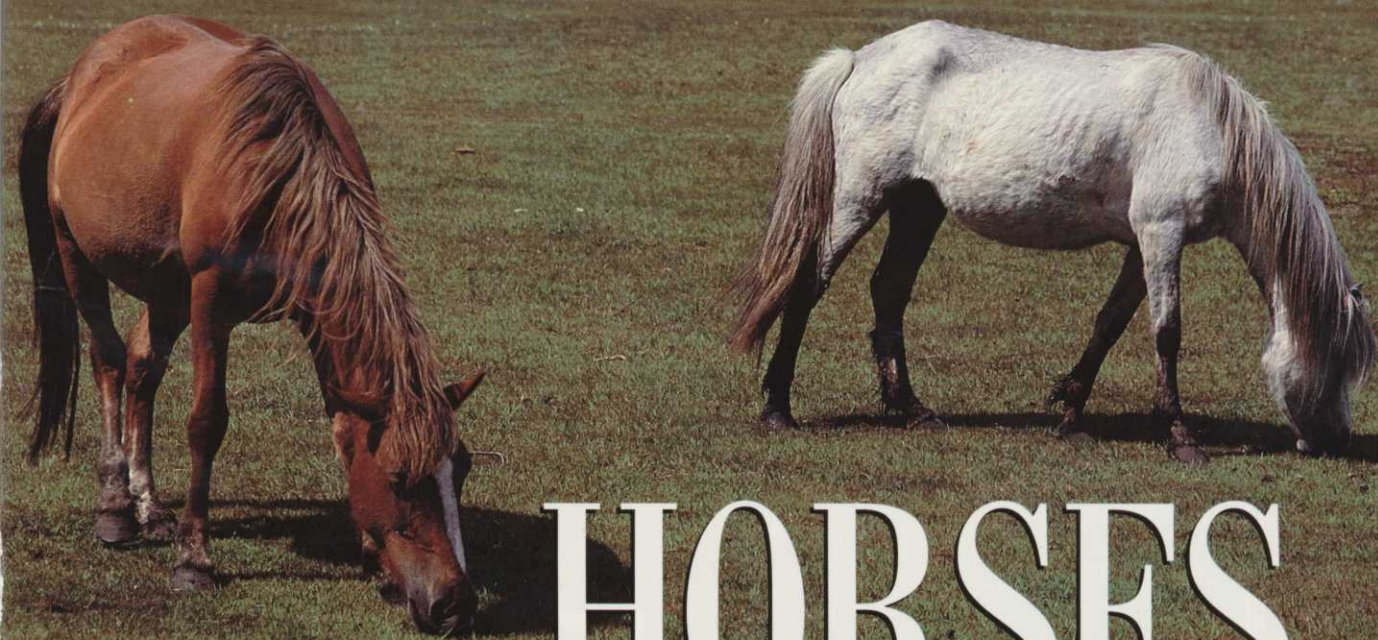


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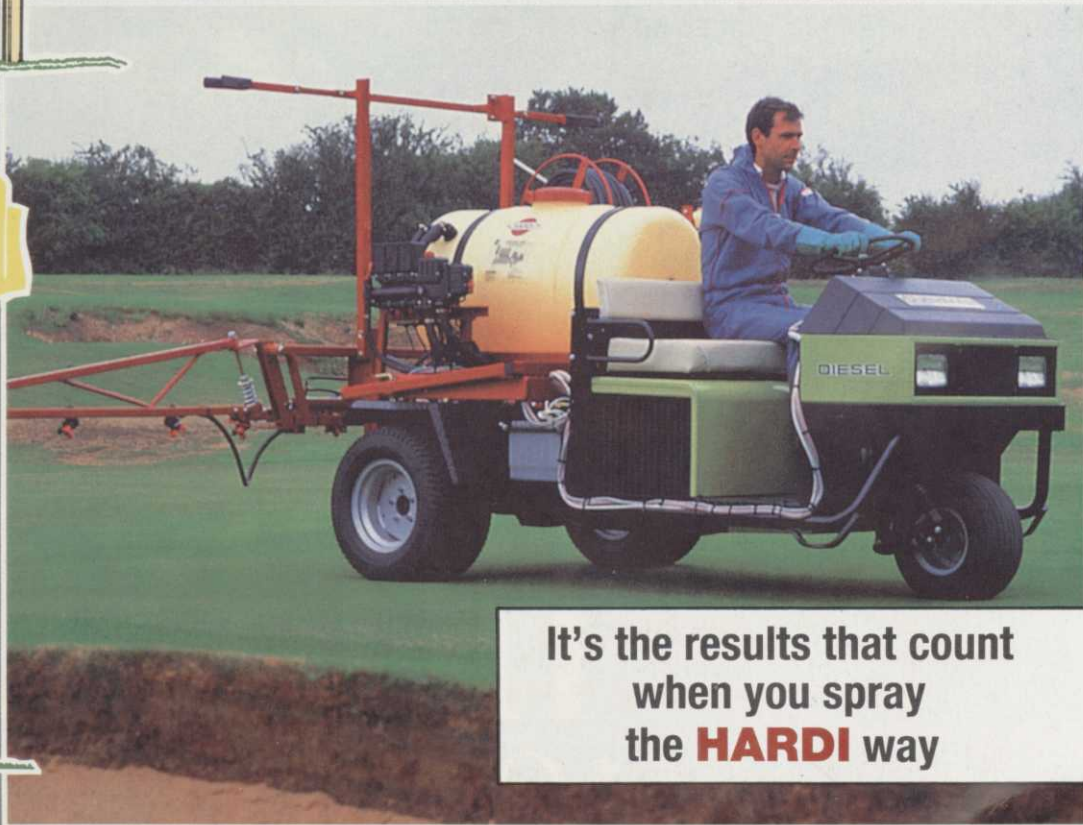


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is the official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Contact us at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £34 per year, Europe and Eire £44. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN 0961 - 6977

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JULY 1994

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

Spring time – or stress time?

It's early April and spring is in the air. The nights are drawing out and the dark days of winter are but a fading memory. A time of optimism when greenkeepers sally forth with a new spring in their heels. Or is it? For many greenkeepers it's stress time once again. No sooner is the month under way than greenkeepers are confronted with their first major problem best summarised as the 'Augusta Syndrome'. As the last images of the Augusta Masters tournament fade from our TV screens the knocking brigade come into action. Suddenly the golf course which was in fine condition for the time of year only the previous week is now perceived as far from that when compared with the idyllic conditions prevailing at the Masters. Little heed of course is paid to such mundane matters as climatic conditions, maintenance budgets or greenstaff numbers. Winter is over and the course should be in mint condition.

The Chairman of the Green Committee is called into action. Surely it is time the greenkeeping staff were sorted out. It is cold, it is wet and the grass is not growing – but the Course Manager protesteth too much and in vain. Conditions must improve and they must improve rapidly. Yes, it's stress time. Less the reader thinks that the writer exaggerates then yet again this year reports have reached the office of greenkeepers throwing in the towel. This article is not about protecting the lazy, incompetent greenkeeper but it is a plea for a greater understanding and for a move away from the traditional 'spring madness'.

No doubt many of the problems revolve around communication and consultation and lack of knowledge on the part of members. The regular changing of green committee personnel does not help. Are all these problems insurmountable? I think not. Much can be achieved if the golf club adopts a positive attitude to greenkeeper training. The Course Manager's technical skills will be complemented by managerial and communication skills and he should be encouraged to keep members informed on course maintenance matters. I heard recently that one Course Manager, who for some years has been running an annual seminar for members, is now setting up



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

workshops for 20-25 members at a time on a rolling programme basis. Certainly more and more Course Managers are benefiting from a regular dialogue with members and this is a move in the right direction and to be very much encouraged.

Where a negative situation exists in a golf club and there is a lack of communication, it is all too easy for the Course Manager to become isolated and inward-looking – both within the club and indeed from his local BIGGA section where, if approached, caring fellow greenkeepers would be available to advise and help in instances where an individual is facing particular problems. Within the club this would seem to be the time when a sympathetic employer should seek to help the Course Manager whether the problem be an agronomic or personal one. Before acting precipitately wouldn't it be better for the employer to consult

and perhaps, if necessary, seek advice or guidance from BIGGA as the professional body representing their Course Manager's interests. Greenkeepers do not generally seek confrontation. They ask quite simply for consultation, consideration and understanding in carrying out a difficult job to the best of their ability and under increasingly complex rules and regulations, let alone bad weather, inadequate capital and maintenance budgets and too few staff. They do not seek to stand above criticism or deny their own foibles. However, they surely have a right to expect the employer to protect them from the diatribes of those small groups of ill-informed members whose knowledge of golf course management is at best scanty and at worst non-existent. Yet how easily can such members produce a career-threatening situation for the greenkeeper.

As we move through May and June as peak playing months the pressure is really on and perhaps these two months more than any others will determine whether the Course Manager's services are terminated or indeed whether he decides that he has had enough. I would venture to suggest that such pressure and the resultant stress is in no-one's best interests. As a result Course Managers who are highly competent are lost to golf clubs and maybe to greenkeeping. The golf club then has to seek a replacement and there are no guarantees that the new Course Manager will perform bet-

ter than the departing one within the resources made available to him and prevailing attitudes within the club. Indeed it may not be too long before the scenario repeats itself. So it could well be that the club will reflect on the loss of a good man in the course of quietening a few over-excited members who really needed no other antidote than a few low-scoring rounds of golf before declaring the golf course to be in the best condition they could remember.

So now it is July and hopefully for the survivors 'spring madness' is over for another year. For those who haven't made it one can only hope that there are better days ahead. Before we go full circle once again is it too much to hope that a new spirit will prevail? Is it too much to ask that clubs provide the wherewithal for greenkeepers to receive training in areas of identified weakness? Is it too much to ask that green committees show greater understanding and put their faith in their most important employee, the golf course manager, rather than interfere in matters where their knowledge is at best limited? Finally, is it too much to ask that meetings and workshops for golf club members are established to enable the Course Manager to disseminate information on the golf course – its maintenance and management? In some instances the answer may be yes on all counts but hope springs eternal and I am optimistic that a wind of change is beginning to blow. The grounds for such optimism emanate from the tremendous upsurge in the education and training programmes made available to greenkeepers in recent years and the increasing recognition within the game for the well-qualified, experienced and technically competent individual. Such individuals will be consulted and find that their advice is heeded and their maintenance programmes are sanctioned and implemented. The golfer, much to his delight, will come to appreciate the well-maintained golf course on which he can aspire to perform great deeds. All then is not lost and there must be a concerted effort on the part of golf club and greenkeeper to ensure that, in the course of time, the bad old days of 'spring madness' will become but a fading memory.

Golfing triumph for Emma, ex-BIGGA girl with ambition

There was great excitement recently in the office with the news of Emma Duggleby's triumph in the Ladies' British Amateur Championship. Many of you will recall that it is only just over a year ago that 22 year old Emma relinquished her position with BIGGA in order to pursue her golfing ambitions. Talking with her at the time, Emma was in a real quandary whether to chance her arm in the quest for golfing glory or to pursue a career with BIGGA. In deciding on the former, she must surely have exceeded her

wildest ambitions when, just over a year later, she has succeeded in winning golf's most coveted ladies' amateur title. Emma was a popular, unassuming member of staff whom we were very sorry to lose. However, we keep in touch and will follow her career with interest in a future which we hope will bring Curtis Cup honours and who knows in the years ahead perhaps she will tread in the footsteps of Nancy Lopez and Laura Davies. We all join in sending our congratulations and best wishes for the future.

BTME '95 set to reach capacity with 81% of space already sold

With seven months to go, 81% of the stand space at next year's BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate has been sold.

Many of this year's exhibitors were so impressed with the event that they have taken much larger sites in '95. These companies include Lely UK, Ransomes, Hardi Sprayers, Sharpes International, Kings Horticulture and Sisis.

New exhibitors include the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which will help give the seventh BTME a more international flavour.

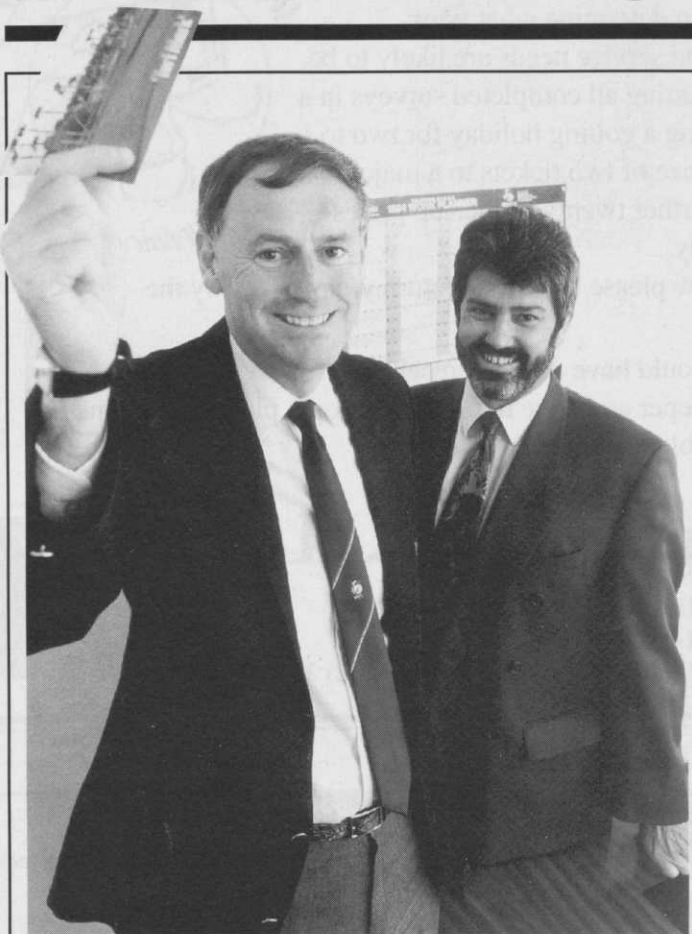
Bill Lynch, BIGGA's marketing manager, said: "The response has been overwhelming. More space had been taken and paid for by the end of May than we had sold by September last year. This, combined with the fact that we are restricting BTME to halls A, B and C to preserve the show's intimacy and the fact that we've lost a bit of space due to new fire regulations, means some manufacturers and distributors could be disappointed unless they book their space soon."

Britain's premier indoor turf management show will take place on January 25-27 in Harrogate's International Centre. For the first time, it will be preceded by BIGGA's National Education Conference rather than workshops. The highly-successful seminar programme will run as normal throughout the exhibition.

● Next issue, you could win an all-expenses paid trip to BTME – watch this space.

● Exhibition plan to date: Pages 42-43.

NEWS



Luck of the draw brings prize boost

A postcard from the edge of Effingham has saved the local golf course £1,000. Head greenkeeper Peter Broadbent was one of 2,000 UK and Irish greenkeepers sent a postcard from the USA to promote an improved formulation of ICI's Turf Mark. Greenkeepers were able to swap the card for a free sachet of the spray dye indicator, and the cards were entered into a draw for £1,000 worth of ICI Professional Products goodies. The draw was made at BIGGA's headquarters by executive director Neil Thomas, watched by ICI's Roger Mossop. The winner was Peter Broadbent of Effingham Golf Course.

David gets six of the best

David Eager, head greenkeeper at Northern Ireland's Blackwood Golf Course near Bangor has taken charge of six new Hayter machines – five Triple Greens Mowers (three complete with groomers and two with treaded front tyres and tees cutting heads) and a T44 fairway five-gang ride-on mower. "Being cut off from the mainstream of the UK trade has in the past restricted Northern Ireland greenkeepers to a limited choice of mowers," said David, "but I met Hayter at a number of trade shows and talked to their sales representative, Robin Boyes. He arranged a demonstration of their Greens Triple and T44. I liked what I saw..."

● David is pictured with greens assistant Jonathon Eager and David Johnston of Hayter dealer Cyril Johnston in Belfast.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ The Isles of Scilly's one and only greenkeeper, Peter Stringer, is off work at the moment thanking his lucky stars that he was wearing steel toe-capped boots. If he wasn't he could have lost his foot, according to doctors.

Peter, 64, was cutting the semi-rough at the nine-hole, 18 tees course. He stopped his old Massey Ferguson to move a seat, but as he was getting out the tractor began moving forward. Peter lost his balance and ended up under the tractor.

The gang mowers cut through the sole of one boot, badly gashing his foot and breaking two toes. "But if I hadn't been wearing my steel toe-capped boots, I'd have lost my foot," he said.

■ The Sports Turf Research Institute has promoted Stuart Ormondroyd to senior turfgrass agronomist.



Stuart joined the STRI in 1980 and has been specialising in golf since 1986, advising many courses in the north of England, Midlands and Ireland. He will continue with his existing duties (including lecturing) as well as assisting in the development and extension of the STRI's advisory service.

■ RPK Turfcare Supplies have appointed three new area reps. Former greenkeeper Peter Jordas will cover Surrey/Sussex, Harry Norman will handle Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire, and Jenny Waterfield will cover East Sussex and Kent. Tel: 0734 510251.

■ The British women's amateur champion is a former BIGGA employee. Emma Duggleby, 22, worked for the Association from September 1992 to March 1993 before quitting to try to 'make it' in the world of golf. Nobody, probably not even Emma, expected success to come quite so soon.

Just over a year after switching from greenkeeping to golfing matters, she beat 47-year-old Cecilia Mourgue D'Algue 3&1 in the final of the British Women's Championships at Newport.



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All head greenkeepers should have recently received a survey form. If you are a head greenkeeper and have not received yours please telephone OCMIS as soon as possible.

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Picking a winner for The Open

"I wish we could play The Open here tomorrow," said Turnberry's course manager, George Brown, when we phoned him just before we went to press.

Three weeks before the big day, he was very happy with the way the course was looking. After a very dry May, Ailsa had been blessed with enough rain during the early part of June to put a smile back on 55-year-old George's face. Although he has a fully-computerised irrigation system, he says: "You can't beat the real thing".

Are your greens going to be as fast as Oakmont, we teased him?

"Bloody hope not," was his typically honest response. He says he'll be aiming for a speed of 9.5-10. "If there's a strong wind you don't want it more than ten, otherwise they'll be there all day."

George, who backed Jose Maria Olazabal to win the US Masters this year and Ian Baker-Finch to win at Royal Birkdale in '91, reckons the conditions will suit US Open winner Ernie Els.

The rough isn't as dense as it was when The Open last visited Turnberry in 1986, and the fairways and semi roughs are more generous. "You don't have to be deadly accurate, so it will suit someone who hits it a long way but sprays it about a bit."

Greg Norman might also receive a flutter from four-handicapper George.

BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, favours Seve Ballesteros to add to his Benson and Hedges triumph at St Mellion while Greenkeeper International's editor, Chris Boiling, is backing Scotland's own Colin Montgomerie.



City of Ely Golf Club's Peter Reed won the Ufford Park Golf Day, sponsored by Sisis, RE Rushbrook & Son, Fisons, Rhone-Poulenc, and Lockwood Grass Machinery. Thirty-five greenkeepers and golf-playing groundsmen took part in the event. A raffle raised £60 for Save the Children.

Your chance to win award

Entry forms will soon be available for the Environmental Steward Award. Although this award is aimed mainly at US golf course superintendents, the organisers have told BIGGA "for the first time, we are considering entries from around the world". Awards created to recognise greenkeepers who care for and enhance their local environments are given in three categories: public, private and resort. Closing date for entries is October 31 and the forms are available from Ceres Communications, 421 W Travelers Trail, Brunsville, MN55337, USA. Tel: 0101 612 8942414. Fax: 0101 612 8942423.

Parker Hart acquired by Printsphere

Parker Hart has been acquired by the investment group Printsphere which also owns Rigby Taylor Ltd. But Printsphere's group chairman, Bernard Hedley, says: "We intend that Rigby Taylor and Parkers will continue to operate independently."

The new managing director of T Parker & Sons (Turf Management), which recently bought the business of Maxwell Hart, is Jon Ryan. Mr Ryan, who worked for Parkers for 15 years during the early stages of his career, told GI: "I am delighted to be working again with so many old friends and look forward to building on Parker's traditional strengths in the trade."

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Icelandic greenkeepers look towards Scotland



Hannes Porssteinsson and Carol Borthwick, at Elmwood College

That well-known land of golf, Iceland, is making progress on the greenkeeping front. They are setting up the Icelandic Golf Greenkeeping Association and a second Icelandic greenkeeper, Margeir Vilhjalmsson, has finished his year's course at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife. The first Icelandic greenkeeping student, Olafur Agustsson, is now working at Leynir Golf Club in the south-west of the country. It is one of 45 clubs affiliated to the Icelandic Golf Union, six of which have 18 holes.

A driving force behind greenkeeper improvements in the country is Hannes Porssteinsson, who played golf for Iceland as a junior and for the last seven years has been on the board of the IGU. His role during this period was to look after the junior section of the Union and he captained the junior golf team, which included Agustsson until he went to Elmwood.

