means MF's grass equipment division is now the exclusive distributor for Iseki products in the UK and Ireland.

The two companies have been working closely together for some time. They have a joint venture company in Australia, Massey Ferguson Iseki (Australia) Ltd, which was formed in 1992, and they have a collaborative agreement for the manufacture of tractors. MF builds and supplies high horsepower tractors in Iseki livery for the Japanese market and in return MF has access to compact and small horsepower tractors built by Iseki to MF specification, styling and colours.

■ GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT Martin Gillett wants to attract families with the complex he's designed at Longlands Golf Park, Sidcup, London. When the site is completed it will boast putting greens, mini golf, driving range, practice facilities and a nine-hole par 3 course. The driving range is a bit different in that it is fully contoured with target greens, bunkers and pond. The course also features water, bunkers and landscaping not normally associated with a par 3 course. Mr Gillett believes more facilities like this should be developed to allow access to the game at an affordable level.

■ Bucks-based Risboro Turf - Jacobsen UK's top dealer - has appointed Shaun Armstrong as sales manager for Herts, Beds and Middlesex.



■ COLLIER TURF CARE (Distributors) Ltd will be holding its annual open day/seminar at The Hotel, Norwich, on Thursday February 24. To get your ticket call Andrew Harding on 0603 870944.

■ FRASER GROWN LAWN Professional Ltd has opened new turf nurseries at Sealand, Chester. Tel: 0244 660901.