Hannes became more interested in the greenkeeping

aspects of the sport when he spent some time working in England. It was then that his interest in importing grass seed to Iceland first emerged. Greens there have traditionally been allowed to develop from natural grasses, but about four years ago Hannes set up seeding experiments with imported mixes and during his trip to Elmwood he learned from Carol Borthwick, greenkeeping section head, explanations of the different grass mixes being tried out on the training ground.

During the visit Hannes pointed out that people imagine Iceland to be bare and rocky, but in fact it is a very green island and he is hopeful that some of the new mixes will mean that the Icelandic courses of the future are nearer to the quality of Scottish greens.

While he was visiting Elmwood, he finalised details of Carol's forthcoming trip to Iceland, where she will be guest of honour at the inauguration ceremony of the Icelandic Golf Greenkeeping Association.

America honours 'Masters'

During last January's BTME those members who had the opportunity of meeting Terry Buchen following his Master Greenkeeper award, will recall the pride he took in joining the august company of those now titled 'Master Greenkeeper'. Terry is based at the exclusive Double Eagle club in Galena, Ohio - a 7,100 yard design by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish which has only 102 members with just 35 of those being local members. Amongst the national members are Ray Floyd and Chi-Chi Rodriguez.

Writing from America, Terry has enclosed photocopies from eight magazine articles concerning his receiving the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in Harrogate. Amongst the magazines are such well known titles as 'Golf Digest' and 'Golf World' as well as the GCSAA's own 'Golf Course Management'. High-

lighted is the fact that only eight Master Greenkeeper awards have been earned worldwide. Terry says that he has received at least 50 telephone calls from his peers and some 75 cards and letters from other people within golf. He was recently honoured with a dinner and presentation.

I have been saying for some time that the award of Master Greenkeeper status is the ultimate pinnacle for a greenkeeper and accords the recipient the highest respect from his peer group and increasingly the game. The publicity given to the award in America is another major step forward in the worldwide recognition of BIGGA and we are indeed lucky to have three outstanding ambassadors in America in Terry, Bil Montague and Bob Maibusch - Master Greenkeepers all.

Neil Thomas

He may be the mayor of Chippenham but the greenkeeper at Monkton Park still can't insure his machinery for theft.

He's the head greenkeeper of a nine-hole par 3 course. He's the club pro. He's a gliding instructor. And now he's the town mayor.

Mel Dawson has more hats than Gertrude Shilling. One minute he's changing the oil in his one and only ride-on mower, the next he's off to Windsor Castle to see his local Berkshire Wiltshire Regiment amalgamate with the Gloucesters and pick up new colours from the Duke of Edinburgh.

Wearing so many hats is not a problem for this 40-year-old father of two. He and wife Barbie have been at the course for 20 years and are used to working all hours to get the job done.

"It just means getting up a bit earlier," explained BIGGA member Mel. "If you were working 9-5, five days a week you couldn't do it, but we have a farmer's mentality. So far today we've only got half the fairways and greens cut because it's raining. If it dries up later we'll be out at 7pm or so finishing off. If there's work to be done, whether it's a Sunday, bank holiday or nine o'clock in the evening, we go out and do it. Because we're used to working like this we can fit in other things."

As mayor he is also chairman of the council and has to attend at least one council meeting a week.

As mayor he is also the first citizen of Chippenham so he has to open everything from a hockey club to a job centre to a school's fete. "It's good because you meet people who work hard in Chippenham who you'd never met before," he says. As a gliding instructor he spends most Sundays at the local club, where he has been flying for 20 years. His father was also a glider pilot and all four of his brothers are involved with aviation in some way.

As a greenkeeper, he has been looking after Monkton Park – which he promotes as 'The South West's Best Par 3 Course' – for 20 years and has been a member of BIGGA for four years. Last November he took on a YTS lad, 17-year-old Robert Jenkins (also a BIGGA member), to help him maintain the course and repair clubs. Barbie also does her fair share on the course. "I had a council meeting at 3 o'clock yesterday, so she was out there shovelling sand out of the trailer because we've got nowhere to store it," Mel told us.

But Barbie is mainly responsible for the snack bar and golf shop, and employs some casual labour to help her during the hectic, long summer days. Their 15 and 17-year-old daughters also lend a hand.

Satisfaction

Of all his duties, jobs and functions, it's green-keeping that gives Mel the most satisfaction.

"It's the thing I take the most pride in. Any greenkeeper likes his golfers to come up to him and say, 'The greens are looking nice today,' or 'The fairways are looking nice today'. It might only be 10 acres and a small golf course, but it's still nice when members come up and pay us a compliment.

"We do take a lot of pride in it, and because we take a lot of pride in it it's easier for me to get behind the counter and take £3 per round off people. If it's rained for four days and I haven't been able to do anything with it, I feel



Mower and mayor

guilty when people come to the shop to pay me money."

As you will have gathered by now, Mel is not a normal greenkeeper and Monkton Park is not a typical par 3 course. Set in 10 acres leased from the local council, it is kept to a very high standard considering the wear and tear it receives (including divots in the greens). There are 16 (a 17th is on its way) bunkers and holes which range in length from the 90-yard 9th to the 178-yard 5th. So experienced players – there are 50 club members – will have to use most irons in their bags. And it's not easy because most of the greens are small. The largest one is the 500sq yd double 8th/9th green. The total size of all the greens is about 2,500 sq yds – easily covered with four bags of fertiliser.

The fertiliser and the topdressing has to be brought onto the course by a Land Rover and two-ton trailer because it's in the middle of a public park and access is limited. Mel says he would like to topdress more often but because he has to have it bagged, it is too expensive. There is also the problem of how to apply it as most of the modern topdressing machinery is big and expensive.

The course, which is open 364 days of the year, 9am til dusk, used to be 14 holes all about 100 yards. Now the most obvious tees are still about 100 yards from the greens but there are also back mats on four holes for more experienced golfers, many of whom are also members of local 18-hole courses.

Mel and Barbie bought the business from Mel's boss, Frank Hill, a former touring pro, never dreaming they'd still be there 20 years and two children later.

Mel doesn't play much but holds the course record – 24. When he's played full-size courses he usually shoots in the mid-80s. "When I give up the gliding and council work I'm going to

work hard on my golf and get down to single figures," says the Mayor of Chippenham who got into politics through his father-in-law. When he married in '75, Barbie's father was the mayor. Later on, Mel was asked to get involved because of his contacts. He's been on the council for seven years and was deputy mayor last year.

But, even though he is mayor, he can't get his machinery insured for theft. This is because it is housed in a "remote" 25x10ft shed in the middle of the park and Mel put in a £3,000 claim last year (only his second in 20 years) when his Ransomes Auto-cert, chainsaw, strimmer and other equipment was stolen and his Sisis spiker was thrown in the nearby river (presumably because it was too heavy and the wheels had been removed).

Mel is trying to find a way round it, but at the moment he is taking much of the lighter equipment home with him. Taking on Robert may help because now it means that Mel and his landlords, the council, will have to meet health and safety standards, and that could mean a better, more secure shed.

"We've got decent machinery so we can get the golf course done quickly," says Mel, who wants to hang onto it. "We like to have the course look nice and play nice."

Just like any other normal greenkeeper.

MONKTON PARK EQUIPMENT

1 Sabo Kontinent 1200-3D, 1 Kubota G1700 ride-on mower, which doubles up as a utility vehicle, 1 Ransomes Super-cert greens mower, 1 Sisis Autoturfman spiker, which they use about once a month, 1 Echo strimmer, 1 Echo chainsaw, 1 Opitech Sprayer, 1 Cyclone fertiliser spreader, 1 old Amazone leaf sweeper, 1 Massey-Ferguson 135 tractor with gang mowers, 1 Land Rover with 2.5 tonne trailer. Irrigation is via two standpipes and 100m of hose.



Preparing for a major championship



The Bell's Scottish Open is only a four-day event, but the staff at Gleneagles have been preparing for it for 13 years.

Preparations began as soon as Gleneagles became a private company in 1981. Six years later it staged its first championship; now the greenkeepers at the five-star resort – all 34 of them – are set for their eighth event, with many top pros treating it as a warm-up to the Open Championship.

The Bell's Scottish Open at Gleneagles' 80-year-old King's Course has become part of the annual routine for the greenkeepers

there, but it has taken a great deal of effort to get to the stage where everything appears to run smoothly.

When Gleneagles became a private company the first thing they did was refurbish the hotel and invest in a new country club facility. Current owners Guinness have added other sports facilities (such as the Jackie Stewart Shooting School and an equestrian centre), and new maintenance facilities.

Jimmy Kidd, Scott Fenwick and Chris Boiling explain how the staff at Gleneagles stop the Bell's from taking its toll on the King's Course.

As well as transforming the workshops, they also transformed the greenkeeping management structure "to ensure a top quality golf product year round".

Each of the courses (four then but the new Jack Nicklaus-designed Monarch's replaced two of them) was given a head greenkeeper, deputy head greenkeeper, other greenkeepers and apprentices. The King's Course has eight full-time and three seasonal staff,

there are eight greenkeepers on the Queen's and 15 on the Monarch's. Each course has its own machinery and maintenance facility with mess room.

"This new structure immediately created a sense of responsibility and identity amongst the estates staff plus some very healthy competition between the staff and their charges," says Jimmy Kidd, the director of turf-grass management at Gleneagles Golf Developments.

While the new clubhouse, offices, golf shop and computerised golf reservations facilities

Preparing for a major championship

were being built, the King's Course was undergoing some fairly critical assessment to review strategy, playability, crowd movement, television cabling, tented village services, car parking etc.

An estates survey was commissioned and a grand plan with proposals and costings was presented to the managing director for approval. What they were looking for was: crowd comfort, good first and lasting impressions of the event, services such as TV and septic tanks to be hidden, first class car parking with shuttle service to the golf course ("as first impressions are of utmost importance"), and quality catering.

"All of these items are simpler to action and calculate for if you are designing a course today with championships in mind – not, as in our case, the first championship for 20 years and never before with an anticipated 50-60,000 spectators in year one, growing upwards to 115,000 as we're expecting this year," said Mr Kidd, who has been in greenkeeping for 34 years, 11 of which have been at Gleneagles.

Critical assessment of the James Braid-designed course revealed a weakness in length and strategy. Basically, it was an attractive resort course suited to the moderate player and local championships, not world-class events. So 12 new tees were built during the winters of 1983/84, lengthening the course from 6450 yards to almost 6900 yards. The strategy of the course was developed by improved teeing ground placement, taking into account Braid's bunkers which had been taken out of play over the years by the improvements to golfing equipment and maintenance practices.

A conscious decision was taken at this stage also to restore the King's Course bunkers to the original Braid concept: no large wastelands of sand but beautifully contoured grass faces 'gathering' the ball. "The genius of Braid was made apparent to greenstaff at our communications meetings whilst discussing the restoration – not one ounce of wind blown sand from his bunkers on our exposed location was apparent after 70 years of play and maintenance. The grassy swales created in front of them always took account of the prevailing winds," Mr Kidd points out.

Works proceeded on the greens, too, to get them up to European Tour event standard – fast, firm and true whilst holding a well struck shot. This proved difficult to achieve at first in 1983 because years of low investment, poor equipment and a lack of management structure plus over-utilisation of the course had seriously diminished the quality of the holes.

Modern equipment in the form of aerators was brought in to break down the layers of thatch, some of which were 3ins thick and affecting playability – especially during periods of inclement weather. A verti-drain unit with 8in hollow core and 12in x 3/4in and 1/2in solid tines with applied surface 'heave' or 'no heave' was constantly used to introduce air to the rootzone. Greens surfaces

By 1985 the course had been turned around and Gleneagles was ready to stage its first European Tour event, but the bid faltered at contract signing stage. "This was due to a variety of circumstances," explains Mr Kidd, "Not least of which was a poor slot in the ETPD calendar. The late September date was totally unacceptable to a resort golf course in Perthshire where optimum growing conditions only occur four months of the year – June, July, August and September. A major championship in late September/October would certainly not allow any recovery from crowd damage before the next spring."

With a slot for the Bell's Scottish Open established one week prior to the Open Championship, the King's Course, which had

maintenance route and during championship week for service and TV vehicles and as a walkway for spectators. But no-one wanted it to ruin the aesthetic appeal of the course. As it is, the roadway is difficult to see from the playing areas.

During the construction of this roadway, ancillary services such as water, sewage and television requirements were installed. The area designated as the tented village site was surveyed and a grid survey produced from which all future works could be planned. The most important first stage to any tented village facility is the provision of services: water, electrics, telephone and sewers. A set of services to suit all types of village layouts was installed, and these would allow simple connections during assembly of the tentage and hospitality units. Two 36,000 ltr underground tanks were also installed.

All car park gateways were widened to accommodate the PGA's recommended principle of two cars in, one out. Boundary fences were renewed and repaired for security and to maximise gate receipts.

The Gleneagles Hotel's own gardens department, which grows 40,000 plants in a 36,000 sq ft glasshouse, was instructed to prepare the floral decor of the tented village.

Once the first competition had come and gone successfully, all the departments settled into a routine, with the greenkeepers keeping their fingers crossed each winter and spring. With Gleneagles situated in a Scottish glen, there is a risk of prolonged snow falls with relatively high air and ground temperatures increasing the risk of snow moulds. "Preventative treatments of fungicide December to March are our only defence," says Jimmy Kidd, "But do not guarantee no incidence, resulting in poor spring conditions and little recovery prior to July at this altitude."

If there has been a favourable winter and comforting spring, preparations for the tournament commence with insecticide sprays for leatherjackets and a light dressing of organic nitrogen, applied to the greens during the 'false spring' in late March, to bring the grasses out of dormancy and protect what they have until

After the tournament

Within 48 hours of the championship, things are back to normal with guests, members and hotel residents carving up the course once more.

After the tournament, the greens are left for a week and may get an application of liquid feed "to kick them back in" according to head greenkeeper Scott Fenwick. They will be

overseeded in early August using a straight bent mix applied with a Sisis seeder. Then they will be topdressed and mowed at a higher height to protect the seeds. The fairways are overseeded using a fescue/bent mix.

After the tournament all the walkways are spiked, verti-drained and fertilised.

were topdressed during periods of active growth with sand dredged from the bed of the River Tay, which is similar to the sand found at St Andrews.

In conjunction with this operation, greens were droughted carefully to reduce the level of Poa annua at a controlled rate whilst encouraging the encroachment of bent and fescue into the putting sward.

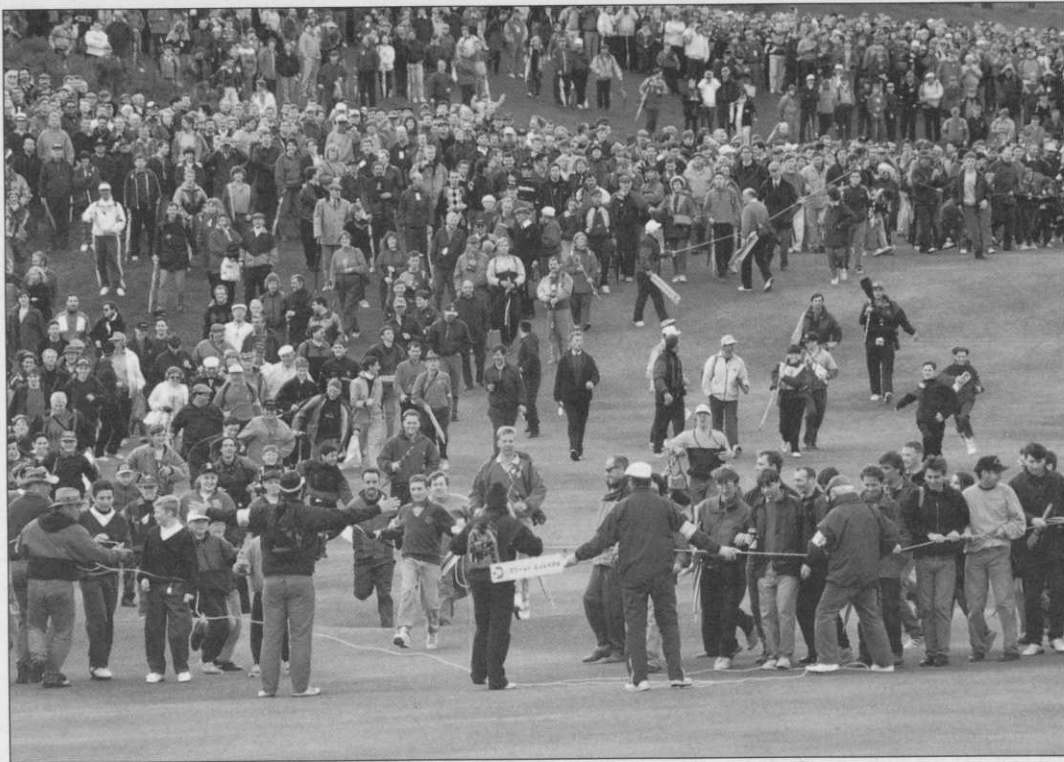
Regular use of wetting agents, to aid capillary water movement and avoid surface tension during this phase of the restoration was most important, as was the avoidance of an out-of-control situation, with the Poa kill accelerating beyond the pace of the desired species encroachment. Fertiliser applications, little and often, hardening off the growth to attain hard-wearing grasses. "Greenkeeping working in harmony with nature," as Mr Kidd calls it.

already been described as "the finest inland links course", was made more links like with a fairway restoration programme that incorporated similar topdressings as the greens – medium/fine Tay sand.

Some 1,200 tons of sand were applied during the summers of '86 and '87.

Cutting regimes were directed and controlled by the use of hole-by-hole charts and on-the-ground contour lining to accentuate the topography of the course and improve the strategy. Each green was to be enfringed by "fat" grass incorporating greenside bunkers, each green approach was to be of a quality equal to the putting surfaces.

During the winter of '86/'87, an integral roadway system through the championship course was designed, costed and constructed. It was to be used year-round as a



real growth occurs, generally mid to late May.

No greens topdressing will take place until ground temperatures rise and there are some indications of natural growth. Once the ground temperature reaches approximately 42 degrees and some real bent grass growth occurs naturally, a consistent and regular topdressing programme is initiated to within three weeks or less of the actual event, coupled with a light verti-cutting programme every 7-10 days. Scott Fenwick, the course's head greenkeeper, says the greens receive about eight topdressings – "fortnightly depending on the weather" – starting in April and using five parts sand, one part peat. All greens approaches receive similar treatment to the greens. Generally, the greens are hollow-cored in September, verti-drained in November and spiked from February onwards.

Fairways will be verti-cut and topdressed regularly, too. Peat is added to the high ridges.

One application of a slow release granular fertiliser at the start of the season is backed up with an early summer dressing of organic nitrogen applied six to eight weeks prior to the event and, thereafter, they use an organic nitrogen liquid feed coupled with a wetting agent and trace elements.

The height of cut on all areas will be gradually reduced. The greens, for example, will come down from 5/16th over the winter to 1/4in, to 3/16 to 5/32 then down to 1/8in. The greens are cut as required over the winter, maybe once a month. Once

growth starts they are cut twice a week. From about the end of April it is stepped up to three or four times a week, and during the summer it is daily. During the event they will be cut two or three times a day, depending on the speed. Greens like the 1st with severe slopes will miss a cut if they are too fast. "The idea is to get them all the same speed," says Scott. Speeds are monitored weekly from May onwards, and daily with a fortnight to go.

The tees come down from 5/16th to 1/4in, with the cutting stepped up during the growing season from three times a week to daily the week before and during the tournament. Fairways come down from 1/2in in winter to 3/8in in the summer. In the winter they're cut every 4-6 weeks. Once there is some growth they are cut weekly, then 2-3 times a week and from ten days out they are cut daily with a Jacobsen LF100. Divots are filled all season but the programme is increased from weekly to daily as the tournament nears. The green approaches are slightly shorter than the fairways at 3/16ths.

The rough is never cut and the semi rough varies from 1 1/4 to 2ins.

Seed head suppression of the *Poa annua* percentage within the sward is the greenstaffs' main concern prior to the event. They achieve this by limiting the pressure applied to the plant – as the height of cut is lowered, droughting is effected and nitrogen levels drop. A pre-tournament 'cocktail' liquid feed comprising 20 ltrs liquid Alginure, 10 ltrs Farmura Green and 5 ltrs Aqua-Gro mixed

in 250 ltrs of water per acre is prepared and sprayed, both to reduce seed head production and discourage dew on greens, tees and fairways.

The minimum amount of water is used, with the irrigation carefully monitored and any dry spots on the severely undulating greens hand-watered. Wetting agents are used monthly during the growing season.

As the competition approaches, the whole course is put under a microscope for prospective 'ground under repair' areas – the aim being not to use any white paint.

The bunkers are not only trimmed and re-sanded as required, but also 'pro-tested' which, in 1987, resulted in 22 greenkeepers working around the clock to take sand out of 110 bunkers. Now they aim for depths of 4ins of sand in the base and 2in up the faces.

The spectator crossing points and paths, which are regular verti-drained, deweeded, sprayed and edged during the season, are given a freshen up.

A month prior to the championship, play on the King's Course is cut back to about 60 per cent and totally banned between the hours of 3 and 6pm. In the evenings it is restricted to members and hotel residents only. The course closes completely for two days only prior to the first practice round.

During the competition the King's Course greenkeepers are backed up by the staff from the Queen's and Monarch's courses. The staff arrive on site at 4.15 for a 4.30am start and work until about 8am. After play they come

back at 5 or 6pm and work till 10 or 10.30pm. Greens are prepared by pedestrian mowers – Ransomes Auto-certex with brush attachments – each evening following play and each morning. Green approaches are done every morning, tees and fairways each evening using lightweight ride-on units and Triplex tee mowers.

All tee and fairway divots are filled with seed and sand mix each evening after cutting, to avoid smear.

"It can be a lot of hassle leading up to it but when it's all done it's all worth it. When you see what you've produced on the TV, it's quite satisfying," says Scott, who is preparing for his fourth Bell's Scottish Open.

If you want to know, look in the Bell's Bible

■ All the information relating to the competition and its aftermath is kept in a "Bell's Bible", formed by Jimmy Kidd given to all the key personnel at Gleneagles, including golf course superintendent Ross Monaghan and Scott Fenwick. The folder is divided into 31 sections, with separate sections for all the information relating to, for example, King's Course preparations, practice area preparation, wet weather systems and contacts, key contacts, floral decor, and tented village/build schedule/breakdown schedule. Everything seems to be in it, including details of tickets and pricing because golfers are just as likely to ask greenstaff how they can get a ticket and how much it will cost.

The King's Course preparation section includes a 'general tasks checklist' which includes appraising stairways, pathways, septic tanks, course furniture, spectator walkways, tees netting, bog mire, hole cups and TV compound, ordering what's necessary and putting dates down for when the work started and was completed. It also acts as a reminder to raise maintenance orders for the bridges, shelters and tee fences.

When you're holding a major event each year, it's easier to build up this information and these checklists. But it means nothing is overlooked or left to chance. And it means that the Bell's doesn't take its toll on the course or staff.

Investing in your future

This month's article continues on the theme of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), looking more closely at their effects on greenkeeper training and gives more details on the autumn's supervisory and management courses.

Industry Lead Body

When the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) established the framework for N/SVQs, the number of Industry Lead Bodies was limited to those industries with more than 20,000 workers, whilst those industries with less than 20,000 workers were grouped together with related industries. Hence, the ILB for Greenkeeping is the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture.

The Greenkeepers Training Manual

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) has produced a training manual which lists all the essential skills and knowledge

required by all golf greenkeepers, from apprentices to course managers, and provides a means of recording training and assessment. Hence, evidence can be collected for presentation to an approved assessor towards the award of Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 N/SVQs.

Levels of N/SVQ

The Level 1 N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture requires competence in a range of broad based horticultural skills. This level is not thought suitable for golf greenkeepers and there is no equivalent section in the training manual.

At Level 2, successful completion of a set number of tasks will lead to the award of an N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping Option). In addition, completion of a series of extra tasks will lead to the award of the GTC Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping. This level is appropriate to assistant greenkeepers.

Similarly, completion of a specified set of level 3 units leads to the award of an N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) and the GTC Certificate

in Golf Course Supervision. This level is appropriate to aspiring golf course managers and current head greenkeepers.

Completion of a specified set of level 4 units leads to the award of an N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Managing Landscape Construction and Maintenance) and the GTC Certificate in Golf Course Management. This level is for aspiring estate managers.

Accredited Prior Learning

All training, including college courses, 'on the job' training, regional and section seminars, BIGGA in-house courses, National Education Conference, BTME seminars, the Master Greenkeeper Certificate and experience ie prior learning, can all count towards the award of an N/SVQ. Approved assessors consider evidence submitted in a portfolio ie. a collection of relevant material, and decide if sufficient evidence has been presented to grant a full N/SVQ or a number of N/SVQ units. Further training, at college, at work or at any other approved centre can then provide the skills and knowledge necessary to complete a particular qualification.

Assessment

Assessment will be conducted by 'approved' assessors at 'approved' assessment centres. Initially, only colleges will be used as assessment centres. However, during 1994, the GTC will be approving a number of leading golf courses to become assessment centres. Assessment centres will have trained assessors, who may be greenkeeping tutors or leading greenkeepers. It is envisaged that Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers will be used to assist candidates to 'gather evidence' for presentation to an assessor, using the training manual as a guide.

Why N/SVQs

N/SVQs are nationally recognised. They tell an employer what you can do not just what you know and lead to the award of a certificate by City and Guilds in England, Wales and Ireland and by SCOTVEC in Scotland. N/SVQs can be entered at any stage with credit being given for previous training and experience. Better trained greenkeepers means better golf courses.

Supervisory and Management Courses

Following the publication of the timetable for the 1994 Supervi-

sory and Management Courses, concern has been shown by some members that the new courses do not take account of knowledge gained on previously attended management courses. Moreover, some members are finding it difficult to decide which week or weeks to attend. In general, the following information should help members to choose the correct week, but some members may need to contact me for individual advice.

- Year 1 of the old management courses contained little information that can be related to the new N/SVQ based supervisory and management courses. Therefore, those members who have completed none or only 1 week of the old style courses should attend all 4 weeks of the new courses to gain all the underpinning knowledge requirement for a level 3 NVQ. Courses can be attended over 1 to 4 years and do not have to be attended in sequence ie delegates could attend week 1 followed by week 4, then week 2 and finally week 3 or any other sequence unless all weeks were attended in 1 year.

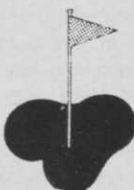
- Year 2 of the old management courses contained many elements that relate to the new 'Managing People' modules. Therefore, members who have completed years 1 and 2 of the old courses would be advised to complete weeks 3 and 4 of the new courses.

- Year 3 of the old courses contained many elements that relate to weeks 1 and 2 of the new courses and some limited coverage of weeks 3 and 4. Therefore, members who have completed years 1, 2 and 3 of the old courses would be advised to attend weeks 3 and/or 4 of the new. Members may need to discuss their individual needs with me.

Members who have completed all four years of the old courses may need some training to complete the underpinning knowledge requirements of an N/SVQ level 3 and those members may need to discuss their individual needs with me.

Each week of the new courses will have time set aside to discuss individual needs on collecting and presenting evidence to an approved assessor.

Ken Richardson, education officer



IRISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

SECOND TURF MAINTENANCE EXHIBITION

Last November, nearly 800 people – greenkeepers, golf club committee members, course managers, course designers, county council and corporation parks superintendents, developers, sports groundmen, students, etc. – attended the first ever **Irish Turf Maintenance Exhibition.**

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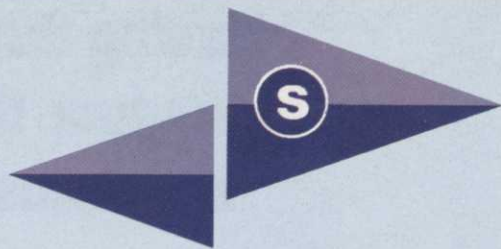
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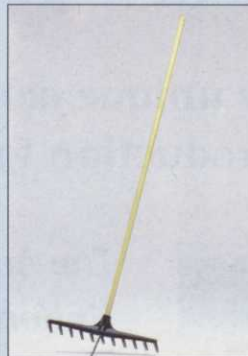
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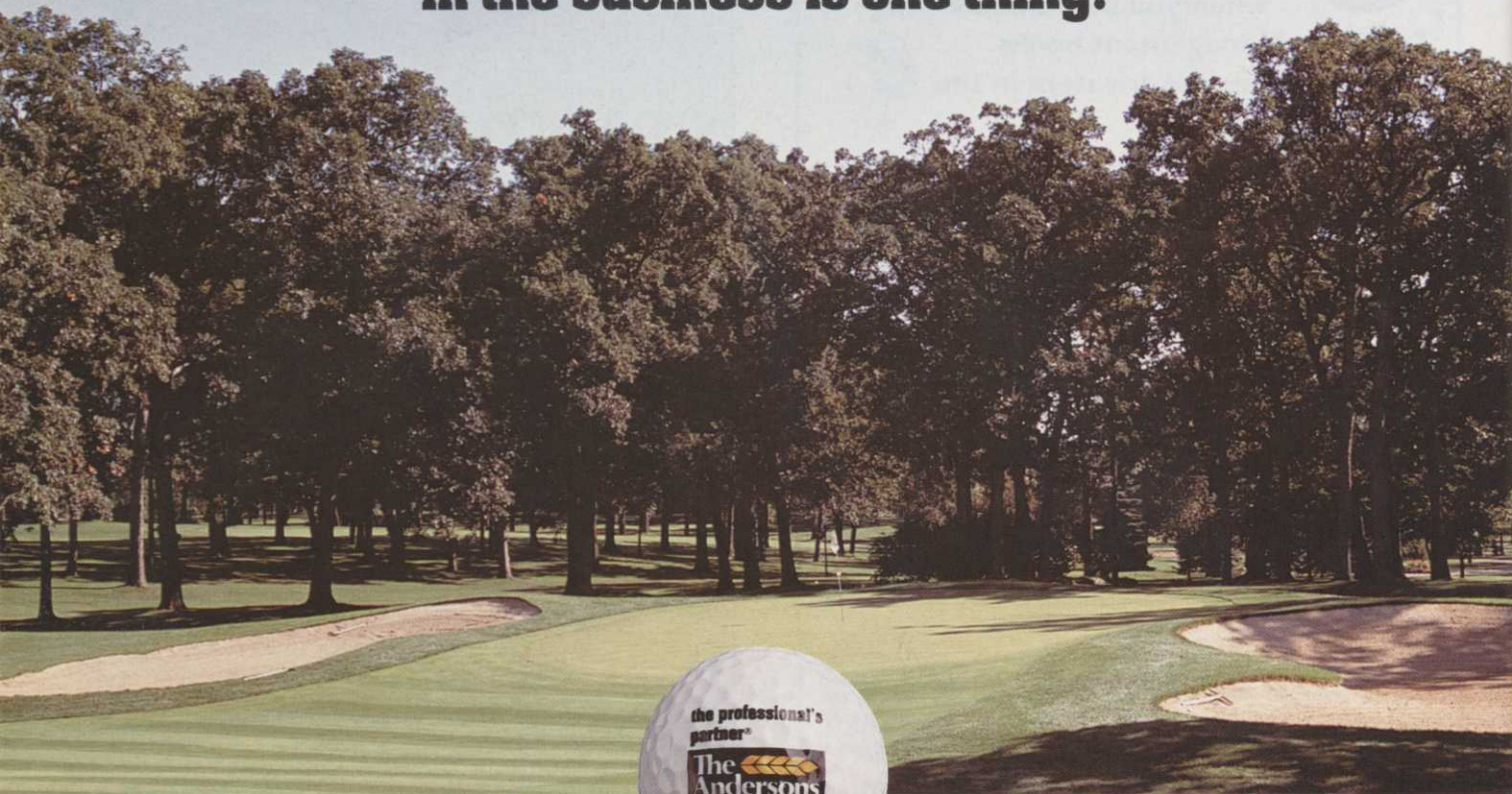
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Enthusiasm can be measured by the queues at new golf course

Ten days after the opening of the driving range at Rudding Park, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, golfers were queueing up to use the facilities. Managing director Mark Mackaness hopes the golf course will meet with similar enthusiasm when it opens next June.

Designed by Martin Hawtree and constructed by John Greasley Ltd, the 18-hole 6,786-yard course is set in a mature, walled parkland estate.

Rudding Estate was bought by Mark's father, John, in 1972 and the house was turned into a prestigious banqueting and conference facility. Also on the estate is a caravan and holiday cottage park.

Work began on the golf course in June 1993. By September most of the construction had been done and all the greens, tees and the six holes outside the walled estate had been seeded. The fairways and roughs inside the walls already had suitable grasses on them.

A year on, the course is shaping



up nicely. John Greasley has handed over much of the maintenance and growing in to head greenkeeper Richard Hollingworth and his three assistants. Richard, 23, is the son of Graham Hollingworth, the head greenkeeper at Horsforth Golf Club, Leeds. Richard began his greenkeeping career at Moortown, Leeds, where he stayed for five years before joining Yorkshire Mowers as a rep. Six months later

he was back in greenkeeping with a short stint at Outlane GC, Huddersfield, before getting his first head greenkeeper position.

When we met him on the course he was standing near an overgrown cemetery which he will also have to tend. Fortunately the chapel in Rudding House hasn't been used for anything other than weddings for 40 years.

Lovers of statistics will want to know that 120 acres of the 200-

acre golf course site were seeded, 9,500 trees were planted, 400 trees were transplanted using a tree spade, 7-8,000 hedge plants were planted, and 20,000m of drainage pipes were laid. They have also planted thousands of aquatic plants in the three lakes and put up 100 nest boxes.

The greens are built to USGA spec and have been sown with 80% Freda, 10% Sabovil and 10% Highland.

John Greasley Ltd moved 60-70,000 cubic metres of soil during the construction, which isn't a lot by modern standards.

The most fascinating fact, we think, is that there are only seven bunkers and four of them are on the tree-lined 14th. This is because planners don't want the estate to look like a golf course - which is why they have stipulated that the rough can't be longer than 7.5cm.

This will make it a relatively easy - and enjoyable - course for the mid to high handicappers they are likely to attract to this "quality pay and play".

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King's Course, Gleneagles

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WORKING WITH
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'Golf' and 'the environment' – words that are increasingly being linked.

With the Anti-Golf Group gaining worldwide publicity for its demonstrations in the Far East and now recruiting members in the UK, it's an issue that all courses need to tackle. In this special feature we look at three courses to see what they're doing and why.

LINLITHGOW GC

David Roy, course manager at Linlithgow Golf Club, West Lothian, explains how and why he got involved in golf course conservation, and how you can allay your club's fear of environmentalists.

My involvement with golf course conservation started in June 1992 when I responded on behalf of the club to an offer of a free species study to be carried out on the course. This study was part of a local initiative and the work was duly carried out by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and paid for jointly by UK2000 and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

It was during the species study that I found out that my knowledge of what was growing on the golf course was virtually non-existent. Merely walking round the course with the surveyors from the SWT I learned a great deal and I quickly became far more interested in finding out more about the local flora and fauna.

It was suggested at this point that this local initiative could be expanded into a national scheme promoting golf course conservation. This would take the form of each club in Scotland appointing a conservation officer to help the course manager draw up a wildlife management plan. The technical data necessary to produce a plan like this would come from the local Wildlife Trust or similar such body and once the plan was written it would be kept up-to-date and possibly modified by both the conservation officer and the course manager.

The honorary conservation officer at Linlithgow Golf Club at that time was George Anderson who I approached because he was already a member of the SWT. George worked very hard and collected a good proportion of the information required to draw up our management plan.

Unfortunately George retired to Southport but we were again fortunate in finding Crawford Smith who, like George, is a SWT member as well as being a member of the golf club. So with the combined efforts of Gill Smart from the SWT, George Anderson and Karen Morrison of SNH, we have created a conservation management policy for Linlithgow Golf Club which, if carried out correctly, will serve the club for many years to come.

It is interesting to note that the SWT have gained from the experience of working closely with a golf club and some long-held preconceptions have been broken down. It was common, for example, for environmentalists to suppose that golf courses used fertilisers and chemicals in the same manner and quantity as intensive agriculture.

I have now been involved with conservation for a little over a year and this time has just been enough for me to become acquainted with the necessary expressions that are commonly used by environmental bodies. For example, a species has various forms of rarity, and although northern marsh orchids may flower in profusion in many parts of the country, this plant may be classed as locally rare if found on your golf course. If it turns out to be the case



Linlithgow Golf Club

Photograph: Lorne Gill

that these orchids on your golf course are the only ones in a radius of 50 miles then this can count as a source of pride for the club as a whole.

There are many other apparently simple aspects to caring for the environment that will be learned from becoming involved in conservation, but most importantly it is the fact that wildlife habitats are disappearing all over the country and golf courses are a potential haven for many apparently 'common' forms of wildlife.

It is my opinion that Linlithgow Golf Club is representative of many clubs in Britain and the attitude of our committee to my involvement in conservation may well be similarly representative. Initially the committee only had to grant permission for the survey to take place, but when it became apparent that the club was a potentially important wildlife site the message to George and me was one of fear of the power of environmental legislation being used against any future expansion of the club. This initially implied to me that regardless of the rarity of the flora found on the course, this would willingly be sacrificed for the sake of some architectural tinkering with the design of the course.

It was at this point that I feel that we failed in bringing across the true meaning of what conservation means to Linlithgow.

Firstly, the legal power of environmental legislation is in reality minimal. Even the governmental quango, Scottish Natural Heritage, has to go through a complicated process of designation before there is any form of protec-

tion at all for endangered habitats and even then this is scanty to say the least.

Secondly, the very essence of this wildlife initiative is that by enhancing the wildlife of the course this will in turn increase the aesthetic value or "feel good" factor so often found on many of the great courses in Britain.

Thirdly, the cautious manner in which our committee approached the wildlife initiative simply highlights how important it is that the ideals of conservation are presented properly. It should be stressed that at all times the club has total and absolute control over the development of a conservation management plan. It is the club who will use the expertise of environmental bodies to improve the golf course. If there are areas of conflict between conservation and golf, the club will always have the last say in what happens in these locations.

At Linlithgow we have had to break down preconceptions on both sides of the fence, but the hard work put in by all involved will hopefully benefit not only future generations of golfers at our club but those wishing to follow our example.

I may add that my involvement with the Scottish Wildlife Trust has added a whole new dimension to my job which I enjoy immensely and I feel that many other greenkeepers would feel likewise.

TEMPLE GC

Here is an edited version of the 45-page environmental report prepared by local conservationists for Temple Golf Club, Maidenhead, and its course manager, Martin Gunn.

Following an ecological report on Temple Golf Club by the Sports Turf Research Institute, volunteers from local conservation

Dead wood supports many species. Many of the interesting beetles, including two notable ones, were found under old beech bark at Temple Golf Club



groups were recruited to conduct a year-long survey of the course.

The main aim of this was to provide a thorough record so that the effects of the management regime could be monitored accurately.

The volunteers from the Windsor and Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust made more than 40 visits during 1992.

They found:

The predominant habitat, hardly surprisingly, is grassland. About 80 per cent of the 180-acre site is grassland of one type or another. Approximately 10 per cent is woodland, about 5 per cent is hedgerow and small stands of trees, and the remainder is the clubhouse, car park etc.

The grassland is over 50 per cent rough, 25 per cent semi-rough, 15 per cent fairways and about 2 per cent greens and tees. The rough is cut twice a year, in spring and late summer, with the cuttings removed to prevent the nutrient enrichment that encourages the more vigorous grasses at the expense of wildflowers. A few areas are left without any intervention. The semi-rough is cut weekly to about three weeks depending upon the growing conditions. They said these areas are "particularly species rich and form the most important feature of the course in nature conservation terms". They noted the fairways are cut at least once a week to keep the grass less than 2cm high, but artificial watering and chemical treatment are kept to a minimum. Seaweed extract and trace minerals are used to promote growth.

They found there were three main areas of woodland: Mungden Wood is predominantly mature beech wood; Badger Wood is more varied, has a much better shrub layer with an attractive line of hazel, wayfaring trees and other shrubs; Bypass Wood is predominantly mature beechwood and litter. Clumps of trees and some large single specimens dot the course. There is also a line of trees or hedgerow round most of the course, but this has become straggly and overgrown in places. Most of the old hedge has now been coppiced and the gaps replanted with suitable native species to provide a double hedge in future years.

Few birds were spotted, reflecting the lack of suitable habitat: hedges of low conservation quality and the absence of an understorey in most of the woodland. But 22 species of butterfly were recorded, which is excellent for this part of the country. The numbers and diversity of beetles and bugs was also good.

Several rare species of fungi were found, including *Coriolus hirsutus* and the first recording in Berkshire of the continental form of the Hoof fungus.

Over 200 species of flowering plant, mostly perennials, were recorded. The most amazing find was the number of orchids, both the number of species and the number of actual plants. "On the basis of the orchid population alone, parts of Temple merit scheduling as a site of special scientific interest," said the report. In the long rough more than 200 green-winged orchid plants were found, including a pure white variant. More good finds were made on the edges of the woodland areas - including several species of violet, wood spurge, spurge laurel and a few primroses.

No special study was made of mammals but evidence of badgers and foxes was found, although no badgers or foxes were actually seen.

The recommendations:

Essentially more of the same. The conservationists applauded Temple's minimal use of fertiliser and irrigation because the natural vegetation is adapted to dry and quick draining conditions, so excessive irrigation would only promote unnatural species and fertiliser runoff could alter the species balance in the roughs. Weedkiller treatment should be strictly limited, and a policy of spot weeding only if necessary should be used on the fairways.

They said encouraging birds will help control turfgrass pests and earthworms, and that the use of persistent and highly toxic vermicides should be avoided.

When the roughs and many of the semi-roughs are cut, the cuttings should be removed to prevent nutrient enrichment that would encourage the coarser grasses and weeds. A potential problem was noticed at the edge of some fairways where cuttings were left over an area rich in orchids.

They suggested omitting the spring cutting of some roughs to avoid damaging the cowslips and green-winged orchids. They were also concerned about the damage done by machinery and buggies to the orchid rich edges of some fairways. "If the fairway along the edge of Mungden Wood could be nar-

rowed by a metre or so and the cutting frequency decreased, the damage would be reduced. The present fairway width could be retained by extending its northern edge where the semi-rough is of less botanical interest."

A plan to leave an area of rough near the Bypass Wood uncut to allow the scrub to extend should be abandoned as the lower

growing grassland there is considered higher in value than the potential scrub. Twice-a-year cutting should be resumed.

They also recommended more frequent but less extensive cutting of the leg of scrubby grassland running between the edge of Bypass Wood and an established scrubby copse beneath some pylons which was cleared occasionally by the electricity company, leaving helliborines overexposed to sunlight in the first season or two after clearance. The new regime, they say, "would provide a better balance between the needs of the plants and the utility".

As for the woodland, the report warned against being "excessively tidy" as a lot of conservation value comes from the dead and

• Few birds were spotted, reflecting the lack of suitable habitat... but 22 species of butterfly were recorded - excellent for this part of the country...•

dying trees and leaf litter. Grass cuttings left to rot under the trees may promote nettles rather than more varied woodland floor vegetation.

Unsuitable species in the copses, such as the turkey oak and sycamore, should be gradually eliminated and replaced with more suitable species, such as hawthorns and roses.

Some patches of nettles IN FULL SUN should be retained for butterflies. Some of each clump can be cut back in early June for tender regrowth to support second broods in July. Golfers are often more tolerant of nettles tucked away in shady places, where they will still support various invertebrates but they will not support butterflies.

Odd corners should be left unmanaged. Some rotting stumps or 'holey' trees should be left in woods near the car park and first tee for nesting marsh tits and woodpeckers.

Bird and bat boxes could be put on the buildings around the clubhouse and in Bypass Wood. But, remember, different types of boxes attract different types of birds.

GLENEAGLES

Gleneagles is cutting down nearly 200 trees – on advice from environmentalists. It's part of a plan to return the landscape to how it was when designer James Braid created the King's Course 80 years ago. Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Developments explains what they've done and why.

At the same time as Gleneagles Golf Developments were putting together an environmental management plan for the estate and three golf courses, they were carrying out an 'historical audit' of the courses.

The objectives of the audit were:

- Identify alterations over the past 70 years, reasoning and timescale;
- Investigate possible weaknesses in the golf strategy and natural experience;
- Define current problems with regard to safety and maintenance;
- Examine the championship status and requirement;
- Propose possible improvements and alterations;
- Estimate costs;
- Indicate possible timescale for realisation of proposals.

The study of all available historical information indicated some fairly major changes in the length, par and golf strategy over the years.

It also became evident during the historical audit that vegetation had forced golf strategy



alterations. Encroaching and invasive species, such as broom, whin and gorse, which is exceptionally good to look at when it's in flower, was having a serious impact upon the golf experience.

A detailed examination of each hole then took place, taking into consideration the environmental management plan for the entire

830-acre estate. As part of this plan we:

- Identified all sites of special and scientific interest – (20 sites exist);
- Set up 'control' and 'experimental' botanical monitoring quadrants to assess changes in vegetation. (There are 13 selected sites with 2 sq m control plots and 2 sq m experimental plots alongside. A botanist analyses the

When James Braid designed the King's and Queen's courses at Gleneagles, the land was covered in grass and heather. It remained that way until about 25 years ago. Then the courses were opened all year.

So what? you're probably thinking. Opening all year meant not using it for sheep and deer grazing in the winter. The sheep and deer used to nip the heads off the alien broom, whin, bracken, rowan trees and silver birches, whose seeds were probably introduced by birds.

"I look back at aerial photos from ten years ago and there's nothing there, and I look at it now and it's just an absolute mass," according to Gleneagles' Jimmy Kidd.

Research shows that as close as 1958-1968 there were no rowan trees on the golf course, very little bracken and only a little gorse and whin. But in recent years it has gone out of control, altering the strategy of many holes. The 1st hole is a prime example

In 1921 it was a 355-yard par 5, dog-leg right to left with two bunkers on the right side of the fairway and two guarding the green on the left. It was a relatively simple opening hole with a very wide fairway. Sketches of the hole at the time show there was little or no scrub on the right

side. The strategic drive, therefore, was played to the right to open up the green for the approach shot.

By 1974 there was no longer a dog-leg, the bunker count had increased from four to nine, the length had increased by just seven yards and the par had decreased from 5 to 4.

Closer examination reveals much of the reasoning behind the major strategic alterations was due to the severe encroachment of invasive

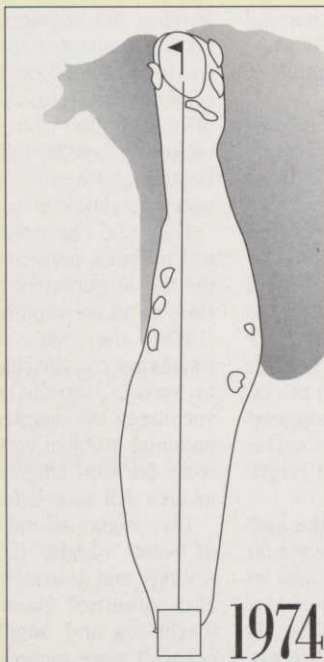
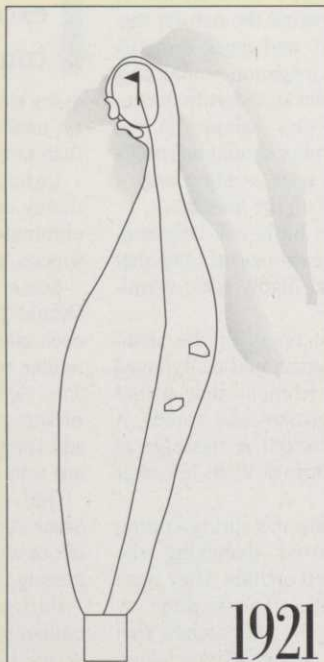
broom/whin, gorse, rowan and bracken on both sides of the fairway. As a direct result of the loss of the dog-leg strategy on the right side of the hole, it was deemed prudent to incorporate THREE new bunkers on the left side as most golfers now preferred that route. This in turn forced strategic changes to the right side of the green and two extra bunkers were incorporated to catch the typical shot – slightly pushed out to the right.

A comprehensive environ-

mental plan and historical audit many years ago would have identified the problem and subsequent investment in construction and development of a new strategy would have been avoided, along with the extra daily maintenance burden of five new bunkers.

The removal of the invasive scrub, which is now being done, would have restored the original architectural concept. At Gleneagles, they now make it policy for everyone to understand James Braid's original concept. Not all of it is valid with the modern game, but only when you understand what the architect was trying to achieve on each hole can you say what is relevant today and what is outdated.

Says Mr Kidd: "You can only properly maintain a golf course if you have a perfect understanding of the architectural concept. I see too many green-keeping errors created because the superintendent doesn't have a good understanding of a) who the architect was and b) what his concept was. Once you understand that you can make up your own mind whether you want to retain it because it's useful or discard it because it's outdated. And at least when someone asks you why you're doing something you can explain it."



Left, the 1st and right, the 15th at Gleneagles' King's Course



WORKING WITH NATURE

variety, type, size, and quantity of plants inside the squares and compares the results with previous years. He then produces a conclusion which may indicate a slight modification of maintenance practices);

- Established future management prescriptions;

- Produced a vegetation map, identifying scrub invasion to the detriment of golf strategy and the aesthetic appeal of the courses;

- Conducted ornithological and entomological surveys to find out what we've got, what we want and what it takes to keep those species.

An essential element of our plan was the establishment of a monitoring group, comprising professionals in ecology, botany, geology, Scottish Natural Heritage, a member of the hotel staff and, most importantly, a respected member of the local community.

The monitoring group meets twice a year to

assess the impact of our golf courses and estates management practices and consider future management plans and prescriptions.

When these plans are formulated, it is important to communicate these to all staff, members, guests and visitors.

Awareness is probably the most important thing when it comes to golf and the environment. Firstly you have to make the greenstaff aware of what you're trying to do. In our case it was mainly why we're controlling scrub invasion (see panel). Communicating the

problem to the greenstaff means they can go out and eloquently explain why we're getting rid of "those beautiful shrubs and trees" when asked by guests, members or hotel staff.

Conclusion

Awareness is the key. Awareness of what you've got on your course and how to keep it there (or not). Awareness among the greenkeeping staff of what

you are trying to achieve, so they can make members and others aware of what is being done and why.

Golf courses, old and new, are becoming increasingly important as models and reminders of how beautiful and wild our countryside can be, whilst still performing a very necessary commercial leisure role.

Long established courses must make special efforts to retain their habitats and new courses have the potential to develop into beautiful and valuable wildlife areas.

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BIGGA's

British greenkeepers have a friend in high places. Viscount William Whitelaw, who has been playing golf for 72 years (since he was four), knows they do a "crucial" job. Greenkeeper International's editor, Chris Boiling, went to the House of Lords to meet BIGGA's president.

I'd studied politics for five years – two at school and three at university – but the nearest I'd come to the Houses of Parliament was taking a photo of Big Ben – along with a group of Japanese tourists. Yet, after only five months with BIGGA there I was marching past the policeman at the gates to the House of Lords proclaiming: "I've got an appointment with Viscount Whitelaw".

Into the hallowed cloakroom, with pegs labelled Earl This and Lord That. "I've got an appointment with Viscount Whitelaw," I told the policewoman at the tiny reception desk. After a few minutes, the former deputy prime minister's secretary, Shirley Hoole, came to collect me and lead me through the corridors of power to the BIGGA president's small wood-panelled office, which he shares with Mrs Hoole.

After all those years of studying politics, I was now only a few feet away from a politician who was once one of the most powerful men in the country. An MP from 1955-83, he held several key offices: Leader of the House of Commons, Home Secretary, Chairman of the Conservative Party, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Secretary of State for Employment, and now an active and influential peer. And what did I want to talk to him about? Golf.

Other journalists who have interviewed the 76-year-old lord recently have asked about the Thatcher Years or shake-ups in the police service. Not me, I asked about his first love, golf. He welcomed the change.

Politics and the Conservative Party may have taken over his life, but golf will always be his first love.

His father, who died from his wounds in World War 1, was a good golfer and his mother was a very keen player, so it was natural that he should take up the game. Especially when you consider where he was brought up – Nairn.

Shortly after his fourth birthday he was marched off to the local pro, Jimmy Nelson, who taught him how to hit fir cones. This, claimed the old pro, was the best way to learn the swing. Viscount Whitelaw reckons it just saved the pro from having to retrieve dozens of golf balls.

Lord Whitelaw practised on the cones for

friend in high places

several weeks. "If there is anything more useless than hitting a fir cone, I don't offer it. It can't go anywhere. Marvellous for a tiny old Scottish professional who sat on a stick watching you and didn't have to go and collect any balls. After three weeks I told my mother that if I had to go on hitting cones I would never play the game again. The next day my mother and the pro obviously understood, for he turned and said, and I can always remember the phrase: 'I think the boy's swing is now good enough to hit a ball.' Therefore I was now allowed to hit a ball and it sailed away in the air – many haven't since, but that one did – and I never looked back. After that I became terribly keen and have played all my life ever since."

For a short time before the World War II, when he was at Cambridge University, he was down to scratch. After the war he had handicaps of 1 and 2 "but I was never quite as good after the war as I had been before it".

Then, when he became an MP in 1955, he gave up playing competitively. At the moment he plays two or three times a month at Silloth-on-Solway in Cumbria. He says he would like to play once a week but he is still busy even though he has "retired".

"The theory is that I have retired and the theory is that I therefore have more time for golf, but one way or another I don't. Now why don't I? I come to the House of Lords quite a lot; this weekend for example I'm going down to open a new police headquarters at Bournemouth; then I have a long diary of different meetings to do with politics and other things near politics, other organisations such as yours," he said as I admired the old golfing prints and antique 4 wood hanging on his office walls.

Do you have any plans to wind down your activities, I wondered? "Well, yes, my wife thinks there is," he replied with a smile. But the evidence points the other way.

Honorary member

Recently he became president of Nairn. He is also a member and the president of Silloth, a member of St Andrews and an honorary member at Penrith, Carlisle and Prestwick.

If he had a handicap now it would probably be about 16 or 17.

"When you get old it's a very annoying game and it's particularly annoying on courses you used to play. I went and played at Nairn recently. Suddenly bunkers I'd never seen before I was taking four shots to get over. As you get older you lose the capacity to get the club moving fast enough. As a result you hit it quite straight but it doesn't go anywhere. I find myself hitting a driver on a short hole and not getting there. That's infuriating, but you have to get used to it."

It's a bit different to when he played Nairn

as a teenager. Some members allege that he has driven into the sea on the first seven holes during different rounds. Anyone who knows Nairn will know when it's windy it's quite easy to do so off the first, second, fourth and fifth. But from the third, sixth and seventh it takes some doing. "Now if I turned at the sea I wouldn't reach it," he says.

That, of course, is not the only change he has seen during his 72 years of playing the game.

"The standard of our greenkeeping and the standard of our courses is amazingly different," he told me. "And it is now accepted that a greenkeeper is a crucial figure who has got to be backed up."

That's why, when the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews asked their former captain if he would take an interest in a new association for greenkeepers, which they were helping to fund, back in 1987, he readily agreed.

FAVOURITE COURSES

Viscount Whitelaw says he's always loved St Andrews and he's been a member there since 1937. "You can't compare it with anything else."

His other favourite courses are Silloth-on-Solway, Nairn, Muirfield, Royal St Georges and Westward Ho.

"I always believed it was very important to improve the standing of greenkeepers generally, not only their knowledge and their work but also their standing in the club and their importance to the club. I always thought that when you hear people say, 'The course isn't right, we must get a new green convener', there's absolutely no point in getting a new green convener, what you need is a good new greenkeeper if the course isn't right. The greenkeeper is the man who will make it right, and green conveners can only be there to back their greenkeepers and make sure the greenkeepers are getting what they want and doing with what they've got all that has to be done. So the standing of a greenkeeper has always been something that I believed enormously important and it's a fact of recent years that this has come out and now it's accepted."

He credits the Association with much of the success for elevating the status of greenkeepers. He states: "I believe the organisation has

been the most enormous success. All the time I've been with them I've admired enormously what they've done. I've admired enormously what Neil Thomas has done and what has been done by the greenkeepers themselves when they've become chairmen or on the board of management. They have played a terrific part in this. And if anyone wants a sign of it they need look no further than the two occasions when I have tried to see them all. First of all, Harrogate. Harrogate's a very remarkable advance and it is a great success – much prized by the trade generally and good for everybody. And then of course there is the help that the greenkeepers give at the Open Championship, when they all come together and are seen to help on the course. And a marvellous job they carry out.

"Now, of course, your publication has done a great deal of good. The more we can publicise the profession, the more it will be seen that greenkeepers are vitally important people. And if you see the jobs that are offered to them now, much of the great difficulty in years to come will be making sure we keep the best of our greenkeepers in this country. A lot of them, inevitably, are being offered jobs in Europe. And that is a real sign of how successful this organisation has been."

Viscount Whitelaw is involved with several charities, but BIGGA is the only professional association to which he is attached. As president, he is in regular contact with BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, and he tries to meet Association members at Harrogate and the Open.

"If you are president I believe you come when you are asked and you don't go when you're not asked," is his philosophy.

As far as the future of the Association goes, he says: "I would like to see it continuing to make sure that greenkeepers are well trained and can be really good people for our courses. And that it will become accepted by all courses. I would like to see all clubs using the opportunities given by BIGGA for them to train their staff and that all greenkeepers become members of BIGGA."

After three-quarters of an hour chatting to him about golf, greenkeeping and the Association, I realised that he had a busy day of politics ahead. There were meetings with Ministers, fellow Lords and leading figures from industry awaiting. But there was time for one last story which shows he certainly did not become president of BIGGA for any political gain.

At the last general election, while he was canvassing in the north of Scotland, a young man came up to him and said: "I'm very grateful you've been so helpful to BIGGA."

Viscount Whitelaw replied: "Thank you and I hope you will vote Conservative Party."

"Certainly not, I'm Scottish Nationalist."

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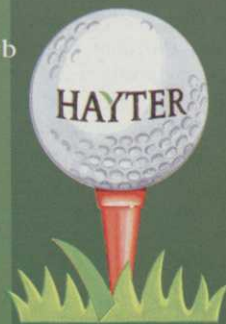
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FLYING DIVOTS

■ Time for a reminder. Members should note that the Association is approved by the Board of Inland Revenue under Section 201 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. This means that individual members can claim tax relief on their subscription payments through their annual tax returns whilst golf clubs paying subscriptions for members can claim tax relief through their accounts. This benefit for members substantially reduces the cost of their annual subscriptions and in claiming relief members should simply list their membership of BIGGA and indicate that the Association is an approved body under Section 201 ICTA 1988.

■ Brokenhurst Golf Club in the New Forest was fined £2,500 plus costs of £610 for "illegally" taking water to irrigate its greens. The club admitted it took 80,000 gallons more than it was licensed to use because of a breakdown in communication. Secretary manager Stewart Craven said: "When I took on the job my predecessor did not tell me about the conditions. It was a genuine mistake."

■ Andy McKee has left Fisons after seven years to join Erin Marketing Ltd as sales and marketing director.



■ The greenkeepers at Brighton's Hollingbury Park course had a shock when they turned up to prepare the course for a pro-am. A vehicle had been driven across the 12th green leaving tyre marks in the turf, the flag had been stolen and children had used a bunker as a sand pit. People, believed to be travellers camping just to the north of the course, had also been spotted playing football on the green.

The local council's three municipal greenkeepers, led by Terry Spence, worked frantically with rollers and did a bit of "cosmetic surgery" to get the green fit for the club's biggest event of the year.

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 0347 838864

Criticism against STRI is unjustified

After reading Paul Copesey's letter in your May edition ("Advice Left Wanting"), I must take issue with many of his remarks and especially those comments based on assumption, inaccuracy and misunderstanding.

Whilst brief details were provided to produce an interesting March edition article on the reconstruction of the greens at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, I hope your readers will appreciate that as advisers/consultants, the STRI will always operate normal professional and business criteria with its clients, including that of confidentiality. I am, however, able to say that the decision to replace the old turf of *Poa annua* after the greens were reconstructed at Royal Birkdale was not based on economic grounds. It is, perhaps, somewhat naive to suggest that a golf club totally committed to producing the best possible standards would jeopardise the success of remedial reconstruction works for the sake of an item costing a relatively small percentage in the context of the significant overall costs (least of all Royal Birkdale Golf Club).

The option to import new bent/fescue turf was fully considered but decided against in the light of previous experiences with top quality imported bent/fescue turf laid onto an improved sandy soil rootzone (such turf took several years to acclimatise during which time there was significant invasion by clumps of *Poa annua*). The relaid turf at Royal

Birkdale (which was cut at 18mm thickness) contained no organic mineral soil – the turf comprised of some thatch layers with sand (the latter material originating from several years of past top dressings with pure sand). Mr Copesey's assumption that the relaid turf was inappropriate as it must have contained in part the "undesirable soil" is wrong. Could I also say that in making his criticism of the re-use of the predominantly *Poa* turf, Mr Copesey appears to substantiate his position by purporting to quote from my remarks in the March edition article about Birkdale. He misquotes!

The articles in your March and April editions do not demonstrate inconsistency of agronomic advice from the STRI. Each article was quite different in its concept and purpose, viz an article about green reconstruction in unique and specific circumstances in contrast to Mike Canaway's article on part of a short-term research project. Whilst Mike Canaway's article properly points out some of the possible dangers associated with returning sandy rootzones (substantiated with facts and figures), potential dangers associated with turfing works had been well appreciated by STRI advisers for some considerable time, as well as many greenkeepers and others in our industry. Similarly, the possible merits of washed turf have long been understood but as yet this avenue of establishment has not been pursued in this

country for maybe several reasons, including commercial ones.

I agree with Mr Copesey's comments that in all areas of performance bents and fescues out-perform *Poa* any day. However, I do not think that one should ignore the fact that *Poa annua* is a ubiquitous species which is found in most golf greens in varying degrees. Of course, if greenkeepers can apply good management to sites where architectural, constructional make-up and environmental factors are favourable towards bent and fescue development, then *Poa annua* content can be minimised. Nevertheless, at many clubs it is clear that without *Poa annua* there quite simply would not be golf greens. Yes, thatchy, stagnant, disease-prone bogs of *Poa annua* is the nightmare scenario for any greenkeeper, but there are many courses (including Championship courses) which will have varying but often significant amounts of *Poa annua* (usually with some bent), and whose greenkeeping staff proudly present such greens as very good playing surfaces throughout most of the year (and where members are very happy).

I trust my response will be seen as being mainly explanatory in nature, although I suspect that in some quarters with a blinkered outlook it will be seen as a purely defensive repost!

J Perris, assistant director (advisory services), STRI, Bingley

Why we must build on 'The Way Forward'

May I make a comment on "Looking Back to The Way Forward" (GI May '94) and congratulate Michael Bonallack for the clear description of the R&A's role in golf, probably not well understood by many.

"The Way Forward" surely exceeded the expectations of the authors and its publishers in the impact it made. Accepting that, it had a slow start, partly I suspect because of the reticence in introducing it with much publicity, and partly because the greater part of the audience to whom it was addressed, ie those in influential positions in members' golf clubs, didn't think there was anything wrong in their current methods. But those who did take

it seriously and took some action found much support and enthusiasm. Some, not many, clubs and the Home Unions, especially the English Golf Union, have really moved with their seminars up and down the country.

But I sense that the momentum has slowed and this is the reason why thoughts were expressed at the BTME workshop which I attended that an update of "The Way Forward" would be timely. We still hear too often of large greens committees meeting frequently and the head greenkeeper taking instructions from a chairman who knows all about the technical problems – surrogate greenkeepers they call them. And

then, if things go wrong, who is blamed?

The R&A is respected throughout the golfing world and any report or recommendation emanating from St Andrews is listened to and trusted. I believe "The Way Forward" was a success and I would like to see further advance on that success. Some sort of review of where we are now and what future is indicated would be relevant and very influential.

I am glad that BIGGA has stirred up this subject and hope the organisation will keep the discussion going; but we must also get Golf Club Management involved.

Arthur King, Lympington

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

KENT

The Kent Section had one of its biggest ever turnouts on May 10, with over 40 players participating in the Spring Tournament at the Mid Kent Golf Club. The morning Rigby Taylor Stableford was won by Peter Biscoe with 36 points closely followed by Paul Rudkin and Shaun Donovan with 35 and Richard Hopgood with 34.

The afternoon medal and Hayter Qualifier was again a hotly contested event with everyone eyeing a place in the Regional Final at Banstead Downs. The overall winner was Derek Keen, nett 68, followed by David Wood, 70, and Vince Clegg and Paul Copsey, 71. Best scratch score went to Steve Suttle, 79. The successful qualifiers for the next round were, in the 0-9 category, Steve Suttle, Huw Morgan, Ian Rawlins, and John Wakelin. In the 10-18, Derek Keen, David Wood, Paul Copsey and Paul Rudkin. In the 19-28, Vince Clegg, Haydon Hayes, Phil Hirst, and Richard Page.

I think we all had a very enjoyable day, we were blessed with fine weather, a superbly kept golf course and great food. Many

EVENTS DIARY

July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry

August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club, Devon

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

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

November 9-10: Scotsurf, 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

thanks go to all our hosts at Mid Kent Golf Club, especially to John Rootes and his lads for their preparation of the course. As always we are very grateful to our friends from the trade for attending all our functions and supporting with raffle prizes, and especially on this occasion to our main competition sponsors Rigby Taylor and Hayter.

It was certainly very pleasing to see many

new faces at the event and the reappearance of some old ones, many of us having to make a special effort to attend due to pressure of work, after a late spring and a slow start, now the flood - not only yet more rain, but grass growing like the clappers.

We are still trying to finalise our summer and autumn golf programme and trying to prepare a series of educational winter workshop courses. Details will appear at a later date or will be sent to you in due course. If there are points you wish to raise, things you feel unhappy about, things you would like to add, concerning the Association at



PAUL COPSEY

national or local level, or items and information for "Around the Green", please contact David Wood on 0342 850875, or myself on 0831 115139 or 0322 664547.

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual skittles night was held at the Right Wing, Willowbrae Road. Twenty-two people turned up to this very enjoyable



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night. It was moved to the east of the city following complaints that everything was held in the west, so where were the people who complained? I certainly didn't see them and neither did the same people who have attended them all in previous years – I wonder if the dance will be the same? I certainly hope not. Come on members, we have done all the spade work, why don't you start supporting us?

I had the pleasure of being present at the North Section outing at Forres. What a great day this was: the weather was perfect; the course was in excellent condition and the North's hospitality was second to none. I thank them all for a wonderful day.

The Hayter Regional Finals were played over Duddingston Golf Club on May 24; I went down to cheer on the East team but, alas, we only had one qualifier for the National Finals. This was our old friend Dick Dugan from Glencourse. You can always rely on Dick to keep the East flag flying. Congratulations Dick; and you won't be alone on your trip to the finals, hopefully I will be down beside you.

By now you should all have your new fixture card; you will see by it the work that has gone into this year's events. The one change is the Willie Woods Tournament. This will be held at Murrayfield GC on August 17; letters will be out in plenty of time, but we are limited to 40 players.

Tickets are going fast for the annual dance. Don't be caught out, get yours early. Kilspindie Hotel is the venue, and a great night is in store, especially for those from the east who have not been before.

I said in an earlier issue that courses in the east were under water after a very wet winter. Now the opposite has happened – at the time of writing we have not had rain for four weeks and the very cold east wind has completely dried the courses up. Yes, it's a hard life being a greenkeeper.

We give a very warm welcome to all new members and hope to see them at the various tournaments etc. Any information they require – just give me a ring and I will do everything I can to help. There are still a number not yet members and they are the ones who are missing out. If there is someone on your course not yet a member, give them a push; we will be delighted to have them aboard.

WILLIE BLAIR



SOUTH WEST

A different venue from last year awaited the competitors for the recent Greenkeeper/Amateur Greensomes event held on May 11. Minchinhampton Old Course was our destination, not to be confused with Minchinhampton Golf Club as was the case with a few who turned up at the wrong clubhouse. Those who got it right first time were confronted with a course with a difference. There was no intensive manicuring here, just rough and more long rough. The reason for needing plenty of balls in the bag was because the course of some 100 years of age is situated on common ground and restrictions are placed on the use of herbicides and indeed on the frequency of cutting throughout the year. This led to a naturalists' paradise with a wide variety of wild plants growing and flowering undisturbed.

Around the Green



But this took nothing away from what was a highly enjoyable day both socially and competitively, with 58 people taking part. Any club that allows that number of courtesies over an afternoon is of an extremely generous nature and our thanks are extended to Bob Clarke, the administrator of the Old Course, for his kindness. Thanks also go to the greenstaff and the caterers.

The day's results are as follows: 1, C Tozer and M Savage 38 points; 2, R and T Greaves 37 points; 3, M Haring and P Hampton 36 points (won on back 9); 4, P Baynton and G Dacombe 36 points, 5, K Green and G Fuidge 35 points (won on back 9); 6, J Taylor and S Mulraney 35 points.

As of May 25, there are now 249 members in the South West section. The next opportunity to meet some of them will be at the Summer Tournament, Filton GC, July 27. If your application has not already been sent, please contact me immediately to secure a tee time.

KEVIN GREEN

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Not a lot to report this month as we are all cutting grass like mad. I would like to remind you that your views on the Association's review are now due. If you haven't put pen to paper yet, please do so today or call me so I can forward your suggestions to HQ who need your input so we can continue our progress.

I am nearing completion of next season's fixture card which will be winging its way to you soon. Our thanks once again to Devon Garden Machinery who have kindly sponsored the fixture card again.

RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

It's finally happened! A section outing with glorious weather. Eighty-four golfers played in the Spring Outing at Forres with another nine members present for the day. Shirt sleeves were the order of the day, and those that benefited most were: scratch – 1, Alan Dempster, Strathlene 75bih; 2, George Paterson, Fortrose 75; class one – 1, Kevin Peace, Inverurie 70bih; 2, George Mitchell, Royal Aberdeen 70; 3, John Taylor, Forres 73bih; class two – 1, Gordon Mckie, Tain 65; 2, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen 68bih; 3, Colin Mackay, Cruden Bay 68; class three – 1, Colin Burgess, Forres 71bih; 2, Bruce Forsyth, Peterhead 71; 3, John Geddes, Ellon 72; veteran – 1, Tom Simpson, Murrayshall 70; 2, Arthur Williamson, Craigie Hill 72; apprentice – 1, John Milne, Elgin 71; 2, Mark Ross, Elgin 72; Trade Shield – Tom Brannan, Souters 71bih; and guest – R Bruce, Aboyne 71.

Off the course winners were Colin Burgess, Forres, who won the free draw for a BIGGA blazer, and 200 Club winners: January £30 – John Urquhart, Mansfield Estate, Tain; February £30 – Gordon Fraser, Suther-

land Cres, Tain; March £40 – James Whyte, St Combs, Fraserburgh; April £100 – Linda Harkiss, Craig Cres, Tain. Three winners from Tain and still I miss out! We thank everyone at Forres for a great day, especially Charlie Mackay and his staff, the course was excellent.

Five more new members to welcome: Martin Cameron, head greenkeeper Buckpool; Richard Hendry, assistant at Forres; Mark Cordell, assistant at Moray; Scott Mackenzie, apprentice Royal Aberdeen and Paul Conway, apprentice at Caird Park, Dundee. Gordon Fraser is leaving Tain to become an assistant at Wentworth, whilst also on the move is Alan Strachan who has left Royal Dornoch to become assistant links superintendent at Carnoustie. Moving up is Michael Clark, who has taken over the head job at Kingussie, vacated by Mike Wilson who has moved to Fraserburgh.

Despite the horrendous winter, both Nairn and Nairn Dunbar were in super condition for the recent Amateur Championships. Hopefully, more major competitions will be held in the section in the near future, we certainly have many fine courses and the travelling is much easier than before.

Work is under way on extending Invergordon GC from nine to 18 holes. The job, being done by local firm Morrisons, will take under two years with opening scheduled for summer '96.



IAIN MACLEOD

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire representatives in the Scottish finals of the Hayter Challenge made a good run at the prizes, with Ian McNab and Steven Knaggs qualifying, and myself a first reserve. The team was second, despite being two men short, but made up for that by outlasting even the East section hardies in the evening. Our thanks to Hayter and to Duddingston GC for an excellent day out.

Gordon Heran at Brunston Castle tells me his greenkeeping sheds are going up now after two years of next weeks that never came. Even though the receivers are in, they have allowed Gordon to build 15 new tees forward from the championship tees to allow for more enjoyable golf for the higher handicapper. Hopefully a buyer will be found shortly to enable this project to fulfil its potential.

Further to last month's report on the babies being waited for at the spring outing, Bob McKay, Paul Rae and Jock McLauchlan are now proud fathers of Heather, Jodie and Jemma respectively. Best wishes to them all.

DUNCAN GRAY

SURREY

A date has now been set for our Surrey section dinner dance. It will be held at Reigate Manor Hotel on Friday, November 11. We have organised our own function room and tickets will be available from committee members at a price of £18 per head, which includes a three-course meal and a disco until 1am. Accommodation is being looked into at present for those of you wishing to stay overnight.

The first winter lecture has now been organised and will be given by Bill Oliver of Hardi Sprayers on Wednesday November 9. Venue will be announced later. Other forth-

coming events include the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on August 11 and the Parkers Salver at Purley Downs GC on September 21.

DAVID GIBBS

NORTH WEST

Trying to find a venue for the Spring Tournament each year is far more of a problem than any other tournament. The reason is, and it's understandable, the greenkeeper wants his course at its best, and he would prefer to stage a tournament later in the year, when there is some growth.

One greenkeeper who took a chance and gave me the OK was Chris Hulme, course manager at Sale GC, and I am sure he must have been regretting his decision at times. No need to have worried, Chris, your course was a credit to you and your staff, with greens that could not be faulted and the course was presented to perfection. Many thanks go to Sale GC for allowing the courtesy of the course, to the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work, to Graham Barber, the caterer, for a lovely meal, and to the following companies for supporting us with prizes: Fletcher Stewarts, Richard Campey, Burrows, and Groundcare.

The winners were: best nett – James Hutchinson; best gross – Paul Pearse; over-55 – Bert Cross; guests – Ian Vernon, Sale captain. The qualifiers for the Hayter Regional Final are: cat 1 – C Leeming, P Pearse, S Moon; cat 2 – C Hulme, P Simpson, B Cross; cat 3 – J Hutchinson, A Holt, A Davies.

The Regional Final will be at Worsley GC on July 20. The next section golf is the summer meeting on Monday July 25 at Stockport GC. Soup and sandwiches between 12 and 1pm and tee off from 1.30pm. Applications to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX, enclosing £10 deposit by July 18.

I still require a team for the Roses match at Mottram Hall on Wednesday August 10, and also for the stewards match at Fishwick GC on Monday September 5. Both of these matches are sponsored with no cost to the competitor. If you are available, please ring me on 051 7245412.

The Autumn Tournament is at Royal Birkdale on Monday September 12, and we have split tee times – 10.30am-12noon and 1.30-3pm. Your applications for this tournament have to be in by Monday August 15 with your preference for am or pm, and your deposit of £10 (apply to Paul Pearse). The tee-off times must be strictly adhered to.

Congratulations go to Bob Janovskis who has become a grandfather for the first time. His daughter gave birth to a son, Robert Michael, a few days before the spring tournament, and Bob kindly donated a bottle of 'fire water' for the prize table because, he said, it would be complicated to treat everybody to a drink.

See you at the Open!
BERT CROSS



NORTH WALES

This month our congratulations go to the Royal St Davids GC, Harlech, who are celebrating their centenary, and a distinguished 100 years it has been. Our best wishes also go to Justin Cheung, deputy head green-

Around the Green



keeper at Eaton GC, Waverton, and we hope he has a 'speedy' recovery from his recent car accident, the moral being, Justin, that if you were still at Carden, you wouldn't have had time for any accidents.

Northop Country Park also deserve our best wishes on their opening. I am sure we all look forward to playing what looks like a delightful layout.

There is a paucity of news this month, perhaps you are all too busy or maybe we all lead boring lives. Whichever, without your views (good, bad or indifferent) journalistic artistry becomes a nightmare so please contact me with any info regardless of how small.

Lastly, are any members interested in taking part in social events, eg bowls, fishing etc? If so, contact me on any of the following numbers: 0244 676022 (home); 0829 250556 (office); 0374 685879 (mobile).

ANDY CAMPBELL

WEST SCOTLAND

Sixty-eight greenkeepers and trade members attended the ever-popular first outing of the year, at Dougalston GC. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind and credit must go to Sandy Young and his staff for getting the course ready for play. Close inspection of the following scores may indicate that more than one ball was lost.

Scratch – R Bunting 81bih; cat 1 – 1, D McLaren, Cathcart Castle, 81-6=75; 2, J Steadward, Douglas Park 89-9=80bih; 3, D Gaul, Cordross, 89-9=80; cat 2 – 1, D Montgomery, Cawder 86-11=75bih; 2, J Mathew, Dougalston, 91-16=75; 3, J Young, Dougalston, 95-17=78; cat 3 – 1, S Murray, Douglas Park, 101-21=80; 2, A Young, Dougalston, 106-22=84; 3, AJ Young, Cawder, 109-24=85. All the above have qualified for the Hayter Challenge.

Donald Ferguson, first assistant at Cowglen GC, has taken early retirement due to ill health after 13 years of service with the club. His experience of the course will be missed by myself and the rest of the staff. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The above position was soon filled by J McGoldrick, also of Cowglen. I'm sure he will prove to be an able replacement for Donald.

SCOTT BALLANTYNE

SOUTH COAST

Our Summer Tournament approaches now and will be held at Southwick Park GC on August 15, teeing off from 13.06. The format will be a fourball better ball consisting of member and guest. A guest may be either a member from your own club or a greenkeeper from another club. The entrance fee is £10 per person to include a ploughman's lunch on arrival and the evening meal.

As Southwick Park can only cater for a maximum of 40 persons, a closing date of August 5 is being set and you are advised to

contact Bob Cully, the tournament organiser, early as entries will be on a first come first served basis. Bob will need names, handicaps and a cheque for both members and guests. Entries should be sent to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 0LS. Tel: 0489 782976



ALAN MITCHELL

SOUTH WALES

Our annual Greenkeepers v Golf Club Secretaries match at the Southerndown Golf Club was marred by the fact that 16 greenkeepers failed to turn up for what is normally a well supported fixture.

After personally contacting each team member a few days before the event, I confirmed with the organiser that we, the greenkeepers, would have a team of 26 – 13 pairs. By far our largest team for a number of years.

Well, on the morning in question, 10 people turned up. Enough for only five team matches. Thank you lads! Not only did you portray us, the greenkeepers, in a bad light, you made me as your organiser look a right fool.

However, I would like to thank those who did make the effort to turn up, especially as we were victorious by three games to two and therefore retain the shield. Winning pairs were: Steve Mills/Mike Norfolk 5+4; Chriss Thomas/Gerwyn Price 3+2; Idwal Morris/Daryl Jones 4+3. Both P Lacey/S Price and JB Jones/L Walter lost on the 18th.

I thank the Golf Club Secretaries, who were prepared to accept the result on the five matches that took place, especially Fred Crossman and Digby Lloyd for their splendid organisation. I'd also like to thank Keith Wilcox and all at Southerndown GC for their hospitality and Jan Williams and the catering staff for what can only be described as the largest gammon steak I have ever had the pleasure of eating.

Good luck to Philip Huw Thomas of Pontardawe GC who is representing our section in this year's ICI Master Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

PETER LACEY

EAST MIDLANDS

This month we welcome the following members to our section: Robert Myatt of Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Ian Needham of Beedles Lake GC, Graham Gilson of Market Harborough GC and Justin Aley of Stoke Rochford GC.

Here are the results of our singles and pairs KO tournaments. In the singles first round D Cooper (Rothley Park) lost 4&2 to J Bedford (Birstall), and G Miller (Ullesthorpe) lost 3&1 to D Leatherland (Kedleston Park). In the first round of the pairs KO, A Bindley and M Hopkins (Kirby Muxloe) beat G Robson and A Mcgreal (Lingdale) 6&5, whilst D James and C James (Wollaton Park) beat S Swann and M Smith (Ramsdale Park) 2&1. Second round matches must be played by July 15.

Finally, we hope to circulate a list of all section members telephone numbers to members who would like a list. If, however, any member wishes their number to be omitted, please inform me as soon as possible.

ANTONY BINDLEY



MID ANGLIA

This month sees the regional final of the Hayter Challenge at Birstall Golf Club, Leicester. Good luck to all the finalists and let's hope we can retain the team trophy we won last year. The reward for qualifying for the national final is a trip to Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, on September 22.

The Lodgeway fourball competition is well under way and I would remind all participants that they have until the end of this month to complete all their league matches.

The Summer Tournament at Brampton Golf Course on the July 26 will be a stableford competition. The Autumn Tournament is confirmed for October 12 at Mentmore Golf Club and this will be followed by the AGM.

The Christmas Texas Scramble will be held at the Family Golf Centre on Thursday December 8.

Good luck to two members who have recently taken up new positions: Don Pemberton, who is moving from Brocket Hall to a new course at Pavenham as course manager, and Jon Moorhouse, who has been promoted to deputy course manager at Brocket Hall.



Finally, Ronan McKeown from Arkely Golf Club will join me in representing the Mid Anglia section on the regional board.
PAUL LOCKETT

MIDLANDS

The Midlands Section's Summer Tournament at Fulford Heath GC was played over 27 holes on a warm and sunny day, which seems quite rare these days. The course

Around the Green



played very well and was presented in excellent condition thanks to Kim Blake and his staff. The nett prize was won by Tony Livingstone, closing with a fine 66 nett in the afternoon. The gross prize was won by Mike Hughes. Sisis' John Burnham, who's having weekly lessons, won the trade prize by too many shots to remember. A truly enjoyable day was rounded off with a most enjoyable meal.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting this event and especially to our trade friends for once again pledging their support to our section.

I have decided with my regional and now board of management commitments to retire as section secretary at the end of the year.



The section is now looking for a replacement and anyone interested in taking the job on should contact me on 0789 762912.
DEAN CLEAVER

CLEVELAND

Ten players are required for the Cleveland v North East section match at Whickam GC on July 27, 3pm tee off. If you are interested, please contact Gary Munro on 0642 785195 (home) or 0677 425357 (work).

HAYTER

HAYTER CHALLENGE REGIONAL FINALS

Hospitality is a feature of the Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. With perfect weather the South West and South Wales Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge went without a hitch, and was certainly a day to remember.

Our thanks must go to Richard Whyman and his greenstaff for the excellent presentation of the course. In spite of all the ribbing, he did a grand job. Thanks also go to all the catering staff for looking after us, and the club captain, Derek Davey, who made us most welcome. Most of all the Hayter "boys" who made it all possible.

Category 1 - 1, Robert Barrett, nett 69; 2 Paul Godwin, 71; 3, Cary Rawlings, 72; reserve, Mike Jones, 72; Category Mug - E West; Category 2 - 1, Robin Greaves, 69, 69; 2, J Cooper, 70; 3, C Thomas; reserve, D Gladwin, 71; Category Mug - P Ferragut; Category 3 - 1, P Legg, 68; 2, S Milne, 69; 3, P Saviour, 71; reserve, J Chidley, 74; Category Mug - S Sage.

The winning section for the Regional Shield is the South West section.

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Richard's round of 150 holes for charity

BIGGA board member Richard Barker played 150 holes in one day and raised more than £600 for charity. The head greenkeeper from Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, took on the challenge in aid of charities supported by the captain and lady captain of Longcliffe Golf Club, where he is a four-handicap member.

Teeing off at 4.40am, Richard completed 150 holes by 9.10pm stopping only for an hour's lunch and 30 minutes for tea. His fastest round was 1hr 32mins; later in the day he was taking 2hrs 5mins. Scores between 74 and 82 for the 6439-yard par 72 course indicated golf of the highest order and the back nine holes of the eighth round were completed in a level par 36.

With an eagle 2 at the 265-yard uphill 6th and 18 birdies, Richard completed the eight rounds and six holes in 52 over par. Only one ball was lost in the lake at the 15th and it is estimated that about 40 miles were covered during the event which was well supported by Longcliffe members.



Wordy winner

RPK Turfcare Supplies had a tremendous response to their recent 'Wordsearch' competition. Jamie Bennett, RPK's sales manager, said: "We were looking for a novel way to let our customers know about the many products we offer and with 118 words to find it was certainly no pushover."

The first correct entry was received within 48 hours and was sent by Alec Bradshaw, course manager of Malden GC in Surrey. For his effort, Alec collected a £500 credit to spend over the next 12 months. Alec (right) is pictured with Jamie at his club.

Training Manual sets career path for greenkeepers

The Greenkeepers Training Committee working group met at St Andrews recently to put the final touches to the Greenkeepers Training Manual.

The Manual has three main sections: craft, supervisory, and management (or in N/SVG speak, levels 2, 3 and 4). There are, however, additional mandatory units in conservation management and an optional section including greenkeeper/mechanic tasks, chainsaw operations and advanced first aid.

The Training Manual acts as a trainee's record of achievement and also evidence towards the new National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

The craft and supervisory sections have been available for a short while. The management manual has only just become available – thanks to the efforts of the working group which was

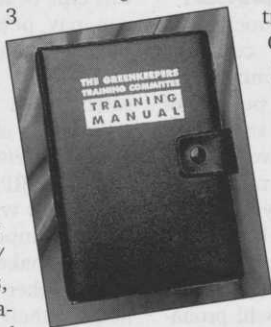
set up three years ago.

This group comprises BIGGA chairman John Millen, BIGGA education chairman Huw Parry, Elmwood College greenkeeping tutor Carol Borthwick, Reaseheath College greenkeeping tutor Dennis Mortram, Askham Bryan College greenkeeping tutor Nick Bisset and GTC education director David Golding.

"No praise is high enough for the work of this working group," said David, "It has been determined to set out in black and white a career path for future generations of greenkeepers and course managers."

The Manual will soon also be available in French, German and Spanish, with funding for this coming from the PGA European Tour.

The working party has also been developing an employer's guide to greenkeeper qualifications.



London golfers seek help with French course

Two young London golfers have gone to France to open an 18-hole par 3 course. Nestled in the heart of Finistere in Brittany, the Golf de Pont Pierre course is a dream come true for BIGGA associate members Manley Mason and Gary Chisholm.

They have long wanted to run a course "where beginners are welcome to come and learn the etiquette and basic techniques all golfers should possess, and where experienced players can perfect their shots." They have six members at present, with the course nearly completed. Once they have purchased some adjacent land, they hope to create a 27-hole complex which will one day "provide the Ryder Cup team with a Frenchman!"

In the meantime they're looking for a student greenkeeper to help them this summer. Write to: Golf De Pont Pierre, 29246 Poullaouen, Brittany, France.

■ John Bourne and Co Ltd has been appointed sole distributor of Fendress to the south-east of England. Fendress topdressing consists of East Anglian fensoils and Leighton Buzzard washed silica sands. It complements Bourne's existing range which includes rootzones, amenity sands, construction materials, turf improvers and drainage systems. Tel: 0797 252298.

■ Shropshire-based BCM Contracts is now manufacturing and marketing the product range of Surrey golf equipment specialist Pro-Tee Products. This includes golf tee mats and golf driving bays. BCM, which already manufactured the glass reinforced cement bases for the tee-mat, is now marketing the Pro-Tee range under the trade name Links Leisure. Tel: 0948 665321.

■ Deere & Company, the American agricultural equipment manufacturer, has reported record net income for the second quarter of the 1994 fiscal year of \$189.3 million, compared with last year's restated income of \$101 million.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Paul Harley, formerly the head greenkeeper at Pachesham Golf Centre, has taken charge at 18-hole Crewe GC following the retirement of Ron Rimmer.

■ British Seed Houses has published the first edition of a new Wild Flora manual for the landscaping industry. The 48-page illustrated manual sets out the basic ground rules for successful establishment and maintenance of wild flora areas. It provides a practical, technical guide for greenkeepers who want advice on seed source and mixture specification, site and mixture selection, ground preparation and establishment techniques. Copies are available from British Seed Houses Ltd, Portview Road, Avonmouth, Bristol, Avon BS11 9JH. Price is £4.95.

■ Silvermere Golf Club, Surrey, now has two of the "most inspiring" closing holes in the country, says architect Martin Gillett. Martin was asked to remodel the fairway to eliminate a blind drive and a spectacular finishing green has been built to give a shot over water to a bulkheaded green.

The Brentwood-based architect has also redesigned the 18th at Redbourn GC, Hertfordshire. The green is now in front of the new clubhouse following an upgrade of the range building and a new target range.

■ Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Ivor Scoones' wife, Ann, following a long illness bravely borne. During Ann's illness, Ivor continued with his Board of Management and Regional Board duties and indeed was chairman of the Association during 1990. Often under considerable strain, Ivor carried on both his professional and voluntary duties with great fortitude whilst at the same time giving Ann his constant and total support. The Association remains indebted to Ivor for his efforts on BIGGA's behalf particularly during recent years when Ann fell ill. We send our deepest sympathy to Ivor and his family at this sad time.

Greenkeepers urged to think now about pension provision

Planning for retirement starts on your first day in work. That sounds extreme but it is true for the most crucial aspect of your financial planning – your pension.

After life assurance protection for your dependants, your pension is the single most important item in planning for retirement. It forms the foundation and several courses of the brickwork for that time of your life when you decide to stop working. It has to be built to the very best standards your resources allow. But, as with any finished construction, the foundations are just the start. It is the quality of the fixtures and fittings that can determine a building's value. Equally, it is additional planning on top of your state pension that decide whether your retirement years are comfortable or just adequate.

The earlier you discuss retire-

ment planning with your Independent Financial Adviser – IFA for short – the better.

What does the State provide?

In short – not very much. Provided you have a complete National Insurance contribution record there is a basic pension of £57.60 per week for a single person and £92.10 per week for a married couple. There may be an additional pension payable from the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) but this has a maximum for high earners of £74.60 per week and will probably be very much less. Anyway, most young people will take the opportunity to contract out of SERPS and increase their private pension instead.

So what types of pension scheme are available?

Some employees will have joined a company scheme where the employer will pay a fixed amount or a percentage of salary. With this type of scheme the employee can pay personal contributions up to a maximum of 15% of salary but is disbarred from effecting a personal pension unless it is used solely to collect monies received from contracting out of SERPS. The majority of employees will not be invited to join a company scheme and so have to make their own arrangements either with or without the help of their employer. For this group the only logical choice is to effect a personal pension.

How do personal pensions work?

A personal pension plan works in two stages. Up to the time of your retirement the amounts paid in by you and by your employer are invested. Whoever is investing the money will try to earn the best return they can with the money. When you get to retirement, the proceeds of the investment must be used to buy you a pension from an insurance company. This does not need to be the same insurance company that you saved with. Your IFA will help you select the best available under the Open Market Option. There may also be a lump sum available at your retirement – normally 25% of the fund.

How much can I pay in?

The maximum amount you can pay into a personal pension depends on your age at the beginning of the tax-year. If you are aged 35 or under you can pay up to 17.5% of your earnings rising in bands to 40% for those aged between 61 and 74.

What is this tax relief I've heard about?

In order to encourage you to save towards your pension the government allow you tax relief at the highest rate of tax you pay. For example, a standard rate taxpayer pays £75 per month to an insurance company. The insurance company claims a further £25 from the government mak-

ing a total of £100 invested. A higher rate taxpayer paying the same receives £25 from the government plus an extra £15 per month increase in take-home pay after adjustment to his tax code. It therefore costs a higher rate taxpayer £60 to invest the same £100.

In addition your money is invested in a tax free fund that increases the growth potential.

How do I choose the right pension provider?

With care! There are over a hundred pension providers willing to accept your money. Some have performed well over the years – some have not. This is where your IFA is able to provide specialist advice.

Why an independent financial adviser?

Advisers on life assurance, personal pensions and unit trust products are of two types. Either, representatives of a particular company, or independent.

Both types of adviser should only recommend life assurance, personal pensions or unit trust products if they consider such a product is suitable to your needs.

A representative of a particular company acts on its behalf and will recommend a product picked only from the range of those offered by that particular company. Most of the building societies and banks fall into this category.

An independent will act on your behalf in recommending a product picked from the ranges of all the companies that make up the market place.

Does it cost me anything to obtain independent advice?

Not directly – your IFA is paid by commission that comes out of the normal charges applied by the insurance company.

How do I get in touch with an IFA?

Contact BIGGA who has made arrangements for a panel of IFAs to provide members with impartial advice. Complete and return the coupon on Page 30 or phone for advice on 0347 838581.

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DYMOND'S LITTLE GEM



The view from the 14th tee out across the 12th century church to Daymer Bay

In 1888 there was just a small party of undergraduates playing golf at St Enodoc. By 1988 there were thousands trampling over the pretty little Cornish course. This year there are even more. Chris Boiling talked to Stuart Dymond about compaction and other problems.

With all eyes on Turnberry this month, it's not easy thinking of an introduction to an article on a links course at the other end of the country, in Cornwall.

I could write:

"Everybody has heard of St Enodoc but not nearly everybody who ought to has been there. It

represents a gap in the golfing education of far too many golfers. Personally, I had first heard of it 40 years prior to my first visit. When I did go, not only did the course fully live up to all the exciting things I had heard about but I realised that it was a very simple matter to get there, for Rock is only a few miles from Wadebridge.

"St Enodoc unvisited had always been portrayed to me in much the same terms. The golf had been described as eminently natural, amusing and dramatic in a country of glorious and terrific sand hills. All this proved to be perfectly true and yet when I saw it I felt that full justice had not been done."

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'If you haven't done your work by

That's how I could have started this article because, when I asked greenkeepers to name an interesting course, St Enodoc was the name that kept coming up. When I got there I realised why, but none had done justice to the sandhills and hollows, plateaux and tussocks or to the view from the 14th tee out across the pretty 12th-century church where poet laureate John Betjeman is buried to Daymer Bay, or over the Camel Estuary from the 16th fairway and 18th tee.

As I said, that's how I could have started this article - but it's

been done before, a long, long time ago. In fact they are the words (more or less) that celebrated golf writer Bernard Darwin used more than 50 years ago for his article on the 104-year-old course.

In those days he played with a brassey and mashie-niblick. And the greenkeeper, F Camps, was also the steward and club repairer being paid 25s per week for his services.

Now his jobs are done by a dozen employees of the club. There are seven greenkeepers, led by 51-year-old Stuart

Aeration/decompaction: what the scientists say

by **WA Adams of the University of Wales and RJ Gibbs of the New Zealand Turf Culture Institute**

is there an underlying problem which should be identified and rectified.

The intensity of foot traffic on tees is comparable with or greater than on greens so the compaction problems are similar. One difference is that since the turf usually has a larger root system the soil macropores are better protected. Hollow tine coring is probably the most valuable treatment.

The most frequent need on golf greens is to improve (or restore) water infiltration and air entry into the rootzone. This does not require decompaction and can be achieved by physical penetration of the surface with solid tines which may be flat or round. Frequency of operation should be determined solely on need. In the growing season spiking should be required once per month or less often. A higher frequency is likely to be needed on golf greens from autumn to spring when rainfall is in excess of evapotranspiration. The depth of penetration required may be shallow (less than 40mm) but this will depend upon the nature of the rootzone.

Hollow tine coring is the most widely used technique to improve aeration and relieve compaction in the top 100mm of rootzones. On intensively used golf courses, treatment in autumn and spring may be necessary. On less intensively used golf greens annual treatment in autumn (with one or two passes) will suffice. Too frequent use results in a soft surface. An operation to relieve compaction below 100mm should not be needed on an annual basis. Indeed if it

Compaction problems are relatively minor on fairways except on restricted thoroughfares which may require special attention. Routine aeration maintenance using a slit tine spiker is normally confined to the period between late October and April. The purpose is to penetrate a surface which has become sealed. Decompaction at a depth exceeding 100mm is rarely necessary but, when it is, a moderate amount of surface disturbance can be tolerated so that mini-mole ploughing is practicable.

● *This extract is taken from a recently published book, **Natural Turf for Sport and Amenity: Science and Practice**. The book covers general principles and how they work on golf courses, bowling greens, soccer, rugby and cricket pitches. Aimed at students taking courses in turf science and sports ground management, the 416 pages cost £24.50. Tel: 0491 832111.*

10.30 you're struggling – it's just heaving'

Dymond. But there are now 36 holes – the 6,243-yard par 69 Church Course and the easier 4,142-yard par 61 Holywell Course, which was completed in 1982. For much of its history, St Enodoc has had 27 holes, although the short course had long periods when it was not used.

Club records show that in the early days the highest handicap for a round of 27 holes was 60, which suggests either the standards of play were low or the course was very difficult.

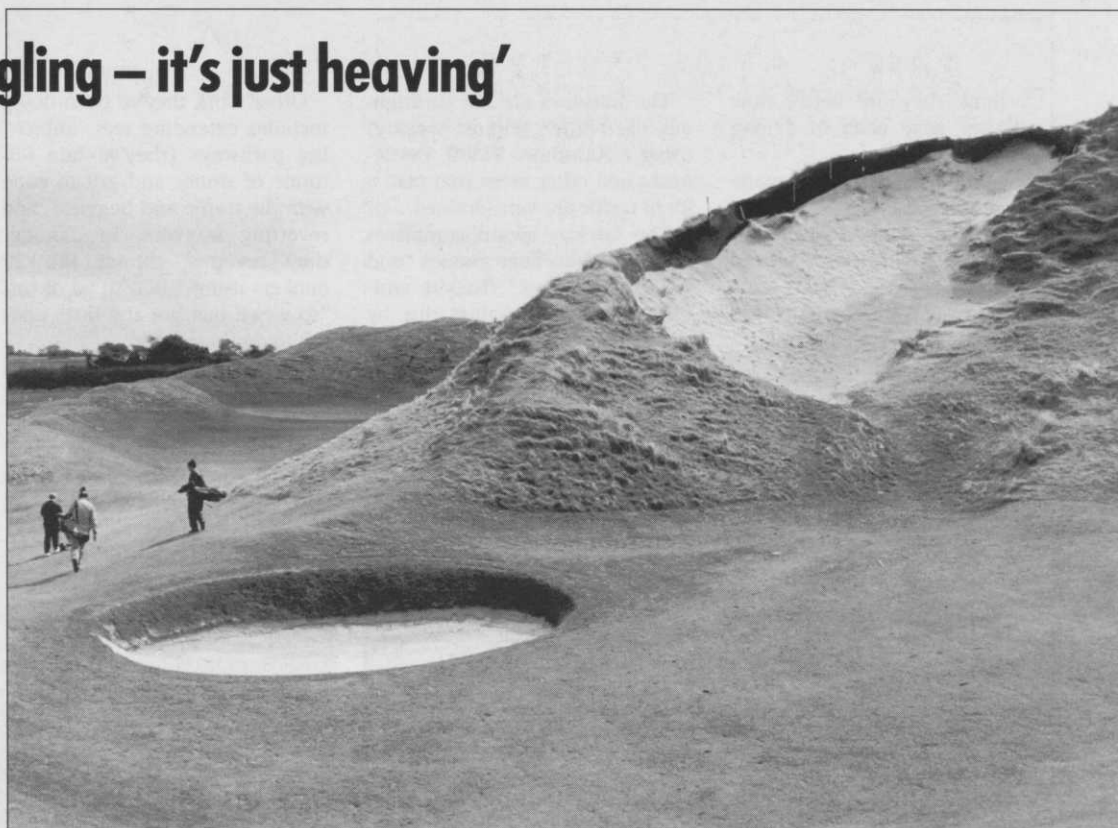
The courses lie in 250 acres of which 40 are fairways, two are tees, and three are greens. The rest is left to mother nature.

The James Braid-designed main course, only called the Church Course since 1987, hasn't changed much since Darwin's day, but it has seen a tremendous increase in traffic, which has necessitated a great deal of aeration work to relieve compaction.

75,000 rounds

In 1949 the club took 1,123 green fees, in 1989 the figure was 19,645. Now there are 1,200 playing members and 75,000 rounds played per year (over the two courses), the bulk of which comes during our short summer.

"If you haven't done your work by 10.30 you're struggling, it's just heaving," says Stuart, who came to St Enodoc after seven



Golfers who have conquered the Himalayas make their way to the 6th green

years as head greenkeeper at North Wilts and 15 years at Bude, of which ten were as head greenkeeper.

The greens are verti-drained once, in the autumn, using half-inch thick tines and left open. During the winter they are spiked every 7-10 days. In the spring they are hollow-cored to a depth of 4-5ins using quadro and solid tines and topdressed. This is the only topdressing they will receive. "Too much topdressing only causes problems," says Stuart.

The greens are scarified every

fortnight and aerated before receiving their monthly dose of liquid manure and wetting agent.

"It's something we tried last year and it seems to be working – the greens are looking beautiful at the moment," he says.

The greens are about 50 per cent annual meadowgrass, compared with the 99 per cent when he joined. This turnaround has been achieved by a lot of aeration work. "We've never overseeded them, we've spiked and prodded a lot but mostly we've left it to nature," he says.

Many of the greens are old – built in the days when £50 would get you four new putting surfaces – and have sunk in places. Stuart and his team have redesigned two of them since he's been at the course, and he hopes to do a couple more this winter, if he gets the go-ahead from members. Most of the redesign of the 13th and 14th greens has involved taking out the "silly slopes". For example, to remove the hollow on the 14th they had to lift it by nearly 3ft. They started the work on a Monday morning in November and had finished it by the Friday after taking off the turf and top soil, building up the hollow using nearby sand, replacing the top soil, remodelling it and putting the turf back. The green was in play again by January.

Stuart is quick to praise his men for their efforts: "They're a bunch of blokes second to none. They can do a week's work in a day and a half."

Wear and tear

When he first joined they concentrated on the greens, now they are putting a lot of effort into the fairways. The problem there is a common one: wear and tear and lack of growth. "When I moved down nine years ago we decided to get stuck into the greens first and the fairways were only titivated a little bit. But recently we've spent a lot of time on the fairways – spiking them basically and a couple of applications of potash, which has made a fair improvement to them.

Equipment update



■ The Jacobsen Aero King PT2448 is a tractor mounted aerator for large turf areas. There is a choice of hole patterns which will match aeration needs, and can be combined with a variety of tine sizes. Easy to fit, it can be used on any three-point hitch, 540rpm PTO tractor with 18hp or more. The Aero King T1224 is a self-propelled aerator which gives you a choice of five coring patterns to handle different aeration needs. There is also a choice of tines.



■ Sisis recently launched the Technicore, a vertical aerator for all year round use. The interchangeable hollow coring, slitting, solid and large diameter hollow tines have quick release fasteners. Multitine and Microcore heads are also available. A wide range of hole patterns can be obtained and a true 127mm depth of penetration. All Sisis tines now have an upgraded hardness specification.

"I think they are better now than they have been in a long time."

One little change that has made a big difference is switching from conventional gang mowers to Hayter gangs with rollers on the front and back, so they don't scalp the humps. "We've actually got grass now on the tops of the hills."

The fairways are slit throughout the winter (almost weekly) using a Ransomes TM80. Bottle-necks and other areas that take a lot of traffic are verti-drained.

The fairway sward comprises natural fescue/bent grasses "and rubbishy coxfoot". They're winning the battle against this by scarifying and digging it out.

Other work they've been doing includes extending tees, improving pathways (they've laid 90-tonne of stones and grit to cope with the traffic and buggies), and revetting bunkers. In January they revetted six of the 29 bunkers using 1,000 sq yd of turf "so we've just got the little ones left to do this winter".

The course's most famous bunker is the aptly-named Himalayas (according to Darwin, "the highest sandhill I have ever seen on a golf course"). It's about 80ft high and the top is blowing

away. The greenstaff know something needs to be done, but what?

"We put some netting around to protect it on a temporary basis and it has stayed like that now for five years. We're going to have to think hard and do something up there but what we haven't decided yet. It's going to be difficult to do anything because it's so far up. How do we get stuff up there?"

Fellow greenkeepers wondering whether they need climbing gear to rake it need not worry.

EQUIPMENT

St Enodoc has a programme of replacing everything every five years but, because they maintain everything well, much of the 'old stuff' still performs well. "Good blokes and good kit make my job a doddle," says head greenkeeper Stuart Dymond.

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| 3 Saxon Hand Mowers | 1 Hardi 400L Sprayer |
| 1 Greens Mower | 1 Alman 300L Sprayer |
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The 14th green, which the greenstaff rebuilt in five days



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bowling green, cricket wicket or tennis court, Hydroject complements conventional aeration methods. And for large turf areas, Toro's Fairway and HC4000 heavy duty aerators cover up to 1.5 acres per hour with ease.

They only have to rake it for a couple of major events each year, locals can pick their balls out under penalty.

Another unusual feature of the course is granite and slate posts in the semi-roughs. Presumably old boundary markers, they have to be trimmed around once a week.

Old boundaries were also marked by stone walls. One forms an obstacle on the third fairway and another is a feature of the 14th green.

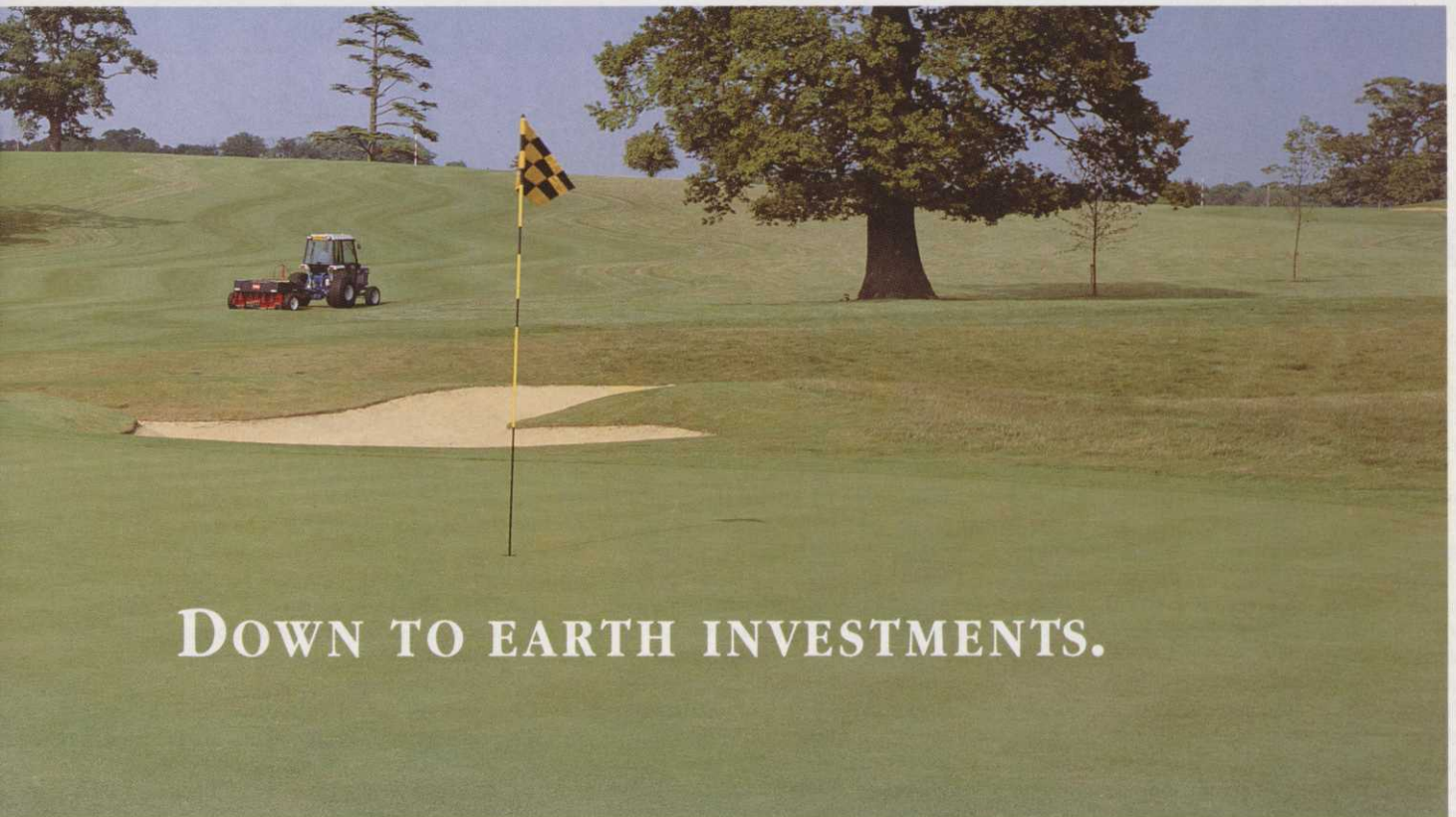
But all these oddities add to what Darwin called "fine, vigorous, adventurous fun". And as you walk around the course it is easy to be reminded of the last verse of John Betjeman's poem, Seaside Golf, which was inspired by the 13th hole at St Enodoc:

*"Ah! seaweed smells from sandy caves
And thyme and mist in whiffs,
In-coming tide, Atlantic waves
Slapping the sunny cliffs,
Lark song and sea sounds in the air
And splendour, splendour everywhere."*

A splendour enhanced by Dymond and his gems: pictured from left, Mike Lane, Charlie Bosley, Steve Evans, Mike Bosley, Graham Mitchell, Malcolm Bosley and Stuart Dymond.



Above: Stuart Dymond admires one of the best views in golf - the Camel Estuary, Padstow and St Enodoc golf course from the 18th tee



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My part in building Vietnam's first golf course



This story begins back in December 1992 when I received a telephone call from an architect friend who asked if I would be interested in a project starting soon in the Far East. At this point I was thinking he meant Hong Kong or somewhere like that, so when he said it was in Vietnam I thought he was joking. But after he repeated himself several times I realised he was not.

By the time everything had been arranged and contracts and tickets were finalised, it was February 1993 before I was on a plane heading for Bangkok and my first meeting with the American and Thai people organising this project – the very first golf course in North Vietnam. I had to spend one week in Bangkok to get my visa for entry into Vietnam. Once this was arranged I was on a plane bound for Vietnam's international airport which is no bigger than a small private flying club would use over here. We then had to travel to Hanoi where we had to stay in the army guest house (hotel). On the way to Hanoi I got my first impression of Vietnam which is very primitive – there were people working in paddy fields, there was no drainage or sanitation, no lights, the roads were unmade. As for the vehicles, they may have a bonnet but usually two wings are missing and it was nothing to see a six

We heard recently that 20 golf courses are being planned in China. Vietnam is another country on the eve of a golf boom. Stephen Swanson of Country Side Golf Services has been to look at his second project there. Here he tells how he helped build the first golf course in North Vietnam.

wheeler with only four wheels. They all seem to drive in the middle of the road with their hands on the horn and whoever has the most courage and the loudest horn wins.

I had to spend a week in Hanoi to get SCCI (department of commerce) approval, then began the epic journey up country to see the site. The site is surrounded by the most beautiful islands, water and mountains, and a few shacks they called holiday homes as this is a bit of a tourist place for the Vietnamese.

I walked the site with the company directors. I asked if they had any drawings or plans but was told they had not but were relying on me to come up with something, so I sat down and came up with some which took some time for us all to agree. My first objective was to mark out the course which took a few days then the next big task was to sort out the machinery which proved to be very hard because plant hire is very limited

and mainly controlled by the army. But at long last I managed to get two bulldozers and one excavator, one of the bulldozers must have been 44 years old. As for the lorries, well they were very old and pure Russian, but they did all eventually arrive on site.

Now I could finally begin trying to explain to the Vietnamese workers why we needed to flatten the land and make shapes but I was very grateful that they were very quick learners. My next problem was to find the right mixture for the greens. The stones and gravel were no problem, I had discovered a quarry on my travels. I got the sand from the river beds – it was lovely, they had been untouched for years and I found the mixture made a fine base for the greens, it was also used for the sand cement.

We are now two months into the project and I am two stones lighter as the food was scarce and, more importantly, the beer limited. Eventually I had it shipped up country via the black market. Now things are moving very quickly so I now have my next problem which was to find some irrigation. Eventually I came across a pipe factory in Haiphong but trying to explain to them was yet another problem because they only understood piping for dams so they kept asking me how high I wanted to pump the water, but I had



Clockwise from top: at work on the 8th tees; work in progress on the 2nd; the "blacksmiths"; and a common method of transport. The Vietnamese are wonderful people to work with, says Stephen Swanson



to explain I did not want to pump high but a long distance. We finally came to an agreement and I purchased 4inch, 2inch and 1inch pipe that was all they could offer me. I managed to get some sprinklers shipped in from Bangkok. Yet again on my travels I came across a man who specialised in pumps and we obtained an engine and pump combined, the same as the ones used over here on fairgrounds. It was very powerful so all was order and progressing very well.

Next I needed to find 40 women to start sprigging out the grass on the greens and tees. For the tees I used local, natural *Hermucla* grass; for the greens imported Tiffwarf; and Sahara seed for the fairways. We imported an Amazone spreader that fitted an old Russian tractor. I found once I had shown the people how to do the seeding they carried on with no problems but when it came to the cultivation on the fairways believe it or not I came across a farmer who had a set of discs which I used but for leveling I had to go to a shanty town called Son Tay where there are many blacksmiths which comprise an open fire with bricks around with someone who turns a bike wheel with fans on it, an anvil and two little boys with sledge hammers. As the metal turns, the boys, standing either side, hit it into shape.

And that is how I got my land leveller made.

The Vietnamese will survive on anything and everything. One day I managed to get some paint, very watery, out on the site. I remembered I had no paintbrushes so my surveyor, Mr Hiatt, went into the woods, cut a branch from a special tree and frayed out the end, bound it with reed and there was my paint brush. One woman who was 28 years old with four children used to plant grass seven days a week. She lived in all weathers on a reed boat about 10ft long, 2ft wide with a small roof. The weather in winter is very cold and damp but in the summer it is 46 degrees which means it goes from one extreme to the other.

Anyway, back to golf course work. Another

challenging experience for a good greenkeeper – once the course is all seeded, sprigged and the irrigation installed and working – is there are some very big Canadian snakes out there.

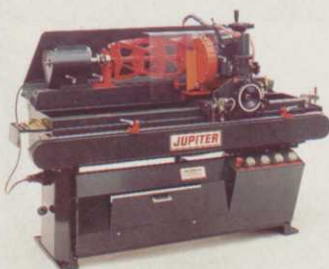
The future of Vietnam looks very bright. There are many people from Taiwan and Japan looking at developing golf courses to attract tourists. I have been approached about a couple of future projects and am looking at the site of the second course in the North. Another one has opened in the South. And there is room for a lot more.

This was a great experience and challenge and I am very pleased I was given the opportunity to be part of the project. The Vietnamese are wonderful people to work with.



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Compiled by Mark G Smith

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Y	R	R	E	E	G	C	I	D	C
K	I	S	I	*H	U	T	V	E	A
K	R	K	E			C	T	H	J
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L	Y	F	N	I	C	A	S	S	L
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When you have completed the Namesearch, answer the following questions:

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.....

2. What was the player's first name?

.....

3. In which year did he win the Championship?

.....

4. On which course was the Open held that year?

.....

Answer the four questions, add your name and address and send it to: Namesearch, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NE. Closing date is July 22, 1994. Photocopy your entry or send in a postcard if you don't want to cut up your magazine. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize – either a BIGGA blazer worth £87.95 or £50 in cash. Please state on your entry whether you'd prefer a blazer or the cash if you are lucky enough to win.

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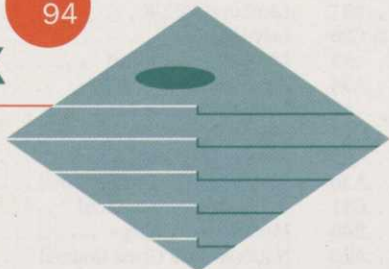
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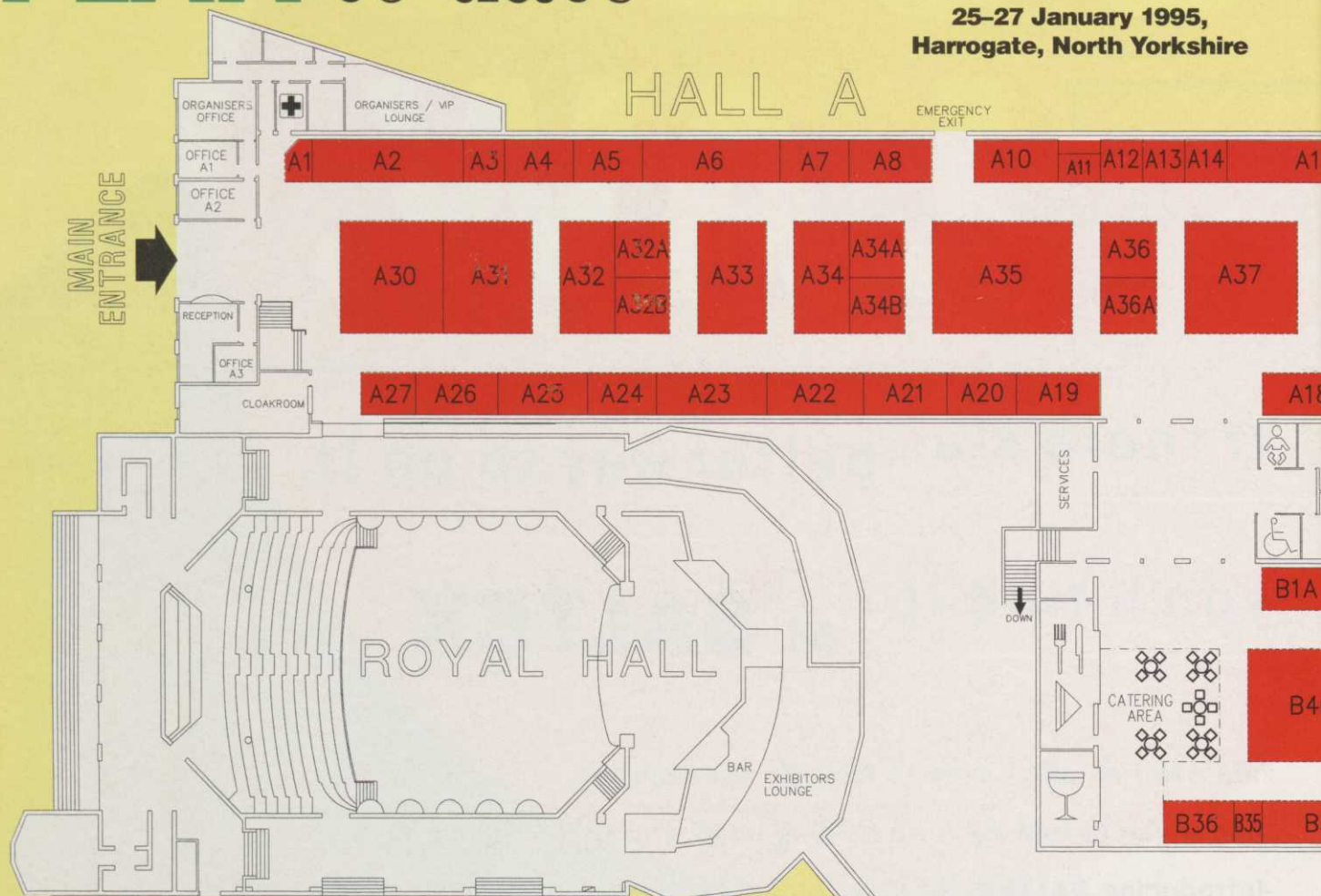
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Baileys of NorfolkA13
Better MethodsB35
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British Seed HousesA12
Cannington CollegeC36
Charterhouse Turf MachineryA18
Ciba GeigyC54
Claymore Grass MachineryB45
Cleveland SitesafeB25
C M W Equipment CoA21
D & E Turf Maintenance LtdA10
D W TomlinB28
Echo GBB12

Elmwood College	.....	.C35
English Golf UnionC2
Eric Hunter GrindersC28
Farm & Garden MachineryC25
FarmuraA19
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Fleet Line MarkersB11
Garfitts International LtdB27
GEM ProfessionalB31
The Golf Sign company	.....	.B32
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America	.....	.C2A
Grace Sierra	.....	.A27
J D Greasley Ltd	.....	.C27
Greenkeepers Training Committee	.....	.C1
Hadlow CollegeC32
HardiA31
HaytersC57 & C26
Hole in WhiteA3
Huxleys Grass MachineryA34
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Institute of GroundsmanshipC11
Interseeds LtdC7
Inturf LtdA36
Jacobsen LtdC51
John Deere Ltd	.....	.B48
Johnson Seeds	.....	.A20
Kings Horticulture	.....	.B9
Kubota UK Ltd	.....	.A37/A17

Lamborghini UK	.....	.C61
Lely UK Ltd	.....	.A35/A15
Lindum Seeded Turf	.....	.B3
Lloyds & Co Ltd	.....	.B34
Lockwood Grass Machinery	.....	.C54B
Martin Brothers	.....	.B29
Massey Ferguson	.....	.B40
Mommersteeg International	.....	.C5
Multi Core Aerators Ltd	.....	.A22
Myerscough College	.....	.B4
National Turf Grass Council	.....	.C4
Netlon Ltd	.....	.B6
New Holland Ford Ltd	.....	.C56

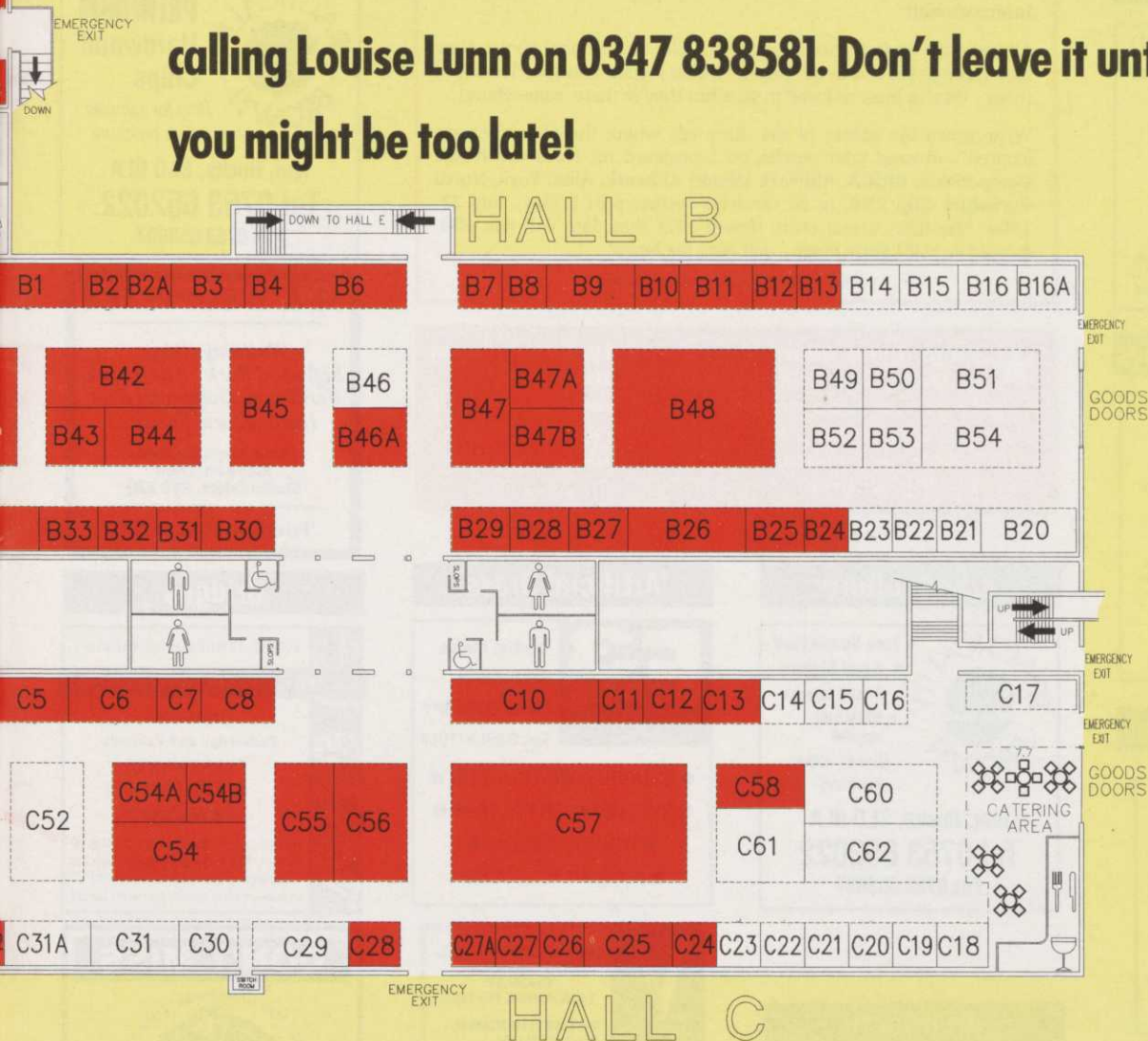
STORE	C1	C2	C2A	C3	C3A				
GOODS DOORS	C50	C51							
	C41	C40	C39	C38	C37	C36	C35	C34	C33

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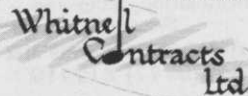
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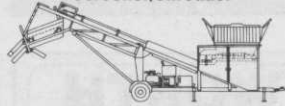
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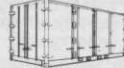
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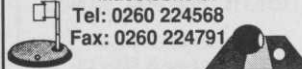
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Applicants must have suitable experience and
 recognised qualifications, capable of working
 on own initiative and enthusiastic.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in confidence to:

Julie Brown, Izaak Walton Golf Club,
 Cold Norton, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NS

Strathmore Golf Centre Ltd
 requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To take charge of an exciting new development near Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire

Driving Range opens Autumn 1994
 9 hole Course - Spring 1995
 18 hole Course - May 1996

The successful applicant will be directly responsible to the
 Managing Director for controlling and motivating staff to achieve
 high standards of presentation.

Must therefore be fully experienced in all practical aspects of greenkeeping
 including modern machinery and irrigation and hold the appropriate
 qualifications including PA1 and PA2 Spraying Certificates.

Apply in writing with full CV to:
 P M S Barron, Strathmore Golf Centre Ltd,
 Leroch, Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH11 8NZ
 Closing date: 21st July 1994

Harpenden Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join a progressive and committed team working to continue the
 development of our first class course. Applicants must be experienced
 in modern greenkeeping methods with a good knowledge of
 machinery and irrigation.

No accommodation available.

For further details and application form, please contact:
 The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End,
 Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX.
 Telephone: (0582) 712580



The Machrihanish Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole championship links course and a 9 hole ladies course situated in Argyll.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all modern techniques of course and machinery maintenance and have formal qualifications.

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

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:
The Secretary, The Machrihanish Golf Club,
By Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6PT



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LECTURER IN GREENKEEPING/ GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

Professional Lecturers Scale
Salary £11,661 – £21,135 per annum

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons preferably with teaching experience, to join an established team of horticulturists at a quality assured college that is expanding to meet the challenges of the 90s.

Proven academic and practical ability will be essential.

Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Section, Cannington College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Telephone: 0278 652226.

Closing date: 13 July 1994

Interviews scheduled for: 21 July 1994

Links Golf Club Newmarket

invite applications for a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Links Golf Club,
Cambridge Road, Newmarket,
Suffolk CB8 0TG

GOLF COURSE MANAGER ELMWOOD COLLEGE CUPAR, FIFE

Elmwood College is constructing a brand new 18 hole course which will be open to the public and also used for training purposes for College students. Construction will start in April 1995.

Applications are invited for the post of Course Manager. Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of golf course management and modern techniques of course construction and maintenance, including machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.

From the date of the appointment to the start of construction the successful candidate will undertake educational and training duties at the College. He/she will then oversee the construction of the course and finally move to the role of Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper.

This is a challenging and exciting position at the major centre for Greenkeeping education in the United Kingdom and in addition to the technical expertise, candidates should have a commitment to training within the industry. If you wish to discuss the post before applying then telephone the College in working hours and ask for Carol Borthwick or Mike Taylor.

Salary will be in accordance with BIGGA recommended rates.

Closing date for applications is Friday 29th July 1994, and interviews will take place on Friday 19th August 1994.

Application forms are available from Personnel,
Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB.
Telephone (0334) 652781, Fax (0334) 656795.

SOUTH HERTS GOLF CLUB

require

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping. Possession of Part II Certificate will be an advantage but not essential.

No accommodation
Salary according to experience.

Apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:

**The Secretary,
South Herts Golf Club, Links Drive,
Totteridge, London N20 8QU**

Professional Grass Machinery Dealership John Wilder Ltd

requires a

SENIOR SALES REPRESENTATIVE/ SALES MANAGER

The Company is looking for a motivated experienced Salesperson to join their rapidly growing professional grasscare department. It is expected that the successful applicant would take over the running of the Sales force after a trial period. An attractive remuneration package would be offered to the successful applicant.

The Company holds the Ransome Grass Machinery franchise and other leading complementary franchises for Berkshire, South Oxfordshire, Surrey and parts of Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, operating from our established branches at Reading and Wallingford.

SERVICE PERSONNEL

The Company requires professional and domestic fitters to operate from our Reading and Wallingford branches. An attractive remuneration package would be offered.

Apply marking the envelope Private & Confidential to:
**Mr John Wilder, Managing Director, John Wilder Ltd,
Hithercroft Industrial Estate, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9AP**

OAKDALE GOLF CLUB



require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Technical and Practical Qualifications
Pesticides Certificates

Wage negotiable – dependent upon age and experience.

Apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:

**The Secretary/Manager
Oakdale Golf Club,
Oakdale, Harrogate HG1 2LN**

Telephone: 0423 567162



Woking Golf Club

invite applications for the vacant position of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole golf course situated in heather and pine surroundings west of London.

Applicants should have at least eight years experience in all aspects of modern course management and maintenance techniques.

The ability to manage, control and motivate staff is important.

The salary and benefits are commensurate with this responsible position.
Accommodation is not provided.

Please reply in writing with full CV to:
**The Secretary, Woking Golf Club, Pond Road,
Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey GU22 0JZ**



Clyne Golf Club Ltd.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required

Applicants must possess a recognised qualification up to City & Guilds Phase 3 and be experienced in all aspects of course management. Responsible to the Secretary/Manager, the ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate the ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements. A practical knowledge of modern techniques of course maintenance and construction, including machinery maintenance and care of irrigation systems is essential.

Closing date: 31 July 1994. Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Reply in confidence with full CV to Secretary/Manager, Clyne Golf Club Ltd, 118, 120 Owls Lodge Lane, Mayals, Swansea SA3 5DP

Newton Stewart Golf Club

Wigtownshire

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This is a challenging position for a fully qualified and experienced person who wishes to grow with an ambitious club.

The course has 9 holes opened 10 years and 9 holes opened this year and has a good range of modern machinery.

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

The Secretary, Newton Stewart Golf Club, Kirroughtree Avenue, Minnigaff, Newton Stewart DG8 6PF



AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS

requires a

TECHNICAL SALES REGIONAL MANAGER

Due to continued expansion into the London area, we require a BASIS registered salesperson to call on Local Authorities, Golf Courses and Sports Clubs in an area north of the Thames.

The successful applicant will advise and sell a wide range of Amenity Turf Products.

Salary according to experience together with bonus, pension scheme and company car.

Apply in strictest confidence to:

Mr R E Feltham, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Northfield, Station Road, Sandford, near Bristol BS19 5RB



AMERICAN GOLF (UK) LTD

are seeking a number of

HEAD GREENKEEPERS

to suit their expansion programme in the UK and Europe. Applicants require both practical and technical ability with proven track record of cost effective management.

This is an ideal opportunity to be part of a progressive, expanding company.

Apply in writing with a current CV to:

American Golf (UK) Ltd

c/o Pyrford Golf Club, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GU22 8XR



The Ridge Golf Club

require a

COURSE MANAGER

for this 18 hole country course opened in June 1993.

Applicants must have a proven track record and the ability to act on their own initiative. Salary in excess of BIGGA rates.

No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

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

Gatton Manor Golf Club

require a

CONFIDENT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery.

Opportunities for promotion.

Salary negotiable, single accommodation may be available.

Apply in writing, enclosing CV with full particulars including present salary.

to D G Heath, Gatton Manor Golf Club, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5PQ



Boughton Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

To join their young and enthusiastic team, on this new Kent course. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of machine maintenance.

Also holding Phase I and Phase II greenkeeping qualifications.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:

Head Greenkeeper, Boughton Golf Club, Brickfield Lane, Boughton, Faversham, Kent ME13 9AJ



Golfclub Mannheim-Viernheim
Baden-Württemberg, Germany
is looking for an experienced

HEAD GREENKEEPER

as soon as possible.

Please send your detailed application to:

The President of the Golfclub Mannheim-Viernheim, Alte Mannheimer Straße 3, D-68519 Viernheim (Tel. 06204/78737, Fax 06204/740181).

Ulverston Golf Club Ltd

Applications are invited from qualified greenkeepers for the position of:

COURSE MANAGER

At this very popular 18 hole parkland golf course situated on the Furness Peninsular in south Cumbria, some 10 miles from the Lake District National Park.

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems with good organisational and management skills and a sound knowledge of the current Health & Safety regulations is also required.

Accommodation is not available. Salary is negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**P Wedgwood, Hon Secretary, Ulverston Golf Club Ltd,
The Club House, Bardsea Park, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 9QJ**

Closing date: 2 August 1994

A GREENKEEPER'S DREAM...

to be responsible for the wellbeing of a magnificent new 18 hole course in South Devon.

TEIGN VALLEY GOLF CLUB opens later this year and the owners want to recruit greenstaff to work during the growing in period of the course.

At this stage we are looking for candidates who will have:

- ◆ experience in all aspects of modern course management
- ◆ practical knowledge of all appropriate machinery and its maintenance
- ◆ an understanding (at a minimum) of the game of golf.

We would expect that one of these appointments will develop into the role of course manager in due course.

There is no accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Teign Valley Golf Club, Christow, Exeter, Devon

We require for our clients

A QUALITY HEAD GREENKEEPER

This is an excellent opportunity for a fully qualified greenkeeper for this busy parkland course south of London, with experience in all aspects of course management. The ability to motivate and lead an established team and organise work programmes is regarded as essential.

A practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery and current Health and Safety regulations is also required.

Please apply with full CV in your own handwriting and state your present salary.

Salary negotiable to qualifications and experience.

Box No. R/1/94,

BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF



Stirling Golf Club

invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully qualified greenkeepers having a sound knowledge of and experience in all aspects of course management and machinery maintenance. The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes is essential.

Apply in confidence with CV to:

**The Honorary Secretary,
Stirling Golf Club, Queens Road, Stirling FK8 3AA**



The Manor House Golf Club at Castle Combe

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

One of the most spectacular and challenging courses in the South of England, bordering the beautiful Cotswold village of Castle Combe. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course management and maintenance techniques. The successful applicant must have the skills to lead and motivate a team and will be expected to demonstrate abilities to maintain a quality course to a high standard, exercising firm budgeting controls.

An attractive salary, in line with ability will be offered. Application in writing with full CV to:

Mr Michael Craig, General Manager, The Manor House Golf Club, Castle Combe, Wiltshire SN14 7PL. Tel: 0249 782982

Reddish Vale Golf Club

Cheshire

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Only experienced greenkeepers need apply, who have suitable qualifications in all aspects of greenkeeping and have the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Course designed by Dr A Mackenzie.

Salary above BIGGA recommended minimum.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Administrator, Reddish Vale Golf Club,
Southcliffe Road, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire SK5 7EE**

AREA SALES MANAGER

Risboro' Turf are looking for an area sales manager to market a range of professional turf machinery in the Surrey, South London and South Berkshire area.

The likely candidate will have strong motivation and perseverance combined with mechanical engineering experience to break into this new area for the company. A good salary with commission and subsidised BUPA scheme are offered with telephone expenses and 20 days holiday. A company vehicle will also be provided. Knowledge of computer systems would be an advantage.

If you think you have the necessary capabilities to fill the above position write in strictest confidence to:



**Mark Barthelmie, Risboro' Turf,
Chinnor Road, Bledlow, Bucks HP27 9PH
Please enclose a full CV**

No 1: George Brown

Age: 55

Appearance: Cuddly comedian, like Terry Scott.

Not the late Labour MP then? No, this George Brown is course manager at Turnberry.

What's a course manager? It's like a greenkeeper only you tell someone else to cut the grass, you sit in on meetings with bigwigs from the R&A and BBC, and you're allowed in the clubhouse.

So why's he in the news? The Open Championship is at Turnberry July 14-17.

Is it an important event? It's the Wimbledon of golf but, more importantly, it can break a greenkeeper. One bad word from Peter Alliss and his life can be shattered. Tom O'Brien, head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale, never recovered from criticism of his course during the '91 Open. It devastated him, then they dug up the greens and found no-one could have grown grass on the plasticine-like soil below the turf.

How's George's course looking? Great, but someone will soon find something to complain about, especially if things aren't going well for them. Last time the Open was at Turnberry, in 1986, the pros said the fairways were too narrow and the rough too rough!

Isn't it supposed to be rough? Yes, but the pros don't like looking stupid on TV. If they're in the rough they still like to be able to reach the green, not chip out sideways with a sandwedge.

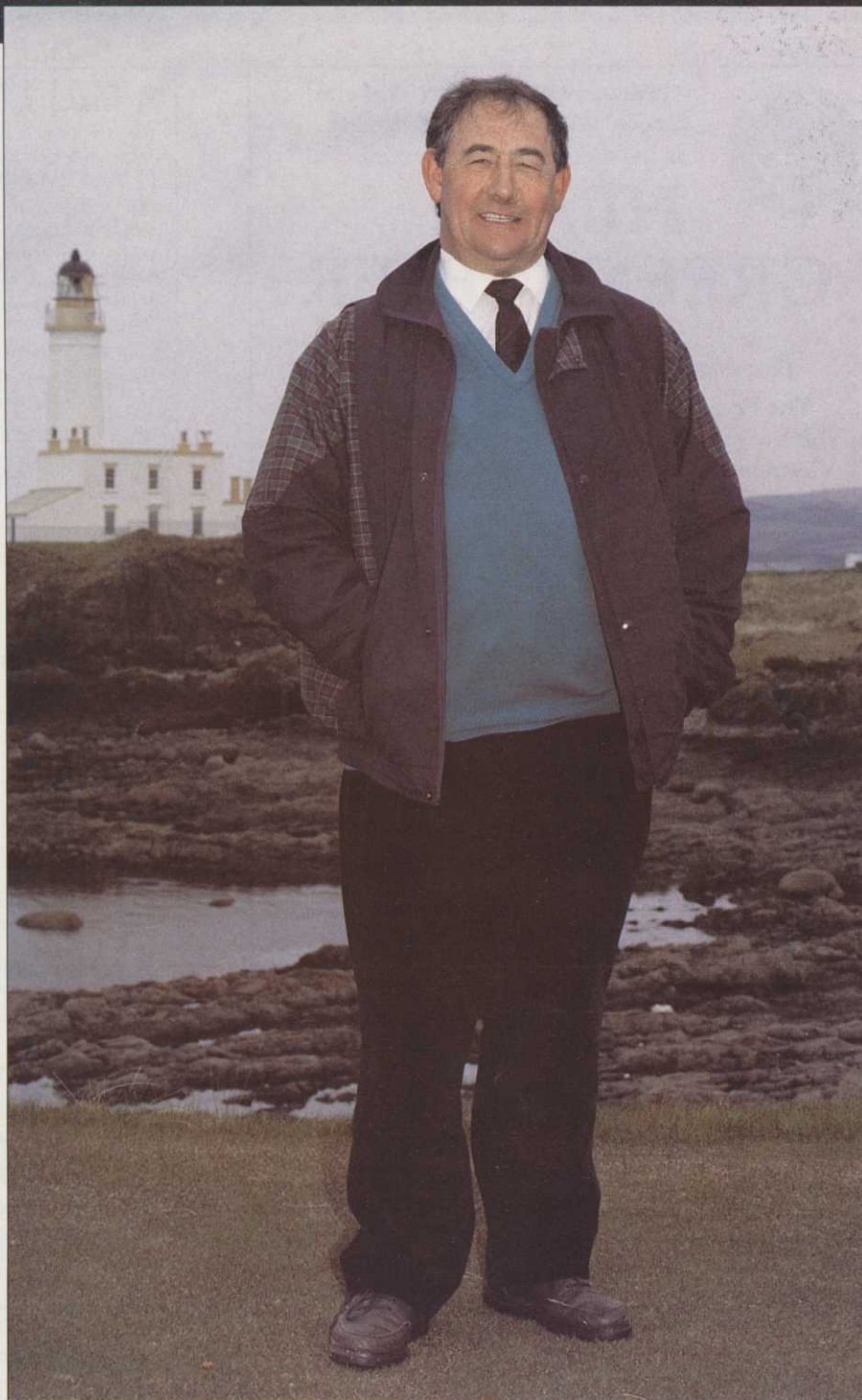
The course was too tough for them? The winning total was level par 280.

What's that mean? The winner had as many birdies as bogeys.

Oh! It also means Greg Norman's '86 winning score was way behind Tom Watson's winning total at Turnberry in '77 - 268.

Was the course easier in '77? It was for Watson and runner-up Jack Nicklaus - everyone else was closer to Norman's score that year. Hubert Green, who came third on 279, said: "I won the tournament I played in". No, the course was pretty much the same, the difference was the weather. In '77 it was hot and dry with little wind, in '86 it was blowing a hooley. If there's no wind, it's a relatively easy course for top players. George Brown reckons some pros could shoot 59, but 63s and 64s are definitely on the cards. If the wind blows, however, it's easier to get 75s and 76s, and breaking 80 can be hard. That's the beauty of a links course.

A what course? A links course - near the sea, built on sandy soil, lots of mounds and bumpy fairways. No trees, only gorse bushes and wild flowers. Small, strategically-placed bunkers.



It doesn't sound like that pretty course I saw on TV recently? That was probably Augusta National in America. No, it's nothing like that. George Brown likes it when his fairways are brown. His Japanese bosses don't, but he says they're learning that links courses are different, that green is not necessarily beautiful.

But does he know what he's talking about? He's one of the most respected greenkeepers in the country. He's been doing it for 40 years, in fact since he was 15. And he's been at Turnberry since January 1986.

Do you have to know about golf to manage a course? No, but it helps. George was once the head greenkeeper and pro at the same nine-hole course in Hampshire. He plays off four now.

What's that mean? He's allowed four bogeys.

And is that good? Pretty good, but the idea is not to have any bogeys because it messes up the card.

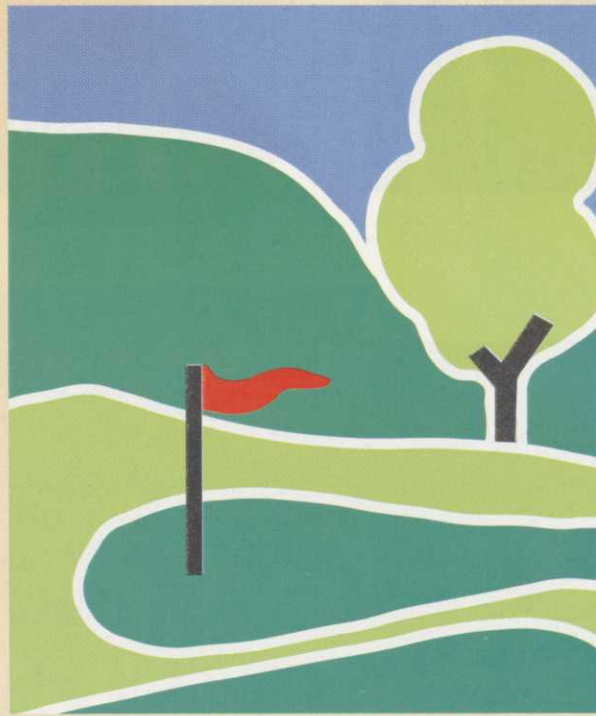
Not to be confused with: George Brown, the late MP; George Brown, the author; Charlie Brown; Walter Woods; Jimmy Kidd; Jim Arthur.

Least likely to say: "Peter Alliss, you don't know what you're talking about."

Even less likely to say: "Let's plant some rhododendrons."

Most likely to say: "Augusta is like a blow-up doll - not as good as the real thing."

(With apologies to The Guardian's excellent Pass Notes)



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